



*Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom...so they chose Stephen, a man filled with the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch...They presented the men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. (Acts 6:3-6)*

Part 1

ORDINATION TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE  
David Bartolowits | 6.24.17

**Dear St. John Parishioners and Friends,**

**On June 24<sup>th</sup>, along with 20 other men from the Indianapolis Archdiocese, St. John's parishioner David Bartolowits will be ordained a Permanent Deacon.** As we prepare to welcome him into ordained ministry, we will look at, over the next three weeks, the history of the permanent diaconate and the roles that permanent deacons fulfill in the mission of today's Church.

**In the Spirit of St. John the Evangelist,  
Father Rick Nagel**

In the mid-1960's, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council **re-established**, for serious pastoral and theological reasons, **the Order of Deacons as a permanent rank in the hierarchy of the Church.** Taking seriously the role of the deacon to which St. Paul refers in his First Letter to Timothy, the Fathers of the Council remind us that "those who serve well as deacons gain good standing and much confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus." (1 Tim 3:13)

### **First, what is a deacon?**

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or "orders," of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters (priests) and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served." The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

### **What are these "various ministries" of the Deacon?**

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity, but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of Sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then using the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only **WHAT** a deacon does, but **WHO** a deacon is, that is important.

### **Why do some deacons become priests?**

For many years ordained ministers "ascended" from one office to another, culminating in ordination to the presbyterate, or priesthood. The Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965), however, authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a permanent order of ministry. So, while students for the priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, there are more than 13,000 deacons in the United States alone who minister in this Order permanently. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions between these so-called "transitional" and "permanent deacons."

### **Resources:**

Questions and answers to these and many other questions concerning the Permanent Diaconate can be found in William T. Ditewig's book, *101 Questions & Answers on Deacons*.

**Note:** For more information on discerning a call to the permanent diaconate, contact the Office of Deacon Formation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at <http://www.archindy.org/deacon/index.html>

# Deacon David Bartolowits

Will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon on June 24.

CALLED TO  
**SERVE**



**Permanent Deacon  
Ordination - Mass of  
Thanksgiving & Reception**

**Sunday, June 25**

**10 am Mass** of Thanksgiving at St. John's followed by reception to welcome David as a new Permanent Deacon.

