

Diocese of San Diego

POLICY ON APPROPRIATE ATTIRE AND TITLE

I. DIACONAL ATTIRE

A. The ordinary attire for permanent deacons is that of a layman.

B. When deacons assist in celebrations of Mass:

It is for the bishop or priest presiding to determine whether the deacon(s) assisting him should wear only a stole or also a dalmatic.

It is recommended that dalmatics be worn only at times when a greater degree of solemnity is in order and that they be provided by the diocese or parish (cf. GIRM #338).

Stoles and dalmatics should at least compliment, if not match, the chasuble of the presider.

C. When deacons preside in liturgical celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and Communion services, dalmatics approved by the pastor may be worn.

D. When deacons do not exercise a ministerial role in a liturgical celebration, they should not vest or occupy a specific place in the liturgy, unless they are participating as the *order of deacons*, e.g., at the ordination or funeral of a permanent deacon.

E. Permanent deacons are authorized to wear the Roman collar only when, for security reasons, identification as Catholic clergy is necessary, e.g., if so required for hospital or prison ministry.

II. TITLE

A. The title "Deacon" is to be used and may either precede or follow the proper name.

B. The title "Reverend" signifies a priest and "Reverend Mr." signifies a transitional deacon. Neither title may be used by permanent deacons.