

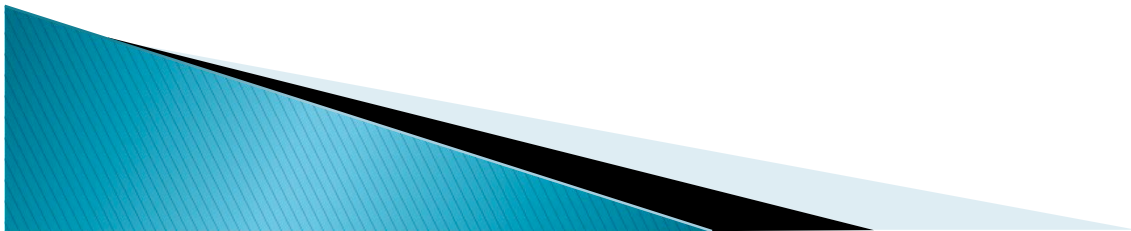
# What do Deacons do?

## Dcn. Nicholas Denysenko



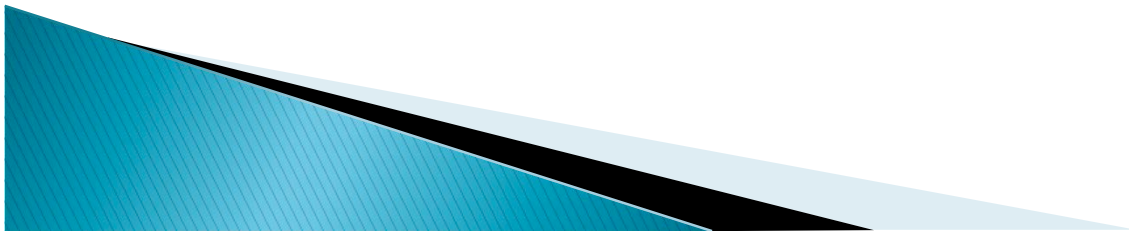
# Observations

- ▶ No uniform standard for diaconal ministry
- ▶ Many parish presbyters do not understand diaconal ministry
- ▶ The Church seems to have lost its sense of the diaconate as a holy order



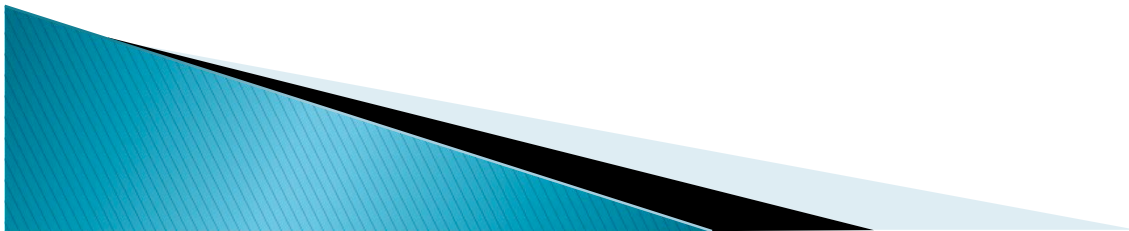
# The Eucharist as the Foundation of Diaconal Ministry

- ▶ Assist the Presider in completing the preparation of the gifts to be offered
- ▶ Perform ritual incensation of temple
- ▶ Direct the prayers of the Assembly
- ▶ Restoration—> Distribute Holy Communion
  - Connected to the ministry of the sick



# Presidency of Liturgical Offices?

- ▶ Role: Assist, not preside
- ▶ Typica service with Communion from Presanctified Gifts
- ▶ Liturgy of the Hours
- ▶ Proposed:
  - Funeral/Burial
  - Short Memorial (panikhida)
  - Molieben/Paraklesis
  - Blessing of Homes with Holy Water
  - Hear confessions (reconciliation by priest/bishop)



# What Deacons Can Do

- ▶ Preside over the preparation of the gifts in their entirety
  - Connected with home visits
- ▶ Lead ministry of visitation with communion and anointing
- ▶ Preside at services of Communion of Pre-sanctified Gifts, Liturgy of Hours, Memorial services, funerals, house blessings as needed
- ▶ Deaconess → assist in leading prayer, proclaiming God's word, extending the sacramental ministries into the community

