

Minimum requirements for application to the Deacon Formation Program include the following:

- Applicants must be **at least 35 years old**.
- **Completion of the Formation for Ministry Program** in the Diocese of Syracuse or its equivalent.
- Must have successfully completed the [Safe Environment Training](#) and currently re-certified/credentialed with the Diocesan Office of Safe Environment.
- Applicants must have **job stability and sufficient income to provide security for wife and family**. The obligation to the Sacrament of Marriage is primary.
- Single applicants should be aware of the current discipline of the Church that celibacy is an obligation for unmarried candidates to the Permanent Diaconate. (Ordained deacons who are predeceased by their wives must remain unmarried and celibate).
- **Married applicants should be partners in a stable marriage**. Each applicant must have the written consent and support of his spouse. Since children are a primary concern, they must be such an age and position so as not to be unduly affected by their father's pursuit of a life that involves special apostolic commitment, time, focus and energy.
- If the applicant is planning to marry or is recently married, there must be a waiting period of two years before making application to the diaconate.
- **Applicants who have entered a second valid Catholic marriage after divorce must have a careful review of the marriage to assure compliance with the canonical restrictions of the Church.**
- Applicants must have the sponsorship of a parish, agency or program that is prepared to participate and support the applicant through the formation period and accept his services after ordination.
- Applicant must be of an age and health status as to provide at least ten years of post-ordination diaconal service.

Due consideration must be given to diocesan policy in keeping with Canon Law requiring all ordained clergy tender their resignation at the age of 75.

Those men who meet the above requirements are invited to attend this information seminar.

****Wives of married applicants must attend.** Sponsors are also urged to participate to ensure a complete understanding of their role in the formation program.

***Attendance at an annual seminar by applicants and their spouse is a prerequisite to application. The Seminar will include a description of the Formation Program, the role of the Permanent Deacon, the application process and other pertinent information.*