



DISCERNING A CALL TO SERVE Permanent Diaconate Formation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo



2025-2026	Application & Inquiry		
2026-2027	Aspirancy 1		
2027-2028	Aspirancy 2 & CANDIDACY		
2028-2029	Candidacy 1 & LECTOR	Application & Inquiry	
2029-2030	Candidacy 2 & ACOLYTE	Aspirancy 1	
2030-2031	Candidacy 3 & ORDINATION	Aspirancy 2 & CANDIDACY	
2031-2032		Candidacy 1 & LECTOR	Application & Inquiry
2032-2033		Candidacy 2 & ACOLYTE	Aspirancy 1
2033-2034		Candidacy 3 & ORDINATION	Aspirancy 2 & CANDIDACY
2034-2035	Application & Inquiry		Candidacy 1 & LECTOR
2035-2036	Aspirancy 1		Candidacy 2 & ACOLYTE
2036-2037	Aspirancy 2 & CANDIDACY		Candidacy 3 & ORDINATION
2037-2038	Candidacy 1 & LECTOR		

A Renewed Vision for Diaconal Ministry

In 2023, Bishop Lohse appointed a task force to develop a clear and unified vision for diaconal ministry in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. An executive summary of this vision is available at: www.diokzoo.org/deaconformation. The task force also created a new foundational framework for a revised deacon formation program for the diocese.

Now Accepting Applications

On Tuesday, July 1, 2025, Bishop Lohse announced that the Diocese is now receiving applications for men interested in entering the inquiry phase of diaconal formation. The application deadline is Monday, September 15, 2025. All application materials are available at: www.diokzoo.org/deaconformation.

Formation Program Overview

Bishop Lohse has instituted a six-year formation program (see chart to the left). To support his goal of ordaining about 10 permanent deacons every three years, the number of applicants accepted into the inquiry phase will be limited to 16. Men who are not accepted into this 2025-2026 cohort are encouraged to reapply for the next, provided they continue to meet the admission standards

Creating a complete Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Kalamazoo

The bishop, the task force, and the formation team will continue to meet and will build upon the foundational framework. As such, the year-by-year details on the back of this page should be considered provisional. This work will be guided by:

- *Vision for the Permanent Diaconate of the Diocese of Kalamazoo*
- *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America, Second Edition* (<https://usccb.cld.bz/National-Directory>)

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Application and Inquiry

1 year
2025-2026

- ✝ Pray and discern
- ✝ Discuss with wife (if married), family, and pastor
- ✝ Attend an informational session
- ✝ Complete and submit the inquiry application
- ✝ Be interviewed on a home visit (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Prayerfully wait while Bishop discerns which applicants to accept

For those accepted into Inquiry –

- ✝ Read and demonstrate comprehension for an assigned book
- ✝ Attend 5 Saturday morning seminars (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Attend 14 Tuesday evening classes
- ✝ Meet with mentor, spiritual director, and pastor
- ✝ Be assessed, tested, and interviewed
- ✝ Estimated personal cost \$200

Aspirancy
2 years
2026-2028

- ✝ Pray and discern
- ✝ Complete and submit the aspirancy application
- ✝ Be assessed, tested, (including fingerprints, background check, social media check, medical records, psychological testing) and interviewed (with wife, if married)

Each year -

- ✝ Prayerfully wait while Bishop discerns which men will continue in formation
- ✝ Read and demonstrate comprehension for an assigned book
- ✝ Attend 8 Saturday morning seminars (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Attend 28 Tuesday evening classes
- ✝ Meet with mentor, spiritual director, and pastor
- ✝ Attend day of reflection / retreat (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Estimated personal cost \$400

Candidacy
3 years
2028-2031

- ✝ Pray and discern
- ✝ Complete and submit the candidacy application
- ✝ Be further assessed, tested, and interviewed (with wife, if married)

Each year -

- ✝ Prayerfully wait while Bishop discerns which men will continue in formation
- ✝ Read and demonstrate comprehension for an assigned book
- ✝ Attend 8 Saturday morning seminars (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Attend 28 Tuesday evening classes
- ✝ Meet with mentor, spiritual director, and pastor
- ✝ Attend day of reflection / retreat – including the five-day pre-ordination retreat (with wife, if married)
- ✝ Participate in pastoral field experiences / internships
- ✝ Prepare for and participate in Rite of Lector (2029), Rite of Acolyte (2030), and Rite of Ordination (2031)
- ✝ Estimated personal cost \$600

After Diaconal Ordination:
5 years of on-going formation

REMINDER:

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Wife's Involvement

She needs to be duly informed to give informed consent for her husband's ordination. Her ongoing consent will be sought each year.

Requirements for wife's involvement:

- must pray regularly for her husband and all those in formation
- must attend all seminars and classes during Inquiry year
- must attend all Saturday Seminars throughout formation
- must attend all days of reflection and retreats (including the mandatory five-day pre-ordination retreat)
- must participate in yearly interview
- invited to attend any special activities just for wives
- invited to participate in Tuesday classes during Aspirancy & Candidacy years