

## **Diocese of Kalamazoo Standards for Admitting Applicants to the Inquiry Phase of the Formation Program**

- Is committed to and lives out Gospel values of justice, charity, and service.
- Is committed to living a life of mature Christian spirituality.
- If married, is in a stable and happy marriage (a minimum of five years) and whose wife and children support him in pursuing the diaconate.
- If not married, is willing to commit to celibacy.
- If a convert to the faith, baptism or profession made at least five years prior to application.
- Is living within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.
- Is a US citizen or is a permanent resident (has a green card) of the United States.
- Must possess basic fluency in English.
- Has a bachelor's degree or its equivalent; and is capable of college level work in theological studies and is open to spiritual and ministerial formation.
- Must undergo a thorough criminal and financial background check (along with his wife, if married).
- Is no younger than 35 and no older than 60 years when entering the formation process.
- Is capable of giving serious attention and time to theological study, spiritual formation, and parish ministry.
- Has a stable work history.
- Has a positive attitude towards the Church and is flexible in adapting to the future needs of the Church.
- Is formally presented for the diaconate by his pastor who will accompany him during the six years of formation and meet with him on a regular basis.
- Must be physically and psychologically healthy.
- Should demonstrate grateful fidelity to all that the Church teaches.

Any exceptions to these requirements must have the approval of the Bishop.

### **Impediments and Irregularities (Code of Canon Law 1040-1042)**

The following are canonical irregularities which preclude a man from being ordained (unless dispensed from when possible):

- Mental illness which in the opinion of experts, renders the person unable to perform ministry
- A person who has committed apostasy, heresy, or schism
- A person who has committed voluntary homicide or assisted in procuring an abortion
- A person who has attempted suicide