

BECOMING A DEACON: FIRST STEPS

Here's an overview of the steps you'll go through to discern and pursue your calling.

INQUIRY

You, and your wife, if you're married, meet with the Office for Diaconate Formation, current deacons and deacon couples, your pastor and others to explore this vocation and begin assessing your readiness.

DISCERNMENT

Participate in a six-week class with other men and their wives (wives attend all sessions). Topics include:

- † Overview of the diaconate in the U.S.A. and Milwaukee
- † Role and ministry of the deacon
- † History, theology and doctrine on the diaconate
- † Life & ministry of the deacon – Word and Liturgy
- † Life & ministry of the deacon – Charity
- † Overview of the pillars of formation
- † Vocation of deacons & deacon wives
- † Being called, both of you? – discernment
- † Diocesan admission & screening process

During this phase, you also seek the endorsement of your pastor, indicating his support to apply to the formation program.



APPLICATION

If invited by the Office for Diaconate Formation, you apply for admission to the formation program. Here's a quick look at what's included:

- † Your history—personal, education, employment and sacramental
- † Proof of age (ordination may occur between ages 35 and 60)
- † If married, a consent statement from your wife, and a marital assessment
- † Consent for psychological and medical testing
- † A faith and theological knowledge inventory
- † Letters of recommendation from parish staff, personal references and your employer
- † Criminal and credit background checks
- † Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status
- † Evaluations from any previous formation experience

All materials remain confidential. The Office for Diaconate Formation leads this screening process and determines whether to recommend you to the Archbishop for entry into the formation program.



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.