



Embrace

We embrace the prophetic call and ministry of deacons.



Witness

We witness the historical and contemporary diaconal ministry of Catholic women.



Hope

We hope in the Spirit to lead this discernment, renew the Church and heal our world.

We are **fueled** by a love for and fidelity to the **Catholic Church**.



Discerning Deacons

OUR MISSION

We engage Catholics in the active discernment of our Church about women and the diaconate.



We invite every person to join the discernment.

discerningdeacons.org





Our Patron

In the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul commends Phoebe to the church in Rome, introduces her as a deacon (diakonos) of the church at Cenchreae, and asks that they “receive her in the Lord” (Romans 16:1-2a).

Phoebe was a woman of great courage and deep love. She answered God’s call to minister to God’s people during the earliest days of the Church, when persecution against Christians was strong. She earned the trust of Paul, who depended on her to handle communications with the ecclesial community in Rome.



Ordaining women to the diaconate would bring a certain consistency to the Church’s practice. We’re not doing something that’s completely extraordinary or new...this change would be grounded in the sources of our faith, found in the early church, situated in the context of the role women have in society today.... It means this is possible.”

—Bishop Randolph R. Calvo of Reno, NV
(Catholic News Service, April 20, 2017)



“St. Phoebe,” ©2018, Laura James. Used with permission.

**According to Scripture,
it is the heart that prays.
If our heart is far from
God, the words of prayer
are in vain.**

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, P 2562)

Share Your Prayer and Hope

discerningdeacons.org/witnesses ➔



ENDORSER

If the vocations of women as deacons were again recognized, as in the early centuries of the Church, the Body of Christ would be strengthened. Discerning Deacons is helping renew the Church by engaging Catholics in this discernment.”

Yolanda Scott Brown, D.Min.

Former Parish Life Director, Blessed
Sacrament Church, Hollywood, CA

