

## **Diaconal Ministry Examples Diocese of Niagara**

The fundamental difference between priests and deacons “is that priests tend to the ‘Church gathered’, deacons to the ‘Church scattered’” (Archdeacon Ormond Plater, Diocese of Louisiana). The deacon’s ministry of interpreting the “needs of the World to the Church,” as the Ordination Rite specifies, reflects this important distinction. It also describes the essence of the mission which we envision deacons catalyzing in our Diocese. Below are some examples of those ministries being carried out in the Diocese of Niagara.

### **Church Scattered**

Occasional preacher for local churches –  
United and Presbyterian

Chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion

Follow up visits with bereaved families

School breakfast program

Work with local hospice

Chair of the Spiritual Care Committee

Community Living Ontario board member

Work with refugee families

Co-ordinate outreach program

Conduct monthly services at Nursing Home

Member of the Diocesan Social Justice  
Committee

Involved with the Food Security Network

Member of Ethics Committee, Niagara Health  
System

Member of Palliative Care Team at seniors  
homes

### **Church Gathered**

Visit shut ins and the sick and administer reserved  
sacraments as requested

Co-organizer of monthly community dinners

Youth mentor

Member of Parish Council

Lay reader

Lead morning prayer

Make hospital visits

Assist in baptisms

Conduct funerals when requested

Conduct weekly bible study

Function as liturgical deacon (set table, read Gospel,  
administer chalice, occasional preaching, dismissal)

Coordinate prayer shawl ministry