

Office for Diaconate Formation
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center



The Servant

From Deacon John's Desk

Dear Friends of the Diaconate,

As I write this note, summer is just barely beginning to loosen its grip on the season. The many layers of color that lay beneath and contribute to the greens of summer are starting to peek through. It reminds me of the many layers of support that lay beneath and contribute to the face and operations of this Office which most of you never get to see or experience!

In this issue we highlight the dedicated men and women who comprise our *Committee on Admissions and Scrutiny*. It is this diverse group of men and women, lay and ordained, who help us to serve the Archbishop by making recommendations for selection and promotion of aspirants and deacon-candidates along the path to ordination as a permanent deacon.

In a similar manner, there are legions of faculty, workshop facilitators, field placement supervisors, pastors, deacons and parish directors, as well as mentors for both candidates and their wives' who, together with spiritual directors and faith companions, contribute to the comprehensive process of formation. And like the change of the colors, so too does the "color" of our support staff ebb and flow. It is a full time job keeping up with the changing lives and demands of those who support us and their availability, juxtaposed to needs of the men and women in formation, the structure imposed by the academic scope and sequence demanded by the *National Directory*... and most significantly, the working of the Holy Spirit who brings all of it to the Divine Potter's wheel where the real grace of transformation takes place!

Fall 2017 will mark the last year (2017–2018) of formation for the eight men in the Class of 2018 who anticipate ordination in September of 2018. The Aspirant Class of 2016-2017 is now the future Deacon Class of 2020. Nine of the aspirants were selected (see page 4) to move forward and celebrate the *Rite of Candidacy for Ordination to Holy Orders* on September 9, 2017 in the Mater Christi Chapel in the ACCC. Admissions for the future Deacon Class of 2022 will begin in January 2018.

So there are always lots of changes and people coming and going here behind the scenes in the ODF "...where love becomes service..." in order to prepare servants for the Church. Thank you to all of you who help to make our mission a success!

Yours in Christ the Servant

Deacon John Ebel
Director



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John Paul II recalled "Deacons, both married and celibate, to serve God's People by their witness to the gospel value of sacrificial love, a quality of life too easily dismissed in today's society." For those whom the Lord calls and whose lives' give such a witness, the ODF is the place to continue your journey.

(NDPD, 30)

C.O.A.S: Committee on Admission and Scrutiny / Comité de Admisión y Escrutinio

One of the important "bodies" in the formation of deacons is a group of people selected to evaluate, discern and make recommendations to the Archbishop in regard to our Aspirants and Candidates.

The National Directory for the Formation, Life and Ministry of the Permanent Deacon in the USA (The Directory) established that each diocese creates a committee that will be responsible to assess the readiness or suitability of each man discerning the vocation to the diaconate. This group is called C.O.A.S: Committee on Admission and Scrutiny.

Our C.O.A.S. includes permanent deacons, deacon wives, a canonist, a priest, the Director of Formation, the Rector of Saint Francis De Sales Seminary, educators/theologians and lay ministers. Each one of them share their wisdom and knowledge from their respective areas of expertise while also bringing real life experiences to advise the Archbishop in his process of assessment and selection of men for the different paths of formation.

The Directory states that "...the committee should nominate to the bishop only those applicants whom they have judged as possessing the necessary qualities for entrance and successful completion..." of the formation paths: aspirancy, candidacy, *Institution to Reader*, *Institution to Acolyte* and *Holy Orders*. "Upon reviewing the recommendation, vote, and rationale of the committee, the bishop is the one who decides whether to admit [and advance] the applicant..." (cfr. #180 of the Directory)

The C.O.A.S. meets periodically throughout the year to evaluate and discern the progress of the men selected by the Archbishop, confirming the readiness and suitability of each individual within their respective paths.

We extend our full, heartfelt gratitude to each member of this committee for their wisdom and support to the Formation Program. We are grateful for those who have retired from their responsibilities, for those who continue to be part of this mission, and for our new members. To all THANK YOU!



Uno de los "cuerpos" importantes en la formación de los diáconos es un grupo de personas seleccionadas para evaluar, discernir y hacer recomendaciones a nuestro Arzobispo con respecto a nuestros Aspirantes y Candidatos.

El Directorio Nacional para la Formación, Vida y Ministerio del Diácono Permanente en los Estados Unidos (El Directorio) estableció que cada diócesis crea un comité que será responsable de evaluar la disponibilidad o idoneidad de cada hombre discerniendo la vocación al diaconado. Este grupo se llama Comité de Admisión y Escrutinio (C.O.A.S por sus siglas en inglés).

El COAS incluye a Diáconos permanentes; Esposas de los Diáconos, Canonistas, Sacerdotes, Directores de Formación (incluyendo al Rector del Seminario de la Arquidiócesis de Milwaukee), Educadores, Teólogos, etc. Cada uno de ellos ofrece su sabiduría y conocimiento en sus respectivas áreas para ayudar al arzobispo en su selección de hombres para las diferentes etapas de esta formación. Esto le ofrecerá todo lo que es necesario saber sobre el individuo y su idoneidad para estar en formación y convertirse en un diácono.

El Directorio declaró que "... el comité debe presentar al obispo sólo aquellos aspirantes que ellos juzguen que posean las cualidades necesarias para entrar y completar satisfactoriamente..." las etapas de la formación. "Después de revisar la recomendación, el voto y el raciocinio del comité, el obispo es quien decide admitir al solicitante..." (cfr. # 180 del Directorio)

El COAS continúan reuniéndose cada año para evaluar y discernir sobre cada uno de los hombres seleccionados por el Arzobispo, evaluando la preparación de cada individuo. El comité hace recomendaciones en todas las etapas del camino de formación: Aspirantado, Candidatura, Institución al Acolitado, Institución al Lectorado y Ordenación.

Extendemos de todo corazón nuestro agradecimiento a todos los miembros de este comité por su sabiduría y apoyo a nuestro Programa de Formación. Estamos agradecidos por aquellos que se retiraron de sus responsabilidades; por aquellos que siguen siendo parte de esta misión y por aquellos recién llegados. A todos GRACIAS!

Gracias

Discernment Program

The process of discernment for the Diaconate begins long before any formal contact is made with the Office for Diaconate Formation. Those considering the Diaconate should first reflect on their qualifications, and decide whether they are suited to serve. Our office provides resources online or "in person" to help a man with his discernment. Those interested in knowing more about the vocation to the diaconate should:

- ◆ Visit our website to read about the diaconate and look at our resources or
- ◆ Contact our office to ask for the resources
- ◆ Make an appointment with our office to talk about the diaconate
- ◆ Participate in the "Inquiry for Discernment Program" that is offered in different regions in our Archdiocese with their spouse (if married).

Our office has a great "Discernment Team" of Deacons and their wives that offer their time, knowledge and wisdom to help men and their wives (if they are married) to discern the vocation to the diaconate.

To these men and women that offer their time to help those in the discernment process, we say THANK YOU.



El proceso de discernimiento para el Diaconado comienza mucho antes de cualquier contacto formal con el programa en la Oficina de Formación para el Diaconado. Aquellos que estén considerando el Diaconado deben primero reflexionar sobre sus cualificaciones y decidir si están aptos para servir. Nuestra oficina proporciona recursos en línea o "en persona" para ayudar al hombre en su discernimiento. El hombre interesado en conocer más sobre la vocación al diaconado necesita:

- Visitar nuestra página en línea para leer sobre el diaconado y ver nuestros recursos o
- ponerse en contacto con nuestra oficina para solicitar los recursos.
- Hacer una cita con nuestra oficina para hablar sobre el diaconado.
- Participar en el "Programa para el Discernimiento" con su esposa (si está casado), que se ofrece en diferentes regiones de nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Nuestra oficina tiene un gran "Equipo de Discernimiento" compuesto por Diáconos y sus esposas, que ofrecen su tiempo, conocimiento y sabiduría para ayudar a estos hombres y sus esposas (si están casados) a discernir la vocación al diaconado.

A estos hombres y mujeres que ofrecen su tiempo para ayudar a otros en el proceso de discernimiento, le decimos GRACIAS.

Meet Our Deacons

Deacon Mike Chmielewski

Currently serving at Holy Apostles Parish in New Berlin.

My wife and I have lived in New Berlin since 1983 and have been members of Holy Apostles since 1993.

From my childhood, Church has always been an important part of my life. I attended the seminary high school and college here in Milwaukee and after getting married in 1975 church remained a very important aspect of my life. I was always involved in various ministries and church volunteer activities. In 2004 my wife and my mother (separately) read a newspaper article about the Lay Ministry formation program at the seminary and they both encouraged me to consider participating in the program. After less than a year in the Lay program, I felt called to the Deacon Formation program. I went through the application process, was accepted, and ordained on 6/13/2009.

My diaconal call was really a continuation of my life's call to serve others. As I prayed and discerned God's call, I truly felt that God had blessed me with gifts that were meant to be shared through the diaconate. The call has been a wonderful blessing for me and my family. It has opened up new life paths and relationships that happened only because of my diaconal call.

My diaconal ministry has been wonderful. I am not sure I could identify the one most fulfilling ministry. Each opportunity to serve and grow as a disciple of Jesus has blessings. I very much enjoy doing the parish baptism ministry and engaging young families. My monthly service at the meal program is always a special chance to be touched by others. I am always humbled while serving at the altar and proclaiming the Good News. And as of December 2015, my role as the Director of Deacon Services has been a marvelous opportunity to grow as a disciple and to see God's hand in the lives of so many good people.

I thank God every day for His guiding presence and His call to help transform the world.



Are you considering serving the Church as an Ordained Deacon?

The Church calls men to be deacons "in-service" to the People of God. If you are a man (married or single), that feels this call and wants to know more, please contact the Office for Diaconate Formation at 414-758-2202 or ebelj@archmil.org.

Now is the time to prepare; Inquiry for Discernment sessions are forming for men who would like to enter the application process to begin in January of 2018!

www.archmil.org/ImaDeacon

(Please see the current sessions in the back)

Inquiry for Discernment Program Fall 2017 (In English)

Those considering the Diaconate should first reflect on their qualities and qualifications, and decide whether they are suited to serve. For those men interested, we are offering a series of sessions to help them discern the call to the Permanent Diaconate. These sessions are offered by region. Here is the schedule: (we will be posting more dates and regions as they become available).

Region: Central – Milwaukee FALL 2017

Dates: September 9, 23; October 7, 21 and November 4, 18 of 2017

Place: Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center

3501 South Lake Drive

Saint Francis, WI 53235

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Facilitators: Manuel Maldonado

Contact and Registration: maldonadom@archmil.org or 414-758-2207

Region: West FALL 2017

Dates: September 21, 28 and October 5, 12, 19, 26 of 2017

Place: 276 Ridgeway Path

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Facilitators: Dcn. John and Rita Mezydlo

Contact and Registration: jmezydlo@lakelandautogroup.com

or 602-885-1642

Region: South-East FALL 2017

Dates: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and November 7 of 2017

Place: Saint Sebastian Church

3100 95th St.

Sturtevant, WI 53177-2618

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Facilitators: Dcn. Eric Sewell

Contact and Registration: deaconerics@gmail.com or 262-886-6057

NOTE: This program requires the participation of the spouse (if the man is married).



Above: Bishop Jeffrey Haines and Dcn. John Ebel with our new Candidates of 2020

Below: with our Candidates' wives



Our web address is:
<http://www.archmil.org/offices/Diaconate.htm>

