USCCB & Diaconate

NADD Conference
April 2021

Rev. Luke Ballman
Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
Agenda

- Who We Are
- CARA Diaconate Study
- National Directory, 2nd edition
Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations (CCLV)

- **Committee**
  - Bishop James Checchio, Chairman
  - + 7 Bishops

- **Secretariat**
  - Rev. Luke Ballman, Executive Director
  - Rev. Daniel Hanley, Associate Director
  - Ms. Casey Brusnahan, Administrative Assistant
CCLV Committee Mandate

- Diaconate
- Priestly Life and Ministry
- Consecrated Life
- Vocations and Priestly Formation
A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate:
2019 – 2020 (CARA)
Number of Permanent Deacons

- Number of Permanent Deacons (estimate) 19,833
- Active (72%) 14,287

Largest number of deacons:
Chicago, Galveston-Houston, New York
Atlanta, Philadelphia

Lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon:
Lexington, Bismark, Rapid City
Duluth, Jefferson City
Ministry Status of Deacons
(Latin Dioceses only)

- Active Ministry: 75%
- Retired from Ecclesial Ministry: 20%
- Leave of Absence: 2%
- Suspended From Active Ministry: 2%
- Inactive for Other Reasons: 1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)
Marital Status of Active Deacons

- Married: 93%
- Widowed: 4%
- Single, Never Married: 2%
- Divorced, not Remarried: 1%
- Remarried Subsequent to Ordination: <1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)
Age of Active Deacons

- Age 70 or older: 34%
- Age 60-69: 41%
- Age 50-59: 20%
- Age 40-49: 5%
- Age 39 or younger: <1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)
Race and Ethnicity of Deacons

- Caucasian/white 76%
- Hispanic/Latino 17%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 4%
- African American/black 3%
- Native American or Other 1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)
The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America

2nd edition
Development

- 2013/2014 (1st edition) - Doctrinal and Canonical Review, Regional Discussions by Bishops, USCCB approval to seek *recognitio* renewal, Rome grants renewal
- 2017 – draft completed, USCCB Collaborating Committee review (CDC, DW, CPCYP, DOC, CACG)
- 2018 – Doctrinal and Canonical Review, postponement of USCCB vote
- 2019 – USCCB approval, *recognitio* request, *ad limina* visits
- 2020 - *ad limina* visits (cont.), recommendations rec’d from Rome, revision of draft, *recognitio* granted (Dec 2020)
- 2021 – professional editing, indexing, typesetting/publishing

*National Directory* 2nd edition
Terminology

- Pillar → Dimension
- Path → Stage

National Directory 2nd edition
Time Requirements

- Married vocation for five years prior to application
- Widowed for three years prior to application
- Convert or returning Catholic - Five years from entry into Church prior to application
- Aspirant stage of formation will ordinarily last two years
- Pastoral care of a newly ordained deacon extends for the first five years after ordination

*National Directory 2nd edition*
Inquiry/Application

- Mutual discernment (Church [diocese and parish], applicant, wife/family)
- Knowledge of faith
- Disciple of Jesus Christ
- Involvement in parish (liturgy, Word of God, charity)
- Attitude towards poor, marginalized (Pope Francis)
- Freedom to enter discernment

*National Directory* 2nd edition
Aspirant Stage

- Mutual discernment (Church, applicant, wife/family)
- Distinctive Program of Diaconal Formation
- Human Dimension – strengthen marriage, public person, emotional maturity, formation of community
- Spiritual Dimension – growth in prayer, promises (including celibacy), deepened understanding of vocation, spiritual direction
- Intellectual Dimension – deeper knowledge of Faith, Scripture, CCC, Philosophy
- Pastoral Dimension – parish, diocese, Universal Church

*National Directory 2nd edition*
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