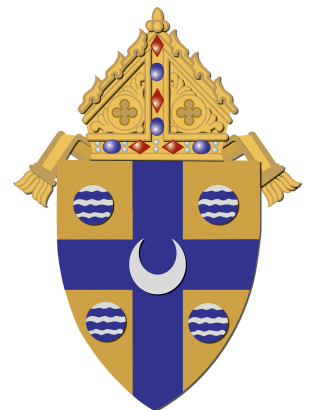




THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

**ARE YOU CALLED
TO SERVE?**

Diocese of Springfield in IL



The word *deacon* means *servant*

Ministry

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)

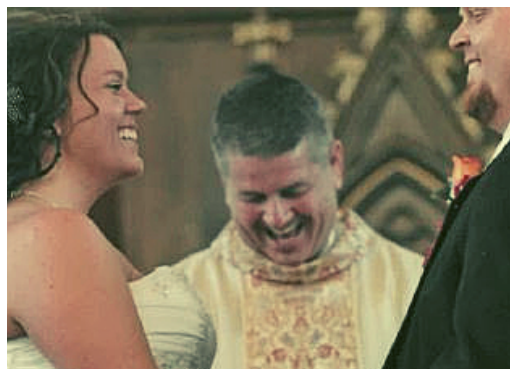
The ministry includes assisting the priest at Mass and other liturgies, proclaiming the gospel, preaching homilies, baptizing, assisting at marriages, exposing the Blessed Sacrament and bestowing the benediction, administering sacramentals, bringing Viaticum to the dying, and presiding over funerals and burials. The ministry of charity includes the great and various charitable works of the Church. Since he is ordained as a public servant of the Church, the deacon's 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.



Formation

Formation of a permanent deacon lasts five years. The first year is a year of discernment and the person is known as an aspirant. During the next four years formation focuses on immediate preparation to become a deacon and is called a candidate. The formation focuses on four areas of growth and development: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral.

The aspirants and candidates gather one weekend each month and also spend time together on retreat as well as individually with their spiritual director. It can be expected to spend 7-10 hours per week on academics and 5-10 hours serving a parish or institution.



To Begin

To begin formation one 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 have growing spirituality, living relationship with the Lord Jesus through daily prayer; openness to continued human and spiritual growth, Eucharistic devotion, regular celebration of the sacrament of penance and Marian devotion.
- One must have full Christian initiation (baptism, confirmation & Eucharist) in the Catholic Church and have been a Catholic at least four years.
- Academic ability to pursue graduate level courses.
- Good Health both physical and psychological.
- If married, one must be married for at least 7 years, must have consent of the wife and if the wife preceeds the deacon in death, commits to life-long celibacy.
- If single must commit to life-long chaste celibacy and may not marry after ordained.

SERVANT OF GOD



Generally, be at least 32 years of age and not over 62 at the time of ordination. Reside in the Diocese of Springfield, IL for at least two years and have support from one's pastor.

For more information contact:
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