

Vesting Prayer for the Deceased Deacon

The Leader of the group must be a Deacon or a Priest. This prayer is conducted in the presence of the deceased Deacon's body, usually at the mortuary and prior to any ritual liturgies being celebrated. Because of the need to move the body in order to place the vestments on the deceased Deacon, it is not recommended the family participate in this prayer service.

Opening Prayer

Leader: O Loving Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Savior, on the day of his ordination, Your Servant, Deacon N., committed his life totally to the ministry of *Diakonia*. He served Your People as a Prophetic voice of Your Gospel, giving them hope as a Sacramental Sign of Your Grace within the Sacred Liturgy, and being an example of holiness as a suffering Servant of Your Mercy. Indeed, his life was a vessel of Your Love flowing into the hearts of Your People.

As we prepare our brother for his final rest, we pray You will send Your Angels to empty out the many prayers of Your Faithful Servant to Your Throne in heaven. Allow his prayers, the prayers of his family, his brother Deacons and Priests be heard and answered, most especially during this time of sorrow and grief.

It is appropriate to take a Deacon Cross from one of the Deacons present and place his Cross on the Deacon if the Cross is not already present on the body.

(All recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)

All: Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, and the communion of Saints, intercede for our brother and those who have died marked by the sign of faith.

Vesting

Once the body is vested with the alb, recite the following:

Leader: Deacon N. prepared himself to be purified each time he donned the white alb of the faithful. In purity of his heart and soul, he has been washed by the Blood of the Lamb, may he enjoy eternal bliss.

All: Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, and the communion of Saints, intercede for our brother and those who have died marked by the sign of faith.

Once the body is vested with the cincture, recite the following:

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Leader: Deacon **N.** girded himself with the cincture of purity to quench in his heart the fire of concupiscence, that he would live the virtue of continence and chastity. O Lord let your loving mercy which abided in Deacon **N.** purify him to be in perfect unity with you and all the faithful.

All: Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, and the communion of Saints, intercede for our brother and those who have died marked by the sign of faith.

Once the body is vested with the stole, recite the following:

Leader: Deacon **N.** wore the stole of immortality knowing he was unworthy to approach the Sacred Mysteries. Though his immortality was lost through the collusion of our first parents, he prayed that You, Dear Lord, might allow his mortal body to become immortal. May the words and actions of Deacon **N.** resonate in our lives and gain for him eternal joy.

All: Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, and the communion of Saints, intercede for our brother and those who have died marked by the sign of faith.

Once the body is vested with the Dalmatic, recite the following:

Leader: Deacon **N.** was encompassed with the garment of salvation, the vestment of joy and dalmatic of justice. May he experience, the Mercy of Your Forgiving Justice and join in the chorus of angels, forever singing your eternal praises.

All: Lord Jesus, Mother Mary, and the communion of Saints, intercede for our brother and those who have died marked by the sign of faith.

Leader: Through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, the Deacon Saints, Deacon **N.**'s Patron Saints and Angels we give You praise and thanksgiving for all the gifts bestowed on our brother. Welcome Deacon **N.** into your Kingdom of Glory that he might enjoy the fruits of his ministry in heaven along with all the holy men and women of God.

The Litany of Saints *is led by the Leader by reciting each name.*

Leader: St. Stephen, Proto-martyr and Deacon,

Pray for us

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St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Deacon Phillip,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Deacon Lawrence,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Deacon Ephraim, Doctor of the Church	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Deacon Francis of Assisi,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Deacon Vincent of Saragoza,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Holy Mother Mary, guide and comforter of Deacon,	<i>Pray for us</i>
All the Deacon Saints,	<i>Pray for us</i>
All holy men and women,	<i>Pray for us</i>
All the Angels and Saints of God.	<i>Pray for us</i>

Final Prayer and Blessing

Leader: Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them. Eternal rest grant unto Deacon N., Oh, Lord.

All: And let your perpetual light shine upon him.

Leader: May he rest in peace

All: Amen

Leader: May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen

Leader: May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

Leader: May almighty God bless you; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *All:* Amen