

Permanent Diaconate

Summary: Deacons serve through the ministry of the altar, word, and charity. Through these ministries, deacons proclaim the gospel, preach, teach, solemnly baptize, assist at and bless marriages, administer sacramentals, care for the poor, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, bring the Eucharist to the homebound, bring Viaticum to the dying, preside at wakes, funerals and burial services, preside at the Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the hours, exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, assist the priest at Mass, minister to prisons, nursing homes, hospitals, prepare for the reception of the sacraments, counsel, give retreats, conduct parish retreat programs, reach out to alienated Catholics and serve as police, fire, hospital, military, and prison chaplains.

Formation: Currently we have 7 men who are finishing their 5 year formation program and 12 men in the process of discernment. Partner's in Charity assists with our program and with continuing education for those already ordained.

More detailed if needed:

Many deacons prepare families for their child's baptism. The deacons and often the wives of deacons who are involved with baptismal preparation utilize this time effectively as an opportunity for evangelization. During that time period they point out the importance of baptism, what it is all about and what it means to be a family that practices their Faith. So often we hear of families coming back to the Church due to the welcoming and instructional information brought about during these preparation sessions. Many parents have been introduced to the RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults) and in some cases; entire families were received on a particular Holy Saturday following these meetings.

Deacons also prepare couples for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Here too they use this opportunity for evangelization of those who are really not familiar with the Catholic Faith. The sessions are not only spent covering the policies of the Church but what it means to be a true loving spouse following faithfully the vows that they are about to take. Love of God and each other is emphasized and how it all falls into place in this holy Sacrament. Couples get a better understanding of what a true marriage is all about and often bonds of friendship are formed between the couple, the deacon, and the deacon's wife. Many couples appreciate the information presented because the married deacon is a witness not only to his Office but to how he fulfills his life within the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Anthony R. Surozenski
Director