

**FUNCTIONS OF DEACONS IN THE DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

In conformance with the Code of Canon Law promulgated by John Paul II on January 25, 1983, and the guidelines on the ministry of deacons published by the NCCB Committee on the Diaconate, the Bishop of Las Cruces authorizes the following functions to deacons incardinated in the Church of Las Cruces and those from other dioceses for whom he has granted permission to function as deacons in this diocese.

**As Ordinary Ministers of the Sacrament of Baptism:** (Can. 861)

Deacons may minister the sacrament of baptism to infants and assist at the rites contained in the RCIA with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the parish where the baptism or rites of RCIA take place.

**As Ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage:** (Can. 1111 §1)

Deacons may witness the sacrament of marriage with the clear, explicit delegation of the pastor where the marriage takes place.

**As Ministers of the Word of God:** (Can 764 and 767 §1)

Deacons may proclaim the Gospel and preach the homily at Mass, and may preside at Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Hours with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the parish in which these liturgies take place.

**As Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion:** (Can. 910 §1)

Deacons may assist parish priests at the altar and in the distribution of Communion at Mass, may preside at Communion services outside of the Mass, may preside at Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and give the Eucharistic blessing (Can. 943), and are custodians and distributors of Communion outside of Mass administering Viaticum to the dying as required. These functions are performed with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the parish in which these functions are performed.

**As Ministers of Christian Funerals:** (Can. 835 §3)

Deacons may preside at vigils, funeral liturgies outside of a Mass and rites of committal with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the parish in which these ministries are performed.

**As Ministers of Sacramentals:** (Can. 1168)

Deacons may impart those blessings designated for deacons in the Book of Blessings; e.g., persons, religious articles, homes, holy water, throats, ashes, etc.