USCCB & Diaconate

NADD Institute
June 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
- Consecrated Life
- Priestly Life and Ministry
- Vocations and Priestly Formation
A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2020-2021 (CARA)
Number of Permanent Deacons

- Number of Permanent Deacons (estimate) 19,008
- Active (78%) 14,722

- Largest number of deacons:
  Chicago, Los Angeles, Galveston-Houston, San Antonio, New York

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

- 78% In active ministry
- 17% Retired from ecclesial ministry
- 2% Leave of absence
- 2% Suspended from active ministry
- 2% Inactive for other reasons
Marital Status of Active Deacons

- 93% Married
- 4% Single, never married
- 2% Widowed
- 2% Divorced, not remarried
- 2% Remarried subsequent to ordination
Age of Active Deacons

- 39 or younger: 35%
- 50-59: 40%
- 60-69: 21%
- 70 or older: 5%
- 40-49: 5%
Race/Ethnicity of Active Deacons

- Caucasian/white: 72%
- Hispanic/Latino: 21%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 4%
- African American/black: 3%
- Native American or Other: 3%
The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America

2nd edition
Terminology

Pillar → Dimension

Path → Stage
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
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
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
Candidate Stage

- Must last at least three years
- Ministry of Word, Ministry of Liturgy, Minister of Charity
- Mentor
- Involvement of pastor
- Discernment/involvement of wife
- Understanding of celibacy
Candidate Stage

- Human Dimension – how to integrate personal, family, work, and ministry
- Spiritual Dimension – how to integrate spiritual life with that of his wife, family
- Intellectual Dimension – competency in required knowledge and skills
- Pastoral Dimension – practical experience
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