



## Office of the Diaconate

# RECOMMENDATIONS/PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A DEACON'S DEATH

These recommendations are a guide that has been requested by parishes. These are not prescriptive but are to serve as an aid to parishes in service to the family.

1. In the event of the death of a deacon, the pastor or a family member should notify the Diaconate Office at 708.366.8900.
2. The Diaconate Office will notify the archbishop, the episcopal vicars, the vicar general, *Chicago Catholic*, the members of the deceased deacon's ordination class, the vicariate diaconate coordinator and the deanery deacon coordinator.
3. The deanery diaconate coordinator (DDC) responsible for the deanery in which the deceased deacon ministered will contact the members of the local deanery.
4. It is customary to be buried in the attire one wears at Eucharist. Therefore, it would be fitting for the deacon to be vested in the casket with an alb and white stole. A white dalmatic could also be worn.
5. A Vigil Liturgy should be celebrated. It is commendable that this be presided over by a deacon from the parish, the DDC, vicar or others as the family might wish. Eulogies would normally be given at this vigil service and not at Mass.
6. One or two deacons should assist at the funeral Mass (Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist). The choice of the deacon or deacons to serve at the Mass should be made by the family.
7. The vicar, if at all possible, will be present at the funeral Mass and, if appropriate, will offer very brief condolences on behalf of the cardinal and the diaconate community. If the vicar's schedule precludes attendance, an associate director or designee will attend.
8. The diaconate community has a specific diaconate pall to be used for the funeral Mass. The vicar or his delegate will bring the pall to the parish.
9. If the church's sacristy is small, an area should be designated for visiting clergy to vest and assemble.
10. The Book of Gospels should be carried in the procession to welcome the deacon's body by the deacon assisting at the Mass. After the pall is placed over the casket, the deacon will place the Book of the Gospels on the coffin as soon as it is in place before the altar and remove it when the body leaves the church.
11. The funeral director should be informed of the tradition that the casket is to be turned so the foot of the casket is towards the assembly. This position recollects the fact that deacons face the assembly during Mass, while lay people face the altar. See number 823 of the Ceremonial of Bishops.

- 12.** Deacons are requested to vest in an alb and the white archdiocesan stole and sit together as a body. Seating for the wives and widows of the community should be reserved behind the deacons. Deacons should not be lectors or servers. The Deacon of the Word ordinarily leads the Universal Prayer.
- 13.** When the wife of a deacon dies, the DDC and members of her husband's ordination class will be notified, utilizing the notification procedure stated above. As with the death of a deacon, it is fruitful for a deacon of the family's choice preside at the vigil service and assist at the Mass.
- 14.** The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago offers a discount to members of the diaconate community and their family members. Deacons are granted a 20 percent discount on a lot selection and 10 percent on the selection of crypts in a community mausoleum for themselves and their dependents. The interment fee will be waived for deacons only. A Chicago deacon is alternatively granted a 60 percent discount on a Complete Cemetery Service package (a "CCS Package") or on an Optional Cemetery Service (an "OCS Package"). It is necessary at the time the lot is acquired to identify oneself as a deacon or a member of the deacon's family.