

Deacon Formation Program

Pre-Application

Welcome and Thank You for inquiring about qualifications and initial pre-application to the Deacon Formation Program of the Diocese of Stockton.

This is an exciting time as you listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit regarding a potential vocation. This is also the first step in pursuing knowledge about the role of the Deacon; the program of formation leading to potential ordination (reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders); and exploring initial eligibility.

As we begin, the first document required is a letter of introduction and sponsorship of your Pastor. It should accompany the Pre-Application for Inquiry Form.

This pre-application is a way for you to further inquire about the potential of joining the formation program and a means for those responsible for the application process to review several important and necessary considerations regarding a person's eligibility to pursue acceptance into the program.

This initial process is confidential and enables the Diocese of Stockton to verify the necessary freedom, or lack of freedom, you possess to pursue formal discernment and candidacy for the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Please provide initial contact information and answer each of the questions. The Director of Formation will contact you.

Your Name _____ Wife's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sponsoring Parish _____

Pastor's Name _____

YES NO

Are you a member of a parish in the Diocese of Stockton?

About your age, education level, employment and health . . .

Are you between the ages of 35 and 55?

Do you possess a high school diploma or GED?

Are you self-supporting? Do you have full time employment?

Are you in good health to withstand the rigors of formal study and ministry?

Have you been in treatment for any form of addiction?

Have you ever suffered from any kind of mental disorder or from any other psychological infirmity?

About your relationship to your parish . . .

Do you believe you will receive your Pastor's full recommendation and the support of the parish staff?

Are you a weekly participant at Sunday Eucharist?

Do you have a verifiable record of service to your parish community, e.g. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Catechist etc.

Did someone suggest that you explore the possibility of becoming a Deacon?

Is your inquiry solely based on the suggestion of someone else?

About your Sacramental Life . . .

Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church?

Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church?

If you were not baptized or confirmed in the Catholic Church, did you attend the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and make a profession of faith in the Catholic Church?

Are you married?

If married, is your wife aware of your consideration of a vocation?

YES NO

- If married, is your wife a practicing Catholic in good standing?
- Will your wife freely offer her full consent to your potential for entering formal discernment and study?
- Is your wife in good health and willing to attend and participate in formation?
- Have you been married more than once (even in a civil ceremony)?
- Have you ever been divorced?
- Is it less than three years since your divorce?
- Was your current marriage celebrated in a Catholic Church?
- Regarding your current marriage, have you been in a valid, sacramental marriage (Catholic Matrimony) for more than three years?
- Are you a widower?
- Have you ever belonged to a Religious Community, e.g. Franciscans, Jesuits, Carmelites, etc?
- Have you ever applied to a deacon formation program in this or any other Diocese?

About some life questions . . .

- Have you ever considered suicide?
- Have you ever attempted suicide?
- Has anyone ever accused you of sexual impropriety?
- Have you committed murder or manslaughter?
- Have you ever been arrested, indicted or convicted of a felony?
- Are you (or your spouse) now involved in, or expect to be involved in, any legal or court action?

YES NO

About your prayer life and spiritual background...

- Do you participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation more than once a year?
- Do you pray privately more than twice a week?
- Do you pray every day?
- Have you ever participated on a regular basis in a prayer group?
- Have you ever participated in a prayer group that was not Catholic?
- Do you believe that Christ is present in the Holy Eucharist?
- Has anyone ever asked you to pray spontaneously and out loud for them?
- Do you understand that a commitment to the Church as ordained clergy entails total obedience and adherence to all Church teaching, both in the life you lead and in being an evangelizer and teacher of the faith in the world?
- Will you accept the authority and direction of the Bishop regarding parish assignments and duties related to the role and function of a permanent Deacon?

About academics and formation . . .

- The last time I was taught about Catholicism was in elementary school.
- I studied Catholicism in college.
- I believe a review of Catholicism would be helpful to me.
- I believe I have a good understanding of the nature and role of deacons and priests.
- I believe there is no real difference between an ordained person and a lay person.
- I speak English only.
- I speak Spanish only.
- I need assistance with my reading and writing skills.

Thank you for completing this pre-application form. All information gathered here will be kept in strictest confidence.

Please send your completed pre-application form to:

**Sr. Wanda Billion, M.S.C., Director
Formation for Seminarians & Deacons
Diocese of Stockton Pastoral Center
212 North San Joaquin Street
Stockton, California 95202-2409**

209-466-0636, extension 619