



Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Office of the Bishop

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Prot. N. 2026/0003

DECREE ON THE ATTIRE OF PERMANENT DEACONS IN THE DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

Willed by Christ and established by the Apostles, the diaconate is a vital part of the Church's mission and "a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy" (*LG 29*). Deacons are clergy who, through service at the altar, proclamation of the word, and service of charity, are visible representatives of Christ and His Church. To support and reinforce the visible dimension of the ministry of permanent deacons, in accord with cc. 284 and 288 and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America*, Second Edition, 2021, Norm 12, page 59, I establish the following norms for their attire.

Permanent deacons in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee are permitted to wear clerical attire while engaged in diaconal ministry. This includes ministry to the sick and homebound, correctional institutions, Catholic schools, nursing homes, hospitals, work with the poor or homeless, all parish ministry, all liturgical ministry, and any time a deacon represents the Catholic Church in an official capacity. Permanent deacons shall wear secular attire when not engaged in ministry.

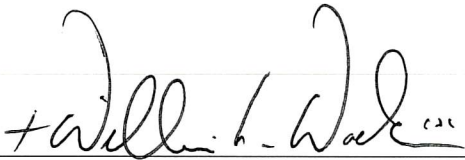
The proper form of clerical attire for permanent deacons in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is a gray, button-up, clerical dress shirt with a white roman collar, black dress pants, and black shoes. The use of a black or gray suit jacket is at the discretion of the deacon. Deacons should ensure their attire is clean and well fitting.

Deacons are not to wear a cross around the neck while in clerical attire, as the pectoral cross is proper to a bishop and other religious superiors.

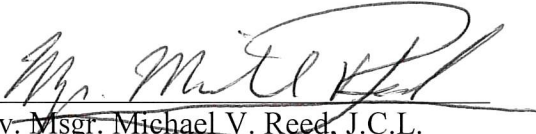
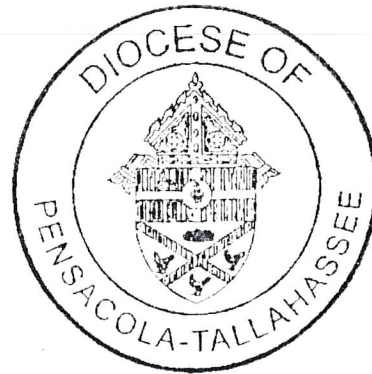
This policy takes effect July 15, 2026.

This decree is to be distributed to all permanent deacons and priests in the diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. The *Permanent Diaconate Directory of Policies and Procedures* and all other diocesan norms regarding the attire of permanent deacons are to be updated to reflect this decree.

Given at the Msgr. James Amos Pastoral Center on June 23, 2026.



Most Rev. William A. Wack, C.S.C
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee



Rev. Msgr. Michael V. Reed, J.C.L.
Chancellor