WHO CAN BECOME A PERMANENT DEACON?

- Catholic men who have been baptized and practicing the faith for at least five years
- Residents of the Archdiocese of Regina between the ages of 35 and 65 by Ordination
- Of good moral character and reputation
- In a valid, stable marriage, or living celibately if unmarried or widowed
- Economically stable and self-sufficient
- Actively involved in their parish or in an ecclesial movement
- Living a deep and sacramental spiritual life

DISCERNING THE VOCATION OF PERMANENT DEACON?

SIGNS YOU ARE BEING CALLED

- A persistent pull toward deeper service.
- A strong prayer life and a love for scripture.
- A desire to serve both Church and community, especially the poor, sick and marginalized.
- Affirmation from others who recognize your servant heart.

The archdiocese is discerning the possibility of journeying with a new group of men on the path to the permanent diaconate in 2028. This fall, they want to hear from you. If you are interested or want more information on the diaconate, please contact Deacon Lamont Dyck.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Deacon Lamont Dyck
deacon.lamontdyck@gmail.com

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

ARCHDIOCESE OF Regina

WHAT IS A DEACON?

A deacon is an ordained minister who has received the sacrament of Holy Orders. Already in the New Testament, we see a threefold pattern of ordained ministry: bishop, priest, and deacon. As such, deacons are part of the constitution of the Church. Unfortunately, the diaconate became, for much of the history of the Church in the west, merely a step on the way to priesthood. Today this is known as the transitional, as opposed to the permanent, diaconate. This situation is misleading because it gives the impression that the diaconate is a kind of second-rate priesthood or a consolation prize for those who cannot, for whatever reason, be ordained priests. Rather, the diaconate is a vocation in its own right, and the call to the diaconate must be discerned as seriously as that to priesthood or married life.

Like the priesthood and marriage, the diaconate is a sacramental symbol. The ordained priesthood makes Christ the Priest present to his people,The diaconate, on the other hand, makes Christ the Servant present to his Church. Diakonia, the Greek word from which we derive the words "deacon" and "diaconate," means "service." Indeed, Blessed Pope John Paul II called the diaconate, "the Church's service, sacramentalized."

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SERVICE OF A DEACON

The deacon has a specific role in the liturgy of the Eucharist, carrying the gospel forward, proclaiming the gospel, occasionally preaching, and dismissing the congregation, among other things. A deacon also presides at weddings, baptisms, funerals and other services.

- The deacon also reaches out to the marginalized in our communities. They embody the call of the whole Church to service by their work with the sick, the imprisoned, the grieving, the doubtful, the abandoned, the lonely, and many others. The forms of their ministries in this area are as varied as the gifts of the deacons and the needs of the community.
- By serving in the liturgy and in the community, deacons manifest for the whole people of God the fact that authentic worship leads to service, and genuine service leads us back to give thanks to God.
- The vocation to the diaconate is usually combined with the vocation to married life and a secular occupation. In this, deacons bring the presence of the Christ to the worlds of family and work.

By your ordination, you are configured to Christ in his servant role. You are also meant to be living signs of the servanthood of his Church.
-Pope John Paul II

FORMATION OF A DEACON

- The program will be four years long and will take place one weekend per month for 10 months/year, i.e., 40 weekends.
- The formation weekends will begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday afternoon.
- Diaconal formation addresses the human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral development of the candidates.
- Together, candidates will study Scripture, theology, ethics, Church history and related topics, all with an eye to pastoral application and attention to their own spiritual life and growth.
- The wives of married candidates are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

If you think you may be called:

Pray: Ask God to show you his will for you. Talk to a priest, deacon, or a spiritual director.

Talk: Talk to your family, especially your wife if you are married.

Gather information: Deacon Lamont Dyck is available to assist you with this step.

Get a Spiritual Director: After the stage of gathering information and checking with those you love and trust. Discernment of such a vocation should be done with the help of a spiritual director.

ARCHDIOCESE OF Regina

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