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Being A Deacon Today: Exploring A Distinctive Ministry In The Church And In The World



Synopsis

In very practical and helpful terms, Rosalind Brown explores what it means to be a deacon in today's church. All too often the time spent as a deacon is seen simply as the prelude to priestly ordination. Yet the Bible defines three orders of ministry - a deacon, priest, and bishop - each with its own distinctive characteristics and responsibilities. In *Being A Deacon Today*, Brown explores the three places where deacons minister (the church, the world, and at the margins), the three strands of their ministry (in liturgy, in pastoral care, and as catechists), and the three actions of their ministry (praying, loving, and remembering). This book, excellent for classroom use and for transitional and permanent deacons, will restore a fuller understanding of the diaconal ministry and nurture deacons in their work and spiritual life.

Book Information

Paperback: 139 pages

Publisher: MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819222011

ISBN-13: 978-0819222015

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #376,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Episcopalian #355 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Leadership #416 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Leadership

Customer Reviews

Rosalind Brown is a lecturer at the Institute of Theological Education, Sarum College, Salisbury. Previously she was a parish priest working in the Episcopal Church. She is the co-author of *To Be a Priest Today*.

Recommended reading by our Diocese for those discerning a call to the diaconate, I found this to be a useful, inspiring and entertaining guide to the identity, duties and spirituality of deacons in the Episcopal Church today and the wider context in which they operate. I am discerning for the diaconate and found this book to be both encouraging, informative and provocative (in a productive

way). At first I was concerned that the author was not an American native, but she brings a wealth of anecdotes and information about the Episcopal Church, making it a seemingly accurate and thorough road map of the largely unfamiliar terrain of the diaconate as well as an inspirational guide to those of us who are discerning this call.

Excellent, practical text! Our diocese uses it as part of our deacon candidate education. I highly recommend it! Bishop Ryan Mackey, Auxiliary Bishop to the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Great Book with many useful and applicable practices

Great book for those in the episcopal or Anglican church looking to become a deacon or feel some sort of calling to the ordained ministry. Good book for all others. Found out when I share that I read this book with a priest he said that's one of the books they use at the bishop's deacon school training.

I wish I had read this book years ago. It helped clarify the current evolution of the role and purpose of the diaconate, especially in the Anglican Communion. I have already given this book as a gift to others. I would recommend it as a text in diaconal training schools, seminaries, and at the diocesan level for those who are involved in issues of formation.

Going to use this as a part of the discernment process for Lutheran Deacons.

Good book for anyone considering the diaconate..

There is a bit of rivalry between deacons and Readers as to their *raison d'être*. As readers and lay people who work in the secular world but preach in church, it is claimed that we are 'bridge-people'. We represent the church in secular and we represent the secular to the church. Deacons are also called 'bridge people' because originally they were the church's social workers, carrying out its message in areas where there was practical need. The author acknowledges this rivalry. Her book gives some of the history of the diaconate and looks at present day trends. I ended up feeling well-disposed towards deacons! Good bits: We can only lay down our lives if we have first owned them. It comes as a surprise to many that God's call to us is not as harsh as we might have feared: God delights to work with our strengths, our passions and our interests. Frederick Buechner speaks

of our vocation lying where our deep joy and the world's deep need meet, but so often we think it lies simply where the need is, discounting joy as part of God's loving gift. Source unknown

Desmond Tutu has observed that if governments the dangers of apophatic prayer (prayer that opens us to the mystery of God rather than to what can be known of God) they would ban it immediately. He says that no threat is as dangerous as the power of a people radically set free from the value structures of their world. Belden Lane *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes* p. 173

Or, as Kenneth Leech writes from the context of inner London, 'It is the mystical element which gives warmth, humanity and tolerance, and without which religions can grow hard, inflexible and cruel. It is the mystical element which integrates theology, action and prayer.' *The Sky is Red* p. 31

A good leader never stops being a good follower Stephen Cottrell *The Church and the world need leaders who know how to be led.*

Henri Nouwen

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