

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A DEACON?

Jesus said, "Come and see." (Jn 1:39) The Office of the Permanent Diaconate is recruiting married or single men interested in becoming a Permanent Deacon.

The call to the permanent diaconate is a call to a vocation. It is a vocation of service to God's Church. Modeled after Acts 6:6: "They presented these men (seven) to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them," the Church calls, forms, and sends men to serve as Jesus served. Ordination empowers a permanent deacon to carry out this service through the tri-fold ministries of Liturgy, Word, and Charity.

Answering God's call to become a permanent deacon requires prayer, commitment, and dedication. For a man who is married, such a commitment must be made in conjunction with his wife and family. A man considering the permanent diaconate must be a faithful, practicing Catholic, have a committed prayer life, and be acting out his baptismal call to service.

The formation process for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Dubuque is a five year journey. The first year includes time for the application process as well as class sessions related to personal inquiry and vocational discernment. A year of aspirancy is then followed by three more years of candidacy, which focuses on the four dimensions of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. Formation classes include study of the Scriptures, Systematic Theology, Christology, Ecclesiology, Church History, etc. Diaconal formation classes meet every other Saturday from August to May. The classes meet in the Waterloo area from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Church requires that a man be age 35 for ordination to the permanent diaconate. Thus, the Permanent Diaconate Formation Board has set the age guidelines for men applying to the permanent diaconate between the ages of 32 and 58. The Board has also set five-year stability guidelines for application: five years in their marriage (if married); five years in their parish/community; and five years in their job. Variances from these guidelines are considered on a case-by-case basis. Wives attend formation classes with their husbands so both can grow spiritually. The goal is to support the couples commitment to the vocation of marriage. Inevitably, each formation class forms a wonderful bond of unity and friendship.

The application process is now open until March 31, 2012. Information meetings on the permanent diaconate, in both English and Spanish, will be held throughout the Archdiocese. A schedule of the meeting dates, locations, and times are listed below. An application for the permanent diaconate must be requested through the applicant's pastor.

For more information, please contact Deacon Tom Lang at 800-876-3546 ext. 252.

Everyone is invited to attend one of the following information meetings on the Permanent Diaconate:

### Information Meetings In English

Tues., Oct. 18	Ames	St. Cecilia	Social Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 25	Postville	St. Bridget	Parish Hall	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 3	Clear Lake	St. Patrick	Parish Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 8	Monticello	Sacred Heart.	Newman Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 15	Waterloo	Queen of Peace	Scallon Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 29	Strawberry Point	St. Mary	Upper Room	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 6	Iowa Falls	St. Mark	Parish Hall	7:00 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 13	Dubuque	Nativity	O'Brien Room	7:00 p.m.

### Information Meetings In Spanish

Sat., Nov. 5	Hampton	St. Patrick	Social Hall	7:00 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 6	Cedar Rapids	Immaculate Conception	Josephus Room	12:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 13	Dubuque	St. Patrick	Parish Hall	1:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4	Marshalltown	St. Mary	Parish Hall	11:30 a.m.