

Whenever, deacons participate in any Church activity, it is important to remember they are marked with the indelible character of the deacon. As such, deacons are necessarily obliged to the ordination vows we accepted at the beginning of our ministry. It is no different when we pass away. That indelible mark is ever present in eternity. In death, our funeral ceremonies give witness to the living, of our fulfillment to our ordination vows and the love we have for our service as a deacon. To remain consistent, the following guiding principles are given for the planning of a funeral for a deacon in the Archdiocese of Denver.

- All deacons should have an approved funeral planning worksheet on file in the Office of the Diaconate. The Liturgy Office will review all worksheets to ensure they comply with approved liturgical norms and diocesan guidelines.
- Every deacon will be required to fill out a funeral planning worksheet prior to any authorization of retirement.
- Approved Deacon Funeral worksheets will be filed in the personnel file of the deacon and changes will need to be coordinated through the Director, his Associate, or the Director of Liturgy.
- The deacons should keep contact information on hand at their home, with their family, so that, upon his death, the Office of the Diaconate can be notified immediately.
- Funeral preparations, at the time of a deacon's death, should be completed in collaboration with a representative of the Diaconate Office, the family of the deceased and the funeral home.
- The deacon should be buried wearing a white alb and a deacon stole. A dalmatic is preferable as well.
- The Archbishop will generally be the principle celebrant at all deacon funeral Masses unless the Archbishop's schedule dictates otherwise. Priests and other Bishops may concelebrate.
- Unless otherwise approved, deacons from the Archdiocese will be assigned to assist at the Mass.
- If the Office of the Dead is selected to be prayed the day before the Funeral Mass, it will be normally be conducted by the Director of the Diaconate. The funeral Vigil or rosary is also an option for the preliminary service.
- The Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is normally the location for the funeral Mass of a deacon, as the "Mother Church" of the Archdiocese. However, the deacon may have the funeral conducted at one of the parishes in the Archdiocese, as well.
- If a deacon chooses to be cremated, which "*does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body,*" OCF # 412, the body shall be present for the funeral rites and then cremation at a later time.
- All music must be liturgical and should be approved by the Office of Liturgy
- Deacons participating in funeral vigils and Masses will vest and sit in college unless assisting at the altar.