

Funerals of Permanent Deacons

Policy No. PD417

Policy Statement: The death of a deacon places unique demands on the community because the deacon is an ordained minister of the Church as well as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, etc. At the time of the death, both the family and the Church are in grief. Therefore, both the needs of the family and the Church are considered vital.

In general, the norms governing a deacon's funeral are those found in the liturgical books as well as those in the particular law of the Archdiocese. Church law relating to funerals and internment are canons 1176-1185 and canons 1240-1243, respectively.

Intent of Policy: This policy is intended to foster an atmosphere of love and support during this difficult time of need and to minimize any conflict between the family and the Church.

Procedure: **Responsibilities of the Deacon/Deacon's Family:**

- a) In the case of the death of a deacon, the family must ensure that the Vicar for Clergy and the Director of the Permanent Diaconate are notified *immediately*, and prior to arrangements being made for the prayer vigil and/or Mass. This is to allow for consultation with the Archbishop's Office regarding the funeral arrangements.
- b) The deacon's family is primarily responsible for making funeral arrangements with the funeral director with the support of the Vicar for Clergy or his delegate. To this end, it is recommended that the deacon, spouse and family complete the "Planning Form for Funeral of a Deacon, His Wife or Widow," that details the wishes of the deceased. The form should be retained in a safe place for retrieval at time of death (See Appendix PD417A).
- c) A copy may be deposited with the Chancery Office. The information will be used by the Vicar for Clergy, in consultation with the family, to facilitate the funeral liturgies.

Refer to Appendix:

No. PD417A Planning Form for Funeral of a Deacon, His Wife or Widow