



Criteria for Admissions – the Mystery of Vocation

From the experience of the restored diaconate in the United States:

- Behavioral patterns have been discerned among exemplary deacons:
 - A “natural inclination of service to the ...Christian community” and to all in need
 - Psychological integrity
 - A capacity for dialogue, which implies a sense of docility and openness
 - The ability to share one’s faith yet listen respectfully to other points of view
 - The capacity to listen carefully and without prejudices – respecting people in the context of their religion, race, gender, ethnicity, and culture
 - Good communication skills; public speaking ability; potential/aptitude for preaching, catechizing and evangelization
 - A sense of responsibility that includes the fulfilling of one’s word and completing one’s work
 - Self-directed and collaborative accountability
 - Balanced and prudent judgment
 - Generosity in service
 - The ability to lead, motivate, facilitate, and animate others into appropriate action and service.

- Spiritual and evangelical qualities of deacons include:
 - A sound faith
 - A good Christian reputation
 - Active involvement in the Church’s apostolate with demonstrated leadership in the area of social concerns and justice
 - Personal integrity
 - Maturity and holiness
 - Regular participation in the Church’s sacramental life
 - Evidence of recognized, ongoing love and commitment to the Church’s life and service (pastor, pastoral staff, parish council, family and friends)
 - Participation in faith enrichment opportunities (retreats, days of recollection, adult education programming)
 - Understanding and willingness to accept the demands of formation and subsequent lifelong learning and commitment to diaconal ministry
 - A positive and stable marriage, if married, or a mature celibate state of life if single (understanding and approval of applicant’s spouse if married)
 - Active membership in a Christian community
 - Capacity for obedience and fraternal communion
 - A deep spirituality and prayer life

- Particular law/requirements in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee include:
 - At least 32 years at start of formation, and no older than 60years of age at the time of ordination
 - Sufficient economic security and job stability
 - Good health, and ability to handle college-level work and function in an adult learning environment

The presence of these qualities, experienced in kindness and humility, may demonstrate a call to the Order of Deacons¹

¹ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *NATIONAL DIRECTORY for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: USCCB Publishing, 2005, No. 166-167.