

QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF A DEACON

The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons prepared by the United States Catholic Bishops sets guidelines and gives direction relative to selection, discernment and preparation of qualified men for diaconal ministry.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/diaconate/upload/DeaconDirectory.pdf>

If men are to be considered for this special ministry, they should provide witness as Catholic men and leaders in the Church. Deacons are called by the Holy Spirit through the Church. Thus, it is the responsibility of both the man and the Church community to discern who should be called as deacons to serve in the ministries of Word, liturgy and charity.

Spiritual and evangelical qualities prevalent in diaconal ministry include¹:

SOUND FAITH

GOOD CHRISTIAN REPUTATION

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN PARISH AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PERSONAL INTEGRITY

MATURITY

PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

REGULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE CHURCH'S SACRAMENTAL LIFE

EVIDENCE OF RECOGNIZED, ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH'S LIFE AND SERVICE

PARTICIPATION IN FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IF MARRIED: POSITIVE AND STABLE MARRIAGE REFLECTING THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

IF SINGLE: MATURE CELIBATE STATE OF LIFE

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

CAPACITY FOR OBEDIENCE AND FRATERNAL COMMUNION

DEEP SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER LIFE

DEMONSTRATED KINDNESS AND HUMILITY

COMMITMENTS TO FAMILY, CAREER, EMPLOYMENT, COMMUNITY AND CHURCH SERVICE

¹ List derived in part from: Congregation for Catholic Education. 1998. *Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacon (Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Diaconorum Permanentium)*. United States Catholic Congress.

READINESS AND TIMELINESS OF RESPONSE TO A VOCATION

Additionally, there are patterns of behavior that give clues into a man's propensity for diaconal service, including²:

NATURAL INCLINATION TO SERVICE

PSYCHOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

CAPACITY FOR DIALOGUE, DOCILITY AND OPENNESS

ABILITY TO SHARE ONE'S FAITH

OPENNESS TO OTHER POINTS OF VIEW

CAPACITY TO LISTEN CAREFULLY

RESPECT OF OTHER'S RELIGION, RACE, GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE

GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS

SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

SITUATIONAL APPROPRIATENESS IN CONDUCT

SELF-DIRECTED & ABLE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY

ACCOUNTABILITY

BALANCED AND PRUDENTIAL JUDGMENT

GENEROSITY IN SERVICE

ABILITY TO LEAD, MOTIVATE, FACILITATE, ANIMATE OTHERS INTO ACTION AND SERVICE

Pastors and their and church communities are crucial when encouraging men in their first stirrings to the call to serve the Church. Men so called should display a vibrant spiritual life and if married a strong, Catholic spousal witness. As such, **married men are required to have the consent of their wife and family as they come forward to make application to become a deacon in the Diocese of Cheyenne.**

²ibid.