

INQUIRY APPLICATION

Welcome and thank you for inquiring about qualifications and initial pre-application to Deacon Formation of the Diocese of Buffalo, NY.

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.

This pre-application is a way for you to further inquire about the potential of joining formation 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 formation.

Please note: all applicants must be sponsored by their pastor.

This initial application enables the Diocese of Buffalo 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 complete ineligibility.** Rather, your answers will allow us to gauge where you are at this moment and give us a little background about you and your standing. 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.

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!

Please return this form to:

Deacon Timothy Chriswell
Director of Deacons
Catholic Center
795 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

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

NAME _____ MARRIED _____ SINGLE _____

WIFE'S NAME (if applicable) _____

LEGAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (cell) _____ (work) _____ (wife's) _____

EMAIL _____

WIFE'S EMAIL _____

SPONSORING PARISH _____

PARISH CITY/TOWN _____

PASTOR'S NAME _____

BIRTHDATE _____ WIFE'S BIRTHDATE _____

DATE OF MARRIAGE _____

DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH _____ YES _____ SOME _____ NONE

OTHER LANGUAGES _____

PLACE OF BAPTISM _____

APPROXIMATE DATE OF BAPTISM _____

NAME OF CHILDREN - IF ANY	AGE	LIVING AT HOME	
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO
_____	_____	____ YES	____ NO

Regarding your initial discernment process...

- YES NO 1. Have you discussed this with your wife?
YES NO 2. Have you discussed this with your pastor?

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

- YES NO 3. Are you between the ages of **30 and 55?** – Must be between these ages to begin process
YES NO 4. Do you possess a bachelor's degree?
YES NO 5. Are you self-supporting and have full-time employment?
YES NO 6. Have you been in your current employment for more than five years?
YES NO 7. Are you in good health to withstand the rigors of formal study and ministry?
YES NO 8. Have you been in treatment for any form of addiction?
YES NO 9. Have you ever suffered from any kind of mental disorder or from any other psychological infirmity?
YES NO 10. Are you vaccinated against the COVID19 virus?

Regarding your relationship to your parish...

- YES NO 11. Do you believe you will receive your pastor's full recommendation *and* the support of the parish staff?
YES NO 12. Are you a weekly participant at Sunday Eucharist?
YES NO 13. Do you have a *verifiable* record of service to your parish community other than liturgical ministry?
YES NO 14. Did someone suggest that you explore the possibility of becoming a deacon?
YES NO 15. Is your inquiry solely based on the suggestion of someone else?

Regarding your Sacramental life...

- YES NO 16. Have you received the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church?
YES NO 17. Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church?
YES NO 18. 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 19. Is it more than five years since your Baptism or Profession of Faith in the RCIA?
YES NO 20. Are you married? (If you answer no, skip to question 27)
YES NO 21. If married, is your wife aware of your consideration of a vocation?
YES NO 22. If married, is your wife a practicing Catholic in good standing?
YES NO 23. Will your wife freely offer her full consent to your potential for entering formal discernment and study?
YES NO 24. Is your wife in good health to attend and participate in necessary events?
YES NO 25. Was your current marriage celebrated in a Catholic Church?
YES NO 26. Regarding your current marriage, have you been in a valid, Sacramental marriage (Catholic Matrimony) for more than five years? # of years _____
YES NO 27. Have you been married more than once (even in a civil ceremony)?
YES NO 28. Have you ever been divorced?

- YES NO 29. If you answered yes to the last question, has it been five years since your divorce?
- YES NO 30. If previously divorced, was there an annulment for the first marriage?
- YES NO 31. Are you a widower?
- YES NO 32. Have you ever belonged to a Religious community, e.g., Franciscans, Benedictines, etc.?
- YES NO 33. Have you ever before applied to deacon formation in this or any other diocese?

Regarding Catholic Christian moral living...

- YES NO 34. 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 35. Have you participated in, or assisted in, with anyone at any time in the procurement of an abortion?
- YES NO 36. Have you participated in, or assisted in, the procurement of a vasectomy, tubal ligation, or any other means of sterilization?
- YES NO 37. Have you committed murder or manslaughter?
- YES NO 38. Have you ever been arrested, indicted or convicted of a felony?
- YES NO 39. Are you (or your spouse) now involved in, or expect to be involved in, any legal or court action?
- YES NO 40. Have you ever carried out an action which is reserved to those in ordained ministry i.e., deacon, priest or bishop?
- YES NO 41. Do you (or have you ever) work(ed) for or supported any organization that promotes contraception, artificial insemination, sterilization, or abortions rights, e.g., United Way, Planned Parenthood, etc?

Regarding your prayer life and spiritual background...

- YES NO 42. Do you participate in the Sacrament of Penance more than once a year?
- YES NO 43. Do you pray privately more than twice a week?
- YES NO 44. Do you pray every day?
- YES NO 45. Have you ever participated on a regular basis in a prayer group?
- YES NO 46. Have you ever participated in a prayer group that was not Catholic?
- YES NO 47. Do you believe you have a firm understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality?
- YES NO 48. Do you believe you may be deficient in your understanding of Catholic Christian spirituality?
- YES NO 49. Do you believe that Christ is present (in His totality) in the Holy Eucharist?
- YES NO 50. Do you believe that the presence of Christ in the Catholic sacraments is a debatable point?
- YES NO 51. Do you know what the Liturgy of the Hours is?
- YES NO 52. Has anyone ever asked you to pray spontaneously (and out loud) for them?

Regarding commitment to Church teaching...

- YES NO 53. 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, 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 54. 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?
- YES NO 55. Do you fully understand that a commitment to the Church as ordained clergy entails *total obedience* and adherence to Church teaching, both in the life you lead and in being an evangelizer and teacher of the faith in the world?
- YES NO 56. 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 57. Do you understand that should your wife precede you in death, you may **not** remarry?
- YES NO 58. Will you accept the authority and direction of the local Bishop regarding parish assignments and duties related to the role and function of a permanent deacon?

Regarding potential entry into academics and formation...

- YES NO 59. The last time I was taught about Catholicism was in elementary school.
- YES NO 60. I studied Catholic Christianity in college.
- YES NO 61. I believe a review of Catholicism would be helpful to me.
- YES NO 62. I believe I have a good understanding of the nature and role of deacons and priests.
- YES NO 63. I believe there is no real difference between an ordained person and a lay person.
- YES NO 64. I believe a review of Christianity in general would be helpful to me.
- YES NO 65. I would like assistance with my reading skills.
- YES NO 66. I would like assistance with my writing and composition skills.
- YES NO 67. Does the thought of public speaking frighten you?
- YES NO 68. Does the thought of public speaking instill confidence in you?
- YES NO 69. Formation involves 6 stages. Inquiry, Aspirancy I & II, & Candidacy I, II, III - Aspirancy through Candidacy requires you to be available for 7 full weekends from Friday - Sunday mid-morning and 1 Saturday day of ministry. Are you available to participate on all of these weekends? (Dates are determined 4 years ahead)
- YES NO 70. Your wife is also asked to participate at least on the Saturday's of your weekends. Is she available / willing to participate on these days?

Please list any major life changes in the past five years: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Wife's Signature: (if applicable) _____ Date: _____