

How to become a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Raleigh

The Formation program entails six years; the first year is the discerning year, for the applicant and for the Church, followed by five years of academic, spiritual, and pastoral formation.

While the program provides competence within a specialized Church ministry, the curriculum and methodology are not intended to be a condensed theological course for the priesthood.

Applicants are already prepared in other fields with valuable, practical, and often professional skills. The formation program will enrich their capabilities in applying these skills to the diaconate. Field education is designed to integrate theory and practice. Supervised field-ministry assignments offer numerous opportunities for learning about service in the diocese and the variety of ministries available.

The program is based on the assumption that the candidates are mature adults and will accept responsibility for their own learning. They are required to participate in class and group discussions and share their faith and ministry experiences openly. They must be able to communicate their knowledge and experiences to others both orally and in writing.

Requirements for Applicants

- Be a Roman Catholic of sound moral character, mature in his faith, with a developed prayer life and a sense of vocation to service.
- Be a Catholic at least 5 years if you were brought into the faith through the RCIA process.
- Be in a stable marriage for at least 5 years.
- Have at least a high school education (college degree is preferred) and have the ability to learn in a structured academic environment.
- Be a resident of the Diocese of Raleigh for at least 5 years.
- Complete the Safe Environment training and background check.
- Be at least 35 years of age entering the program and not older than 60.
- Be in overall good physical and mental health.
- Has proven stability in his secular employment and family life.
- Have a secure and clear identity and a healthy self-image.
- Already be working in a service ministry in his parish, preferably in some leadership capacity. This is in addition to any liturgical ministry in which he may be involved.
- Be recognized as a leader, a person of prayer, compassion and service by his pastor and have his support.
- If married, he has the enthusiastic support of his wife and family to pursue ordination to the diaconate.
- Families with children under 12 years of age should consider the impact that the formation program may have on child care.

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH
PERMANENT DIACONATE OFFICE
7200 STONEHENGE DR. RALEIGH, NC 27613

Deacon.felix.saez@raldioc.org

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET//THIS IS NOT THE APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Wife's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____

Office: _____

Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Citizenship: _____

Immigration status if not a US citizen: _____

Parish/City: _____

Pastor: _____

of Years You have been in this Parish: _____

Service in Parish (with dates of service): _____

Brief Description of Spiritual Life: _____

_____ 7/18/2025.