

# PRE-APPLICATION & INQUIRY

**Welcome and thank you** for inquiring about qualifications and initial pre-application to the Deacon Formation Program (DFP) of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

This is an exciting time as you listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit regarding a potential vocation. This is also the first-step in pursuing knowledge about the role of the deacon; the program of formation leading to potential ordination (reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders); and exploring initial eligibility.

As is noted in the section titled “Application” on the DFP web site – all applications are requested and submitted by your pastor. This pre-application is a way for you to further inquire about the potential of joining the formation program and a means for those responsible for the application process to review several important and necessary considerations regarding a person’s eligibility to pursue acceptance into the program.

*This initial process is confidential* and enables the Archdiocese of Chicago to verify the necessary freedom, or lack of freedom, a pre-applicant possesses to pursue formal discernment and candidacy for the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Please do not ‘read into’ the questions any negative connotation. By answering ‘no’ (or ‘yes’) to any of the questions provided does not imply potential acceptability nor ineligibility. Rather, one or more of your answers may alert us to the need to address and clarify any potential problems. All of the information requested herein will be requested formally during the application and formation process. We earnestly strive to address impediments to conditional acceptance into formation before the formal application process.

This pre-application will offer assistance to both the applicant and the DFP in assessing the potential for entry into formal discernment and study. **Please provide initial contact information and answer each of the questions.** The Director of Formation will contact you.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

## *Regarding your place of residence and parish membership...*

YES NO Are you a member of a parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago?  
YES NO Do you reside in either Cook or Lake Counties in Illinois?

## *Regarding your age, education level, employment and health...*

YES NO Are you between the ages of 31 and 62?  
YES NO Do you possess (minimally) a high school diploma or GED?  
YES NO Are you self-supporting and have full-time employment?

- YES NO Are you in good health to withstand the rigors of formal study and ministry?  
 YES NO Are you in treatment for any form of addiction?  
 YES NO Have you ever suffered from any kind of mental disorder or from any other psychological infirmity?

### *Regarding your relationship to your parish...*

- YES NO Do you believe you will receive your pastor's full recommendation *and* the support of the parish staff?  
 YES NO Are you a weekly participant at Sunday Eucharist?  
 YES NO Do you have a *verifiable* record of service to your parish community, e.g., lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, soup kitchen volunteer, etc.?  
 YES NO Did someone suggest that you explore the possibility of becoming a deacon?  
 YES NO Is your inquiry solely based on the suggestion of someone else?

### *Regarding your Sacramental life...*

- YES NO Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church?  
 YES NO Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church?  
 YES NO If you were not baptized or confirmed in the Catholic Church did you attend the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and make a profession of faith in the Catholic Church?  
 YES NO Are you married?  
 YES NO If married, is your wife aware of your consideration of a vocation?  
 YES NO If married, is your wife a practicing Catholic in good standing?  
 YES NO Will your wife freely offer her full consent to your potential for entering formal discernment and study?  
 YES NO Is your wife in good health to attend and participate in necessary key events?  
 YES NO Have you been married more than once (even in a civil ceremony)?  
 YES NO Have you ever been divorced?  
 YES NO Is it less than three years since your divorce?  
 YES NO Was your current marriage celebrated in a Catholic Church?  
 YES NO Regarding your current marriage, have you been in a valid, Sacramental marriage (Catholic Matrimony) for more than three years?  
 YES NO Are you a widower?  
 YES NO Have you ever belonged to a Religious community, e.g., Franciscans, Benedictines, etc.?  
 YES NO Have you ever before applied to a deacon formation program in this or any other diocese?

### *Regarding Catholic Christian moral living...*

- YES NO Have you participated in, or assisted in, *any form* of fertilization process, e.g., *in vitro*, *in vivo*, *gamete intra-fallopian* etc., at any point in your life?  
 YES NO Have you participated in, or assisted in, with anyone at any time in the procurement of an abortion? (For example, driving someone to, or offering payment for, an abortion is considered 'assisting'.)

- YES NO Have you participated in, or assisted in, the procurement of a vasectomy, tubal ligation, or any other means of sterilization?
- YES NO Have you gravely and maliciously mutilated yourself or someone else? (For example, extreme body piercing or full-body tattooing could be interpreted/considered as 'maliciously mutilating' in some dioceses).
- YES NO Have you ever considered suicide?
- YES NO Have you ever attempted suicide?
- YES NO Has anyone ever accused you of sexual impropriety?
- YES NO Have you committed murder or manslaughter?
- YES NO Have you ever been arrested, indicted or convicted of a felony?
- YES NO Have you ever carried out an action which is reserved to those in the order of episcopate (bishop) or priesthood?

### *Regarding your prayer life and spiritual background...*

- YES NO Do you participate in the Sacrament of Penance more than once a year?
- YES NO Do you pray privately more than twice a week?
- YES NO Do you pray every day?
- YES NO Have you ever participated on a regular basis in a prayer group?
- YES NO Have you ever participated in a prayer group that was not Catholic?
- YES NO Do you believe you have a firm understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality?
- YES NO Do you believe you may be deficient in your understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality?
- YES NO Do you believe that Christ is present (in His totality) in the Holy Eucharist?
- YES NO Do you believe that the presence of Christ in the Catholic sacraments is a debatable point?
- YES NO Do you know what the Liturgy of the Hours is?
- YES NO Has anyone ever asked you to pray spontaneously (and out loud) for them?
- YES NO Does the thought of public speaking frighten you?
- YES NO Does the thought of public speaking instill confidence in you?

### *Regarding commitment to Church teaching...*

- YES NO Have you ever, in any form, rejected the Christian faith or any essential element of the Catholic faith? (For example - after being baptized a Christian - practicing Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, etc., would be considered 'rejecting' the Christian faith and attending a Protestant church rather than a Catholic church, or not believing in the Sacrament of Eucharist [Jesus' true' and 'real' presence] or denying any of the seven sacraments would be examples of 'rejection' of an essential element of the Catholic Christian faith).
- YES NO Have you ever associated with or participated in any group that does not accept fully the leadership of the Holy Father and the teachings of the Church (*e.g., the Society of St. Pius X is considered to be in schism with the Church*)?
- YES NO Do you fully understand that a commitment to the Church as ordained clergy entails total obedience and adherence to all Church teaching, both in the life you lead and in being an evangelizer and teacher of the faith in the world?
- YES NO Do you understand that the Sacrament of Holy Orders imprints a permanent character (like Baptism and Confirmation) and requires a person to exercise certain obligations within the clerical state for one's entire life?
- YES NO Will you accept the authority and direction of the local Archbishop regarding parish assignments and duties related to the role and function of a permanent deacon?

**Thank you** for your honesty and integrity in answering these important questions in the pre-application phase. The Director of Formation will be in contact with you.  
May God bless you and your family!

Return your form electronically to [jcozzo@usml.edu](mailto:jcozzo@usml.edu) or:

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