DIACONATE FORMATION

Where love becomes service.

Quick Facts

Diaconate Formation
Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center
414-758-2202
https://www.archmil.org/offices/Diaconate.htm

THE DEACON

- Restored to the Church by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) as a permanent ministry in the Church. In Milwaukee, the first class of deacons was ordained in 1975.
- Formation is open to men who are age 31 years and no older than 60 years of age at the time of ordination, endorsed by their pastors and supported by their wives if married. Formation is four years.
- Before admission, men and wives (if married) participate in a Inquiry for Discernment Program, to reflect on their call to the Order of Deacon.
- Deacons can be married or single. Married before they enter formation, otherwise the rule of celibacy applies to the single man.
- There are presently approximately 170 deacons in our Archdiocese, of those 110 are active.
- Deacons are not compensated for their ministry (there is no pay associated with the order of deacon).
- The Deacon belongs to the hierarchy, a representative of the Church. The deacon receives the sacrament of Holy Orders from the bishop (to whom they take an oath of obedience).
- Deacons are not altar servers, or acolytes. They belong to an order that has a diocesan-wide sense of Church - a consecrated, permanent ministry of service.
- The deacon is assigned via a covenant (mutual agreement), by the Bishop to a parish. The deacon co-operates, along with the pastor of the parish, in carrying out the apostolic ministry of the Archbishop, who is the chief shepherd of the diocese.

The Service of a Deacon - The Parish and Beyond

MINISTRY OF CHARITY AND JUSTICE: Deacons are called to serve as ministers of Charity. They provide outreach to those who are forgotten on the fringe of society: the poor, the sick, the homeless, the outcast. Deacons today are involved in “ministry of love” to people in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, shelters, etc.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD: Deacons are called to serve as ministers of the Word. They teach, preach and proclaim the Gospel; provide pastoral counseling, outreach to returning Catholics, facilitates RCIA, etc. He is a Teacher and an Evangelizer!

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP OR LITURGY: Deacons are called to serve as ministers of Sacraments. he preside at funeral vigils, gravesides, baptisms, marriages outside of Mass and blessings. They are ordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

All of these three areas of ministry are not separate; the deacon is ordained for all of them, and must be prepared to undertake each of them in some way. Through them, the deacon is a sign of Christ the Servant who redeemed us as Priest (Liturgy), Prophet (the Word), and King (Charity and Justice).

