

May 2021

*A Portrait of the
Permanent Diaconate:
2020-2021*

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

*A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate:
A Study for the
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
2020-2021*



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A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: A Study for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2020-2021

Executive Summary

This report presents findings from a national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies in the United States. The study was commissioned by the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate has been conducted by CARA for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 2005.¹ The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper.

CARA conducted the survey between February and May 2021. To improve the response rate, NADD sent out emails encouraging participation in the survey and USCCB conducted phone follow ups. At the completion of data collection, CARA received responses from 145 of the 187 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 77% overall responses rate.² The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (81%, or 144 of 177 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (9%, or one of 11 possible responses).

Major Findings

Number of Deacons

- Responding archdioceses with the largest number of permanent deacons include Chicago (852), Los Angeles (426), and Galveston-Houston (367). Adjusting for Catholic population size, Latin rite dioceses with the lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon include

¹ The survey was originally commissioned by the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate, which became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It has been conducted annually since 2005-2006, with the exception of 2010-2011 and 2017-2018.

² The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Five eparchies, Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese, St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Eparchy, and St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

Lexington (508 Catholics to every deacon), Rapid City (640), Bismarck (676), and Jefferson City (703).

- The 144 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this question report a total of 15,873 permanent deacons (both active and not active). The single eparchy, that responded, reported a total of 11 permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are as many as 19,008 permanent deacons in the United States today.
- Latin Rite arch/dioceses reported having 12,292 permanent deacons active in ministry. The single eparchy reported 11 active permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include dioceses and eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 14,722 deacons active in ministry in the United States today, or about 78% of all permanent deacons.
- During the 2020 calendar year, 587 new permanent deacons were ordained in responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 410 deacons retired from active ministry and another 378 deacons died. As is the case with priests in the United States, there are not enough new permanent deacons being ordained to make up for the numbers who are retiring from active ministry and dying each year.

Demographic Characteristics of Active Deacons

- Nine in ten (93%) active permanent deacons are currently married. Four percent are widowers and 2% have never been married.
- Ninety-five percent of active permanent deacons are at least 50 years old. About a fifth (21%) are in their 50s, two-fifths (40%) are in their 60s, and two-fifths (35%) are 70 or older.
- Seven in ten of active permanent deacons (72%) are non-Hispanic whites. One in five active permanent deacons (21%) are Hispanic or Latino, 4% are Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3% are African American.
- Seven in ten active permanent deacons (67%) have at least a college degree. One in five (20%) has a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.

Compensation and Formation

- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for ministry, a quarter (26%) is serving in a “parish ministerial position” other than pastoral care of parish(es) (Canon 517.2), so they are serving in ministerial positions such as Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister. Additionally, one in six (16%) works in parish non-ministerial positions (e.g., administration, business, finance) and fewer than one in ten (8%) are entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517§2).

- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (87%) require post-ordination formation of permanent deacons. These arch/dioceses require a median of 22 hours of post-ordination formation annually.
- Virtually all arch/dioceses (98%) require an annual retreat of deacons and 90% provide other annual gatherings for deacons.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (94%) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). In two in five of these arch/dioceses (42%), the position is full-time.
- In terms of formal policies, four in five arch/dioceses (80%) have a plan for the placement and ministry of deacons. Nine in ten (93%) have an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate and, among those with no such program in place, eight in ten (78%) are planning to begin a program in the next two years.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (94%) have a minimum age of acceptance into permanent diaconate (which, on average, is 33 years old). Three in five (58%) have a mandatory age for permanent deacon's retirement (which, on average, is 75 years old).

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Introduction

In spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Diaconate³ of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) first commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate. CARA conducted the survey each year since then, except for 2010-2011 and 2017-2018.

This report presents findings from this latest national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in dioceses and eparchies in the United States and incorporates trend data from previous years' reports. The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate and the questionnaires used in subsequent years are nearly identical.⁴ The 2020-2021 questionnaire is presented in the Appendix.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper. In addition to follow-up conducted by CARA, NADD sent out emails and USCCB made phone calls encouraging participation in the survey.

The final sample includes data from 144 of the 188 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 77% overall responses rate.⁵ The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (81%, or 144 of 177 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (9% or one of 11 possible responses).

³ This office is now known as the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

⁴ The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with Masters' degrees or doctorates. The surveys in subsequent years asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate." There are also some differences in the subsequent surveys in the way in which marital status is asked.

⁵ The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Five eparchies, Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese, St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Eparchy, and St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

Number of Permanent Deacons

The Archdiocese of Chicago has the largest total number of permanent deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 852 deacons in all, including active and retired. The table below lists responding arch/dioceses that report at least 200 permanent deacons.⁶

Responding Arch/dioceses with the Greatest Number of Permanent Deacons		
Arch/diocese	Total Number of Deacons	Catholics per Deacon
	#	#
Chicago	852	2,558
Los Angeles	426	9,482
Galveston-Houston	367	4,632
San Antonio	364	3,342
New York	305	9,204
Atlanta	299	3,946
St. Louis	297	1,701
Rockville Centre	268	5,549
Philadelphia	265	4,589
Boston	255	7,549
Orlando	245	1,601
Phoenix	244	4,483
Trenton	240	3,054
Joliet in Illinois	236	2,398
Austin	234	2,672
Tucson	229	1,876
Cincinnati	217	2,038
New Orleans	217	2,387
Brooklyn	217	6,068
Denver	209	2,890

- The 144 Latin rite arch/dioceses that responded to these survey questions reported a total of 15,873 permanent deacons. The single Eastern rite eparchies that responded to the survey reported a total of 11 permanent deacons.⁷

⁶ The total number of deacons is calculated as the sum of all deacons active in ministry and all deacons no longer active in ministry, except those who have been laicized (question 1 + question 6 + question 7 + question 8 – question 12).

⁷ Eparchies are reported separately here because of possible double-counting of Eastern rite deacons listed by Latin rite dioceses as serving within their boundaries.

- On average, responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies reported 86 deacons in active ministry. Half of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies reported 64 or fewer deacons in active ministry.
- The Diocese of El Paso has over 25,000 Catholics per deacon. Other responding arch/dioceses that also have relatively high numbers of Catholics per deacon include San Bernardino with more than 13,000 Catholics per deacon; Brownsville and Fresno with more than 11,000.

**Responding Arch/dioceses with the Lowest Ratio
of Catholics per Permanent Deacon**

Arch/diocese	Catholics per Deacon #
Lexington	508
Rapid City	640
Jefferson City	703
Bismarck	725
Amarillo	747
Duluth	779
Anchorage	783
Savannah	871
Pensacola-Tallahassee	893
Knoxville	955
Memphis	963
Des Moines	988

- The Diocese of Lexington has the most favorable ratio of Catholics to deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 508 Catholics per deacon. The Diocese of Rapid City is second, with 640 Catholics per deacon.
- None of the responding arch/dioceses with a ratio below 1,000 Catholics per deacon is located in the West (except for Anchorage) and Northeast.

Interpolation of Missing Data

Active Permanent Deacons

To obtain the most complete figure for the total number of active deacons in the country, it is necessary to create estimates for the 42 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey. To do this, we draw on data for total deacons reported in *The Official Catholic Directory (OCD) 2020* and then make an estimate of the proportion of those reported deacons who are active in ministry.

The figure used here for the proportion of deacons who are active is calculated from the survey responses. Responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies indicate that 78% of their deacons are active in ministry. We also adjust for the fact that the number of deacons listed in the *OCD 2020* is lower than the total number that responding arch/dioceses reported—the total number of permanent deacons reported in the *OCD 2020* constitutes 95% of the number reported in the survey by the same group of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Thus, for the 42 non-responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and Eastern Catholic arch/eparchies, we estimate the total number of active deacons as:

$$\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in the OCD 2020)} * .78 / 0.95$$

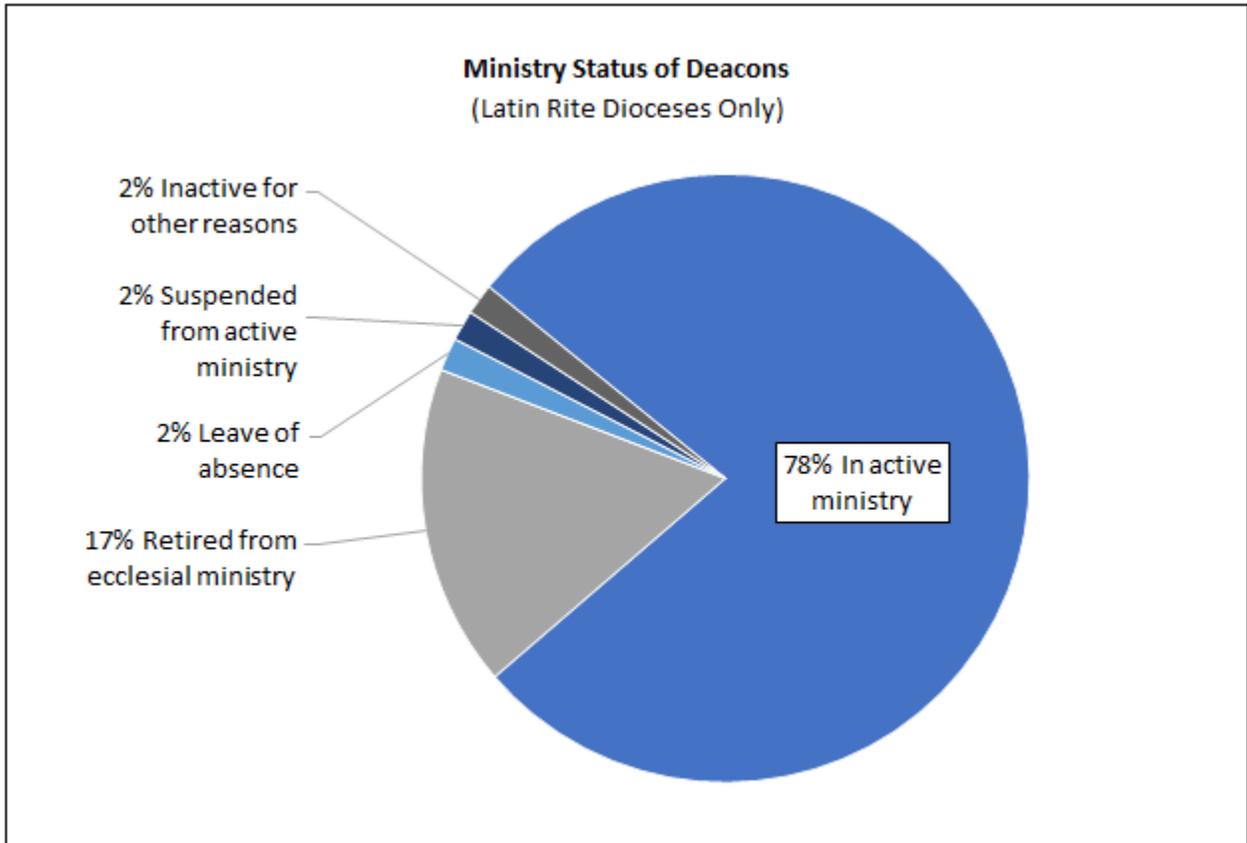
This yields an estimate of 2,432 active permanent deacons in the 42 non-responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Adding that extrapolation to the 12,303 active deacons reported to be active in ministry yields an estimate of **14,735** active permanent deacons nationally.

Total Permanent Deacons

Using the procedure described above—while excluding the adjustment for active permanent deacons—yields a national estimate of **19,008** total deacons (both active and inactive). This includes 18,787 for Latin Rite dioceses and 221 for Eastern Catholic eparchies.

Ministry Status of Deacons

Four in five deacons in responding arch/ dioceses (78%) are active in ministry, and the remaining fifth (22%) are inactive for a variety of reasons.



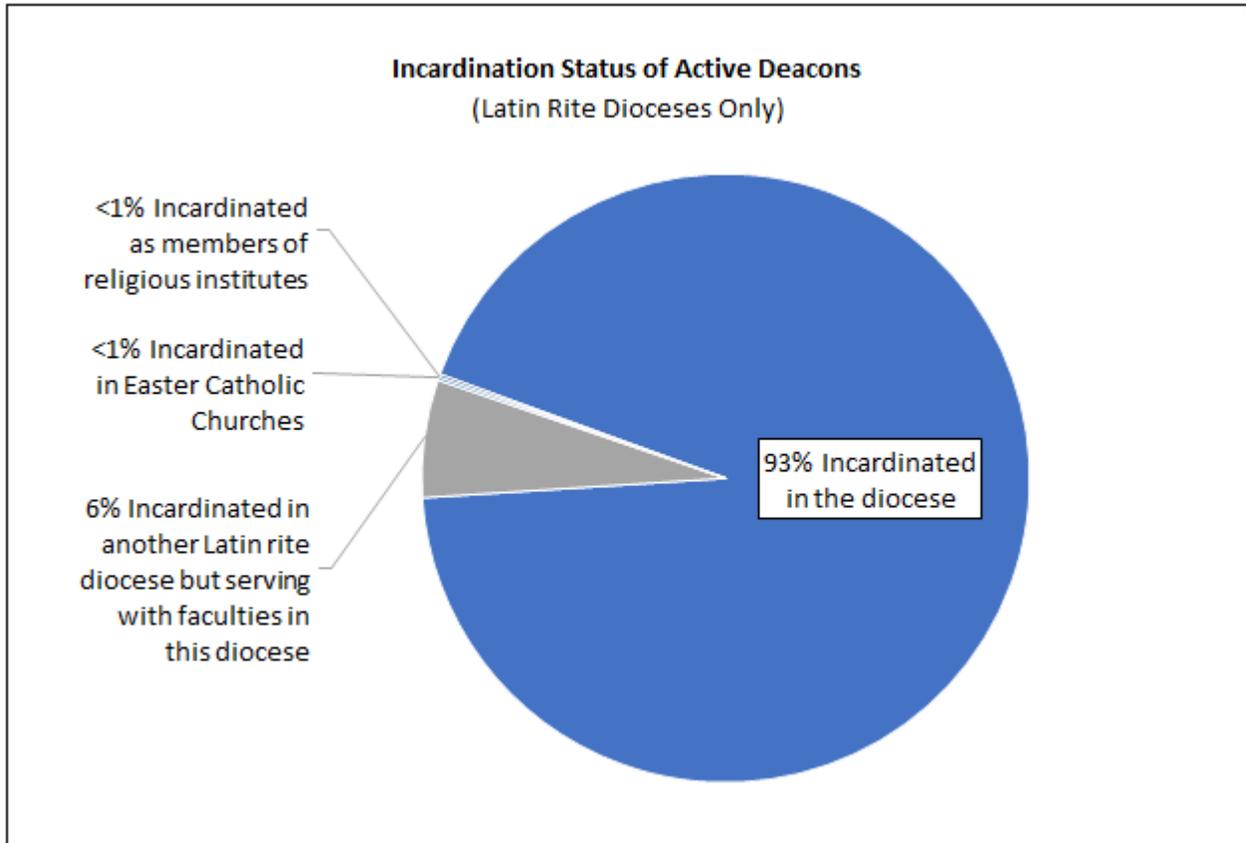
The 22% of deacons not in active ministry include 17% who are retired, 2% suspended from active ministry, 2% on a leave of absence, and 2% inactive for other reasons.⁸

The 144 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this survey question reported a total of 12,292 active deacons, and the single arch/eparchy reported 11 active deacons.

⁸ The calculation of total deacons for this report excludes deacons who have been laicized. The Latin Rite dioceses responding to the survey report a total of 132 laicized deacons. Were they to be included in totals, they would represent less than 1% of all permanent deacons.

Incardination Status of Deacons in Active Ministry

Excluding responses from eparchies, 93% of deacons in active ministry are incardinated in the diocese that reports them.

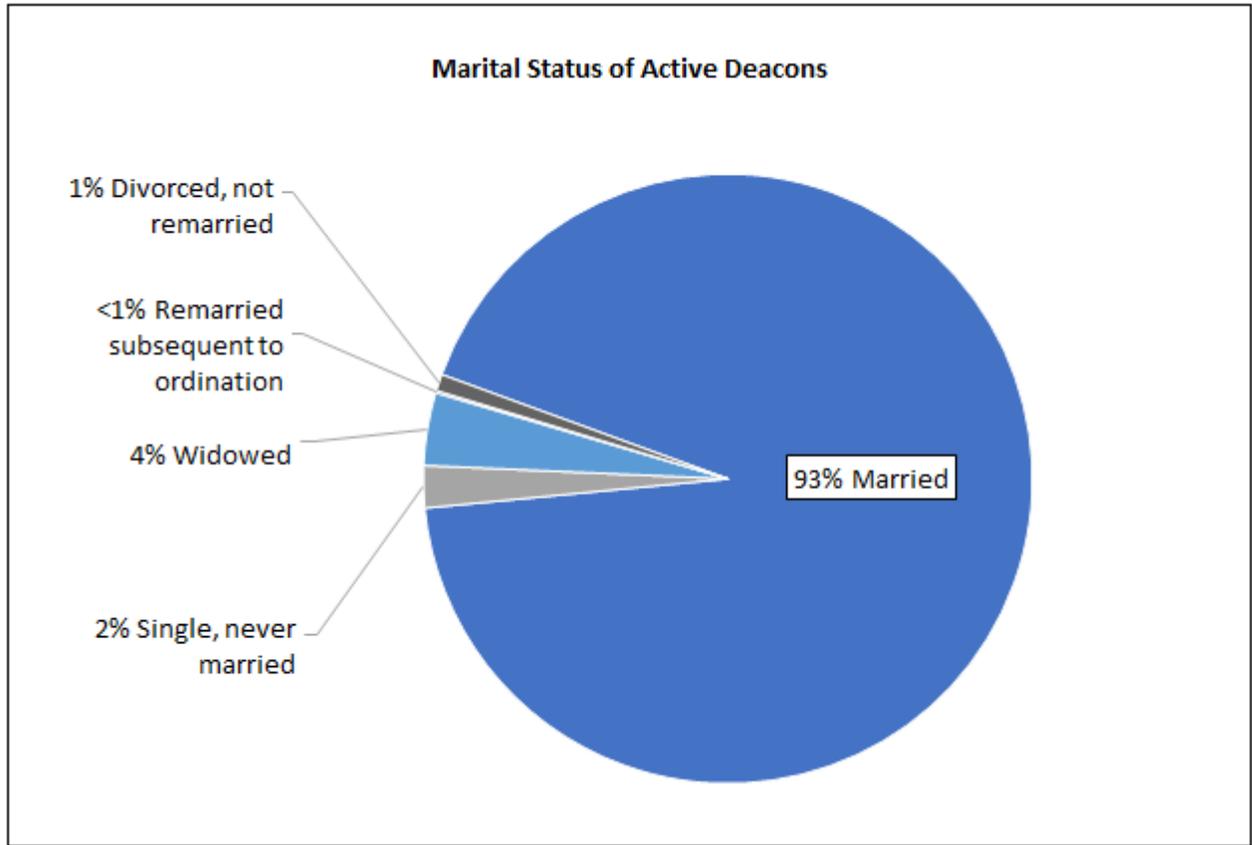


- Among responding Latin rite arch/dioceses, 6% of active deacons are incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serve in the reporting diocese. Less than 1% of active deacons are incardinated as members of religious institutes or incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches that are geographically located within the diocese.⁹
- In addition to the above, and not shown in the figure, on average, in each Latin Rite dioceses, there are:
 - 76 deacons incardinated in the reporting diocese.
 - Five deacons incardinated in another diocese but serving in the reporting eparchy/diocese.
 - Less than one deacon incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches.
 - Less than one deacon incardinated as members of religious institutes.

⁹ As in all cases in this report where subgroups are reported, percentages reflect only deacons for whom information was provided.

Marital Status of Active Deacons

*Most permanent deacons in active ministry are married. The figure below displays the marital status of active deacons.*¹⁰

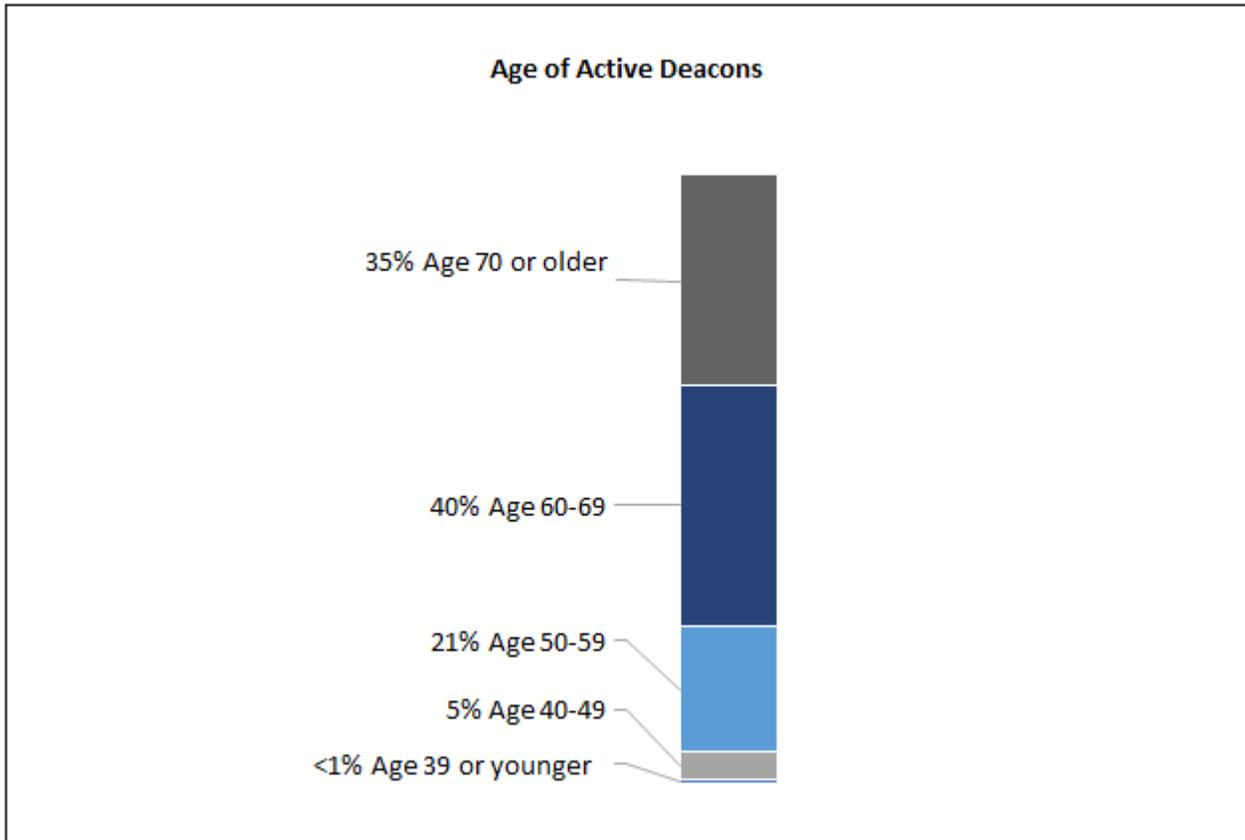


Overall, 93% of active permanent deacons are married, 4% are widowed, 2% have never been married, 1% are divorced, and less than 1% remarried subsequent to ordination.

¹⁰ Responses of eparchies are included in the figures for marital status and other demographic characteristics.

Age of Active Deacons

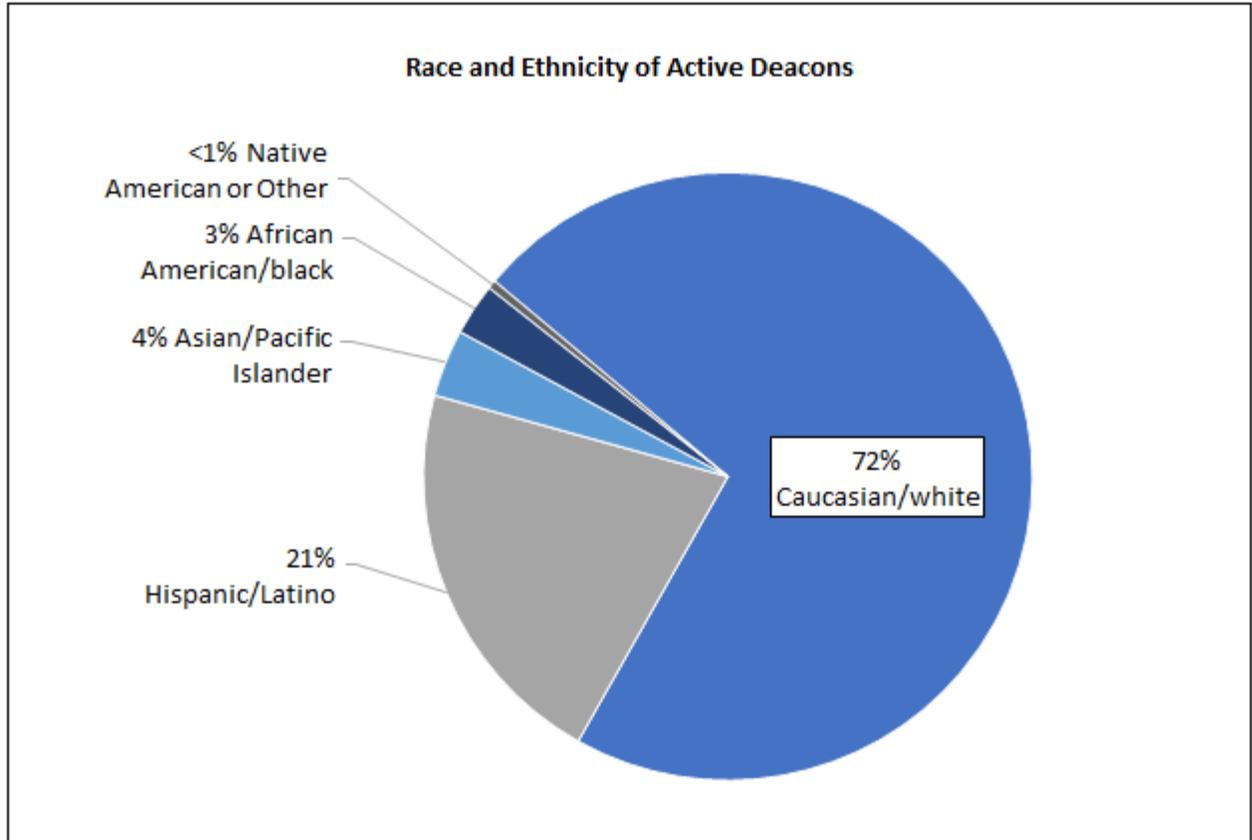
Three in four active permanent deacons (74%) are at least 60 years old.



- Two in five active permanent deacons (40%) are 60 to 69 and more than a third (35%) are 70 or older. A fifth of active deacons (21%) are in their fifties.
- One in twenty deacons in active ministry (5%) is in their 40s, and less than 1% are under the age of 40. According to Canon 1031.2 and the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, the minimum age for ordination to the permanent diaconate is 35 for all candidates.

Race and Ethnicity of Active Deacons

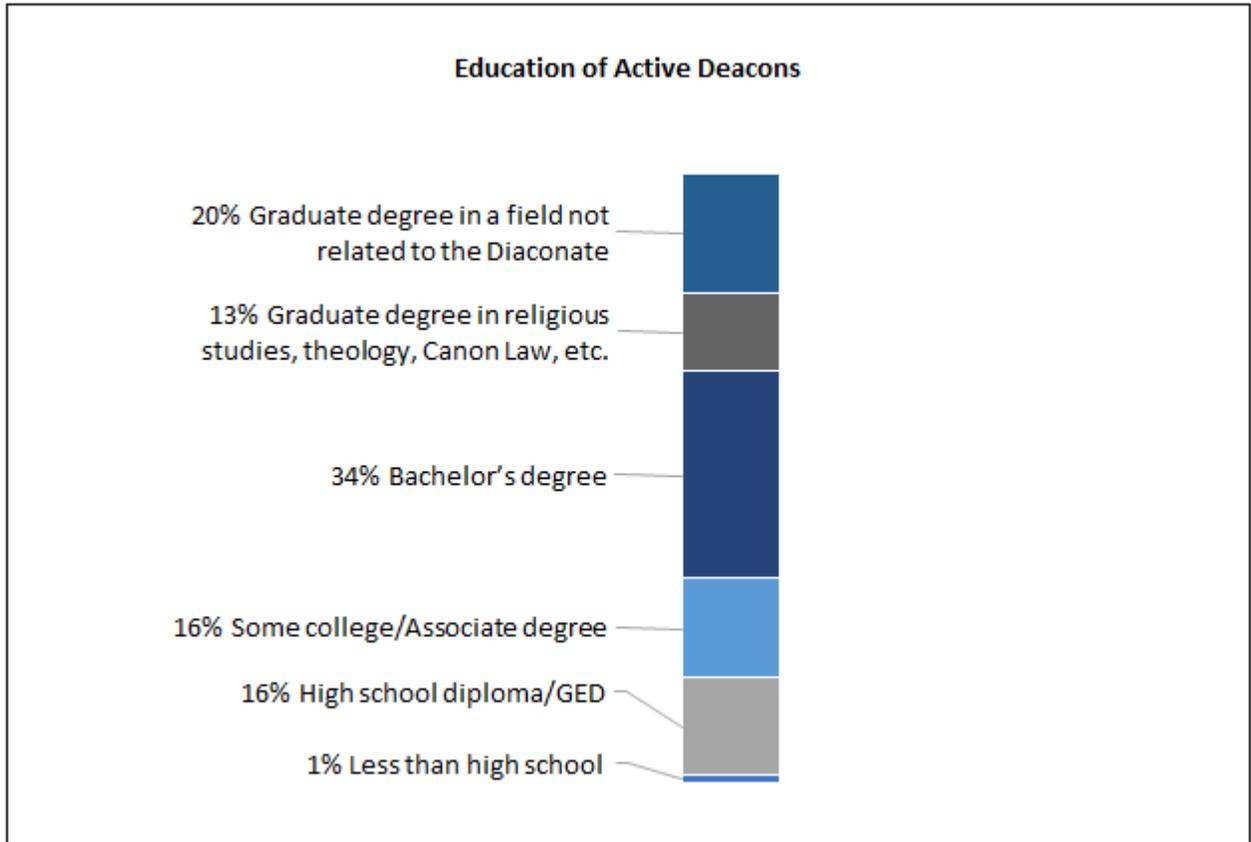
Seven in ten active deacons (72%) are Caucasian or white. One in five (21%) active deacons is Hispanic or Latino. Four percent are Asian or Pacific Islander and another 3% are African American or black. Fewer than 1% of active deacons are Native Americans or members of other racial/ethnic groups.



Active permanent deacons are more diverse racially and ethnically than U.S. priests, although not as diverse as the U.S. Catholic population. According to a national random survey of priests conducted by CARA in 2009, 92% of U.S. priests are non-Hispanic white, 3% are Hispanic or Latino, 2% are African American or black, and 3% are Asian American.¹¹

¹¹ Gautier, M.L., Perl, P.M. and Fichter, S.J. (2012) *Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II*, Liturgical Press, pg. 10.

Highest Level of Education of Active Deacons



In regards to the highest achieved level of education:

- One in a hundred active deacons (1%) has less than high school education.
- One in six active deacons (16%) has a high school diploma or GED.
- One in six active deacons (16%) has some college education or an associate degree.
- One in three active deacons (34%) has a Bachelor's degree.
- One in eight active deacons (13%) has a graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc.
- One in five active deacons (20%) has a graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate.

Changes in the Diaconate during the 2020 Calendar Year

During the 2020 calendar year, responding offices reported that 410 deacons retired from active ministry and 378 died. Another 587 were ordained to the permanent diaconate during 2020.

Changes in the Diaconate Over Time					
Totals from Responding Dioceses/Eparchies					
	2020	2019	2018	2015	2014
	#	#	#	#	#
Ordained for the diocese	587	383	494	522	451
Retired from active ministry	410	334	367	359	295
Died	378	289	290	324	270
Requested laicization	26	28	27	34	27
Granted laicization	18	26	23	27	21
Divorced/separated after ordination	27	23	25	25	17
Remarried without dispensation	5	5	10	7	8
Dispensed from the impediment of orders	3	7	1	4	5
Remarried after dispensation	3	6	3	8	4
Entered the priesthood	7	7	11	11	4

Arch/dioceses were asked to report the number of active permanent deacons that were lost during the 2020 calendar year through retirement, laicization, entering the priesthood, or death, as well as the number of new permanent deacons ordained for the diocese in the year. Additional questions asked about changes in marital status. The first column in the table above presents the total number of deacons in each category among dioceses and eparchies that responded to the 2020-2021 survey.¹² Subsequent columns report the figures for four previous years' surveys for comparison.

- In 2020, 26 deacons requested laicization.

- Seven permanent deacons were reported to have left the diaconate to prepare for the priesthood.

- In 2020, 27 permanent deacons divorced or separated after ordination. About the same number were remarried without dispensation (five) and after dispensation (three).

¹² Overall, 110 of the 145 responding dioceses and eparchies in 2020-2021 answered all of the questions in this set.

Ministry and Compensation

One in nine (11%) active permanent deacons are financially compensated for ministry in 2020, a continuation of a downward trend from 27% in 2001, 26% in 2017, and 15% in 2019. Of those financially compensated for ministry, deacons who are compensated for parish ministerial position other than Canon 517.2 (in addition to their diaconal responsibilities) make up the largest proportion among those compensated for their ministry.

Active Deacons Who Are Financially Compensated for Their Ministry			
Percentage among Active Deacons Who Are Compensated			
	Compensated Full-Time	Compensated Part-Time	Among All Compensated
	%	%	%
Entrusted with the pastoral care of parish(es)	8	8	8
Other parish ministerial position	27	22	26
Parish non-ministerial position	18	10	16
Diocesan non-ministerial position	13	11	12
Prison ministry	7	17	10
Hospital ministry	6	16	9
Parochial education	8	0	6
Diocesan ministerial position	10	12	10
Ministry in a social services agency	3	5	4
Total in compensated ministry	100	100	100

Respondents were asked about the number of active deacons in each of several categories who are financially compensated for their full-time or part-time ministry (see the table above).

Among deacons who are compensated for ministry:

- One in four (26%) works in other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister) with 27% of those compensated full time and 22% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in six (16%) works in parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) with 18% of those compensated full time and 10% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in eight (12%) works in diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) with 13% of those compensated full time and 11% compensated part-time working in those positions.

- One in ten (10%) works in diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister) with 10% of those compensated full time and 12% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in ten (10%) works in prison ministry with 7% of those compensated full time and 17% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 11 (9%) works in hospital ministry with 6% of those compensated full time and 16% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 13 (8%) works in entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2) with 8% of those compensated full time and 8% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 17 (6%) works in parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration) with 8% of those compensated full time and 0% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 25 (4%) works in ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities) with 3% of those compensated full time and 5% compensated part-time working in those positions.

Post-Ordination Formation

Nine in ten (87%) of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies require post-ordination formation for deacons. Among those that do require post-ordination formation, the median number of hours required per year is 20.¹³

Post-Ordination Formation		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	Yes	No
	%	%
Post-ordination formation required of deacons	87	13
<i>Average number of hours required annually: 22</i>		
<i>Median number of hours required annually: 20</i>		
Post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English	18	82
<i>Percentage providing formation in Spanish: 16%</i>		
<i>Percentage providing formation in other languages: 1%</i>		
Formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons	80	20

- One in five arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (18%) provides post-ordination formation in a language other than English, most typically in Spanish. Other languages include Creole and Ukrainian.
- Four in five (80%) provide formation opportunities for the wives of deacons.

¹³ The median is the middle value in the distribution when responses are ordered from lowest to highest. By definition, 50 percent of cases in a distribution fall at or below the median and 50 percent fall at or above the median.

Retreats

Virtually all dioceses and eparchies (98%) require an annual retreat of deacons. On average, three in four (73%) deacons participate in the retreat.

Retreats¹⁴		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	Yes	No
	%	%
An annual retreat is required of deacons	98	2
<i>Average percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 73%</i>		
<i>Median percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 80%</i>		
Diocese provides couples' retreats for deacons and their wives	79	21
Diocese provides deacon-only retreats	41	59
Diocese provides separate retreats for wives of deacons	14	86
Diocese provides annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)	90	10

- Four in five responding arch/dioceses (79%) provide couples retreats for deacons and their wives.
- Two in five arch/dioceses (41%) provides retreats for deacons only and 14%. One in seven (14%) provides separate retreats for wives of deacons.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (90%) provide annual gatherings of deacons in addition to or apart from a retreat.

¹⁴ Some respondents noted that the participation in their retreats has been affected by the pandemic.

Directors of the Diaconate

Nine in ten arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (94%) have a Director of the Diaconate or a person with a similar title.

Directors of the Diaconate		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	Yes	No
	%	%
Diocese has a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)	94	6
<i>Full-Time: 42%</i>		
<i>Part-Time: 58%</i>		
<i>Average number of months in this position: 76</i>		
<i>Median number of months in this position: 60</i>		

- In 42% of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies with the Director of the Diaconate position, the position is full-time. The position is part-time for the other 58%.
- Current directors have held their position for an average of six years and five months, although the median tenure for directors is four years.

Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

Four in five responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (80%) have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons.

Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	Yes	No
	%	%
Diocese has a plan for placement and ministry of deacons	80	20
Diocese has an active formation program for the diaconate	93	7
<i>If no, is the diocese planning to establish one within the next two years?</i>	78	22
Diocese has minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program	94	6
<i>Average minimum age for acceptance: 33</i>		
<i>Median minimum age for acceptance: 32</i>		
Diocese has a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons	58	42
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age <70: 0%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 70-74: 10%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 75-79: 88%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 80+: 1%</i>		
Diocese has a formal policy for deacons who are divorced/separated post-ordination	49	51
Diocese has an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly	65	35

- Virtually all responding arch/dioceses (93%) have an active formation program for the diaconate. Among those that do not, four in five (78%) report that there are plans to establish such a program within the next two years.

- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (94%) have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into the diaconate formation program. In these arch/dioceses, the minimum age ranges from 28 to 45, with a median of 32.
- Over half (58%) have a mandatory age of retirement for deacons. In this group, 10% require retirement before 75, 8% between 70 and 74, 69% between 75 and 79, and 1% at the age of 80 or older.
- Half of the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (49%) have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination.
- Seven in ten of the responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (65%) have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly.

Appendix:
Questionnaire and Response Frequencies for 2020-2021



BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR THE DIACONATE POST-ORDINATION SURVEY



Please fill in the total number of deacons in your diocese for each category below

- Mean = 86** 1. Total number of Deacons in **ACTIVE MINISTRY IN THIS DIOCESE.** **NR = 01**
- Of the number reported in item 1:**
- Mean = 76** 2. Active Deacons who are **INCARDINATED** in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 5** 3. Active Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Mean = <1** 4. Active Deacons incardinated in **EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES** that are geographically located in this diocese (e.g., Byzantine, Maronite, etc.). **NR = 02**
- Mean = <1** 5. Active Deacons incardinated as members of **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES.** **NR = 01**
(items 2 through 5 should total to the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1)
- Mean = 08** 6. Deacons incardinated in this diocese but serving another diocese. **NR = 03**
- Mean = <1** 7. Deacons who serve both Eastern and Latin rite Churches (“bi-ritual”). **NR = 15**
- Mean = 27** 8. Deacons **NO LONGER IN ACTIVE MINISTRY** in this diocese. **NR = 03**
- Of the number reported in item 8:**
- Mean = 19** 9. Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry. **NR = 02**
- Mean = 02** 10. Deacons on a leave of absence. **NR = 03**
- Mean = 02** 11. Deacons who are suspended from active ministry. **NR = 02**
- Mean = 01** 12. Deacons who have been released from the clerical state (“laicized”). **NR = 02**
- Mean = 02** 13. Other inactive deacons (not retired, on leave of absence, suspended or laicized). **NR = 02**
(items 9 through 13 should total to the same number reported in item 8)

Of the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1:

Marital Status				Race and Ethnicity			
Mean	NR			Mean	NR		
72	02	14. Married		54	03	24. Caucasian/white	
02	02	15. Single, never married		02	03	25. African American/black	
03	02	16. Widowed		16	03	26. Hispanic/Latino	
<1	02	17. Remarried subsequent to ordination		03	03	27. Asian/Pacific Islander	
01	02	18. Divorced, not remarried		<1	03	28. Native American or Other	

Age				Highest Level of Education			
Mean	NR			Mean	NR		
<1	03	19. Age 39 or younger		01	03	29. Less than high school	
03	03	20. Age 40-49		09	05	30. High school diploma/GED	
16	03	21. Age 50-59		10	04	31. Some college/Associate degree	
30	03	22. Age 60-69		20	03	32. Bachelor’s degree	
26	03	23. Age 70 or older		08	04	33. Graduate degree in religious studies, theology, etc.	
				11	03	34. Graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate	

In the most recent calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2020) how many deacons have:

Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	17	35. Requested laicization (Canon 290)	<1	18	40. Divorced/separated after ordination
<1	19	36. Granted laicization (Canon 290)	<1	20	41. Entered the priesthood
<1	20	37. Been dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087)	03	11	42. Retired from active ministry
<1	20	38. Remarried after dispensation	03	12	43. Died
<1	19	39. Remarried without dispensation	05	13	44. Been ordained for your diocese

Ministry and Compensation

Of the total number of deacons in active ministry in the diocese (as reported in item 1), the number who are financially compensated, either full-time or part-time (excluding stipends and/or reimbursement for expenses, such as mileage) for the following: *(among dioceses and eparchies that reported at least one deacon in one of the categories below)*

Full-time%	NR		Part-time%	NR	
08	06	45.	08	06	46. Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2).
27	06	47.	22	07	48. Other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister).
18	06	49.	10	06	50. Parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
08	07	51.	00	07	52. Parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration)
07	08	53.	17	06	54. Prison ministry.
06	06	55.	16	06	56. Hospital ministry.
03	07	57.	05	06	58. Ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities).
10	05	59.	12	06	60. Diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister).
13	05	61.	11	06	62. Diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).

Post-ordination Formation

Yes%	No%	NR	
87	12	07	63. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons?
Mean = 22		22	64. <u>If yes</u> , approximate number of <u>hours</u> of post-ordination formation required <u>annually</u> .
18	82	07	65. Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?
		85	66. <u>If yes</u> , please indicate the language(s): Modal response: Spanish
80	20	07	67. Are formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons?
98	02	08	68. Is an annual retreat required for deacons?
Mean = 73%		12	69. <u>If yes</u> , approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat.
41	59	07	70. Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?
14	86	08	71. Does the diocese provide separate retreats for wives of deacons?
79	21	07	72. Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?
90	10	08	73. Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)?

Office of the Diaconate

Yes%	No%	NR	
94	06	08	74. Does the diocese have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)?
Mean = 76		13	75. <u>If yes</u> , number of <u>months</u> Director of Deacons has been in this position.
		14	76. <u>If yes</u> , is this position: 42% Full-time or 58% Part-time
80	20	08	77. Does the diocese have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons?
58	42	07	78. Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons?
Mean = 75		46	79. <u>If yes</u> , at what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?
49	51	08	80. Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination?
65	35	07	81. Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?
93	07	07	82. Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?
78	22	94	83. <u>If no</u> , is the diocese planning to establish a formation within the next two years?
94	06	07	84. Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a formation program?
Mean = 33		13	85. <u>If yes</u> , what is the minimum age requirement?

In the event we need clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following contact information:

Survey completed by: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____