

ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

The following are guidelines to be used in recommending men for admission to the Permanent Diaconate Formation program for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington.

One of the best recommendations a man can bring to the diaconate is a history of selfless service to his neighbors. This does not exclude, for instance, service as an usher, extraordinary minister or cantor, but hopefully, will include a wider range of service through Church and community. We should look for men who already serve with a “diaconal heart” and, as such, are recognized by the Christian community. The applicant should have a history of participation in his parish.

It is expected that applicants will:

- Have a good spiritual life and a positive sense of Church. Be committed to the teachings of the Church and to human dignity.
- Work well with others, be sensitive to persons with problems and be generous with time and energy in serving others.
- Be a man in good standing in the Church for at least 3 years and be an active member of his parish.
- Have a stable employment and financial history.
- Be a citizen of the United States or have evidence of currently being in legal immigration status, and able to maintain such status for the duration of the formation program.
- Be without a criminal record.
- Possess a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and be capable of college level studies.
- If married, be married in the Church and be in a stable marriage.
- If single, be able to commit to celibacy.
- Be at least 35 years old at ordination.
- Be less than age 65 years old at ordination.
- Be able to commit to ten all day Saturday programs during the aspirancy phase of deacon formation (Year 1 of the full 5 year process).
- Be able to commit to one full weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) a month for the 11 months of each of the four years of the candidate formation program, to attend a seven day homiletics workshop at St. Meinrad Seminary in the summer between the second and third year and be able to devote 10 hours per week for studies (Years 2-5 of the full 5 year process).