

# OTHER LITURGIES & PASTORAL OFFICES

The deacon's role in pastoral offices is indicated within the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, and other diocesan publications. The deacon may lead the Liturgy of the Hours, and officiate at burials.

The deacon may officiate at marriages and baptisms in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer where special circumstances exist and after the permission of the bishop will have been granted.

## In Christian Initiation

It is customary for the deacon to participate in the preparation of candidates for Holy Baptism and Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation, especially in regard to the candidates' intention to promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace.

In keeping with ancient tradition, it is customary for the deacon to administer the water in the baptismal liturgy by immersing or pouring water upon the candidate, in accordance with the rubrics on p. 307 of the Book of Common Prayer.

## Liturgical Attire

At the Eucharist, the deacon customarily wears dalmatic and stole, alb and stole, or cassock, surplice and stole, depending on the custom of the parish. Dalmatics should be clearly distinguishable from chasubles and should not have bands down the center. When more than one deacon is present at the Eucharist, or when a presbyter is vested as Deacon of the Mass, it may be appropriate for the deacon to vest in cassock,

surplice and stole, or alb and stole, in accordance with the custom of the parish. At other liturgies, cassock, surplice and stole or hood and tippet, or alb and stole, etc. may be the appropriate dress, in accordance with the custom of the parish.

## Appropriate Reference

The preferred title of a deacon is “deacon,” rather than “vocational” or “permanent” deacon. The proper title or address for a deacon is “Deacon,” either before or after the deacon’s name. The form “The Rev. Deacon” is preferable, and when the title “Deacon” is not used, it is preferable that the deacon should be otherwise identified as such. For example: “The Rev. John Doe, parish deacon.” In accordance with the custom of the parish, the title “The Rev. Ms.” or “The Rev. Mr.” may also be used.