

# The Permanent Diaconate from the Documents of the Church



## ***The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium), #29:***

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"Since the laws and customs of the Latin Church in force today in many areas render it difficult to fulfill these functions, which are so extremely necessary for the life of the Church, it will be possible in the future to restore the diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy."

## ***The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum concilium), #35***

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"Bible services should be encouraged, especially on the vigils of the more solemn feasts, on some weekdays of Advent and Lent, and on Sundays and Holy days, especially in places where no priest is available. In this case a deacon or some other person authorized by the bishop should preside over the celebration."

## ***The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum), #25***

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"Therefore, all clerics, particularly priests of Christ and others who, as deacons or catechists, are officially engaged in the ministry of the Word, should immerse themselves in the Scriptures by constant sacred reading and diligent study."

## ***The Decree on Missionary Activity (Ad gentes), #16***

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"The Church is more firmly rooted in a people when the different communities of the faithful have ministers of salvation who are drawn from their own brothers – bishops, priests and deacons, serving their own brothers – so that these young churches gradually acquire a diocesan structure with their own clergy. . . ."  
"It would help those men who carry out the ministry of a deacon – preaching the word of God as catechists, governing scattered Christian communities in the name of the bishop or parish priest, or exercising charity in the performance of social or charitable works – if they were to be strengthened by the imposition of hands which has come down from the apostles. They would be more closely bound to the altar and their ministry would be made more fruitful through the sacramental grace of the diaconate."

## ***The Decree on Eastern Catholic Churches (Orientalium ecclesiarum), #17***

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"The holy council wishes the institution of the permanent diaconate to be restored where it has fallen into disuse, in order that the ancient discipline of the Sacrament of Orders may flourish once more in the Eastern Churches."