

Program Structure

Formal formation classes are held in Pueblo one weekend per month in the following eight months:

- **September – December**
- **February – May**

Classes are scheduled in three-hour blocks as follows:

- **Friday evening**
- **Saturday morning, afternoon and evening**
- **Sunday morning**

In addition to the in-person classes, you will be assigned an online course in **January and two in the summer.**

Finally, you will attend a weekend retreat, usually in **June or July.**

Please note: Spouses must be committed to attending formation classes with her husband.

For more information on the curriculum, visit:
www.diopueblo.org/diaconate

Contact Us



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The Permanent Diaconate
A Life of Service

The Vocation of a Deacon

The principal function of the deacon, therefore, is to collaborate with the bishop and the priests in exercise of a ministry which is not of their own wisdom but of the Word of God, calling all to conversion and holiness.

~ Congregation for the Clergy, Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons, no. 23



The Sacrament of Holy Orders marks deacons

with an imprint ('character') which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the 'deacon' or servant of all."

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1570

Main Roles in the Diocese of Pueblo

- Sacrament Ministers: Baptisms, Witness Marriages, Funerals.
- Word Ministers: Proclaiming the Gospel, Preaching, Teaching.
- Service: Ministers, Outreach, Pastoral Services

Becoming a Deacon in the Diocese of Pueblo

The formation process begins with an inquiry/application period when interested men and their wives (if married), investigate the call to ministry. Selected applicants and their wives (if married) will undergo psychological testing and couple's assessment.

Those accepted enter the five-year Diaconate Formation Program built on the following four pillars:

- **Spiritual:** Fostering the spirituality appropriate to a deacon.
- **Human:** Fostering aspects of integral human growth that enable the potential deacon to be a bridge between Christ and the world.
- **Intellectual:** Fostering the intellectual growth necessary to enable him to represent the church as an ordained minister of the Gospel.
- **Pastoral:** Fostering the ability to function competently as a minister in diocesan and parish pastoral settings.

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Basic Requirements

- A male who has received all the sacraments of initiation and maintains a strong prayer life.
- A 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.
- Be at least 30 years old and not older than 55.
- Have lived in the Diocese of Pueblo for a minimum of three (3) years.
- Be able and committed to fulfilling the formation requirements over a period of five (5) years.
- If married, in a marriage that the Catholic Church considers valid for at least five (5) years (See website for more information on marriage and divorce).
- 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.
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check.
- 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.

For the complete list, visit:
www.diopueblo.org/diaconate