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DEACON
Servant of God

**ARE YOU
CALLED TO
SERVE?**

CONSIDER THE DIACONATE





READY TO BEGIN? CONSIDER THIS CHECKLIST

- A candidate must have solid faith in God and God's redemptive concern for all peoples, as revealed in Jesus Christ and proclaimed by the Catholic Church.
- One must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and have been a Catholic for at least five years,
- Have a growing spirituality,
- Have a living relationship with the Lord Jesus manifest through daily prayer,
- Have an openness to continued human and spiritual growth,
- Have a devotion to the Eucharist,
- Regularly celebrate the sacrament of penance,
- Have a devotion to our Blessed Mother,
- Have a commitment to pursue further theological and spiritual studies,
- Enjoy good health both physical and psychological,
- Generally, be 32 years of age to start the process and not over 62 years of age at Ordination,
- Reside in the Diocese of Springfield, IL for at least two years and have the support from of one's pastor,
- Have consent of his wife if married (and must be married for at least seven years) and, if widowed after ordination, commit to a life-long chaste celibacy,
- Commit to life-long chaste celibacy if not married at the time of ordination.

HOW DO YOU BECOME A DEACON

Formation of a permanent deacon lasts five years. During the first two years of discernment, the man is known as an aspirant.

The next three years of formation focuses on immediate preparation to become a deacon and the aspirant is then called a candidate. The formation focuses on four dimensions of growth and development: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

The aspirants and candidates gather as a group one weekend each month and on an annual retreat. They also meet individually with their spiritual director on a regular basis. The time commitment would be 7-10 hours per week on academics and 5-10 hours serving a parish or institution.

WHAT DOES A DEACON DO

Deacons serve the church by being "dedicated to the People of God in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity." (Lumen gentium, 29)

The ministry of LITURGY and WORD includes assisting the priest at Mass and other liturgies, proclaiming the gospel, occasionally preaching homilies, baptizing, assisting at marriages, exposing the Blessed Sacrament and bestowing the benediction, administering sacramentals, bringing Viaticum to the dying, and presiding over funerals and burials.

The ministry of CHARITY includes the great and various charitable works of the Church. Since a deacon is ordained as a public servant of the Church, his charitable works are in many ways his special charism. He works with the aged and poor, the sick and suffering, the imprisoned and the burdened, the lowly and the needy, the elderly and all in special need of Christ's presence.