



**St. Mary Coptic Orthodox
Church – Knoxville**
Guidelines for deaconship
service in the Coptic Orthodox
Church
Part 1

Deacon Service

- ❖ "Deacon" is a Syrian word that means servant. In Greek, it is "Diakon".
- ❖ The deacon's main role is to help the priest or bishop in his religious service.
- ❖ The first church appointed seven deacons, who were filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom, Acts 6:2-3. "whom they set before the apostles, and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them."
(Acts 6:6)

Deacon qualifications

Our teacher St. Paul listed some qualifications for the deacon in his first epistle to his disciple Timothy, chapter 3: Likewise deacons must be:

- ❖ Reverent
- ❖ Not double-tongued
- ❖ Not greedy
- ❖ Holding the mystery of the faith
- ❖ They should be tested first, and then if they pass the test, they are to serve.

Deacons Ranks

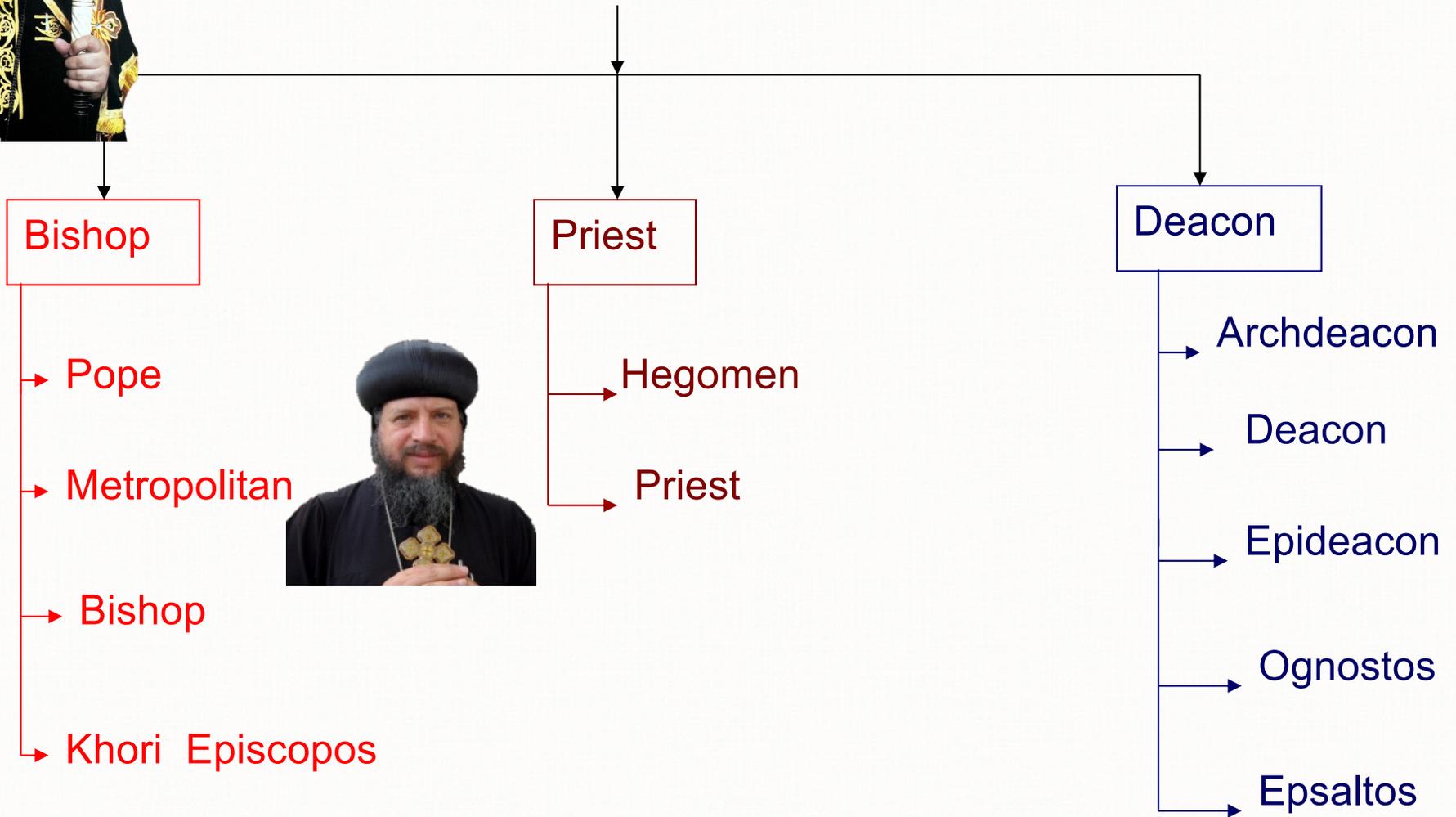
There are 5 ranks of deacons:

- A. Chanter (Epsaltos)
- B. Reader (Agnostes)
- C. Subdeacon (Epi-diakon)
- D. Deacon (Diakon)
- E. Archdeacon

6) The Church Orders



Priesthood



The Requirements from the Deacons before during and after the Liturgy

1. Clean the altar and throw the dust on the grass.
2. Fill the candles with oil.
3. Prepare the censer.
4. Prepare the box of incense.
5. The deacon who will serve at the altar during the Raising of Incense needs to wear his Tonia.
6. It does not allow for the deacons to use the main sanctuary door at all.



Divine Liturgy Rites Sections

The Divine Liturgy Rites are divided into 4 sections which are:

1. The Raising of Incense
2. Offering the Lamb
3. Liturgy of the word
4. Liturgy of believers

Parts of the Raising of the Incense Rite

1. Thanksgiving Prayer
2. The Litany
3. The Prayer of $\Phi\tau\ \text{N}\alpha\iota\ \text{N}\alpha\text{N}$ (Efnoti Nai Nan)
4. The Gospel Reading (preceded by the Litany for the Gospel)
5. The Five Short Litanies
6. The Absolutions

Opening the Veil of the Sanctuary

The priest opens the veil of the sanctuary from left to right symbolizing our transfer from the left side to the right side by the work of redemption of the Lord Christ.



The Lord's Prayer

- ❖ Every service should start with the Lord's Prayer as per His commandment, "In this manner, therefore pray Our Father in heaven,..."

(Matthew 6:9-13)

1. Thanksgiving Prayer

- ❖ The priest stands outside the sanctuary holding a cross in his right hand.

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

- ❖ The deacon should stand behind the priest holding a cross in his right hand and saying all the responses.



Ἐπι π̄ροσευχη̄ ἵσταθ̄ντε

قفوا للصلاة

Stand up for prayer.

Προσευξασθε

Pray

صلوا

Pray that God have mercy and compassion on us, hear us, help us, and accept the supplications and prayers of His saints, for that which is good on our behalf at all times*, and forgive us our sins.

اطلبوا لكي يرحمنا الله ويتراءف علينا ويسمعنا ويعيننا ويقبل سؤالات وطلبات قديسيه منهم بالصلاح عنا في كل حين، * ويغفر لنا خطايانا.

** If the Pope or a Bishop is present, the following is said*

And to preserve and confirm the life of our honored father, Papa Abba (...) and his partner in the liturgy, our father the metropolitan (bishop), Abba (...).

وأن يحفظ لنا وعلينا حياة وقيام أبينا المكرم البابا الأنبا (...). وشريكه في الخدمة الرسولية أبينا (...). المطران (الأسقف) أنبا.

Glory
be to

God

