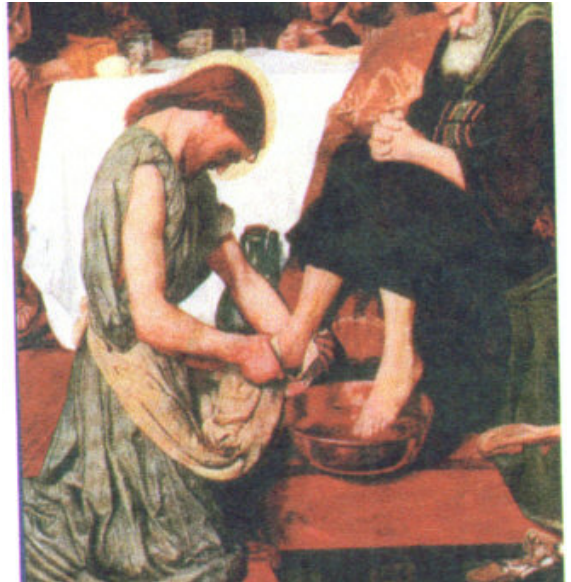


*The  
PERMANENT  
DIACONATE*



**Mission Statement  
Office of the Diaconate  
Diocese of Phoenix**

Our goal is that every man, woman and child, in every human community, at every moment of brokenness and during every quest for deeper meaning, will experience the healing love of Jesus the Deacon. As a diaconal community dedicated to the mission of the Church of Phoenix, we hear the call to come together to be nourished in the Eucharist, proclaim the Good news of Jesus Christ, and serve the needs of all God's people.

We believe that authentic conversion is manifested in compassionate giving of self, and that Jesus lives intimately in the poorest of the poor of our brothers and sisters.

**Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted**

Bishop  
Diocese of Phoenix

**Deacon James Trant**

Director of the Permanent Diaconate  
Diocese of Phoenix

**Deacon Keith Davis**

Associate Director for Diaconal Formation  
602-354-2012  
602 354-2437 (fax)  
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Web Site: [www.diocesephoenix.org/diaconate](http://www.diocesephoenix.org/diaconate)

December 11, 2008



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Diocese of Phoenix  
400 East Monroe  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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**Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Phoenix  
Office of the  
Diaconate**

Tel: 602-354-2012

## What is a Permanent Deacon?

Diaconal ministry works hand in hand with both priestly and lay ministry to bring about the kingdom of God. Deacons are radical examples of service to the church. This is not meant as menial service, however. It is a ministry of reconciliation, of outreach to the most marginalized and those most in need of care, education and justice.

The Diaconate was not created because we have a shortage of priests or lay ministers. It was designed to add its own unique sacramental character to the diaconal nature of Church.

The Permanent Diaconate was not re-established in order to help with the shortage of priests, but to relieve the shortage of deacons.

### General Criteria for Deacon Applicants

- ◆ Is committed to and lives out Gospel values of justice, charity and service.
- ◆ Has shown leadership qualities in parish/diocesan ministry for the past five years.
- ◆ Has a prayerful disposition.
- ◆ If married, is in a stable and happy marriage (2 years minimum) and whose wife and children support him in pursuing the diaconate.
- ◆ If not married, is willing to commit to celibacy.

### General Criteria Continued

- ◆ Situations of divorce/annulment will require special approval, in general, no more than one divorce/annulment and no children from the first marriage.
- ◆ If a convert to the faith, baptism or profession made over 5 years prior to application.
- ◆ Is living within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Phoenix as a permanent resident of the United States.
- ◆ Is capable of college level work in theological studies and is open to spiritual and ministerial formation. (Has at least a high school diploma (no GED)).
- ◆ Can successfully pass a thorough criminal and financial background check.
- ◆ Is no younger than 30 and no older than 55 years to enter the process.
- ◆ Is capable of giving serious attention and time to theological study, spiritual formation and ministry.
- ◆ Has a stable work history (2 years).
- ◆ Has a positive attitude towards the Church and is flexible in adapting to the future needs of the Church.
- ◆ Is formally presented for the diaconate by his pastor who will see that he is mentored during the 5 years of formation.
- ◆ Must be physically and psychologically healthy.
- ◆ Should demonstrate grateful fidelity to all the Church teaches.

## What should I do if I think God is Calling me?

Spend time in prayer and reflection about your call. Talk to your wife and family concerning your call to the diaconate...then talk to your pastor. If your family and pastor agree, ask your pastor to write a letter to the Office of the Diaconate nominating you as a possible candidate for formation.

## Send Me More Information....

Complete this card, detach it, place a first class stamp on it and place in the mail.

Please send me more information about what it means to be an ordained deacon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone/work \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Who encouraged you to explore a vocation to the diaconate? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly Describe your Ministry Involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_