

Diocese of Barbados



The Consecration and Ordination
to
**THE DISTINCTIVE
DIACONATE**

Diocese of Barbados



The Consecration and Ordination of

STEPHANIE GOODING

SHARON KING

EDITH SMALL

REUDON EVERSLEY

MICHELLE JOHNSON

SHARON POWER

RICHARD ALLEYNE

ADZIL STUART

to

THE DISTINCTIVE DIACONATE

*The Feast of Philip the Deacon and Evangelist
Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.*

*The Cathedral Church of St Michael and All Angels
Bridgetown*

THE REVEREND CANON DR. MONRELLE T. WILLIAMS

Preacher

THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL B. ST. J. MAXWELL

Bishop of Barbados

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Acolyte | Crucifer | Acolyte

Choir

Altar Servers

Theological Students

Visiting Clergy

Diocesan Clergy

Server

The Ordinands

The Litanist

The Gospeller

The Preacher

Acolyte | Crucifer | Acolyte

Server

The Rural Deans

The Diocesan Registrar

The Diocesan Chancellor

The Attending Ministers

The Examining Chaplains

Chapter Crucifer

The Cathedral Chapter

The Dean's Verger

The Dean

Server

The Bishop's Chaplain

The Bishop

ORDER OF SERVICE

PAN PRELUDE: *The Soul & Spirit Steel Orchestra*
(from *The Church of All Souls*)

ORGAN PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER & VOLUNTARY INTROIT

WELCOME: *The Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson*
Dean, The Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels

OPENING HYMN: 399 – Renew Thy Church

Renew thy church, its ministries restore:
both to serve and adore.
Make her again as salt throughout the land,
and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night
where greed and hatred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endured:
help us, Lord, be renewed!

Teach us thy word, reveal its truth divine;
on our path let it shine.
Tell of thy works, thy mighty acts of grace;
from each page show thy face.
As thou hast loved us, sent thy Son,
and our salvation now is won.
O let our hearts with love be stirred:
help us, Lord, know thy Word!

Teach us to pray, for thou art ever near.
thy still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in thee,
this our glad destiny.
Before your presence keep us still,
that we may find for us thy will
and seek thy guidance every day:
teach us, Lord, how to pray!

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind,
everyone, all mankind.
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate;
leave us not to our fate.
As thou has loved and given thy life
to end hostility and strife.
O share thy grace from heaven above:
teach us, Lord, how to love!

OPENING SENTENCE

BISHOP: Jesus said, I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. A servant is not greater than his master, nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. *John 13:15 & 16*

THE INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER

BISHOP: To God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be glory in the Church in Christ Jesus. Alleluia, Alleluia.

PEOPLE: From generation to generation for ever. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

BISHOP: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church that in their vocation and ministry they may truly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord:
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

BISHOP: The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE: **And also with you.**
BISHOP: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR ORDINATION

BISHOP: Eternal Father, through your Holy Spirit you have appointed many ministries in the Church: Bless your servants *Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad*, now called to be deacons, maintain them in your truth, renew them in your holiness and make them your ever-faithful servants; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF PHILIP THE DEACON & EVANGELIST

O God, who has made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that we, following the example of your servant Philip, may bring your Word to those who seek you, for the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Leviticus 19:9-16**
 Ms. Renika Crichlow

READER: A reading from the Word of God written in the Book of Leviticus, the nineteenth chapter, beginning at the ninth verse.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning.

You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people,
and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am
the Lord.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67 – *Deus misereatur*

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Acts 8:26–40

Mr. Deverron Bynoe

READER: A reading from the Word of God written in the Acts of the Apostles, the eighth chapter, beginning at the twenty-sixth verse.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region,

he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN: 331 –
Lord, Thy Church on Earth is Seeking**

Lord, thy Church on earth is seeking
thy renewal from above.
Teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of thy love,
we would heed thy great commission:
‘Go ye into every place -
preach, baptize, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.’

Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin;
give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within.
Light for darkness, joy for sorrow;
love for hatred, peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

In the slums of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
we shall show the Saviour’s pity,
we shall of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races,
we shall serve, and seek to bring
all mankind to render praises,
Christ, to thee, Redeemer, King.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-27

The Reverend Re-Shan A. White

Assistant Curate, The Cathedral

Church of St. Michael and All Angels

GOSPELLER: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

GOSPELLER: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter, beginning at the thirteenth verse.

PEOPLE: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

GOSPELLER: The Gospel of Christ

PEOPLE: Praise to Christ our Lord.

THE SERMON:

The Reverend Canon Dr. Monrelle T. Williams
Priest in Charge, St. Barnabas Church

SOLO SELECTION: *Touch Your People Once Again*

Mrs. Gail Cumberbatch

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen or unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
one in Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN: 703 – The earth, O Lord, is one wide field

The earth, O Lord, is one wide field
of all thy chosen seed;
the crop prepared its fruit to yield;
the labourers few indeed.

We therefore come before thee now
with fasting, and with prayer,
beseeching of thy love that thou
wouldst send more labourers there.

Not for our land alone we pray,
though that above the rest;
the realms and islands far away,
O let them all be blest.

Endue the bishops of thy flock
with wisdom and with grace,

against false doctrine, like a rock,
to set the heart and face.

To all thy priests thy truth reveal,
and make thy judgments clear;
make thou thy deacons full of zeal,
and humble, and sincere:

and give their flocks a lowly mind
to hear and to obey;
that each and all may mercy find
at thine appearing-day.

THE PRESENTATION

EXAMINING CHAPLAINS:

- ***The Venerable Dr. Von Watson***
Archdeacon of Barbados
- ***The Reverend Canon Dr. Kirkley Sands***
Acting Principal of Codrington College

PRESENTERS:

- ***The Reverend Bernard Been***
- ***Mrs. Celpha Sands***
- ***The Reverend Suzanne Ellis***
- ***Mr. Harold Oxley***
- ***The Reverend Canon Dr. Sonia Hinds***
- ***Ms. Betty Culpepper***
- ***The Reverend Canon Dr. Monrelle Williams***
- ***Mrs. Maureen Goddard***
- ***Mrs. Maureen Boyce***
- ***The Reverend Lisa Jessamy Maynard***
- ***Mrs. Margaret Stephen***
- ***The Reverend Canon Henderson Guy***
- ***Ms. Sandra Payne***
- ***The Reverend Canon Beverley Sealy-Knight***
- ***Mrs. Felicia Corbin***

These persons appointed, assembled before the Bishop, say together:

Right Reverend Father in God, we present ***Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad*** to be ordained to the office of Deacon in the Church of God.

BISHOP: You understand that the persons whom you present to be ordained must be suited spiritually, morally and by sound learning to exercise their ministry to the honour of God and the building up of His Church?

PRESENTERS: We have enquired of them and also examined them and believe them so to be.

The Bishop says to those who are to be ordained

Do you believe that God has called you to the office and work of Deacon in His Church?

ANSWER: I believe that God has so called me.

The Bishop presents the candidates to the people, and says,

Those whose duty it is to inquire about these persons and examine them have found them to be of godly life and sound learning, and believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry. Nevertheless, if any of you know any impediment or crime in them, on account of which they should not be ordained, come forward now, and make it known.

BISHOP: Is it therefore your will that they should be ordained?

PEOPLE: It is.

BISHOP: Will you uphold them in their ministry?

ANSWER: We will.

THE CHARGE

The people sit. The ordinands stand before the Bishop who says,

Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Deacon is called to serve the Church of God and work with its members in caring for the poor, the needy, the sick, and all who are in trouble. A Deacon is to strengthen the faithful, search out the careless and the indifferent, and to preach the word of God as duly authorized by the Bishop.

As a Deacon in the Church you are to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. By your word and example, you are to make Christ and His redemptive love known to those among whom you live and work and worship; and to interpret to the Church their needs, concerns and hopes. You are to assist the Bishop and Priests in public worship and in the administration of God's Word and Sacraments, and in carrying out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving those in need, they are serving Christ Himself.

THE EXAMINATION

The Bishop says to those who are to be ordained.

In order that we may know your mind and purpose, and that you may be strengthened in your resolve to fulfill your ministry, you must answer the questions we now put to you.

BISHOP: Do you now in the presence of God and this congregation commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

ANSWER: **I do.**

BISHOP: Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as uniquely revealing the word of God and containing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: **I do so accept them.**

BISHOP: Do you believe the Christian faith as taught in the holy Scriptures, held by the undivided Church and declared in the Catholic creeds; and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?

ANSWER: **I believe it, and will so do.**

BISHOP: Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may deepen your faith and make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ.

ANSWER: **I will, by the help of God.**

BISHOP: Will you accept the discipline of this Church, and reverently obey your Bishop and other ministers set over you in the Lord?

ANSWER: **I will, by the help of God.**

BISHOP: Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family or household in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

ANSWER: **I will, by the help of God.**

BISHOP: Will you look for Christ in all others and be ready to help and serve those in need?

ANSWER: **I will, by the help of God.**

BISHOP: Will you be diligent in prayer, both in public and private, in the recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer, and in such things as may increase your love for God?

ANSWER: **I will, by the help of God.**

BISHOP: Almighty God who has given you the will to do all these things, give you also the grace and power to perform them, that He may complete that work which He has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people kneel as the ordinands prostrate.

The Bishop then says,

The Scriptures tell us that our Saviour Christ spent the whole night in prayer before He chose and sent forth His twelve apostles. Likewise, the apostles prayed before they appointed Matthias to be one of their number. Let us, therefore, follow their examples, and offer our prayers to Almighty God before we ordain ***Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad*** for the work to which we trust the Holy Spirit has called them.

THE LITANY FOR ORDINATIONS

The Reverend Canon Mark Harewood
Rector, Christ Church Parish Church

LITANIST: God the Father,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: God the Son,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: God the Holy Spirit,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: Holy Trinity, one God,

PEOPLE: **Have mercy on us.**

LITANIST: We pray to you, Lord Christ,

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For **Philip**, our Senior Bishop, **Michael**, our Bishop, and for all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may be filled with your love, may hunger for truth and may thirst after righteousness, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For *Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad*, chosen Deacons in your church, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That *they* may faithfully, fulfill the duties of this ministry, build up Your Church, and glorify your name, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: That by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit *they* may be sustained and encouraged to persevere to the end, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For ourselves: for the forgiveness of our sins and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: For all who have died in the communion of the Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

LITANIST: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, *blessed Philip* and all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

PEOPLE: **To you, O Lord.**

The Bishop prays,

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Bishop commends those who are to be ordained to the prayers of the people and silence is kept.

All still kneeling.

THE HYMN, “*Veni Creator Spiritus*”, is sung

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art Guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song.

‘Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.’ Amen.

THE CONSECRATION AND ORDINATION

The ordinands kneel before the Bishop, he stretches out his hands towards them, and says,

We praise and glorify you, most merciful Father, because in your great love you sent your only Son Jesus Christ to take the form of a servant; He came to serve and not to be served; and taught us that He who would be great among us must be servant of all; He humbled Himself for our sake, and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross; therefore you highly exalted Him and gave Him the name which is above every name.

And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants, whom we ordain in your Name, to share the ministry, entrusted to your Church.

Here the Bishop lays his hands on the head of each ordinand, and says,

Send down your Holy Spirit upon your servant ***Stephanie / Michelle / Sharon / Sharon / Edith / Richard / Reudon / Adzil*** for the office and work of a Deacon in your Church.

The Bishop then continues,

Almighty Father, give *them* grace and power to fulfill *their* ministry. Make *them* faithful to serve, ready to teach, constant in advancing your gospel, and grant that, always having full assurance of faith, abounding in hope, and being rooted and grounded in love, *they* may continue strong and steadfast in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit, belong all glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Bishop addresses each of the newly ordained Deacons

Stephanie / Michelle / Sharon / Sharon / Edith / Richard / Reudon / Adzil, receive authority for the office and work of a Deacon in the Church of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Amen.

THE VESTING OF THE DEACONS

Each of the newly ordained Deacons is vested according to custom by the attending ministers:

- **The Reverend Canon Dr. Sonia S. J. Hinds**
 Rector of St. Leonard Church
 Rural Dean of the St. Michael Deanery
- **The Reverend Canon Beverley B. Sealy-Knight**
 Rector, St. James Parish Church
 Rural Dean of the St. Peter Deanery
- **The Reverend Canon Trevor S. O’Neale**
 Rector of St. Philip Parish Church
 Rural Dean of the Christ Church Deanery

The Bishop lays the stole on the newly ordained Deacon’s left shoulder to be arranged and fastened by the attending ministers.

BISHOP: Take this stole as from the hand of God that you will fulfill your ministry for it is He who gives you the increase of grace.

The Bishop, assisted by the attending ministers, puts on the newly ordained Deacon the Dalmatic saying,

The Lord clothe you with the garment of salvation, the robe of joy and the dalmatic of righteousness.

The Bishop gives to the newly ordained Deacon the New Testament, saying,

Receive this book and take authority to proclaim the Gospel and to assist in the administration of the Sacraments.

At the conclusion of the Vesting, the Bishop introduces the new Deacons and invites a congratulatory applause from the congregation.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

BISHOP: The Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

BISHOP: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

PEACE SONG: There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love.
And for these blessings,
we lift our hearts in praise,
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness, and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say,
'I am going to walk with Jesus all the way,'

Refrain

THE NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM: Cathedral Choir of St Michael and All Angels

THE OFFERTORY HYMNS: 313, 332, 416

HYMN 313 – God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
now fulfil thy church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways;
from the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces
in the fight to set men free.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
that we fail not man nor thee,
that we fail not man nor thee.

HYMN 332– Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission:
Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to Your purpose
with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to Your service:
“In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us
closer in community.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:
“This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children’s liberty.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love’s true measure;
“Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

HYMN 416 – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

BISHOP AND PEOPLE:

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

BISHOP: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

BISHOP: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord.

BISHOP: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

BISHOP:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God:

Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after His resurrection sent forth His apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

PEOPLE:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

BISHOP:

Holy and gracious Father,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

We therefore bring you these gifts,
and we ask you to make them holy
by the power of your Spirit,
that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who offered Himself in obedience to your will,
the Perfect Sacrifice for all mankind.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
He broke it and gave it to his disciples and said:
"Take this and eat it:
"This is my Body which is given for you.
"Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine
and when he had given thanks
He gave it to them and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
"This is my Blood of the New Covenant,
"Which is shed for you and for many
"for the forgiveness of sins.
"Do this, whenever you drink it,
"For the remembrance of me."

PEOPLE:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

BISHOP:

Father, calling to mind the death your Son
endured for our salvation;
His Glorious Resurrection and Ascension;
His continual intercession for us in heaven;
and looking for His coming again in glory,
we offer you, in thanksgiving,
this holy and life-giving sacrifice.

Look with favour on your Church's offering,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
may be filled with your Holy Spirit
and become one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity, constancy and peace.

May He make us a perpetual offering to you
and enable us, in communion with
blessed Mary and the whole company of heaven,
to share in the inheritance of your saints.
With Him, and in Him, and through Him,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father Almighty,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven
in songs of everlasting praise:

PEOPLE:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
Be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BISHOP:

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

PEOPLE:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BISHOP:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

PEOPLE:

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all
share in one bread.**

THE AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

BISHOP:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

PEOPLE:

**Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing glad
songs of praise to Him.**

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION: 585, 335, 453, 322, 245

HYMN: 585 – Dearest Jesu, We Are Here

Dearest Jesu, we are here,
at thy call, thy presence owning;
pleading now in holy fear
that great sacrifice atoning:
Word incarnate, much in wonder
on this mystery deep we ponder.

Jesu, strong to save - the same
yesterday, today, for ever –
make us fear and love thy name,
serving thee with best endeavour:
in this life, O ne'er forsake us,
but to bliss hereafter take us.

HYMN: 335 – Now Let Us from This Table Rise

Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind, and soul;
with Christ we die and live again,
his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then grant us courage, Companion-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

HYMN: 453 – Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to-be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

HYMN: 322 – It Only Takes a Spark

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding.
The birds begin to sing; the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring;
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;
you can depend on him, it matters not where your bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know;
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

HYMN: 245 – Jesus Come Today

Jesus come today for a poor, poor man like me;
salvation come my way, my soul set free.
Jesus come for all, and we must hear his call;
open up your hearts today and let it be.

Refrain:

*No matter if you tief or if you dread
or if you have a crown pon your head;
no matter if you have no heart at all,
Jesus bring love for one and all.
Sing it, children:*

*I for Jesus, you for Jesus, all for Jesus,
fall for Jesus, come to Jesus.
Jesus come for one, he come for all.*

Jesus come for I, see manger where he lie,
see cross where he must die for a wretch like me.
For God so love the world, man, woman, boy and girl,
he gave his Son for you, his Son for me.

Refrain

Jesus Christ today, the same as yesterday,
the one, the only way, the King for me.
Let it come to pass, mankind find love at last,
just as it was time past, so let it be.

Refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BISHOP: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

BISHOP: Let us pray.

PEOPLE: Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy body and blood of your Son, and for uniting us through Him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your word and sacraments. We pray that *Stephanie Delores, Michelle Inga, Sharon Amanda, Sharon Ocena, Edith Eudora, Richard Orlando, Reudon Athelston and Adzil Irad* may be to us godly examples in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with them may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE EPISCOPAL BLESSING

The Bishop blesses the people, first saying,

BISHOP: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

BISHOP: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **From this time forth for evermore.**

BISHOP: Almighty God, who for the salvation of humankind gives to His people many gifts and ministries to the advancement of His glory, stir up in you the gifts of His grace, sustain each one of you in your own ministry; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

PEOPLE: **Amen.**

HYMNS FOR THE RECESSION: 400, 325

HYMN 400 – We Have a Gospel to Proclaim

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
hated by those He came to save,

in lonely suffering on the cross:
for all He loved, His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
to live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel message we proclaim;
we sing His glory, tell His worth.

HYMN 325 – Go Forth and Tell

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts — let no one be denied;

live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.

THE DISMISSAL *The Reverend Re-Shan A. White*

DEACON: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

**PLEASE KEEP OUR NEW DISTINCTIVE DEACONS
IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

THE REVEREND STEPHANIE DELORES GOODING



The Reverend Stephanie Delores Gooding, 66 years of age, received her faith formation at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Barbados, and the Church of St. Bartholomew, Ontario, Canada. While in Canada, she received her education at Barton Secondary School, Southmount Secondary School, and completed a BA in Sociology at McMaster University.

On returning to Barbados, Deacon Gooding was employed at the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and Harrison College in the Library Service.

In the Church of the Holy Trinity, Reverend Gooding served as a Chorister, Sunday School Teacher, and Lay Eucharistic Minister. She was a member of the Parochial Church Council, Woman's Auxiliary, Flower Guild, Prayer Group, and the Evangelism Committee. She is also a Cursillista. Her deep passion for serving God and others were inspired by her aunt, Elise (Doris) Warner, and parents, The Rev'd Leon Burke and the late Inell Burke. She holds a Diploma in Theological Studies from Codrington College and an MA in Theology and has a deep love for pastoral care to the housebound.

Deacon Stephanie is married to Maurice Gooding, and they have one daughter, Shannon.

The Rev'd Stephanie Gooding will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The Church of St Barnabas, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND MICHELLE INGA JOHNSON



Born in Georgetown, Guyana, **The Reverend Michelle Inga Johnson**, 53, grew up in a devout Christian family. She received her early Christian formation within the Methodist Church in Guyana but was later confirmed in the Anglican Church. She attended the Cathedral Church of St. George, Guyana, where she was an active member of the Cathedral's Youth Group, serving as its' President for a few years.

Deacon Michelle attended the Guyana Industrial Training Centre, graduating with a diploma in Electrical Installation. She has received certification in Building Drawing, Introduction to Life Underwriting and Financial Advisors Skills. In addition, she holds a Diploma in Theological Studies from Codrington College and a BA in Theology from the University of the West Indies.

While as a member of the Church of All Souls', Barbados, Reverend Michelle has served as a Sunday School teacher. Her call to ministry was inspired by her grandmother who was an influential figure in her life and the late Reverend Canon Evan Sample of Guyana. She has a passion for social justice and community development.

Deacon Michelle is self-employed and has an adopted son.

The Rev'd Michelle Johnson will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The Church of St Leonard, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND SHARON AMANDA KING



The Reverend Sharon Amanda King, age 48, was a faithful member of the Church of St Leonard. A former member of the St. Leonard's Church Lads and Girls Brigade, she more recently served as a Sunday School Teacher, Chief Server, a member of the Parochial Church Council, Chair of the Church's Youth Commission and a Lay Eucharistic Minister. She is also a member of the Mother's Union.

Receiving her primary and secondary education at the Westbury Primary School and The Alexandra School respectively, Deacon King successfully attained a Diploma in Theological Studies from Codrington College and recently completed a BA in Theology receiving Second Class honors.

Deacon Sharon has worked at the Republic Bank for the past 20 years. She is particularly interested in youth work and currently serves as the Deputy Programme Administrator of Learn to Read School Support Programme which is a community lesson group.

She is the mother of one daughter, Derrica Springer, and grandmother of D'Shara Springer.

The Reverend Sharon King will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The St. Lucy Parish Church, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND SHARON OCENA POWER



The Reverend Sharon Ocena Power was a member of the St. Barnabas Church, where she served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Parochial Church Council and as a Lay Representative at Synod. She also devoted much of her time assisting in the Senior Citizens' Day Care Centre and in bereavement counselling. She is passionate about pastoral care, especially to the elderly and vulnerable.

Reverend Sharon, who is 68 years old, received her early education at Buxton and St. Gabriel's Schools. At the tertiary level, she graduated from the Barbados Community College with an Associate Degree in Marketing (with Distinction). In 2010, she completed the Diploma in Theology at Codrington College and was persuaded by Dean Jeffrey Gibson to pursue the BA in Theology, which she did, graduating with First Class Honours in 2015.

She formerly worked as an export administrator within the manufacturing sector for over 30 years.

In her free time, Deacon Sharon indulges in the culinary arts, enjoys reading and listening to music. She has one daughter, Rachel.

The Reverend Sharon Power will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The Christ Church Parish Church, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND EDITH EUDORA SMALL



A cradle Anglican, **The Reverend Edith Eudora Small**, was baptised at the Church of St. Barnabas and remained throughout the years as a faithful member of that Church community. She received her early faith formation as a young adult under the tutelage of then Sunday School Superintendent, the late Mr. Reginald Harper, who was instrumental in her becoming a Sunday School teacher. Having been inspired by the late Marjorie Bowen and Audine Chandler, she joined the Prayer Group, and encouraged by Millicent Clarke, she led and coordinated the group's focus on community outreach. She was also a member of the Choir Guild, the Lectors Guild, and previously worked with the Church Army.

Deacon Edith attended Belmont Girls (Primary) School, Lynch's Secondary School, The Barbados Community College and later University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. She is a retired banker, a qualified Administrative Corporate Secretary (ACS), and has worked in the financial and legal services sectors. She holds a Diploma in Pastoral Studies and Counselling from Codrington College and a BA in Theology (Hons.) from the University of the West Indies.

The 67-year-old is the mother of two adult children.

The Reverend Edith Small will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The St. Philip Parish Church, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND RICHARD ORLANDO ALLEYNE



A member of St. Barnabas Church until the age of 26 years, **The Reverend Richard Orlando Alleyne** joined the St. Bartholomew Church Family having married a member of that congregation. At St. Bartholomew he spent about two decades serving as a Sunday School teacher.

Educated at Harrison College, the Barbados Community College, The University of the West Indies and the World Maritime University, Deacon Alleyne holds a B.A in Sociology and Law, an MSc in Maritime Administration, and is one course away from completing a BA in Theology.

Deacon Richard, 68, served at Harbour Master at the Barbados Port for thirty years until his retirement eight years ago. He is particularly interested in Port Chaplaincy, including seafarers and port workers, especially those who live in the surrounding area.

Reverend Alleyne credits Dean Emeritus William Dixon as his inspiration. He is married and has three adult children.

The Reverend Richard Alleyne will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to the Cathedral Church of St Michael and All Angels, effective October 15, 2025, and will also be tasked with developing and offering a ministry to the seafarers, fisher folk and the workers at the Bridgetown Port.

**THE REVEREND
REUDON ATHELSTON THEOPHILUS EVERSLEY**



The Reverend Reudon Eversley is 65 years of age and comes from the Church of St. Christopher where he last served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. It was during his teenage years as an altar server at the Church of St. Martin that he first sensed a call to ordained ministry. He was heavily influenced by the late Very Reverend Ulric Smith, and in later years and to varying degrees, by The Reverend Canon Henderson Guy and Dean Emeritus, The Very Reverend William Dixon, all former parish priests. Though his career took a different path, the call to the ordained ministry never went away.

Deacon Eversley is a Foundation alumnus, holds the Codrington College Diploma in Theological Studies (2005-07 Class) and Master's Degrees from Carleton University in Journalism and Political Management. He enters the Diaconal ministry as an experienced, well-rounded individual following a diverse career in journalism, strategic communication and political management that has involved living and working across the Caribbean.

The Reverend Reudon is married and the father of two. His special interests include Liturgy, Church Communication and Social Justice.

The Reverend Reudon Eversley will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to the Cure of St. Joseph with St Aidan, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE REVEREND ADZIL IRAD STUART



The last of four siblings, **The Reverend Adzil Irad Stuart**, 67, received his faith formation within the Churches of St. Barnabas where he was baptised, and at All Souls where he attended Sunday School. He also worshipped at The Cathedral of St. Michael's and All Angels, Christ the King, and St. Matthias, serving as an acolyte before transferring his membership to the St. James Parish Church where he served on various committees, like the Harvest Garden Party, Stewardship and the Health Committees.

Deacon Adzil's educational pursuits have been wide and varied, receiving his primary and secondary education at Wesley Hall and Combermere Schools in Barbados, respectively. He also attended the Wilfred Beauty Academy, Christine Valmy School of Esthetics and Makeup Artistry, and Executive Manners in New York. He is currently employed with the Prime Minister's Office as a Program Field Officer in the Household Mitigation Unit, and moonlights as a cosmetologist, cultural practitioner, and producer. He has been a Justice of Peace since October 2019 and was awarded a national award, the Silver Trident of Excellence, on Independence Day 2024.

The Reverend Stuart holds a BA in Theology (with Second Class Honors). He has a keen interest in spirituality meeting culture as we build a better church, and his influencers have been both from the ranks of the clergy and private individuals over the years.

The Reverend Adzil Stuart will be assigned, as a Distinctive Deacon, to The St George Parish Church, effective October 15, 2025, until further notice.

THE DISTINCTIVE (VOCATIONAL) DIACONATE

The Diocese of Barbados is answering the call to provide what has come to be called the Vocational/Perpetual Diaconate, but our preferred term will be the Distinctive Diaconate. Unlike the Transitional Diaconate where the deacon goes through a period of training primarily to become a priest in the near future, within the Distinctive Diaconate, the deacon is focused, not on preparing for the priesthood, but on evangelism, outreach and community engagement, that of taking the Church to the community and bringing the needs of the community to the Church. Our Diocese has over the years only followed the transitional model, but today we move toward the phase of having Distinctive Deacons; and this gives the true value to this high calling of the Deacon who was essentially, within the early Church, the Bishop's agent, ambassador, and messenger such that the people of God might be better served.

Within the Lambeth Conference in 1958, the following Resolution [88] was offered to restore the Office of Deacon to its rightful place:

The Conference recommends that each province of the Anglican Communion shall consider whether the office of deacon shall be restored to its primitive place as a distinctive order in the Church, instead of being regarded as a probationary period for the priesthood.

Then at the next Lambeth Conference of 1968, this Resolution [32] on the Diaconate was proffered:

The Conference recommends:

(a) That the diaconate, combining service of others with liturgical functions, be open to

- 1. Men and women remaining in secular occupations,*
- 2. Full-time church workers,*
- 3. Those selected for priesthood.*

(b) That Ordinals should, where necessary, be revised:

- 1. To take account of the new role envisaged for the diaconate;*
- 2. By the removal of reference to the diaconate as 'an inferior office';*
- 3. By emphasis upon the continuing element of diakonia in the ministry of bishops and priests.*

It is important to note then the call and the appropriate instruments which were put in place at the prominent level to ensure that the Order of Deacon be returned to its primitive pristine state which

became sullied sometime around the fourth century. We too in the Province of the West Indies were not inattentive as can be seen in our Constitution and Canons: Article 5: RELATING TO DEACONS where it is stated:

1. *The Order of Deacons shall be maintained within the Church in the Province of the West Indies as a distinct Order of ministry, within the threefold Order of the historic ministry of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. The Diaconate as the ancient Order, symbolic of the servant element in ministry, has an inherent dignity which is preserved in the other Orders of ministry.*
2. *The specific functions of members of the Order shall include:*
 - a. *Preparing the Table and assisting with the Chalice.*
 - b. *Reading of the Gospel at the Eucharist.*
 - c. *Baptising in the absence of the Priest.*
 - d. *Preaching by the Bishop's Licence.*
 - e. *Visiting the sick and disabled.*
 - f. *Reporting to the Incumbent those who are in need.*
 - g. *Generally assisting the Incumbent in the pastoral work of the Parish.*
3. *Members of the Order may be required to undergo a process of suitable internship in the ministry of the pastorate.*

The Church in the Province of the West Indies properly understands and therefore has enunciated its position that the Order of Deacons is a full and distinct Order with full integrity; and at the time of Ordination as reflected in our service, the person(s) to be ordained is(are) made aware of the expectations of the Church as expressed in The Charge. Here too, in the Book of Common Prayer, our Province made the necessary adjustment to underscore the fact of the fullness and distinctiveness of the Order of Deacons.

Our newly ordained Distinctive Deacons will ensure that the Servant Church is always present, active, and visible. These types of Deacons “have a strong call to an outward-looking and community-minded ministry.”



Booklet Prepared by
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