



MISSION MERCY MARGINS

CLASS OF 2029 PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION INQUIRY PROCESS

The process outlined below allows for the time necessary to gather, review and assess the required information.

- **MAY TO JUNE 2024**

Communications to Pastors

Email is sent to pastors from the Office of Permanent Deacons requesting they present men suitable for diaconate formation. The email includes the following:

- Requirements for formation, including canonical impediments.
- Desired characteristics of a man considering diaconate formation.
- 2029 Formation Class Selection Timeline
- Formation Q&A

- **JULY TO AUGUST 2024**

Inquirer List Finalized

- Inquirers not accepted from previous years are matched with the current list. The list is reviewed to determine which Inquirers move forward for consideration.
- The Office of Permanent Deacons emails Inquirers about the evaluation process.
- The Inquirer list is finalized.
- Wives are invited to a mandatory orientation in September.

- **SEPTEMBER 2024**

Questionnaires emailed to inquirers and pastors:

- Inquirer receives the Questionnaire.
- Inquirers' pastors receive Questionnaire.

Wives Orientation

- Mandatory orientation to discuss the theology of a deacon, the four-year formation process, selection process, and the wives' role and responsibility in the process.
- The **Inquirer Wives' Questionnaire** is completed that evening.

- **OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2024**
 - Questionnaires are reviewed to discern who will be invited to interview with the Permanent Diaconate Formation Team.
 - Notifications are sent to those not selected for an interview.

- **JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2025**
Inquirer Interviews

- Members of the formation team interview Inquirers.

Decision to extend formal application

- After interviews, formation team members discern which Inquirers will receive a formal application.

- **FEBRUARY 2025**

Letters mailed notifying men about the application decisions, with one of two outcomes:

- The Inquirer **is** invited to complete an application.
- The Inquirer **is not** invited to complete an application:
 - Document whether the Inquirer can reapply or if there is no vocation as a deacon.
 - Inquirers will not receive detailed reasons for withholding an invitation to apply; this is explicitly communicated in the original email.
 - Pastors will be provided reasons why a man was not extended an application; in some cases, the pastor may be asked to keep the information confidential.

Applications Mailed

Men receive a formal application and submission deadline. Failure to meet the deadline indicates a lack of interest in continuing the process. The following evaluations, inventories and background checks are part of the formal application:

- Psych Exams
- REFOCCUS inventory
- Confirm if a current background check is on file; if not, the Inquirer undergoes a background check.

- **MARCH TO APRIL 2025**

- Decisions are made on whether to accept or deny applicants into diaconate formation.
- The list is presented to the Archbishop for approval.
- Letters are mailed to those **not** accepted into diaconate formation.
- Letters are mailed, inviting them to participate in diaconate formation.

- **MAY 2025**

- Orientation session with aspirants and wives to provide an overview of the formation year and the four pillars of formation. Photos will be taken of the new aspirants and their wives.

- **September 2025**

- The new formation year begins.