

Year of the Deacon

Archbishop Stephen Brislin has proclaimed the liturgical year of 2014 as the 'Year of the Deacon' for the Archdiocese of Cape Town, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the vote on *Lumen Gentium*. This Vatican II document included the call for the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate to its full and proper place in the Church.

The service of deacons in the Church is documented from apostolic times. Deacons St Lawrence of Rome and St Stephen of Jerusalem, protomartyr, were two saints invoked as patrons for the restored diaconate by Pope Paul VI in his Apostolic Letter *Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem* in 1967 which implemented the recommendations of Vatican II. Up to the 5th Century the Diaconate flourished in the Western Church, but after this period it experienced, for various reasons, a slow decline which ended in its surviving only as a temporary stage for candidates preparing for priestly ordination. The Council of Trent disposed that the Permanent Diaconate, as it existed in ancient times, should be restored: this prescription,

however, was not carried into effect, and it was only at Vatican II that the Permanent Diaconate was restored.

The Archdiocese of Cape Town has 55 active deacons today. Worldwide, the Permanent Diaconate is experiencing significant growth, passing from a total of around 29,000 in 2001 to about 41,000 a decade later, a growth of more than 40%. Europe and America registered the most numerically: in fact, the European deacons, little more than 9,000 in 2001, were almost 14,000 in 2011, an increase of over 43%. In America the number grew from 19,100 in 2001 to more than 26,000 in 2011. These two continents, alone, account for 97.4% of the global total, with the remaining 2.6% split between Africa, Asia and Oceania.

The name 'Deacon' is derived from the Greek word '*diakonia*' meaning 'service'. Vatican II synthesized the ministry of deacons as the threefold '*diakonia* of liturgy, the word and charity.' Over the course of the next two editions of the Archdiocesan News we hope to bring you a deeper insight into the diaconate.

Prayer taken from the Rite of Ordination of Deacons

'Lord, look with favour on N..... your servant, dedicated by your Church to the office of Deacon.

Lord, send forth upon him the Holy Spirit, that he may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace to carry out faithfully the work of the ministry.

May he excel in every virtue: in love that is sincere,

in concern for the sick and the poor,

in unassuming authority,

in self-discipline,

and in holiness of life.

May his conduct exemplify your commandments and lead your people to imitate Christ's purity of life.

May he remain strong and steadfast in Christ, giving to the world the witness of a pure conscience.

May he in this life imitate your Son, who came not to be served but to serve, and one day reign with him in heaven. Amen.'



St Lawrence



St Francis of Assisi

Pray for Your Deacons

During this Year of the Deacon we encourage you to pray for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Cape Town – in private prayer, or at Mass, or in your prayer group. Cut out this list and keep it handy – in your prayer book or missal, so that you may remember who to pray for each day.

We 'bookend' this time of intercession on the Feast days of two famous deacons: St Lawrence, Deacon, on the 10th August (in fond memory of our late Archbishop Lawrence Henry) and St Francis of Assisi, 4th October.

10 August Dcn Paul Adams
11 August Dcn Richard Aguirre
12 August Dcn Stephen Armstrong
13 August Dcn Arthur Arries
14 August Dcn Joseph Arulandu
15 August Dcn Weston Barwise
16 August Dcn Vivian Bell
17 August Dcn Ronald Brink
18 August Dcn David Calthorpe
19 August Dcn Christian Canterbury
20 August Dcn Herbert Carolissen
21 August Dcn Arthur Classen
22 August Dcn Lionel Cooper
23 August Dcn Ronald de Vos
24 August Dcn Desmond Eyden
25 August Dcn Edward Hansen
26 August Dcn Peter Haupt
27 August Dcn Patrick Jacobs
28 August Dcn Arthur Johannes
29 August Dcn Frederick Johnson
30 August Dcn Derrick Kalil
31 August Dcn Desmond Lai Lan
1 September Dcn Gary Lawrence
2 September Dcn Lillo Dominic Maruping
3 September Dcn Lester May
4 September Dcn John McMahon
5 September Dcn Patrick Mildenhall
6 September Dcn Harvey Moon
7 September Dcn Alan Morris
8 September Dcn Nkululeko Mpushe
9 September Dcn George Ngongo
10 September Dcn Terrence Okkers
11 September Dcn Sylvan Pather
12 September Dcn George Paynter
13 September Dcn Allan Petersen
14 September Dcn Trevor Petersen
15 September Dcn Piet Philander
16 September Dcn Philip Prince
17 September Dcn Michael Ramages
18 September Dcn Fergus Rogers
19 September Dcn Les Ruhrmund
20 September Dcn Basil Sampson
21 September Dcn Norman Schloss
22 September Dcn John Sheraton
23 September Dcn David Sigege
24 September Dcn Andrew Siljeur
25 September Dcn Gerald Sobotker
26 September Dcn Godfrey Solomon
27 September Dcn Mervin Solomons
28 September Dcn Lucas Timmers
29 September Dcn Eugene Tito
30 September Dcn Anthony van Vuuren
1 October Dcn Henry White
2 October Dcn Rodney Williams
3 October Dcn Tembani Wright
4 October Dcn Nick Bruce