



## **GENERAL DECREE CLERICAL ATTIRE OF DEACONS IN THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**

Having heard that the desire of the diaconate leadership team for clear guidance and norms regarding the use of clerical attire by deacons of the Diocese of Des Moines;

Seeing that there are presently no such norms for the deacons of the Diocese of Des Moines;

Seeing that the norms established in universal law and the particular law of the United States do not regulate the clerical attire of deacons (cf. CC. 284, 288 *CIC* );

Seeing that particular law can establish norms regarding the clerical dress of deacons in a particular Church (cf. C. 288 *CIC* );

Seeing that as the Bishop of Des Moines, I alone possess the required legislative power to establish particular law in the Diocese of Des Moines (cf. C. 391 *CIC* );

By means of this decree, I hereby

### **ESTABLISH**

The following particular law of the Diocese of Des Moines:

**In the Diocese of Des Moines, a deacon may wear the Roman collar (clerics/clerical attire), in accordance with the proceeding norms.**

**Presently, deacons will be allowed to wear black clerical shirts with the Roman collar, but as of 1 September 2027, deacons will only be permitted to wear grey clerical shirts with the Roman collar. Whenever possible some symbol of the diaconate should be worn with the clerical attire to more clearly distinguish between priests and deacons.**

**Particular directives or instructions of diocesan officials (e.g. Director of the Diaconate, Vicar General, Episcopal Vicar for Divine Worship) should be followed for special events or particular circumstances.**

**Deacons are permitted to wear clerical attire at diocesan liturgies and events (Chrism Mass, Eucharistic Processions, Ordinations, Rite of Election and other major official celebrations of the Des Moines Diocese).**

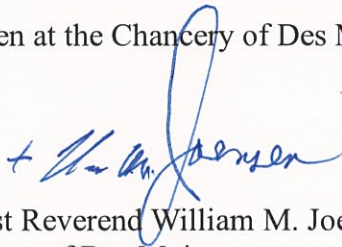
**Unless prohibited by the Pastor, deacons are permitted to wear clerical attire when celebrating liturgical rites, sacraments, or in some way engaged in ministry (marriage preparation, marriages, baptisms, wake services, funerals, graveside services, benediction, ministry in hospitals and nursing homes, ministry in Catholic schools, catechetical sessions, or at ecumenical faith gatherings).**

**Furthermore, all deacons are prohibited from wearing clerical attire in the context of their secular profession or occupation.**

**In the case that the deacon works for the Church, whether that be a parish, a Catholic school, or the diocese, the ecclesiastical authority who oversees the place of employment (e.g. the pastor for the parish or school, bishop for the diocese) is to determine whether the deacon may wear clerics while working.**


These norms have immediate effect from the time of their promulgation by letter with this decree attached sent via email to all priests and deacons of the Diocese of Des Moines. Furthermore, I order that these new norms be included in any manual or handbook prepared for the deacons and that these norms be included on the Diocesan website under clergy resources.

Given at the Chancery of Des Moines, 9 June 2025, the Memorial of St. Ephrem, Deacon.



Most Reverend William M. Joensen, Ph.D.  
Bishop of Des Moines

(SEAL)



Jason Kurth  
Chancellor