

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Requirements for Application for Admission into the Aspirancy Program

1. Be a male, baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church for a minimum period of five years, active and faithful in the practice of the Faith;
2. Be registered in a parish or mission, well known, and highly recommended for the aspirancy program by his pastor and fellow parishioners;
3. Have demonstrated active service, works of the apostolate, and leadership in parish and/or diocesan ministry;
4. Enjoy sound ethical and moral reputation in both the Church and civic community;
5. Be free from all canonical irregularities and impediments for the reception of Holy Orders;
6. Be able to express and verbalize the reason the man believes he has a potential calling to the diaconate;
7. Possess natural gifts for ministry, demonstrate maturity and balance, and enjoy good physical and mental health with no condition that would impede diaconal ministry;
8. Be prayerful and committed to further spiritual formation;
9. Be at least 30 years old and no older than 57 at the time of application;
10. Have successfully completed at least two years of college, preferably possessing an associate degree or higher, be able to do advanced academic work and understand theological concepts;
11. Be married for a period of at least five years in a stable and sacramental marriage, enjoying the full support of his wife who will participate actively in the Permanent Deacon Formation program. Potential applicants who have been divorced and have remarried in the Church will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If an applicant is accepted into the aspirancy phase or even if accepted into the candidate phase of formation and begins to experience serious marital discord, separation or divorce, the aspirant/candidate will be requested to withdraw from the program or take a leave of absence.
12. Be willing to remain celibate if his wife precedes him in death;
13. If widowed have at least three years to heal and recover from the loss of his spouse;
14. If single enjoy a stable, settled life, a history of healthy and chaste relationships, and be able and willing to accept the gift of celibacy, understanding the full implications of this charism;
15. If a history of substance abuse (e.g. drugs, alcohol, etc.) or other addictions (e.g. gambling, sexual, etc.) exists, have achieved sobriety and freedom for at least five years and continue to participate in a recovery program;
16. The man discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate and his spouse are required to understand that the Bishop can assign an aspirant to a parish during his period of formation other than his home parish. If ordained to the Diaconate, the Bishop will assign a deacon to a parish/entity in the Diocese where needs exist, mindful the assignment may not be the deacon's home parish. Assignments will be based on the needs of the Diocese at a given time. An applicant is expected to embrace this understanding or he may not be admitted to the aspirancy program.

An exception from any of the above requirements is reserved to the Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Approved: July, 17, 2024. The Most Reverend William A. Wack, C.S.C., Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee