



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**PITTSBURGH**

# Basic Admission Requirements



To be considered for admission to the Deacon Formation Program, an inquirer must be a practicing Roman Catholic in full communion and good standing with the Church and free of all canonical irregularities and impediments as outlined in canons 1041-1042 of the Code of Canon Law. Other requirements are as follows:

## **Age**

An inquirer must be at least 30 and no more than 59 years old at the time of application.

## **Education**

An inquirer is to hold at least an undergraduate degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited academic institution.

## **Citizenship/Residency**

An inquirer must provide evidence of U.S. citizenship as well as legal residency within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

## **Convert/Revert**

An inquirer who is a convert to the Church must be a practicing Catholic for at least three years. The case of a baptized Catholic who has returned to full practice of the faith after leaving the Church for a period of prolonged inactivity will be evaluated on an individual basis; at least three years must elapse before consideration will be given to his nomination.

## **Single**

An unmarried inquirer must show evidence of a stable, mature lifestyle in accord with the moral teachings of the Church.

## **Married**

A married inquirer must show evidence of a stable, well-established marriage for at least three years before application. As part of this assessment, a scheduled visit will be made to the inquirer's family home. In addition, his wife must provide signed consent for his participation in the formation program.

## **Celibacy/Chastity**

A single inquirer must be willing to embrace a life of perpetual celibacy. A married inquirer must be willing to accept celibacy in the event that he eventually is ordained and his wife predeceases him. Both single and married inquirers must understand the virtue of chastity and embrace it based on their individual state in life.

## **Widower:**

An inquirer whose wife has died should wait at least two years before applying to the program. If he has any interest in dating and possibly remarrying, he should delay serious consideration of the diaconate.

## **Divorcee:**

An inquirer whose marriage has ended in divorce must obtain a declaration of nullity from a diocesan Tribunal before applying to the program. His application will be screened carefully to ascertain if and how the particular circumstances that led to the break-up of the marriage might affect his viability as a candidate. An extended period of time, evaluated on an individual basis, should elapse before his nomination is considered.