

BECOMING A DEACON

A candidate for the Permanent Diaconate is a practicing Roman Catholic, baptized and confirmed male who is convinced of a call by God to serve the Church as a deacon, and exemplifies the following qualities:

- Is between the ages of 35 - 60 when formation begins;
- Resides and is a registered parishioner within the Archdiocese of Edmonton;
- Has a good moral reputation and character;
- Lives a deep sacramental, spiritual life demonstrated through regular Mass attendance, reception of the sacraments, and participation in spiritual practices;
- Is actively involved in parish life and ecclesial movements;
- If validly married, has the active support of his wife;
- Lives celibately if single or widowed;
- Is of sound physical and psychological health;
- Is economically stable and self-sufficient;
- Is committed to the pursuit of further theological and spiritual studies;
- Has the support of his parish pastor.

CONTACT US

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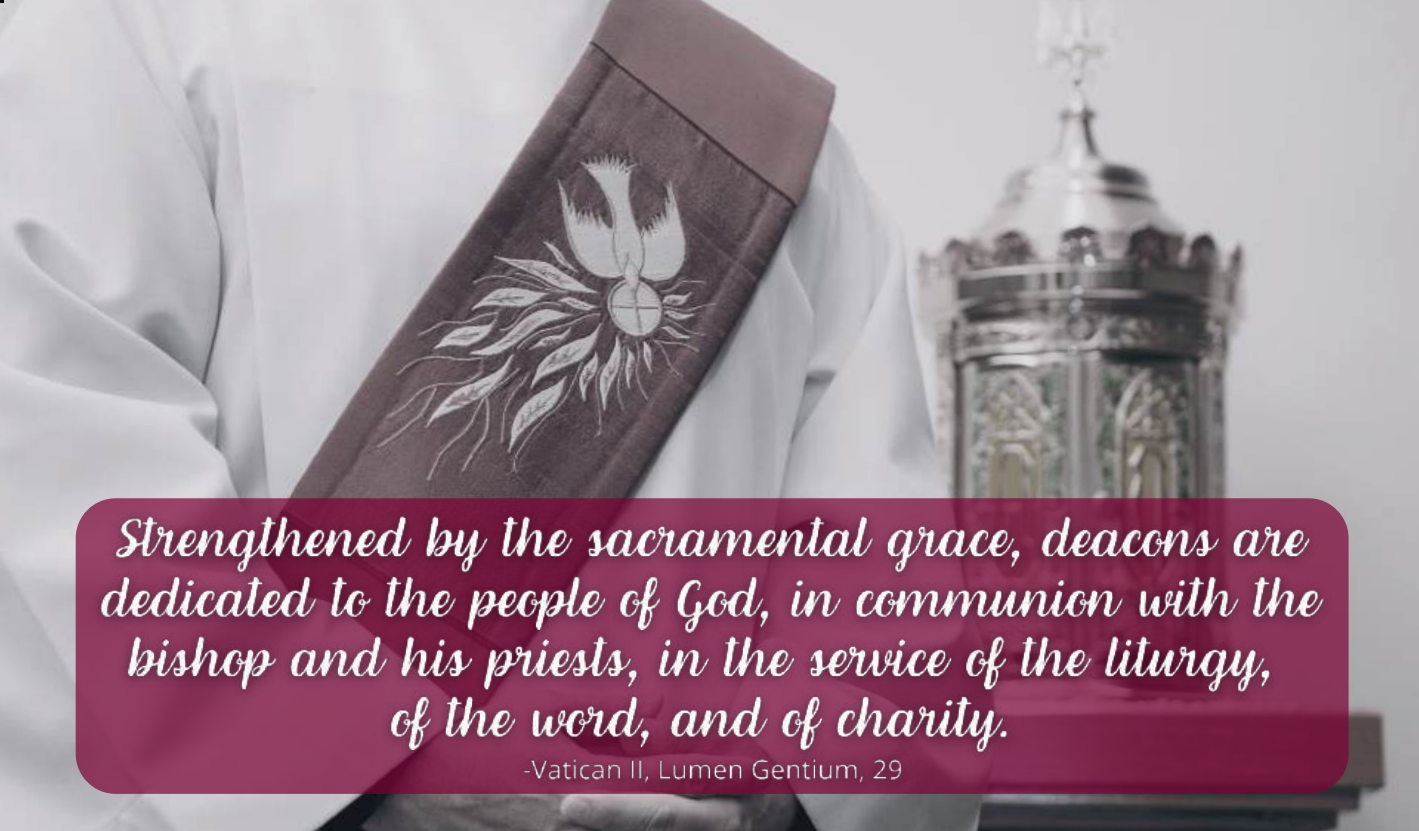
PERMANENT DIACONATE

CALLLED TO SERVE



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton





Strengthened by the sacramental grace, deacons are dedicated to the people of God, in communion with the bishop and his priests, in the service of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

-Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, 29

PERMANENT DEACONS

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a deacon is an ordained minister in the Church, called to model Christ's service within a parish and into the secular world.

Diaconal service is modelled after the threefold apostolic ministry of the Bishop: the ministries of charity, of the Word, and sacrament.

Ministry of Charity

A deacon reaches out to the marginalized, poor, and the suffering, bringing the Gospel to all those in need. He engages in social services, pastoral care, and charitable activities that embody Christ's love and compassion.

Ministry of the Word

A deacon proclaims the Gospel, preaches at liturgical celebrations, and provides catechetical instruction to help deepen the faith and understanding of the parish community.

Ministry of Sacrament

The deacon assists priests during Holy Mass, administers baptisms, witnesses marriages, presides at funerals (with no Mass), and conducts various other sacramental and liturgical duties.

MINISTERS
OF SERVICE

FORMATION OVERVIEW

The journey to becoming a deacon involves participating in a comprehensive formation program that spans several years, typically conducted during evenings and weekends. This program encompasses four key areas of growth: human, spiritual, theological and pastoral formation.

Human Formation

Centered on the personal development of the diaconal candidate, human formation nurtures growth to effectively minister to, work with, and serve the people of God.

Spiritual Formation

Cultivates a deep and abiding relationship with Christ through consistent prayer, reflection, and spiritual direction. Spiritual formation helps the candidate grow in holiness and discipleship, grounding his ministry in a vibrant spiritual life.

Theological Formation

Focuses on deepening the candidate's understanding of the central teachings and practices of the Church. It equips him with knowledge to teach, defend and live out the faith with clarity and conviction.

Pastoral Formation

Offers hands-on experience in various aspects of pastoral ministry. It supports the development of leadership skills, pastoral care, and service, enabling the candidate to apply his knowledge in real-world contexts.