

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL 2019 Conference Creating a Just Church

“These women were called deacons ...”



Ancient and medieval liturgies document women were ordained as deacons by their bishops within the sanctuary during Mass, in the presence of the clergy through the imposition of hands by the invocation of the Holy Spirit; they self-communicated from the chalice; the bishop placed the stole around their necks. These women were called deacons. Deacons minister the diakonia of the Word, liturgy, and charity to the people of God.

The Second Vatican Council restored the diaconate as a permanent vocation noting men already functioned as deacons and thus “it is only right to strengthen them by the imposition of hands that they may carry out their ministry more effectively because of the sacramental grace of the diaconate.” Many women function as deacons today. The diaconate is not the priesthood. Women can image the Risen Lord.

Las liturgias antiguas y medievales documentan que las mujeres eran ordenadas diáconos por sus obispos dentro del santuario durante la misa, en presencia del clero a través de la imposición de manos por la invocación del Espíritu Santo; se comunicaban del cáliz; el obispo colocaba la estola alrededor de sus cuellos. Estas mujeres eran llamadas diáconos. Los diáconos ministran la diakonia de la Palabra, liturgia y caridad para el pueblo de Dios.

El Concilio Vaticano II restauró el diaconado como vocación permanente observando que los hombres ya actuaban como diáconos y así “es justo fortalecerlos por la imposición de manos para que puedan llevar a cabo su ministerio más efectivamente debido a la gracia sacramental del diaconado”. Muchas mujeres actúan como diáconos hoy. El diaconado no es el sacerdocio. Las mujeres pueden ser la imagen del Señor resucitado.