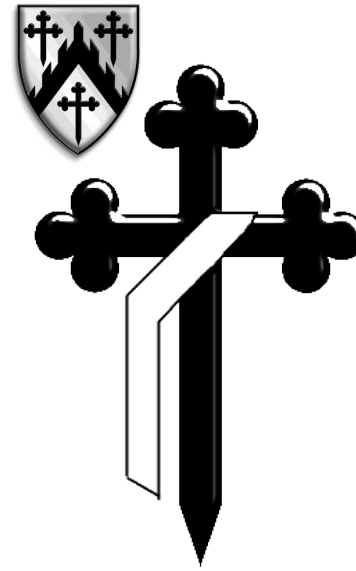


In the Diocese of Davenport,

There are three successive paths to the diaconate: initial inquiry, aspirancy, and candidacy. Each path includes the four dimensions for a complete formation process: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. During formation, the aspirant and candidate have ample opportunities to participate in pastoral experience. A married man cannot be considered for the diaconate without the consent of his wife. Every effort is made to involve the wife of a married candidate in an appropriate level of participation in her husband's formation. The cultures and traditions of those in diaconal formation are respected and valued. Regular assessments are valuable occasions for the discernment, affirmation, and development of a participant's vocation. The *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* is the guiding document for our diocese's deacon formation program.



ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO THE DIACONATE IN THE DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT?

Following Formation, the Successful Candidate Demonstrates:

- † an increase in holiness of life;
- † the ability to clearly articulate the Catholic faith;
- † the capacity to apply church teaching and practice to concrete societal issues and pastoral concerns;
- † sensitivity to inculturate the Gospel within the communities in which he lives, works, and ministers;
- † an embrace of the universal nature of the Church and its missionary evangelical spirit;
- † a balanced capacity for and commitment to the ministries of word, liturgy, and charity, demonstrated in his words and deeds;
- † commitment to ongoing growth in the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of formation;
- † the capacity to foster the communion and mission of the lay faithful, in collaboration with the bishop and priests;
- † obedient and humble service to all in the name of the Church;
- † the ability to celebrate, in accordance with the Church's legislation and with due reverence and devotion, those liturgical and sacramental acts that the Church entrusts to the deacon.

National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, 2005

For additional information about the diaconate program contact:

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"The Sacred Order of Deacons is to be a driving force for the Church's service or *diakonia* toward the local Christian communities, and as a sign or sacrament of the Lord Christ himself, who came not to be served but to serve."

Pope Paul VI,
Ad Pascendum, 1972



"Ordination confers an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It configures the deacon to Christ's consecration and mission. It constitutes the deacon as "a sacred minister and a member of the hierarchy," with a distinct identity and integrity in the Church that marks him as neither a lay person nor a priest; rather, the deacon is a cleric who is ordained to *diakonia*, namely, a service to God's People in communion with the bishop and his body of priests."

Congregation for the Clergy,
Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons, 1998

"We see with joy how deacons sustained by the grace of the Sacrament, in the ministry of the liturgy, of the Word and of charity are at the service of the People of God, in communion with the Bishop and his priests."

Pope John Paul II,
The Church in America, 1999



"The deacon leads the community to reflect on their communion and mission in Jesus Christ, especially impelling the community of believers to live lives of service. Because the deacon sacramentalizes service, he should proclaim the Word in such a way that he first witnesses its empowerment in his own life."

MINISTRY OF THE WORD



"The principal function of the deacon is to collaborate with the bishop and the priests in the exercise of a ministry which is not of their own wisdom but of the word of God, calling all to conversion and holiness."

MINISTRY OF LITURGY

The diaconal character is the configurative and distinguishing sign indelibly impressed in the soul, which configures the one ordained to Christ, who made himself the deacon or servant of all.

Congregation for the Clergy,
Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons, 1998



MINISTRY OF CHARITY

Qualifications for admission to aspirancy in the diaconate formation program

- † man of sound moral character in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church for not less than three years, and who is free of canonical impediments or irregularities;
- † deep spirituality and prayer life that reflects a sound, mature faith attuned to the needs and life of the Church in balance with personal and family needs;
- † frequent participant in the Church's sacramental life and in adult faith enrichment opportunities, and who demonstrates leadership in the Church and community;
- † natural inclination of service to the Church community and to all in need with the ability to lead, facilitate, and animate others into service;
- † if married, a positive and stable marriage of at least five years and his wife consenting to admission to the program; if not married, a mature celibate state of life;
- † sound physical and mental health;
- † at the time of ordination, at least 35 years old and not more than 65 years old;

