

Policy Regarding Clerical Attire for Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Green Bay

Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Green Bay are granted the option of wearing the roman collar effective April 20, 2024. If a deacon opts to wear the roman collar it should be part of a clerical shirt (clerics). The color of the clerical shirt must be gray, and the deacon must wear a Diocesan approved name tag on the left pocket/side of the shirt or the left pocket of a sport coat if he is wearing one.

Deacons are asked to use pastoral prudence when wearing clerics. The following are examples of pastoral situations at which clerics may be worn:

- When officiating at wakes, vigils, or committals.
- When meeting with grieving families in preparation for funeral rites.
- When facilitating marriage preparations/rehearsals.
- When in situations of prison/jail ministry.
- When in hospital/hospice chaplaincy.
- When representing the parish at official functions in the community.
- When in the parish office or when officially representing the parish.
- When the deacon represents his order in a liturgical setting and is not presiding or assisting in the liturgy. (i.e., Chrism Mass, Funerals, Gatherings of Clergy...)

Because of the sign value of wearing the collar, it is important that the deacon be aware that he will visually stand out to others when wearing the collar. If it is decided that the deacon has abused the option to wear clerics, the option will be revoked.

If a deacon should opt to wear clerics, he must contact the diaconate office to receive a Diocesan approved name tag. (Please contact Jennie Huettl at jhuettl@gbdioc.org or call at 920-272-8316.) The first name tag will be provided by the diaconate office, but subsequent name tags can be purchased through the diaconate office. As mentioned previously, this name tag must be worn when wearing clerics.

In regard to wearing a cassock with the roman collar, deacons in the Diocese of Green Bay are not permitted to wear a cassock unless it be for serving as a Master of Ceremonies for a liturgy or during a liturgical celebration in which the rubrics give the option. In the case that a deacon wears the cassock in a liturgical setting, the cassock must be black and the roman collar may be worn with the cassock.