

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC**

***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate:  
A Study for the  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
2014-2015***



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# ***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: A Study for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2014-2015***

## **Executive Summary**

This report presents findings from a national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies in the United States. The study was commissioned by the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is the ninth survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate that CARA has conducted for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.<sup>1</sup> The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper.

CARA completed data collection in late April 2015, after extensive follow-up by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had 2014-2015 information from 152 of the 192 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB, for a 79 percent overall completion rate.<sup>2</sup> The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (85 percent, or 150 of 177 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (13 percent, or two of 16 possible responses).

## **Major Findings**

### *Number of Deacons*

- Responding archdioceses with the largest number of permanent deacons include Chicago (773), New York (490), Galveston-Houston (438), Los Angeles (432), and Atlanta (323).

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was originally commissioned by the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate, which became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It has been conducted annually since 2005-2006, with the exception of 2010-2011.

<sup>2</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Two eparchies, St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago and Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

Adjusting for Catholic population size, Latin rite dioceses with the lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon include: Fairbanks (524 Catholics to every deacon), Jefferson City (697 Catholics per deacon), Lexington (710 Catholics per deacon), and Dodge City (754 Catholics per deacon).

- The 150 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to the questionnaire report a total of 15,650 permanent deacons. The two arch/eparchies that responded report a total of 18 permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are as many as 18,558 permanent deacons in the United States today.
- Latin Rite arch/dioceses report having 12,289 deacons active in ministry. The two arch/eparchies report 16 active deacons. Extrapolating to include dioceses and eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 14,588 deacons active in ministry in the United States today, or about 79 percent of all permanent deacons.
- During the 2014 calendar year 451 new permanent deacons were ordained in responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 295 deacons retired from active ministry and another 270 deacons died. As is the case with priests in the United States, there are not enough new permanent deacons being ordained to make up for the numbers who are retiring from active ministry or dying each year.

#### *Demographic Characteristics of Active Deacons*

- Ninety-three percent of active deacons are currently married. Four percent are widowers, and 3 percent have never been married.
- Ninety-four percent of active deacons are at least 50 years old. About a quarter (23 percent) are in their 50s, four in ten (42 percent) are in their 60s, and more than a quarter (29 percent) are 70 or older.
- Seventy-eight percent of active deacons are non-Hispanic whites. Sixteen percent are Hispanic or Latino. Three percent are African American and 3 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander.
- Six in ten active deacons (63 percent) have at least a college degree. One in ten (10 percent) have a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.

#### *Compensation and Formation*

- Among deacons who are financially compensated for full-time ministry, 28 percent are serving in an “other parish ministerial position.” Twenty percent are in a parish non-ministerial position and one in five (19 percent) are in a diocesan position. Eight percent are compensated for hospital ministry and 9 percent are compensated for full-time prison

ministry. One in ten deacons (10 percent) is entrusted with full-time pastoral care of a parish (Canon 517.2), and one in twenty (5 percent) is employed by a social services agency.

- Among deacons who are financially compensated for part-time ministry, 28 percent are involved in an “other parish ministerial position” and 10 percent are in a parish non-ministerial position, while 16 percent are entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish (Canon 517.2). Ten percent are in part-time diocesan positions and 29 percent are in part-time hospital or prison ministries. Only 3 percent are in social service positions part-time.
- Eighty-six percent of responding arch/dioceses require post-ordination formation of deacons. These arch/dioceses require a median of 23 hours of post-ordination formation annually.
- Nearly all arch/dioceses (97 percent) require an annual retreat of deacons. Eighty-nine percent provide other annual gatherings for deacons.
- Nearly all responding arch/dioceses (97 percent) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). In about two in five of these arch/dioceses (42 percent), the position is full-time.
- Four in five arch/dioceses (82 percent) have a plan for the placement and ministry of deacons.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (87 percent) have a minimum age for deacons. Half (55 percent) have a mandatory age for deacon retirement.

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**Introduction**

In spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Diaconate<sup>3</sup> of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) first commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate. CARA conducted the survey each year since then, except for 2010-2011; the present survey is the ninth in this series.

This report presents findings from this latest national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in dioceses and eparchies in the United States and incorporates trend data from previous years' reports. The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate and the questionnaires used in subsequent years are nearly identical.<sup>4</sup> The 2014-2015 questionnaire is presented in the Appendix.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper. The survey was distributed in March 2015.

CARA completed data collection in late April 2015, after extensive follow-up by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had 2014-2015 information from 152 of the 193 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB, for a 79 percent overall completion rate. The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (85 percent, or 133 of 177 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (13 percent, or two of 16 possible responses).

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<sup>3</sup> This office is now known as the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

<sup>4</sup> The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with masters' degrees or doctorates. The surveys in subsequent years asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate." There are also some differences in the subsequent surveys in the way in which marital status is asked.

## Number of Permanent Deacons

*The Archdiocese of Chicago has the largest total number of permanent deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 773 deacons in all, both active and retired. Following Chicago, the Archdiocese of New York reports 490 total permanent deacons, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston reports 438 total permanent deacons, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles reports 432. The table below lists responding arch/dioceses that report at least 200 permanent deacons.<sup>5</sup>*

<b>Responding Arch/dioceses with the Greatest Number of Permanent Deacons</b>		
<b>Arch/diocese</b>	<b>Total Number of Deacons</b>	<b>Catholics per Deacon<sup>6</sup></b>
Chicago	773	2,850
New York	490	5,334
Galveston-Houston	438	2,714
Los Angeles	432	9,900
Atlanta	323	3,096
St. Louis	273	1,911
Phoenix	270	2,727
Philadelphia	265	5,494
Boston	244	7,807
Austin	226	2,431
Joliet in Illinois	226	2,681
Newark	224	6,036
New Orleans	223	2,246
Hartford	219	2,612
Brooklyn	216	6,496
Cleveland	213	3,292
Washington	210	3,004
Detroit	209	6,084
Santa Fe	207	1,564
Cincinnati	205	2,219
Orlando	204	1,928

- The 150 Latin rite arch/dioceses that responded to the survey in 2014-2015 report a total of 15,650 permanent deacons. The two Eastern rite eparchies that responded to the survey report a total of 18 permanent deacons.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The total number of deacons is calculated here as the sum of all deacons active in ministry and all deacons no longer active in ministry, except those who have been laicized (question 1 + question 8 – question 12).

<sup>6</sup> The total number of Catholics per arch/diocese is taken from the *2014 Official Catholic Directory*.

<sup>7</sup> Eparchies are reported separately here because of possible double-counting of Eastern rite deacons listed by Latin rite dioceses as serving within their boundaries.

- On average, responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies report 81 deacons in active ministry.
- The Diocese of Greensburg has more than 72,000 Catholics per deacon. Other responding arch/dioceses that also have relatively high numbers of Catholics per deacon include Wichita, with more than 30,000 Catholics per deacon, Fresno and San Jose in California, with more than 17,000 Catholics per deacon, and Madison with more than 15,000.

<b>Responding Arch/dioceses with the Lowest Ratio of Catholics per Permanent Deacon</b>	
<b>Arch/diocese</b>	<b>Catholics per Deacon</b>
Fairbanks	524
Jefferson City	697
Lexington	710
Dodge City	754
Bismarck	762
Rapid City	776

- The Diocese of Fairbanks has the most favorable ratio of Catholics to deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 524 Catholics per deacon. The Diocese of Jefferson City is second, with 697 Catholics per deacon.
- None of the responding arch/dioceses with the lowest ratio of Catholics to deacons are located in the Northeast.

## Interpolation of Missing Data

### Active Permanent Deacons

To obtain the most complete figure for the total number of active deacons in the country, it is necessary to create estimates for the 41 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey. To do this, we draw on data for total deacons reported in *The Official Catholic Directory 2014* and then make an estimate of the proportion of those reported deacons who are active in ministry.

The figure used here for the proportion of deacons who are active is calculated from the survey responses. Responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies indicate that 79 percent of their deacons are active in ministry. We also adjust for the fact that the number of deacons listed in the *OCD 2014* is slightly lower than the total number that responding arch/dioceses reported – responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies reported .94 fewer total deacons in the *OCD 2014* than they reported in the survey. Thus, for non-responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and Eastern Catholic arch/eparchies, we estimate the total number of active deacons as:

$$\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in the OCD 2014)} * .79 / 0.94$$

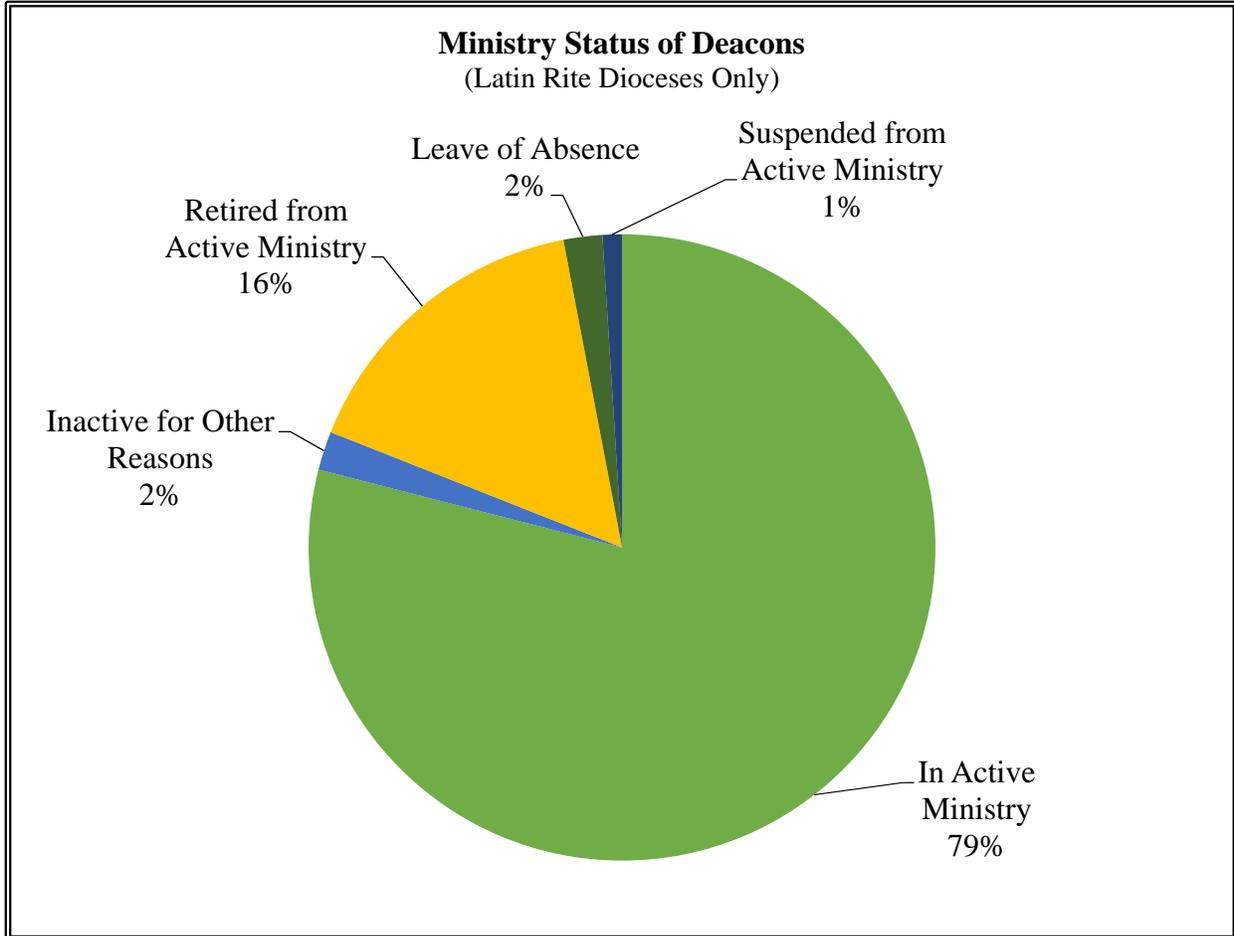
This yields an estimate of 14,588 active permanent deacons.

### Total Permanent Deacons

Using the procedure described above—while excluding the adjustment for active permanent deacons—yields a national estimate of **18,558** total deacons (both active and inactive). This includes 18,179 for Latin Rite dioceses and 379 for Eastern Catholic eparchies.

## Ministry Status of Deacons

*Eight in ten deacons in responding arch/dioceses (79 percent) are active in ministry, and one in five (21 percent) are inactive for a variety of reasons.*



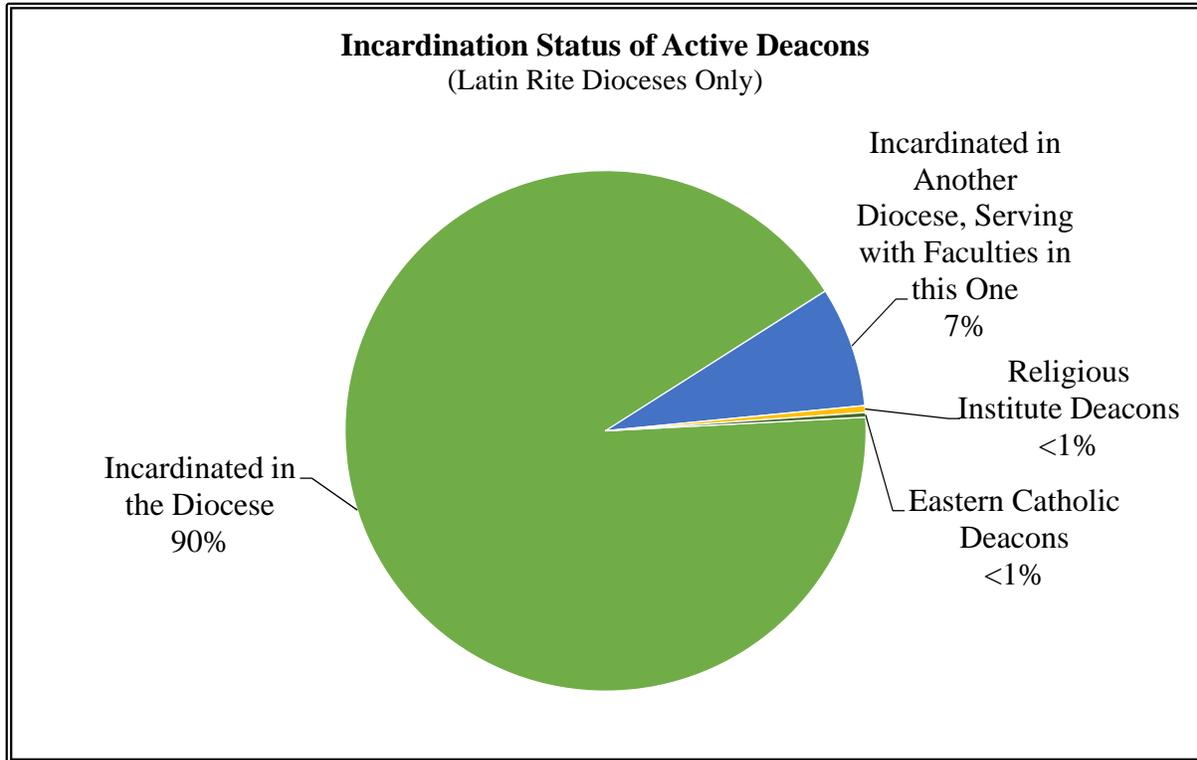
The 21 percent of deacons no longer in active ministry include 16 percent who are retired, 1 percent suspended from active ministry, 2 percent on a leave of absence, and 2 percent inactive for other reasons.<sup>8</sup>

The 150 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this survey report a total of 12,289 active deacons, and the two arch/eparchies report 16 active deacons.

<sup>8</sup> The calculation of total deacons for this report excludes deacons who have been laicized. The Latin Rite dioceses responding to the survey report a total of 106 laicized deacons. Were they to be included in totals, they would represent less than 1 percent of all permanent deacons.

## Incardination Status of Deacons in Active Ministry

*Excluding responses from eparchies, 92 percent of deacons in active ministry are incardinated in the diocese that reports them.*



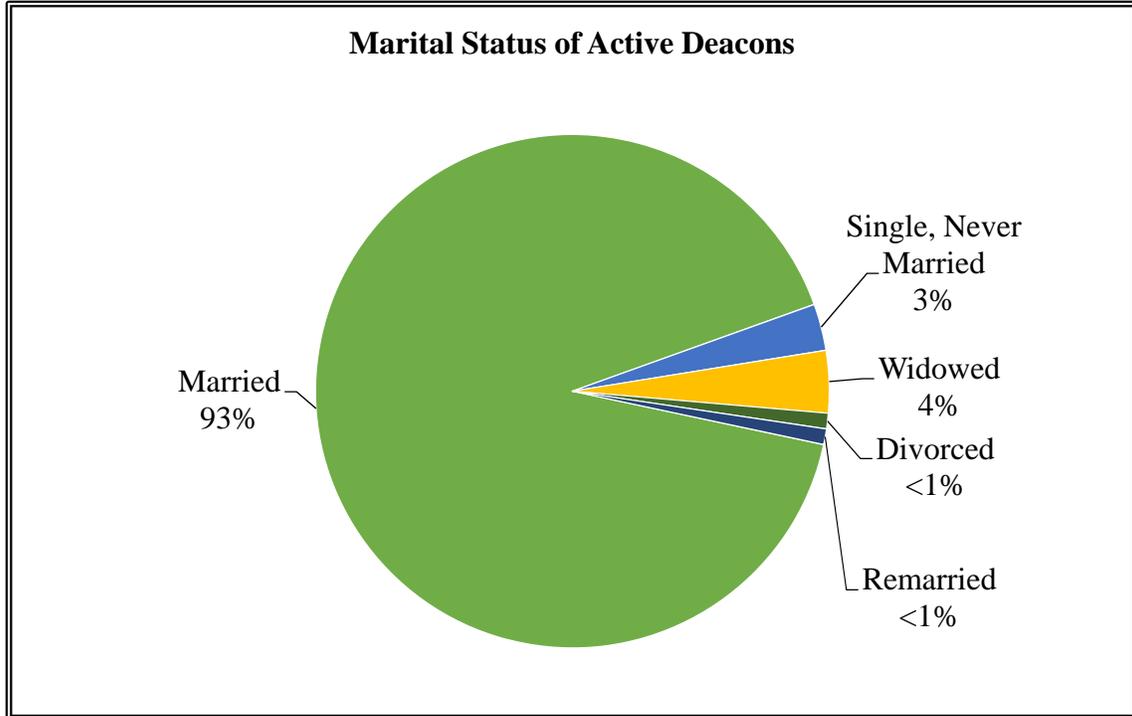
- Among responding Latin rite arch/dioceses, 7 percent of active deacons are incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serve in the reporting diocese. Less than 1 percent of active deacons are incardinated as members of religious institutes or incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches that are geographically located within the diocese.<sup>9</sup>
- In addition to the above, and not shown in the figure, dioceses and eparchies report an average of seven deacons (which could be active or inactive) incardinated in the reporting diocese but serving in another diocese as well as an average of 0.1 deacons who serve in both Eastern and Latin Rite parishes.

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<sup>9</sup> As in all cases in this report where subgroups are reported, percentages reflect only deacons for whom information was provided.

## Marital Status of Active Deacons

*Most permanent deacons in active ministry are married. The figure below displays the marital status of active deacons.<sup>10</sup>*



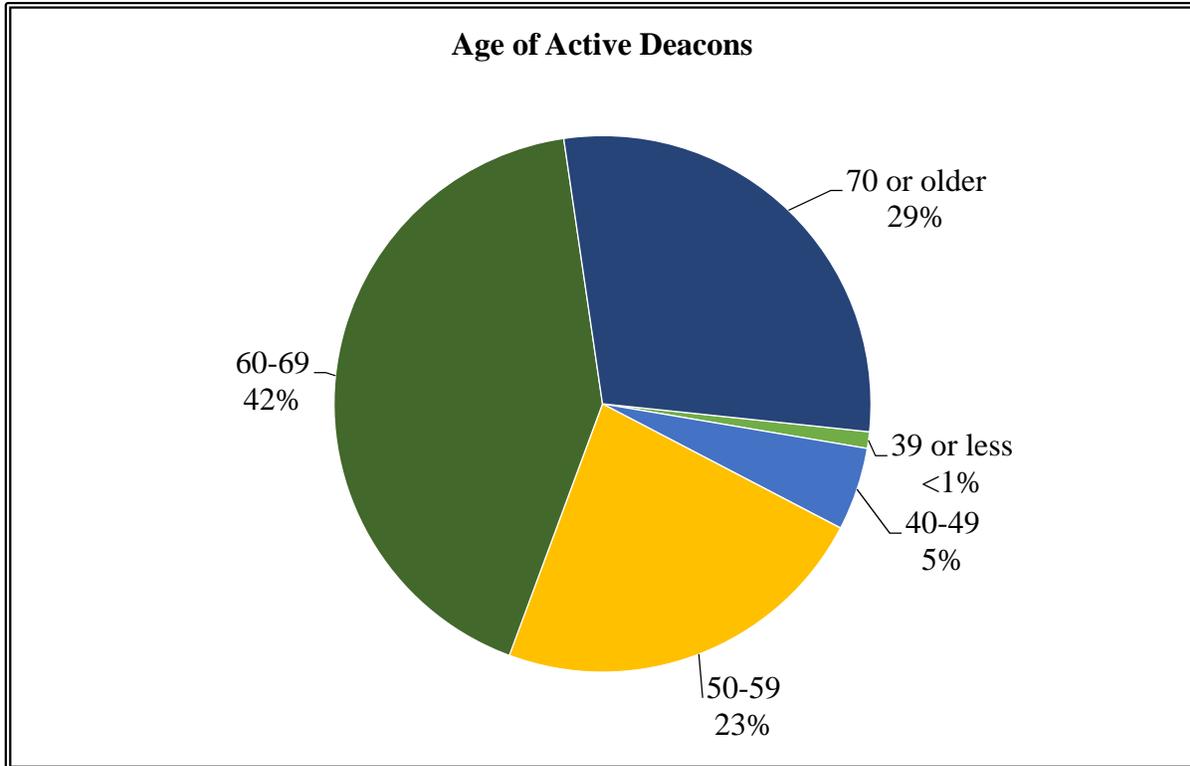
Ninety-three percent of active permanent deacons are married. Four percent are widowed, 3 percent have never been married, and less than 1 percent are divorced or remarried.

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<sup>10</sup> Responses of eparchies are included in the figures for marital status and other demographic characteristics.

## Age of Active Deacons

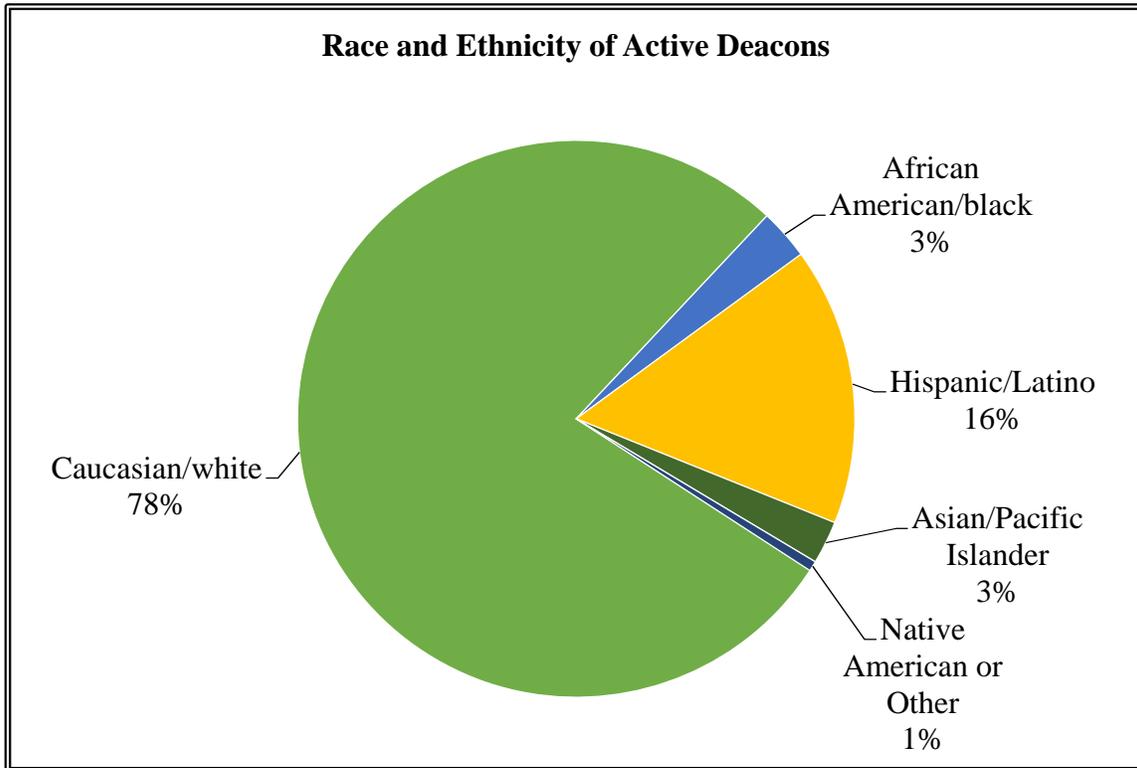
Seven in ten active permanent deacons (71 percent) are at least 60 years old.



- Just over four in ten active permanent deacons (42 percent) are 60 to 69 and more than a quarter (29 percent) are 70 or older. A quarter of active deacons (23 percent) are in their fifties.
- One in twenty deacons in active ministry (5 percent) are in their 40s, and less than 1 percent are under the age of 40. According to Canon 1031.2 and the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, the minimum age for ordination to the permanent diaconate is 35 for all candidates.

## Race and Ethnicity of Active Deacons

*Almost eight in ten active deacons (78 percent) are Caucasian or white. About one in six (16 percent) active deacons is Hispanic or Latino. Three percent are African American or black and another 3 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander. One percent of active deacons are Native Americans or members of other racial/ethnic groups.*

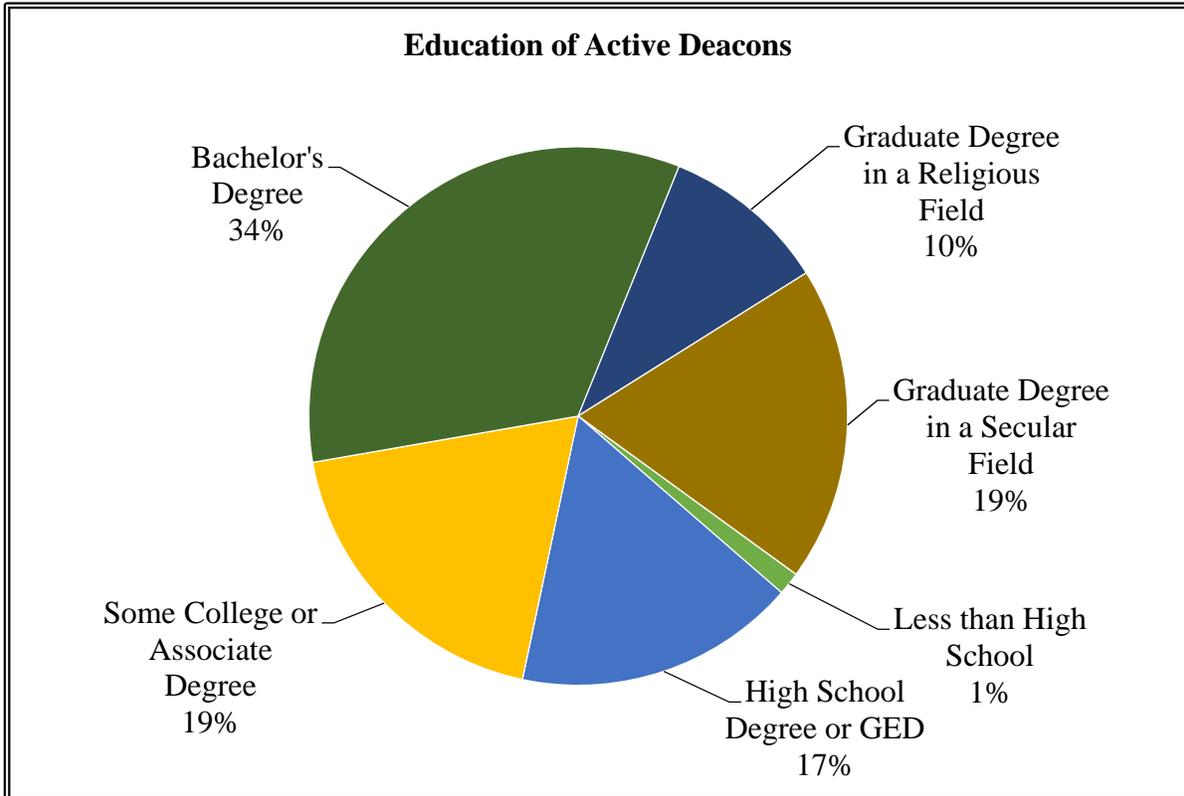


Active permanent deacons are more diverse racially and ethnically than U.S. priests, although not as diverse as the U.S. Catholic population. According to a national random survey of priests conducted by CARA in 2009, 92 percent of U.S. priests are non-Hispanic whites, 3 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 2 percent are African American or black, and 3 percent are Asian American<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> Gautier, M.L., Perl, P.M. and Fichter, S.J. (2012) *Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II*, Liturgical Press, pg. 10.

## Highest Level of Education of Active Deacons

Nearly three in ten (29 percent) active deacons have a graduate degree. Almost twice as many have a graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate (19 percent) as have one in a religious field such as religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc., (10 percent).



- One third (34 percent) of active permanent deacons have a bachelor's degree as their highest level of education.
- About one in five (19 percent) has some college education or an Associate's degree as their highest level of education.
- One fifth of respondents (17 percent) have a high school degree or GED. Very few active deacons (1 percent) have less than a high school degree.

## Changes in the Diaconate during the 2014 Calendar Year

*During the 2014 calendar year, responding offices reported 295 deacons retired from active ministry and 270 died. Another 451 were ordained to the permanent diaconate during 2014.*

<b>Changes in the Diaconate Over Time</b>			
Totals from Responding Dioceses/Eparchies			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Ordained for the diocese	451	NA	NA
Retired from active ministry	295	355	294
Died	270	237	217
Requested laicization	27	19	19
Granted laicization	21	15	7
Divorced/separated after ordination	17	8	14
Remarried without dispensation	8	3	8
Dispensed from the impediment of orders	5	1	5
Remarried after dispensation	4	1	3
Entered the priesthood	4	12	4

Arch/dioceses were asked to report the number of active permanent deacons that were lost during the 2014 calendar year through retirement, laicization, entering the priesthood, or death. A new question, added to this year's survey, also asked how many permanent deacons were ordained for the diocese in the year. Additional questions asked about changes in marital status. The first column in the table above presents the total number of deacons in each category among dioceses and eparchies that responded to the 2014-2015 survey.<sup>12</sup> Subsequent columns report the figures for two previous years' surveys for comparison.

- In 2014, 27 deacons requested laicization, eight more than the number reported 2013 and in 2012. The number of deacons granted laicization is higher this year than in 2013 and 2012. The number dispensed from the impediment of orders is the same as two years ago, but higher than last year's.
- Four permanent deacons were reported to have left the diaconate to prepare for the priesthood, fewer than what was reported in 2013 but the same as 2012.
- The number of deacons divorced or separated after ordination is higher than in previous years. Compared to 2013 and 2012, more were remarried without dispensation and after dispensation.

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<sup>12</sup> 141 of the 152 responding dioceses and eparchies in 2014-2015 answered this set of questions. Note that it is common for survey respondents to leave an answer field blank rather than writing in a zero to indicate "none," when answering questions that require writing in numbers. Throughout this report and in the Appendix, CARA assumes that blank fields are zeros if other questions in the same series have been filled in with valid responses. Exceptions are made for obvious cases of missing data.

## Ministry and Compensation

*About one in six (18 percent) active permanent deacons are financially compensated for ministry. Of those financially compensated for ministry, deacons who are compensated for another parish ministerial position (in addition to their diaconal responsibilities) make up the largest proportion among those compensated for their ministry.*

<b>Active Deacons Who Are Financially Compensated for Their Ministry</b>			
Percentage among Active Deacons Who Are Compensated			
	<b>Compensated Full-Time</b>	<b>Compensated Part-Time</b>	<b>Among All Compensated</b>
Other parish ministerial position	28%	28%	28%
Parish non-ministerial position	20	10	16
Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2)	10	16	13
Prison ministry	9	15	12
Hospital ministry	8	14	10
Diocesan non-ministerial position	12	4	9
Diocesan ministerial position	7	6	7
Ministry in a social services agency	5	3	4
Other	2	3	2
<b>Total in compensated ministry</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents were asked the number of active deacons in each of several categories who are financially compensated for their full-time or part-time ministry. The table above displays the proportion of permanent deacons overall who are compensated either part-time or full-time in each type of ministry. The percentages are based on all arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that responded to the survey and indicated at least one deacon that was compensated in any of the categories above.

- Among deacons who are compensated for full-time ministry, three in ten (28 percent) are paid for a full-time ministerial position in a parish (e.g., Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister); similarly, of those who are compensated for part-time ministry, three in ten (28 percent) are paid part-time for this ministry.
- Over one in six deacons (16 percent) who are in a compensated ministry, either part-time or full-time, serve in a non-ministerial position in a parish (e.g., administration, business, finance).
- One in eight (13 percent) is financially compensated for the pastoral care of one or more parishes under Canon 517.2, either full-time or part-time.

- Just fewer than one in ten deacons who are in a compensated ministry (7 percent) serve the diocese in a ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister) and a similar proportion (9 percent) serve in a non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
- About one in ten deacons (12 percent) are financially compensated for prison ministry and a similar proportion (10 percent) for hospital ministry.
- Fewer deacons serve in compensated ministry in a social services agency (4 percent) or in some other ministry (2 percent).

## Post-Ordination Formation

*Eighty-six percent of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies require post-ordination formation for deacons. Among those that do require post-ordination formation, the median number of hours required per year is 20.<sup>13</sup>*

<b>Post-Ordination Formation</b>			
Dioceses and eparchies responding:			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Post-ordination formation required of deacons		86%	14%
<i>Average number of hours required annually:</i>		23	
<i>Median number of hours required annually:</i>		20	
Post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English		17	83
<i>Percentage providing formation in Spanish:</i>		16%	
<i>Percentage providing formation in other languages:</i>		1%	
Formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons		82	18

- One in six arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (17 percent) provide post-ordination formation in a language other than English, most typically in Spanish. One diocese indicates that formation programs are offered in Yup'ik and another indicates that formation programs are offered in Haitian Creole.
- More than eight in ten (82 percent) provide formation opportunities for the wives of deacons.

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<sup>13</sup> The median is the middle value in the distribution when responses are ordered from lowest to highest. By definition, 50 percent of cases in a distribution fall at or below the median and 50 percent fall at or above the median.

## Retreats

*Nearly all dioceses and eparchies (97 percent) require an annual retreat of deacons. In dioceses that require a retreat, an average of three in four deacons (76 percent) participate in the retreat.*

<b>Retreats</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
An annual retreat is required of deacons	97%	3%
<i>Average percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 76%</i>		
<i>Median percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 80%</i>		
Diocese provides couples' retreats for deacons and their wives	88	12
Diocese provides deacon-only retreats	38	62
Diocese provides separate retreats for wives of deacons	15	85
Diocese provides annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)	89	11

- Almost nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (88 percent) provide couples retreats for deacons and their wives.
- Almost one in four arch/dioceses (38 percent) provide retreats for deacons only. About one in seven (15 percent) provide separate retreats for wives of deacons.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (89 percent) provide annual gatherings of deacons in addition to or apart from a retreat.

## Directors of the Diaconate

*Nearly all responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (97 percent) have a Director of the Diaconate or a person with a similar title.*

<b>Directors of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Diocese has a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)	97%	3%
<i>Full-Time:</i> 42%		
<i>Part-Time:</i> 58%		
<i>Average number of years in this position:</i>	5.7	
<i>Median number of years in this position:</i>	3.8	

- In more than four in ten arch/dioceses (42 percent) with a Director of the Diaconate, the position is full-time. The position is part-time for 58 percent of the responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies.
- Current directors have held their position for an average of almost six years, although the median tenure for directors is about four years.

## Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

*Four in five responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (82 percent) have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons.*

<b>Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Diocese has a plan for placement and ministry of deacons	82%	18%
Diocese has an active formation program for the diaconate	90	10
<i>If no, is the diocese planning to establish one within the next two years</i>	65	35
Diocese has minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program	87	13
<i>Average minimum age for acceptance: 33</i>		
<i>Median minimum age for acceptance: 32</i>		
Diocese has a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons	55	45
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 70:</i>	12%	
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 75:</i>	84%	
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at another age:</i>	4%	
Diocese has a formal policy for deacons who are divorced/separated post-ordination	47	53
Diocese has an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly	71	29

- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (90 percent) have an active formation program for the diaconate. Among those that do not, two in three report that there are plans to establish such a program within the next two years.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (87 percent) have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into the diaconate formation program. In these arch/dioceses, the minimum age ranges from 29 to 60, with a median of 32.
- Over half (55 percent) have a mandatory age of retirement for deacons: 12 percent require retirement at age 70 and 84 percent mandate it at age 75.

- About half of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (47 percent) have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination.
- Seven in ten of the responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (71 percent) have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly.

**Appendix:**  
**Questionnaire and Response Frequencies for 2014-2015**



## BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR THE DIACONATE POST-ORDINATION SURVEY



**Please fill in the total number of deacons in your diocese for each category below**

**Mean = 81** 1. Total number of Deacons in **ACTIVE MINISTRY IN THIS DIOCESE**. **NR = 00**

**Of the number reported in item 1:**

**Mean = 74** 2. Active Deacons who are **INCARDINATED** in this diocese. **NR = 03**

**Mean = 6** 3. Active Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in this diocese. **NR = 03**

**Mean = <1** 4. Active Deacons incardinated in **EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES** that are geographically located in this diocese (e.g., Byzantine, Maronite, etc.). **NR = 03**

**Mean = <1** 5. Active Deacons incardinated as members of **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES**. **NR = 02**  
*(items 2 through 5 should total to the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1)*

**Mean = 07** 6. Deacons incardinated in this diocese but serving another diocese. **NR = 03**

**Mean = <1** 7. Deacons who serve both Eastern and Latin rite Churches ("bi-ritual"). **NR = 03**

**Mean = 23** 8. Deacons **NO LONGER IN ACTIVE MINISTRY** in this diocese. **NR = 00**

**Of the number reported in item 8:**

**Mean = 18** 9. Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry. **NR = 00**

**Mean = 02** 10. Deacons on a leave of absence. **NR = 00**

**Mean = 02** 11. Deacons who are suspended from active ministry. **NR = 00**

**Mean = 01** 12. Deacons who have been released from the clerical state ("laicized"). **NR = 00**

**Mean = 02** 13. Other inactive deacons (not retired, on leave of absence, suspended or laicized). **NR = 00**

*(items 9 through 13 should total to the same number reported in item 8)*

**Of the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1:**

Marital Status				Race and Ethnicity			
Mean	NR			Mean	NR		
75	04	14. Married		64	03	24. Caucasian/white	
02	04	15. Single, never married		03	03	25. African American/black	
03	04	16. Widowed		15	03	26. Hispanic/Latino	
<1	04	17. Remarried subsequent to ordination		03	03	27. Asian/Pacific Islander	
01	04	18. Divorced, not remarried		1	03	28. Native American or Other	

Age				Highest Level of Education			
Mean	NR			Mean	NR		
<1	07	19. Age 39 or younger		01	22	29. Less than high school	
05	07	20. Age 40-49		13	22	30. High school diploma/GED	
19	07	21. Age 50-59		15	22	31. Some college/Associate degree	
35	07	22. Age 60-69		25	22	32. Bachelor's degree	
24	07	23. Age 70 or older		07	22	33. Graduate degree in religious studies, theology, etc.	
				15	22	34. Graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate	

**In the most recent calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2014) how many deacons have:**

Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	11	35. Requested laicization (Canon 290)	<1	11	40. Divorced/separated after ordination
<1	11	36. Granted laicization (Canon 290)	<1	11	41. Entered the priesthood
<1	11	37. Been dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087)	02	11	42. Retired from active ministry
<1	11	38. Remarried after dispensation	02	11	43. Died
<1	11	39. Remarried without dispensation	03	11	44. Been ordained for your diocese

### Ministry and Compensation

Of the total number of deacons in active ministry in the diocese (as reported in item 1), the number who are financially compensated, either full-time or part-time (excluding stipends and/or reimbursement for expenses, such as mileage) for the following:

Full-time%	NR		Part-time%	NR	
01	04	45.	02	04	46. Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2).
03	04	47.	03	04	48. Other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister).
02	04	49.	01	04	50. Parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
01	04	51.	02	04	52. Prison ministry.
01	04	53.	01	04	54. Hospital ministry.
01	04	55.	<1	04	56. Ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities).
01	04	57.	01	04	58. Diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister).
01	04	59.	<1	04	Diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
<1	04	61.	<1	04	62. Other: _____

### Post-ordination Formation

Yes%	No%	NR	
86	14	03	63. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons?
<b>Mean = 23</b>		31	64. <u>If yes</u> , approximate number of <u>hours</u> of post-ordination formation required <u>annually</u> .
17	83	05	65. Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?
		127	66. <u>If yes</u> , please indicate the language(s): <b>Modal response:</b> Spanish
82	18	05	67. Are formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons?
97	03	03	68. Is an annual retreat required for deacons?
<b>Mean = 76%</b>		22	69. <u>If yes</u> , approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat.
38	62	02	70. Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?
15	85	02	71. Does the diocese provide separate retreats for wives of deacons?
88	12	03	72. Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?
89	11	03	73. Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)?

### Office of the Diaconate

Yes%	No%	NR	
97	03	03	74. Does the diocese have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)?
<b>Mean = 68</b>		16	75. <u>If yes</u> , number of <u>months</u> Director of Deacons has been in this position.
		54	76. <u>If yes</u> , is this position: 42% Full-time or 58% Part-time
82	18	02	77. Does the diocese have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons?
55	45	03	78. Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons?
<b>Mean = 74</b>		70	79. <u>If yes</u> , at what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?
47	53	04	80. Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination?
71	29	03	81. Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?
90	10	04	82. Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?
65	35	128	83. <u>If no</u> , is the diocese planning to establish a formation within the next two years?
87	13	03	84. Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a formation program?
<b>Mean = 33</b>		28	85. <u>If yes</u> , what is the minimum age requirement?

*In the event we need clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following contact information:*

Survey completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_