

BECOMING A DEACON: FORMATION

Once you are admitted to the diaconate program, your formation moves into high gear. The four-year program follows a trimester format and is presented at the college level.

FOUR PILLARS

Deacons are formed through intensive study as well as practical experiences and mentoring. Our program builds on the four pillars of formation:

- † **Human** – developing your personality so that it is a bridge and not an obstacle in helping others encounter Christ.
- † **Spiritual** – establishing and nurturing the practices that advance your personal relationship with Christ and your commitment to the Church and its mission in the world.
- † **Theological** – intensifying your knowledge of the faith, tradition and the doctrine of the church, through intensive, systematic study.
- † **Pastoral** – developing your capacity for ministry to others; witnessing the Gospel to all, especially the poor, needy and those on the fringes of society.



THREE PATHS

Formation progresses through aspirancy, candidacy and post-ordination.

Year 1: Aspirancy

This phase is your introduction to the study of theology and to the spirituality and pastoral ministries of the deacon. Aspirancy includes:

- More attentive discernment of your call
- Time to form a community with your fellow students, engaging in meeting and prayer
- Nurturing of regular spiritual participation
- Assisting your family in their support of your formation – including your wife’s participation in her own aspirant formation process

At the end of this year, you participate in a formal assessment for admission to candidacy.

Years 2-4: Candidacy

This period of intense formation guides the candidate through three steps. The completion of each step includes an assessment of your readiness to move on.

- Ministry of Lector; focused on the Word and proclaiming the readings during liturgy
- Ministry of Acolyte; providing service at the altar and liturgical celebrations
- Ministry of Deacon; preparing for ordination

Post-Ordination

Over the three years following your ordination, you (and your wife, if you’re married) have continuing formational opportunities.



LEARN MORE!

Find discernment session schedules and more information at archmil.org/ImaDeacon, under "Diaconate Formation."

To start your inquiry, call Deacon John Ebel, director, Office for Diaconate Formation, at 414-758-2212, or email ebelj@archmil.org.