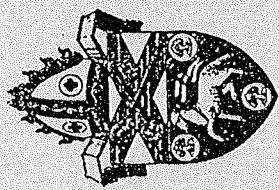
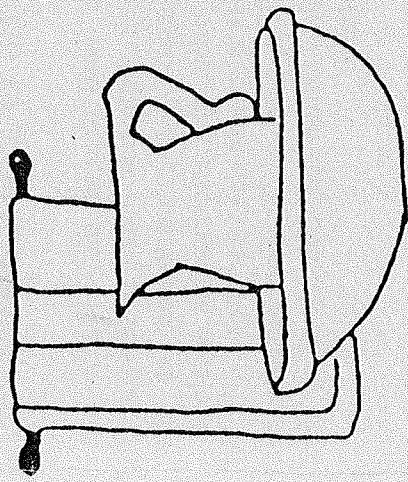


Jesus said,

"I am among you as one
who serves."

Luke: 22:27



In our Baptismal
Covenant we are
committed to love and
serve the Lord

To Be A Deacon

The Commission on the
Diaconate
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Who is a deacon?

The word deacon derives from the Greek *diakonos* meaning servant or minister. The institution of the diaconate was introduced in Acts 6: 1-6. It is a term used for those people dedicated to a Christian ministry of service within the ministry of all the baptized.

The essential work of a deacon is in serving others, especially the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely and in leading and training lay people in such service.

How does the journey begin?

A person with a calling to this ministry may be commended and recommended to the Bishop by the Rector and Parish Council. If, having moved through the discernment process, the person's calling is affirmed, a course of study is undertaken. This discernment, affirmation, and education may lead to ordination as a deacon.

We are called by Christ to serve.

"Every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood, directly under the authority of your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

As a deacon in the Church, you are to study the holy scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your *life* upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live and work and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship, and in the ministration of God's word and sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself."

From the Ordinal, the Book of Alternative Services, Page 665.

Support for Deacons

Once ordained, there is ongoing support through the Diocesan Program for Mentoring, the newly ordained, and the Community of Deacons.