



Archdiocese of San Francisco
Deacon Formation Program
Required Prerequisites to Application

In order to be considered for the Diaconate Formation Program, you must be able to truthfully answer “yes” to each of these statements. As an exercise of discernment, give each requirement prayerful and honest consideration. If there are any questions you cannot truthfully answer “yes” to, this would be seen as a possible impediment to your participation in the formation program.

1. I am at least 30 years old and no more than 60 years old at the time of application.
2. I have received all of the sacraments of initiation and I am not a neophyte (an adult who, in the last 5 years, received the sacraments of initiation).
3. I am a resident of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties) at the time of application and intend to remain in the diocese for my active ministry.
4. I am capable of financially supporting myself and my family and will provide a positive credit check.
5. I will be able to obtain a favorable recommendation from my pastor, fellow parishioners, employer and others.
6. I am a citizen of the United States or I have full legal residency status at the time of application.
7. I am willing to undergo a full background check including psychological and criminal background investigations.
8. If admitted to the program I am willing to make the necessary sacrifices in my own personal life and freedom as part of the formation process.
9. If married, my marriage is a valid Catholic marriage, stable for at least the past 5 years, my wife (if Catholic, is a practicing Catholic) will freely give her consent and is willing to participate in the program.
10. If married, I am willing to include, listen to and consult with my wife and family as part of the formation process and after ordination.
11. I am aware of and consent to Church teaching which states that a married deacon cannot remarry upon the death of his wife and an unmarried deacon must remain in the perpetual celibate state. If recently widowed, 3 years should elapse before applying.
12. I have at least an undergraduate degree or some college.
13. If English is not my first language, I possess basic English language proficiency both in reading and writing.
14. I have not repudiated the Catholic faith after having been baptized (apostasy).
15. After being baptized, I have not obstinately denied or doubted some truth, which is to be believed as being divine and catholic faith (heresy).
16. I have not refused submission to the Roman Pontiff or communion with the members of the Church subject to him (schism).
17. I have no outstanding canonical penalty applied to me that remains unsatisfied.

18. I have not performed an act of orders reserved to those who are in the order of the episcopacy or presbyterate while I either lacked that order or had been prohibited from its exercise by some declared or inflicted canonical penalty.
19. If single, I have not attempted marriage to a woman who was already in a marriage or who herself was restricted by a perpetual vow of chastity.
20. If single, I am not cohabitating with anyone outside the bond of sacramental marriage.
21. I am not engaged in any private or secret behavior that could possibly bring about public scandal (i.e. Masonic Order, Shriners or any other organization whose teachings are counter to Church teaching).
22. I have not committed intentional homicide or cooperated positively in an abortion.
23. I have not gravely or maliciously mutilated myself, another or attempted to take my own life.
24. I am free from any unaddressed addictions (including alcoholism, illegal drug use or pornography) or compulsive behaviors.
25. I am free from any unaddressed serious mental or physical conditions that may inhibit my ability to finish formation or function after ordination.
26. I am able to be self-reflective, have an awareness of my gifts and limitations, and am able to balance work, family, leisure and ministry.
27. I have an understanding and appreciation of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
28. I am able to demonstrate the connection of the teachings of the Church to daily living and pastoral care.
29. I have an appreciation of my individual call to diaconal ministry with the Church combined with the ability to be open to the Holy Spirit throughout the process.
30. I believe I possess the following human qualities:
 - psychological maturity
 - capacity for dialogue and communication
 - sense of responsibility
 - industriousness
 - equilibrium
 - prudence
31. I believe I possess the following evangelical virtues:
 - a prayer and spiritual life
 - a strong sense of the Church
 - a love for the Church and her mission
 - an apostolic or missionary zeal
 - capacity for obedience and fraternal communion
 - radical call to service, especially to the poor and unchurched
 - charity towards my brothers and sisters
32. I am currently involved in some form of parish ministry outside of the celebration of the Eucharist.

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