

## **What does the Deacon bring to the Christian Community?**

A living testimony of commitment, service and hospitality.

The example of a man, who like Christ, wishes to serve all as brothers and sisters.

A presence to those who feel distant from the Church when they come forward for their child's baptism, a wedding or a funeral.

A reminder to us all that by our baptism we are all responsible for our brothers and sisters.

A living sign of the presence of God.

An invitation to commit ourselves to a life in communion with the Church.



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# **The Permanent Deacon**



## **A Ministry to Consider**

“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you.”

John 13, 14-15

## **What is a Permanent Deacon?**

“Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” Acts 6.3

### **The Deacon is an ordained minister in the heart of the world.**

Most often he is a married man, father or even a grandfather.

He practices a trade or a profession in order to support himself and his family.

His ministry helps the church to be present to people in their ordinary daily life.

### **The Deacon responds to a call**

He is a person who:

- has an interior desire to serve God
- is reasonably secure in his family and work life
- works harmoniously with all types of people
- wishes to serve with the church
- is able to study

The call may be something he has been aware of for some time, or the invitation when received from his pastor or friend may come as a complete surprise.

### **The Diaconal Formation Program**

“Let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons.” 1 Tim 3.10

### **The Diaconal Formation Program**

The formation takes place over a four-year period. The married candidate preferably takes the program along with his wife.

She may attend all of the weekend sessions as a full participant so as to allow both husband and wife to grow together spiritually.

The program provides:

- human formation
- spiritual formation
- theological formation (on line from NTC)
- pastoral formation

### **The Deacon is accompanied and supported by**

- his wife (if married)
- his parish community
- a spiritual director
- the diaconal community
- a ministry supervisor

The personal dimension allows for a solid and true discernment of the diaconal call.

### **The Deacon is recommended for ordination by those who know him.**

As with the candidates for the priesthood, the Bishop discerns with the candidate the authenticity of his call.

Designated members of the diaconal team support the Bishop in this task.

### **The Deacon is ordained by the Bishop.**

“At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons upon whom hands are imposed not unto the priesthood but unto a ministry of service.”

Lumen Gentium par. 29

The deacon receives the sacrament of Holy Orders, which marks him for the rest of his life.

By the imposition of hands, he is a minister ordained for service.

The Bishop assigns him to a mission that meets a local need. He is called to live the three dimensions of the diaconate:

- service of Charity
- service of the Word
- service of the Liturgy

In exercising his ministry the deacon works in collaboration with the Bishop and the Priests.