



August 10, 2023

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your openness to God in exploring the possibility of a call to the Permanent Diaconate!

The application to the formation program is extensive, and will require a considerable amount of time to complete. This is appropriate as the deacon formation program itself demands considerable time and energy. It will be important for you to review the application in its entirety before starting your application. This will give you the opportunity to know and understand the length of the application and the depth we are asking you to share about your personal life.

We have linked a PDF document that includes all the questions which need to be answered for the application. Since our online application form does not allow you to save your responses, and will require many hours of work and reflection to complete, please save this document and work on it on your personal computer. When you have answered and completed all the questions as your personal saved copy, please copy and paste your responses into the online submission portal, also linked below.

Please note that there are a number of documents that need to be included as part of the application, and applicants should plan to work on acquiring those as soon as possible. These include a baptismal certificate with all sacramental notations included and dated from within the last six months, a physician's note of health, a vocational autobiography, and any documents pertaining to prior marriages such as declaration of annulment.

Throughout the application process, we ask applicants to take the responsibility to gather the required information, organize it and use the resources provided as needed to complete their application on time. The skills required to do this successfully are also necessary for the completion of the deacon formation program, which requires participants to take the initiative to complete assignments using digital tools that may be unfamiliar.

This application is a first step for the admissions team to discern whether or not you are being called to the Permanent Diaconate. I hope that your reflections and answers help you to come to a deeper knowledge of God's action and will in your life as well. I also ask you to be open to the possibility that God is not calling you to this ministry, and at the same time to trust that if He is not, He has a good plan for you down another road.

Additionally, a calendar of dates is included on the application page. We will only allow exceptional reasons to be absent for any of these dates. You should note this before applying if scheduling will be difficult for you, as we take the need to be present very seriously.

The most important part of discernment is prayer and openness to the will of God – *“Not my will, but Yours be done,”* (LUKE 22:42) and *“All things work to the good for those who love God.”* (ROMANS 8:28)

I hope that this application process brings all of us closer to the will and love of God.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Dion  
Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate