

THE DEACON MANUAL

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

Books such as this one, *The Deacon Manual: A Handbook for the Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe*, are destined to lead lonely lives. Published in small numbers for a very specialized readership – one that seldom feels itself in need of any guidance beyond that of the Holy Spirit, such books are typically resorted to only when a dispute is to be settled or in a search for errors the editors may have made. In experiencing this sort of infrequent, selective use (and **only** in this respect), our **Manual** somewhat resembles the scripture pericopes proclaimed for our inspiration in a Liturgy of the Word. In every other regard, however, our book is commonplace; no aura of *magisterium* surrounds it. It is a work of active members of the Community of Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the same group for whom it has been written.

If anything distinguishes this third edition of the *Manual* from its predecessor, it is the circumstance that the editors have each now amassed more than six years' experience of *diakonia*, ordained service to the People of God and our Archbishop. The second edition served well, insofar as the written record shows, but its term of office was involuntarily extended from the originally intended two years to more than six years; we herewith retire it with dignity and a full pension.

The preparation of this revision has been aided substantially by the inputs provided by Archbishop Sheehan, Fr. Jerome Plotkowski, Judicial Vicar, Fr. Bennett J. Voorhies, Chancellor, Sr. Nancy Kazik, OSF, Vice-Chancellor, Dolores Sokol, Director of Worship/Liturgy/Christian Initiation and the members of the Diaconal Council. The committee assigned to revise the second edition of the manual is grateful for their help.

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