

INQUIRY APPLICATION

Welcome and thank you for inquiring about qualifications and initial pre-application to Deacon Formation of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

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.

This pre-application is a way for you to further inquire about the potential of joining formation 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 formation. ***Please note: all applicants must be sponsored by their pastor.***

This initial process is confidential and enables the Diocese of Kalamazoo to verify the necessary freedom, or lack of freedom, a pre-applicant possesses to pursue formal discernment and candidacy for the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. **Please do not 'read into' the questions any negative connotation. By answering 'no' (or 'yes') to any of the questions provided does not imply potential acceptability nor ineligibility.** Rather, one or more of your answers may alert us to the need to address and clarify any potential issues. All of the information requested herein will be requested formally during the application and formation process. We earnestly strive to address impediments to conditional acceptance into formation before the formal application process.

This pre-application will offer assistance to both the applicant and the Director of Deacon Formation in assessing the potential for entry into formal discernment and study. **Please provide initial contact information and answer each of the questions.**

NAME _____ MARRIED _____ SINGLE _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (if applicable) _____

LEGAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

EMAIL _____

SPONSORING PARISH _____

PARISH CITY _____

PASTOR'S NAME _____

BIRTHDATE _____ EDUCATION LEVEL _____

PRIMARY SPOKEN LANGUAGE _____

DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH _____ YES _____ SOME _____ NONE

PLACE OF BAPTISM _____

APPROXIMATE DATE OF BAPTISM _____

NAME OF CHILDREN	AGE	LIVING AT HOME	
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO
_____	_____	_____ YES	_____ NO

Regarding your place of residence and parish membership...

- YES NO 1. Are you a member of a parish in the Diocese of Kalamazoo?
 YES NO 2. Do you reside in either Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties in Michigan?

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

- YES NO 3. Are you between the ages of 33 and 60?
 YES NO 4. Do you possess a bachelor's degree?
 YES NO 5. Are you self-supporting and have full-time employment?
 YES NO 6. Have you been in your current employment for more than five years?
 YES NO 7. Are you in good health to withstand the rigors of formal study and ministry?
 YES NO 8. Have you been in treatment for any form of addiction?
 YES NO 9. Have you ever suffered from any kind of mental disorder or from any other psychological infirmity?

Regarding your relationship to your parish...

- YES NO 10. Do you believe you will receive your pastor's full recommendation *and* the support of the parish staff?
 YES NO 11. Are you a weekly participant at Sunday Eucharist?
 YES NO 12. Do you have a *verifiable* record of service to your parish community other than liturgical ministry?
 YES NO 13. Did someone suggest that you explore the possibility of becoming a deacon?
 YES NO 14. Is your inquiry solely based on the suggestion of someone else?

Regarding your Sacramental life...

- YES NO 15. Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church?
 YES NO 16. Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church?
 YES NO 17. 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?
 YES NO 18. Is it more than five years since your Baptism or Profession of Faith?
 YES NO 19. Are you married? (If you answer no, skip to question 25)
 YES NO 20. If married, is your wife aware of your consideration of a vocation?
 YES NO 21. If married, is your wife a practicing Catholic in good standing?

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| YES | NO | 22. Will your wife freely offer her full consent to your potential for entering formal discernment and study? |
| YES | NO | 23. Is your wife in good health to attend and participate in necessary events? |
| YES | NO | 24. Was your current marriage celebrated in a Catholic Church? |
| YES | NO | 25. Regarding your current marriage, have you been in a valid, Sacramental marriage (Catholic Matrimony) for more than five years? # of years _____ |
| YES | NO | 26. Have you been married more than once (even in a civil ceremony)? |
| YES | NO | 27. Have you ever been divorced? |
| YES | NO | 28. If you answered yes to the last question, has it been five years since your divorce? |
| YES | NO | 29. If previously divorced, was there an annulment for the first marriage? |
| YES | NO | 30. Are you a widower? |
| YES | NO | 31. Have you ever belonged to a Religious community, e.g., Franciscans, Benedictines, etc.? |
| YES | NO | 32. Have you ever before applied to deacon formation in this or any other diocese? |

Regarding Catholic Christian moral living...

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| YES | NO | 33. Have you participated in, or assisted in, <i>any form</i> of fertilization process, e.g., <i>in vitro</i> , <i>in vivo</i> , <i>gamete intra-fallopian</i> etc., at any point in your life? |
| YES | NO | 34. Have you participated in, or assisted in, with anyone at any time in the procurement of an abortion? (For example, driving someone to, or offering payment for, an abortion is considered 'assisting'.) |
| YES | NO | 35. Have you participated in, or assisted in, the procurement of a vasectomy, tubal ligation, or any other means of sterilization? |
| YES | NO | 36. Have you participated in birth control in any form, e.g., the pill, IUD, condom? |
| YES | NO | 37. Have you gravely and maliciously mutilated yourself or someone else? (For example, extreme body piercing or full-body tattooing could be interpreted/considered as 'maliciously mutilating'). |
| YES | NO | 38. Have you ever considered suicide? |
| YES | NO | 39. Have you ever attempted suicide? |
| YES | NO | 40. Has anyone ever accused you of sexual impropriety? |
| YES | NO | 41. Have you committed murder or manslaughter? |
| YES | NO | 42. Have you ever been arrested, indicted or convicted of a felony? |
| YES | NO | 43. Are you (or your spouse) now involved in, or expect to be involved in, any legal or court action? |
| YES | NO | 44. Have you ever carried out an action which is reserved to those in ordained ministry i.e., deacon, priest or bishop? |
| YES | NO | 45. Do you (or have you ever) work(ed) for or supported any organization that promotes contraception, artificial insemination, sterilization, or abortions rights, e.g., United Way, Planned Parenthood, etc? |

Regarding your prayer life and spiritual background...

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| YES | NO | 46. Do you participate in the Sacrament of Penance more than once a year? |
| YES | NO | 47. Do you pray privately more than twice a week? |
| YES | NO | 48. Do you pray every day? |

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| YES | NO | 49. Have you ever participated on a regular basis in a prayer group? |
| YES | NO | 50. Have you ever participated in a prayer group that was not Catholic? |
| YES | NO | 51. Do you believe you have a firm understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality? |
| YES | NO | 52. Do you believe you may be deficient in your understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality? |
| YES | NO | 53. Do you believe that Christ is present (in His totality) in the Holy Eucharist? |
| YES | NO | 54. Do you believe that the presence of Christ in the Catholic sacraments is a debatable point? |
| YES | NO | 55. Do you know what the Liturgy of the Hours is? |
| YES | NO | 56. Has anyone ever asked you to pray spontaneously (and out loud) for them? |

Regarding commitment to Church teaching...

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| YES | NO | 57. Have you ever, in any form, rejected the Christian faith or any essential element of the Catholic faith? (For example - after being baptized a Christian - practicing Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, etc., would be considered 'rejecting' the Christian faith and attending a Protestant church rather than a Catholic church, or not believing in the Sacrament of Eucharist [Jesus' true and 'real' presence] or denying any of the seven sacraments would be examples of 'rejection' of an essential element of the Catholic Christian faith). |
| YES | NO | 58. Have you ever associated with or participated in any group that does not accept fully the leadership of the Holy Father and the teachings of the Church (<i>e.g., the Society of St. Pius X is considered to be in schism with the Church</i>)? |
| YES | NO | 59. Do you fully 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? |
| YES | NO | 60. Do you understand that the Sacrament of Holy Orders imprints a permanent character (like Baptism and Confirmation) and requires a person to exercise certain obligations within the clerical state for one's entire life? |
| YES | NO | 61. Do you understand that should your wife precede you in death, you may not remarry? |
| YES | NO | 62. Will you accept the authority and direction of the local Bishop regarding parish assignments and duties related to the role and function of a permanent deacon? |

Regarding potential entry into academics and formation...

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| YES | NO | 63. The last time I was taught about Catholicism was in elementary school. |
| YES | NO | 64. I studied Catholic Christianity in college. |
| YES | NO | 65. I believe a review of Catholicism would be helpful to me. |
| YES | NO | 66. I believe I have a good understanding of the nature and role of deacons and priests. |
| YES | NO | 67. I believe there is no real difference between an ordained person and a lay person. |
| YES | NO | 68. I believe a review of Christianity in general would be helpful to me. |
| YES | NO | 69. I would like assistance with my reading skills. |
| YES | NO | 70. I would like assistance with my writing and composition skills. |
| YES | NO | 71. Does the thought of public speaking frighten you? |
| YES | NO | 72. Does the thought of public speaking instill confidence in you? |

Please list any major life changes in the past five years: _____

Thank you for your honesty and integrity in answering these important questions in the pre-application phase. The Director of Deacon Formation will be in contact with you.
May God bless you and your family!

This form must be returned by February 28, 2023 to:

Rev. German Perez
Director of Deacon Formation
215 N Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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