

## Canonical and Diocesan Requirements

An applicant for Deacon Formation in the Diocese of Pueblo **must...**

- Be an active, fully initiated (received Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) male member of the Roman Catholic Church for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States of America (must be able to provide proof of legal residency).
- Be at least 30 years old and not older than 55 (the bishop can extend the maximum age under extenuating circumstances in consultation with the Formator Review Board).
- Have lived in the Diocese of Pueblo for a minimum of three (3) years.
- Have his application fully supported in writing by his pastor and, if married, his wife.
- Be able and committed to fulfilling the formation requirements over a period of five (5) years without negatively impacting his responsibilities to his family or other dependents.
- **Married Applicant Requirements:**
  - In a marriage that the Catholic Church considers valid for **at least five (5) years** by the due date of the application,
    - Marriage validity and duration are verified by an official marriage certificate issued by the parish where the marriage occurred or an official notation of marriage on the baptismal certificate of the applicant.
  - For **any prior marriages** of either applicant or wife:
    - either **death certificate** for the prior spouse(s)
    - or a **decree of nullity** from a diocesan tribunal for the prior marriage(s)
    - **Required** to verify the current marriage is valid.
  - Be committed to celibacy after ordination should he lose his wife to death or separation.
- If single, be committed to celibacy after ordination.
- Be able to communicate in English. Bilingual in Spanish is preferred for those parishes serving our Spanish speaking communities.
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check.
- Must complete a psychological evaluation and, if married, he and his wife must complete a couple's assessment.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent and be capable of college level studies.
- Have a history of active service in a parish or diocesan ministry.
- Have a demonstrated ability to relate well to people regardless of ethnic, racial, or cultural background, sex, religious or economic status.
- Be of sufficient physical and mental health.
- Be in full acceptance of the Roman Catholic Magisterial teachings.
- Be free of canonical impediments or irregularities.
- Be fully employed, or financially stable, as the ministry of a Deacon is unpaid.
- Be able to commit the time required for ministry after ordination.