

## WHAT IS A DEACON?

An ordained minister of the Church, called by God to share in Christ's identity and mission as servant.

## FORMATION PROCESS

is a discernment process to uncover God's call to the deacon candidate. With the support of his wife and family, his parish, diocese, and a spiritual director, the candidate will discover if he is called to the Diaconate.

- online and classroom courses, study sessions and group discussions
- weekend gatherings to facilitate diaconate community-building and to share the journey experience
- theological formation: scripture, spirituality, liturgy, morality, church, history, diaconate
- human development: self knowledge, aids to growth
- pastoral ministry: preaching, team approach, rituals for sacraments; qualities for ministry, Canon Law
- spiritual formation: relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mary, prayer, growth in the Christian life

## SERVICE OF MINISTRY

Based on Acts 6:2, deacons were to "wait on tables," take care of the sick, assist the marginalized, be an expression of the Community's desire to minister to those in any need and to live out and help others to be aware of the social justice teachings of the Church.

- hospital and nursing home visitation
- home visits -palliative care
- street ministry - the homeless
- Youth
- bereaved
- catechetics and sacramental preparations
- St. Vincent DePaul - clothing drives
- Meals -School breakfast programs
- Correctional centers
- Restorative justice and advocacy
- diocesan committees
- assisting laity to be more involved



*Deacon Berkley ministering to those in need*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

In view of the deacons' service ministry he is now enabled to assist the community in its faith life by proclaiming the Word and preaching. He is called to lead in Liturgies of the Word, ecumenical activities, Sacramental Preparation for Initiation, marriage, funerals, assist laity to take their rightful role.



*Deacon Wally ministering through the Word*

"Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you are now. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Ordination Rite

## SERVICE OF THE ALTAR



*Deacon Fernand ministers at the Altar*

The Church is made concrete when the laity, religious, deacons, and priests gather around their bishop to celebrate Eucharist. Thus, the deacon has a role:

- to assist the Celebrant
- to proclaim the Gospel
- to preach
- to pray the General Intercessions
- to prepare the gifts
- to model gestures to the community
- to be the “minister of the Cup”
- to dismiss the congregation

The deacon is called upon to bless, to solemnly baptize, marry and bury the faithful, as well as, to lead in Liturgy of the Word in the Absence of a Priest.

## CRITERIA

- Practicing Roman Catholic
- Healthy, male, 35-65 of age
- Married or single
- Experience in pastoral ministry
- A good reputation
- Wife willing to participate
- Ability to follow university level courses
- Able to work collaboratively
- A good prayer life
- Openness to growth



*Deacon Tom ministers to a parishioner*

**Contact Director of Deacons  
Diocesan Pastoral Centre  
PO Box 100, Sydney, NS B1P 6G9  
200 Churchill Drive, Suite 103  
902-539-6188 ext. 235  
Email: [Bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:Bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca)**

## PERMANENT DIACONATE

### DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH



*“Those, who from ancient times, have been called bishops, priests and deacons exercise the divinely instituted ecclesiastical ministry in*

*different degrees: of Christ presby- Christ the dea- Christ the*



*Bishop, sign of the Shepherd; ter, sign of Priest, and con, sign of Servant. The*

*diaconate is a distinct permanent Order. It is a ministry which enhances the vitality of the church and which sacramentalizes the primacy of service and charity in the Church.”*

*#1, Manual for Deacons,*