



MISSION MERCY MARGINS

Deacon Formation Program:

Qualifications for Inquirers to receive an invitation to seek application:

1. Ability to speak, write and communicate conversationally in English (bi-lingual a plus).
2. Under the age of 55, with a preference for men in their 40s or younger and who have demonstrated a commitment to life-long learning, an aptitude to study, and learn and/or possess sufficient post-high school education/training as a foundation for formation for ordained ministry.
3. In compliance with all that canon law requires (regarding the presence of any impediments to ordination (committed heresy; committed an act of voluntary homicide or procured a completed abortion or positively cooperated in either; ever mutilated yourself or another gravely and maliciously or attempted suicide; ever attempted to exercise an act of orders reserved to bishops or priests, while either lacking that order or prohibited from its exercise by some declared or imposed canonical penalty; ever been ordained to the priesthood or the diaconate. (Code of Canon Law c.751).
4. Men who have a “mature” prayer life. They pray daily in a set fashion—contemplative prayer, *lectio*, rosary, Eucharistic adoration, and daily Mass or at least a few times a week.
5. Men who have a history of spiritual and theological reading.
6. Men with a history of ministry in the parish include BOTH service at the altar (lector, Eucharistic minister, sacristan, or visitor to the sick) and service FROM the altar (teaching, service to the poor, marriage prep, etc.)
7. Men with strong marriages with spirituality and good communication at their core.
8. Men who do not dissent from ANY of the Church’s moral, doctrinal and social teachings.
9. They know their pastor and vice versa or have been recommended by a well-regarded person within the Archdiocese.

10. Is present in a geographic area that is not rich in deacons, presents strong character traits and gifts that will serve the Archdiocese at large. This factor is considered but may not be determinative when offering an application.

11. The pastor has met with the man to ensure their understanding of the vocation of a deacon.

12. If the man is a convert, he has been in the Church for at least 5 years.

13. Regarding human formation, he shows good self-awareness and is open to critical and formative feedback.

Profile of the Deacon

1. Men who “Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God” (Is. 40:1).
2. Men who cannot hold back tears (John 11:33-35), who know how to weep before tragedies that take place every day to the detriment of the poor.
3. Men of the cross, men that suffer with...men who willingly bear the stigma of the passion in service to others.

4. What does Pope Francis expect of deacons?

“Firstly, I expect you to be humble.

Secondly, I expect you to be good spouses and good fathers. And good grandparents.

Thirdly, I expect you to be sentinels...to help the Christian community to recognize Jesus in the poor and the distant as He knocks on our doors through them.

Whatever the need, see the Lord. So you, too, recognize the Lord when, in so many of his smaller brothers and sisters, he asks to be fed, welcomed and loved. I would like this to be the profile of the deacon. Work on this.”

5. Men who see and tend to the suffering flesh of Christ.
6. Men who seek out and give attention to the marginalized, who go toward others with empty hands, without prejudice, to understand, accept, and walk with those different from us.
7. Men who are missionaries of the Gospel.
8. Men who gather near the poor and suffering, to encounter them, to meet their gaze, to embrace them, and to let them feel the warmth of the love that breaks through their solitude.

9. Men with perceptive eye for those suffering distress, illness or fear. The goal of diaconal ministry is not simply help but the empowering of life so that those who lie prostrate may get to their feet.
10. Men who can animate, inspire and lead the faithful into service.
11. Men who have experienced the Good News they are commissioned to preach.
12. Men who can preach to the weary.
13. Men who can relate Scripture to people's Monday through Saturday lived experiences, who can preach to the deepest desire of their heart and mind.
14. Men who understand the human condition in the Gospel, today's human situation, and what God is doing about the human situation.

Final Logo

A blazing torch represents the light that "shines in the darkness that will not be overcome" (John 1). It signifies that deacons are to be witnesses to the light of Christ in dark places.

Sandals reference Isaiah 52:7-9, a prophecy relevant to the diaconate mission of evangelization:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace"



The diagonal deacon's stole represents the role of deacons in the liturgy. It is draped over a shield, which suggests that deacons are warriors for Christ.

Broken chains represent Pope Francis' call to Catholics to bring the Gospel to those places where "prisoners in thrall to many evil masters."

At the center of the shield, **MISSIO**, Latin for "Mission" is inscribed in Roman capitals. The lettering is set on the pages of a book, representing that the mission of the deacon is to spread the Gospel.

The color of the coat of arms is blood red, symbolizing the self-sacrificing service that is central to the deacon's vocation.