

**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  
2018-2019***



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Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.  
Michal J. Kramarek, Ph.D.

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# ***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: A Study for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2018-2019***

## **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 eleventh survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate that CARA has conducted for the U.S. 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 2019, after extensive follow-up by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had 2018-2019 information from 136 of the 191 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 71 percent overall completion rate.<sup>2</sup> The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (74 percent, or 131 of 178 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (38 percent, or five of 13 possible responses).

## **Major Findings**

### *Number of Deacons*

- Responding archdioceses with the largest number of permanent deacons include Chicago (803), Galveston-Houston (415), Los Angeles (414), and New York (387). Adjusting for Catholic population size, Latin rite dioceses with the lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon include: Lexington (546 Catholics to every deacon), Amarillo (658 Catholics per

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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 and 2017-2018.

<sup>2</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Five eparchies, Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese, St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Eparchy, and St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

deacon), Duluth (706 Catholics per deacon), Tulsa (711 Catholics per deacon), and Bismarck (718 Catholics per deacon).

- The 130 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this question report a total of 14,923 permanent deacons (both active and not active). The five arch/eparchies that responded report a total of 114 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 20,316 permanent deacons in the United States today.
- Latin Rite arch/dioceses report having 10,862 permanent deacons active in ministry. The five arch/eparchies report 100 active permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include dioceses and eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 14,816 deacons active in ministry in the United States today, or about 73 percent of all permanent deacons.
- During the 2018 calendar year 494 new permanent deacons were ordained in responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 367 deacons retired from active ministry and another 290 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-two percent of active permanent deacons are currently married. Four percent are widowers and 2 percent have never been married.
- Ninety-five percent of active permanent deacons are at least 50 years old. About a fifth (21 percent) are in their 50s, four in ten (40 percent) are in their 60s, and more than a third (35 percent) are 70 or older.
- Three-quarters of active deacons (76 percent) are non-Hispanic whites. Eighteen percent are Hispanic or Latino. Two percent are African American and 3 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander.
- Two in three active permanent deacons (66 percent) have at least a college degree. One in ten (11 percent) have a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.

#### *Compensation and Formation*

- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for full-time ministry, 28 percent are serving in a “parish ministerial position” other than pastoral care of parish(es) (Canon 517.2), so they are serving in parish ministerial positions such as Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister. Fourteen percent are in a parish non-ministerial position and one in four (23 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 permanent deacons (8 percent) is entrusted with full-time pastoral care of a parish (Canon 517.2), and one in twenty is employed full-time in parochial education (7 percent) or by a social services agency (3 percent).

- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for part-time ministry, 25 percent are involved in a “parish ministerial position” other than pastoral care of parish(es) (Canon 517.2), so they are serving in parish ministerial positions such as Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister. One in ten permanent deacons (9 percent) are in a parish non-ministerial position, while 13 percent are entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish (Canon 517.2). Twenty percent are in part-time diocesan positions and 27 percent are in part-time hospital or prison ministries. Four percent are employed part-time in social service positions and 2 percent in parochial education.
- Ninety percent of responding arch/dioceses require post-ordination formation of permanent deacons. These arch/dioceses require a median of 20 hours of post-ordination formation annually.
- Nearly all arch/dioceses (97 percent) require an annual retreat of deacons. Eighty-seven percent provide other annual gatherings for deacons.
- Nearly all responding arch/dioceses (96 percent) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). In about a third of these arch/dioceses (34 percent), the position is full-time.
- In terms of formal policies, four in five arch/dioceses (83 percent) have a plan for the placement and ministry of deacons. Nine in ten (91 percent) have an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate and, among those with no such program in place, half (50 percent) are planning to begin a program in the next two years.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (95 percent) have a minimum age for permanent deacons (which, on average, is 33 years old). Half (56 percent) have a mandatory age for permanent deacon retirement (which, most frequently, is 75 years old).

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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 and 2017-2018; the present survey is the eleventh 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 2018-2019 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 February-April 2019.

CARA completed data collection in late April 2019, after extensive follow-up by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had 2018-2019 information from 136 of the 191 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 71 percent overall completion rate. The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (74 percent, or 131 of 178 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (38 percent, or five of 13 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 803 deacons in all, both active and retired. Following Chicago, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston reports 415 total permanent deacons, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles reports 414, the Archdiocese of New York reports 387 total permanent deacons, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre reports 334. 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	803	2,715
Galveston-Houston	415	4,287
Los Angeles	414	9,757
New York	387	7,190
Rockville Centre	334	4,208
Philadelphia	299	4,611
Brooklyn	297	5,051
Joliet in Illinois	291	1,938
St. Louis	286	1,787
Phoenix	270	4,476
Sacramento	268	3,837
Omaha	259	899
Paterson	234	1,838
New Orleans	229	2,266
Hartford	226	2,341
Santa Fe	224	1,469
Cincinnati	219	1,999
Cleveland	217	3,105
Denver	210	2,801

- The 130 Latin rite arch/dioceses that responded to this survey question in 2018-2019 report a total of 14,923 permanent deacons. The five Eastern rite eparchies that responded to the survey report a total of 114 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 6 + question 7 + question 8 – question 12).

<sup>6</sup> The total number of Catholics per arch/diocese is taken from the *2018 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. Half of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies report 62 or fewer deacons in active ministry.
- The Diocese of El Paso has nearly 20,000 Catholics per deacon. Other responding arch/dioceses that also have relatively high numbers of Catholics per deacon include San Jose, with more than 17,000 Catholics per deacon; Fresno, with more than 16,000; Madison, with more than 13,000; San Bernardino, with nearly 12,000; and Orange, with more than 10,000.

<b>Responding Arch/dioceses with the Lowest Ratio of Catholics per Permanent Deacon</b>	
<b>Arch/diocese</b>	<b>Catholics per Deacon</b>
Lexington	546
Amarillo	658
Duluth	706
Tulsa	711
Bismarck	718
Rapid City	761
Anchorage	766
Jefferson City	819
Fairbanks	823
Omaha	899

- The Diocese of Lexington has the most favorable ratio of Catholics to deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 546 Catholics per deacon. The Diocese of Amarillo is second, with 658 Catholics per deacon.
- None of the responding arch/dioceses with a ratio below 900 Catholics per deacon is 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 55 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey and an additional one diocese that responded to the survey but did not report on the total number of permanent deacons. To do this, we draw on data for total deacons reported in *The Official Catholic Directory 2018* 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 73 percent of their deacons are active in ministry. We also adjust for the fact that the number of deacons listed in the *OCD 2018* is lower than the total number that responding arch/dioceses reported—the total number of permanent deacons reported in *OCD 2018* constitutes 91 percent of the number reported in the survey by the same group of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Thus, for the 56 non-responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and Eastern Catholic arch/eparchies, we estimate the total number of active deacons as:

$$\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in the OCD 2018)} * .73 / 0.91$$

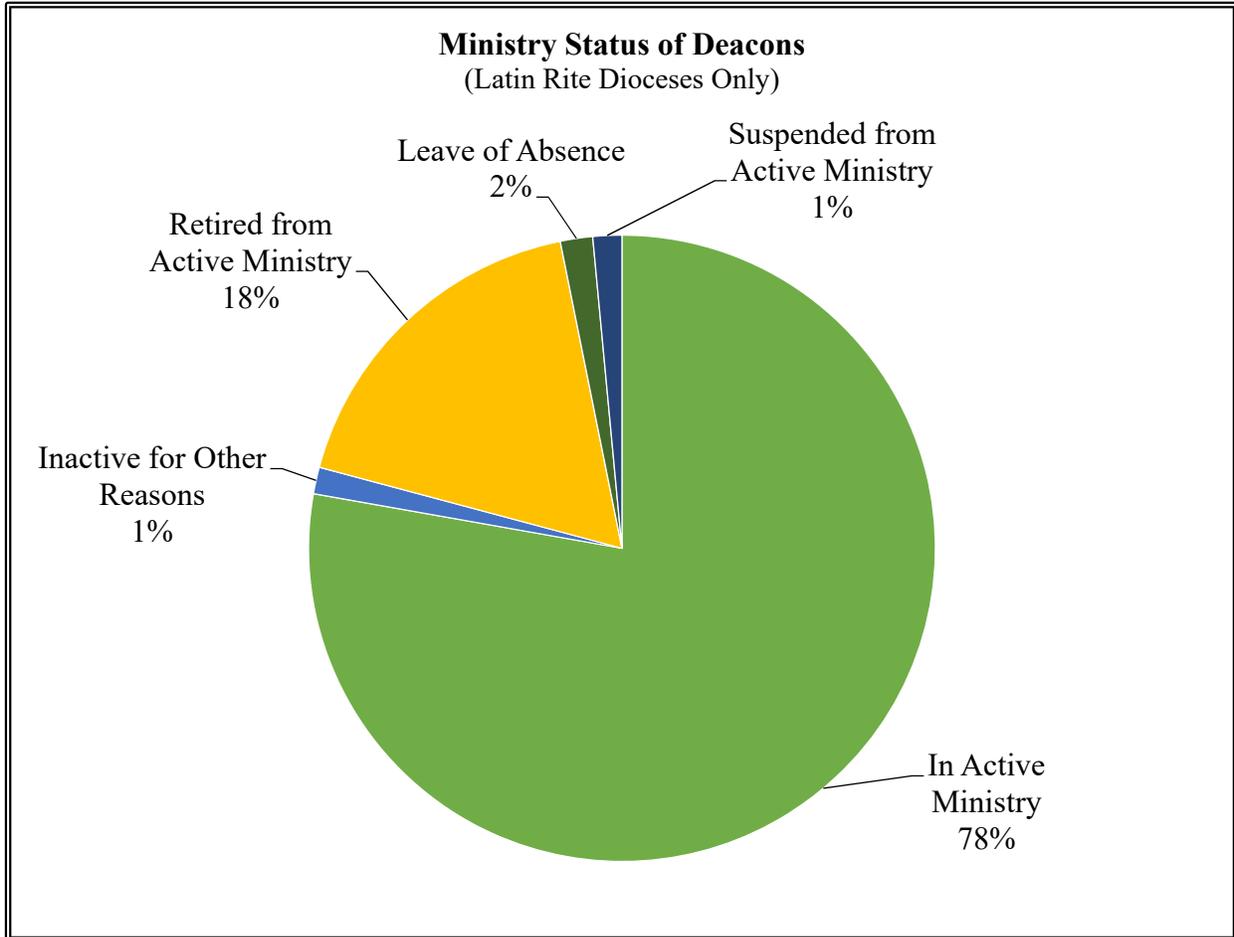
This yields an estimate of 3,854 active permanent deacons in the 56 non-responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Adding that extrapolation to the 10,962 active deacons reported to be active in ministry yields an estimate of **14,816** active permanent deacons nationally.

### Total Permanent Deacons

Using the procedure described above—while excluding the adjustment for active permanent deacons—yields a national estimate of **20,316** total deacons (both active and inactive). This includes 20,038 for Latin Rite dioceses and 278 for Eastern Catholic eparchies.

## Ministry Status of Deacons

Nearly eight in ten deacons in responding arch/dioceses (78 percent) are active in ministry, and about one in five (22 percent) are inactive for a variety of reasons.



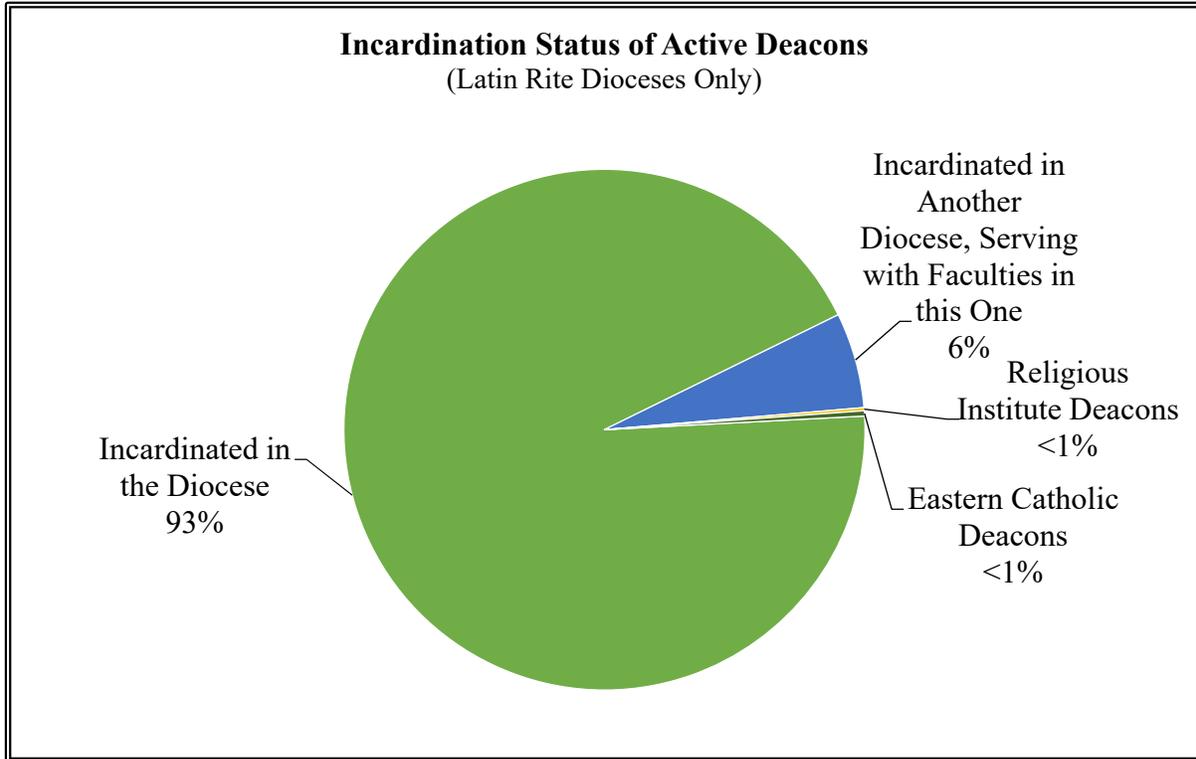
The 22 percent of deacons no longer in active ministry include 18 percent who are retired, 1 percent suspended from active ministry, 2 percent on a leave of absence, and 1 percent inactive for other reasons.<sup>8</sup>

The 130 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this survey question report a total of 10,862 active deacons, and the five arch/eparchies report 100 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 138 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, 93 percent of deacons in active ministry are incardinated in the diocese that reports them.*

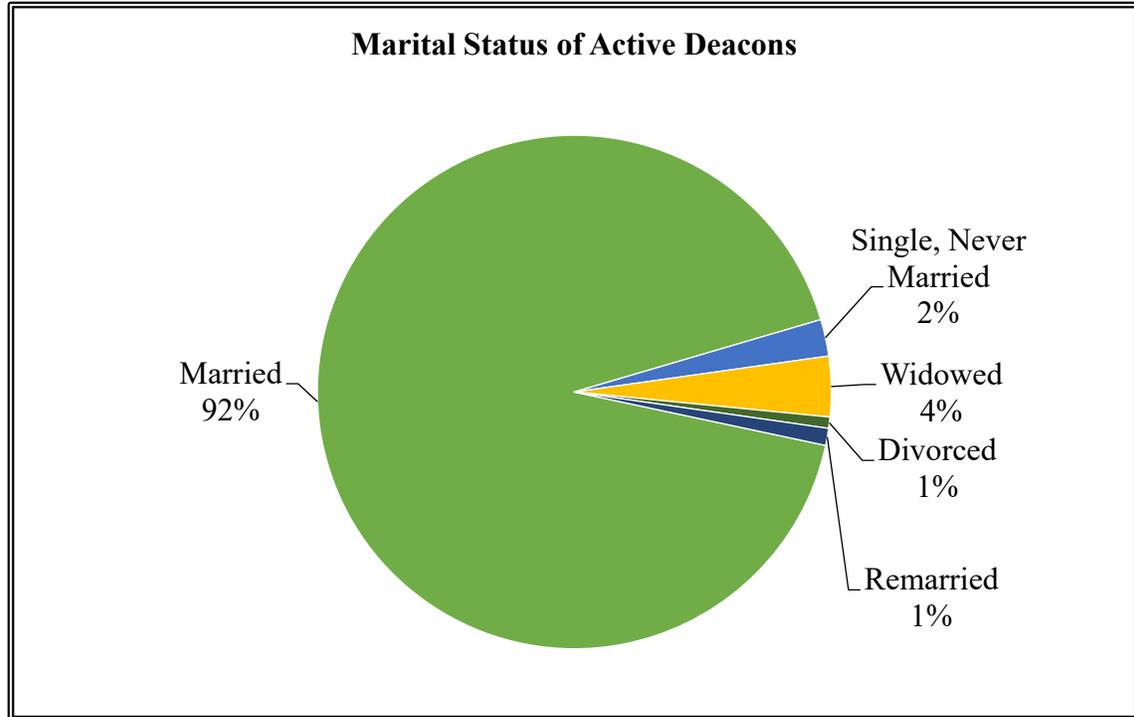


- Among responding Latin rite arch/dioceses, 6 percent of active deacons are incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serve in the reporting diocese. Less than 1 percent of active deacons are incardinated as members of religious institutes or incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches that are geographically 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 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.

<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>



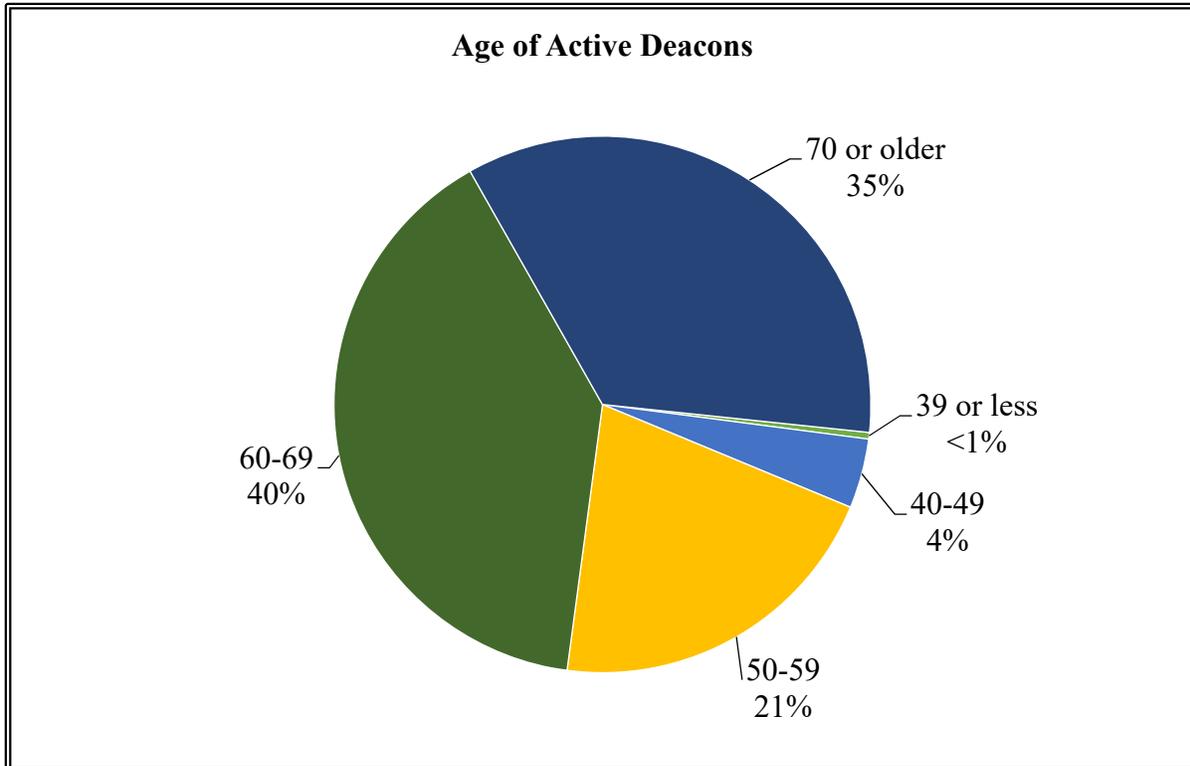
Ninety-two percent of active permanent deacons are married. Four percent are widowed, 2 percent have never been married, and 1 percent are divorced or remarried.

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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

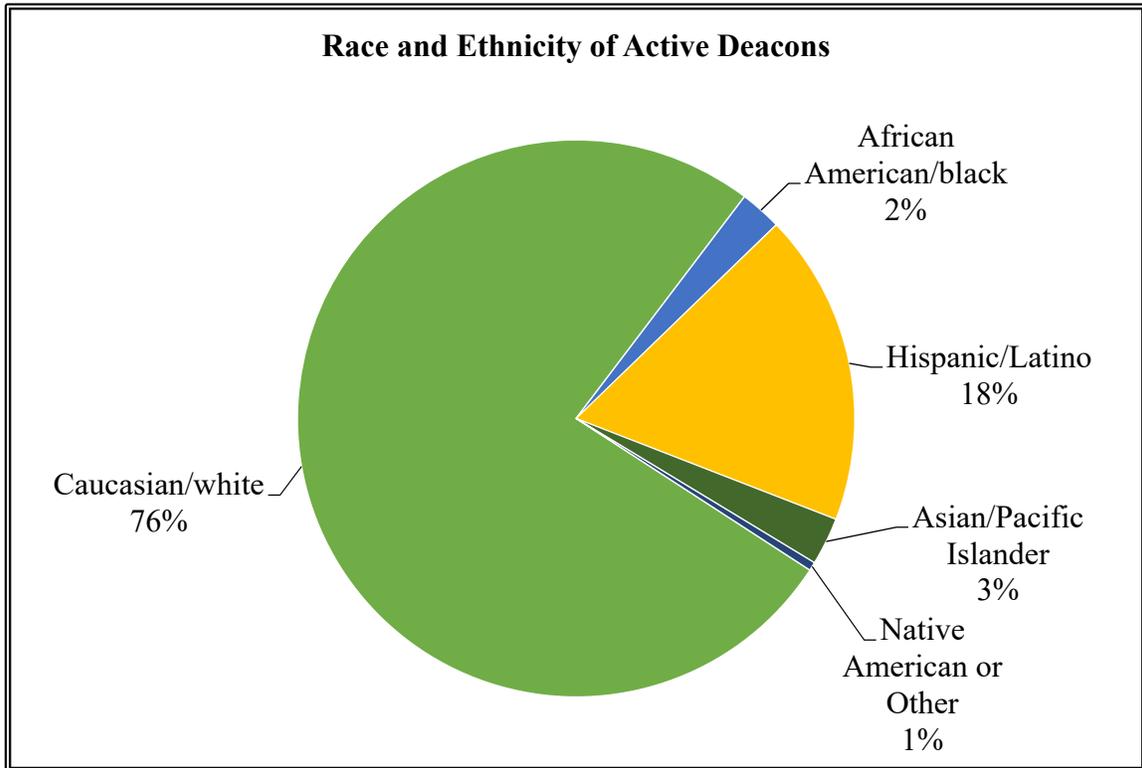
*Three in four active permanent deacons (75 percent) are at least 60 years old.*



- Four in ten active permanent deacons (40 percent) are 60 to 69 and more than a third (35 percent) are 70 or older. A fifth of active deacons (21 percent) are in their fifties.
- One in twenty deacons in active ministry (4 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

More than three in four active deacons (76 percent) are Caucasian or white. Almost one in five (18 percent) active deacons is Hispanic or Latino. Three percent are Asian or Pacific Islander and another 2 percent are African American or black. One percent of active deacons are Native Americans or members of other racial/ethnic groups.

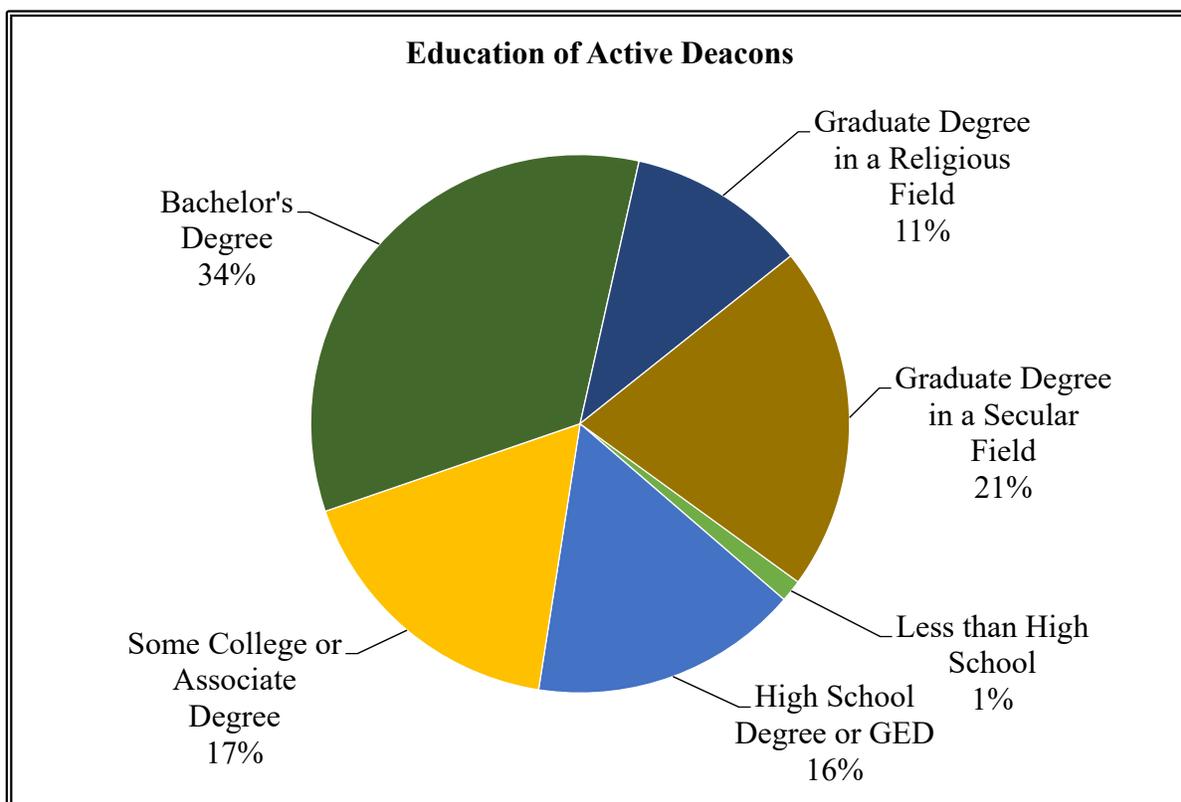


Active permanent deacons are more diverse racially and ethnically than U.S. priests, although not as diverse as the U.S. Catholic population. According to a national random survey of priests conducted by CARA in 2009, 92 percent of U.S. priests are non-Hispanic whites, 3 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 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 a third of active deacons (32 percent) have a graduate degree. Almost twice as many have a graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate (21 percent) as have one in a religious field such as religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc., (11 percent).



- One third (34 percent) of active permanent deacons have a bachelor's degree as their highest level of education.
- About one in five (17 percent) has some college education or an Associate's degree as their highest level of education.
- One fifth of respondents (16 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 2018 Calendar Year

*During the 2018 calendar year, responding offices reported 367 deacons retired from active ministry and 290 died. Another 494 were ordained to the permanent diaconate during 2018.*

<b>Changes in the Diaconate Over Time</b>					
Totals from Responding Dioceses/Eparchies					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Ordained for the diocese	494	522	451	NA	NA
Retired from active ministry	367	359	295	355	294
Died	290	324	270	237	217
Requested laicization	27	34	27	19	19
Granted laicization	23	27	21	15	7
Divorced/separated after ordination	25	25	17	8	14
Remarried without dispensation	10	7	8	3	8
Dispensed from the impediment of orders	1	4	5	1	5
Remarried after dispensation	3	8	4	1	3
Entered the priesthood	11	11	4	12	4

Arch/dioceses were asked to report the number of active permanent deacons that were lost during the 2018 calendar year through retirement, laicization, entering the priesthood, or death, as well as the number of new permanent deacons 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 2018-2019 survey.<sup>12</sup> Subsequent columns report the figures for four previous years' surveys for comparison.

- More deacons are ordained than retire in each year for which data are available. This is a good indication of continued stability in the diaconate nationally.
- In 2018, 27 deacons requested laicization, identical to the number reported in 2014 and eight more than reported 2013 and in 2012. The number of deacons granted laicization is lower this year than in 2015, and similar to the number reported in 2014.
- Eleven permanent deacons were reported to have left the diaconate to prepare for the priesthood, similar to previous years.
- The number of deacons divorced or separated after ordination is identical to that reported in 2015, but higher than in previous years. Compared to previous years, about the same number were remarried without dispensation and after dispensation.

<sup>12</sup> 129 of the 136 responding dioceses and eparchies in 2018-2019 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 (17 percent) active permanent deacons are financially compensated for ministry. Of those financially compensated for ministry, deacons who are compensated for parish ministerial position other than Canon 517.2 (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%	25%	26%
Parish non-ministerial position	14	9	12
Prison ministry	9	13	11
Diocesan non-ministerial position	13	9	11
Diocesan ministerial position	10	11	10
Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2)	8	13	10
Hospital ministry	8	14	10
Parochial education	7	2	5
Ministry in a social services agency	3	4	3
Total in compensated ministry	100%	100%	100%

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 active 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, one in four (25 percent) is paid part-time for this ministry.
- About one in eight deacons (12 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 ten (10 percent) is financially compensated for the pastoral care of one or more parishes under Canon 517.2, either full-time or part-time.

- One in ten deacons who are in a compensated ministry (10 percent) serve the diocese in a ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister) and a similar proportion (11 percent) serve in a non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
- About one in ten deacons (11 percent) are financially compensated for prison ministry and a similar proportion (10 percent) for hospital ministry.
- Fewer deacons serve in compensated ministry in parochial education (5 percent) or in a social services agency (3 percent).

## Post-Ordination Formation

*Ninety 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	90%	10%
<i>Average number of hours required annually:</i>	19	
<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>	13%	
<i>Percentage providing formation in other languages:</i>	2%	
Formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons	80	20

- 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 partially in Yup'ik, one offers formation in Ukrainian, and another indicates that formation programs are offered in Haitian Creole.
- Four in five (80 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 (75 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: 75%</i>		
<i>Median percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 80%</i>		
Diocese provides couples' retreats for deacons and their wives	84	16
Diocese provides deacon-only retreats	33	67
Diocese provides separate retreats for wives of deacons	19	81
Diocese provides annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)	87	13

- Almost nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (84 percent) provide couples retreats for deacons and their wives.
- One in three arch/dioceses (33 percent) provide retreats for deacons only. About one in five (19 percent) provide separate retreats for wives of deacons.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (87 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 (96 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)	96%	4%
<i>Full-Time:</i> 34%		
<i>Part-Time:</i> 66%		
<i>Average number of months in this position:</i>	74	
<i>Median number of months in this position:</i>	54	

- In a third of arch/dioceses (34 percent) with a Director of the Diaconate, the position is full-time. The position is part-time for the other 66 percent of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies.
- Current directors have held their position for an average of six years and two months, although the median tenure for directors is about four and a half years.

## Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

*Four in five responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (83 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	83%	17%
Diocese has an active formation program for the diaconate	91	9
<i>If no, is the diocese planning to establish one within the next two years?</i>	50	50
Diocese has minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program	95	5
<i>Average minimum age for acceptance: 33</i>		
<i>Median minimum age for acceptance: 34</i>		
Diocese has a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons	56	44
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 70:</i>	11%	
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 75:</i>	86%	
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 80:</i>	3%	
Diocese has a formal policy for deacons who are divorced/separated post-ordination	59	41
Diocese has an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly	71	29

- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (91 percent) have an active formation program for the diaconate. Among those that do not, half (50 percent) report that there are plans to establish such a program within the next two years.
- Almost all arch/dioceses (95 percent) have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into the diaconate formation program. In these arch/dioceses, the minimum age ranges from 29 to 40, with a median of 34.
- Over half (56 percent) have a mandatory age of retirement for deacons: 11 percent require retirement at age 70 and 86 percent mandate it at age 75.

- Six in ten arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (59 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 2018-2019**



## 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 = 01**
- Of the number reported in item 1:**
- Mean = 76** 2. Active Deacons who are **INCARDINATED** in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 5** 3. Active Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Mean = <1** 4. Active Deacons incardinated in **EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES** that are geographically located in this diocese (e.g., Byzantine, Maronite, etc.). **NR = 02**
- Mean = <1** 5. Active Deacons incardinated as members of **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES**. **NR = 01**  
*(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 = 01**
- Mean = <1** 7. Deacons who serve both Eastern and Latin rite Churches ("bi-ritual"). **NR = 01**
- Mean = 24** 8. Deacons **NO LONGER IN ACTIVE MINISTRY** in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Of the number reported in item 8:**
- Mean = 18** 9. Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 02** 10. Deacons on a leave of absence. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 02** 11. Deacons who are suspended from active ministry. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 01** 12. Deacons who have been released from the clerical state ("laicized"). **NR = 01**
- Mean = 01** 13. Other inactive deacons (not retired, on leave of absence, suspended or laicized). **NR = 01**  
*(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	
74	02	14. Married	62	05	24. Caucasian/white
02	02	15. Single, never married	02	05	25. African American/black
03	02	16. Widowed	15	05	26. Hispanic/Latino
01	02	17. Remarried subsequent to ordination	02	05	27. Asian/Pacific Islander
<1	02	18. Divorced, not remarried	<1	06	28. Native American or Other

Age			Highest Level of Education		
Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	08	19. Age 39 or younger	01	24	29. Less than high school
03	10	20. Age 40-49	12	24	30. High school diploma/GED
17	09	21. Age 50-59	13	24	31. Some college/Associate degree
32	09	22. Age 60-69	25	24	32. Bachelor's degree
28	09	23. Age 70 or older	08	24	33. Graduate degree in religious studies, theology, etc.
			15	24	34. Graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate

**In the most recent calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2018) how many deacons have:**

Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	07	35. Requested laicization (Canon 290)	<1	07	40. Divorced/separated after ordination
<1	07	36. Granted laicization (Canon 290)	<1	07	41. Entered the priesthood
<1	07	37. Been dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087)	03	07	42. Retired from active ministry
<1	07	38. Remarried after dispensation	02	06	43. Died
<1	07	39. Remarried without dispensation	04	07	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: *(among dioceses and eparchies that reported at least one deacon in one of the categories below)*

Full-time%	NR		Part-time%	NR	
08	00	45.	13	00	46. Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2).
28	00	47.	25	00	48. Other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister).
14	00	49.	09	00	50. Parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
07	00	51.	02	00	52. Parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration)
09	00	53.	13	00	54. Prison ministry.
08	00	55.	14	00	56. Hospital ministry.
03	00	57.	04	00	58. Ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities).
10	00	59.	11	00	60. Diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister).
13	00	61.	09	00	62. Diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).

## Post-ordination Formation

Yes%	No%	NR	
90	10	02	63. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons?
<b>Mean = 19</b>		16	64. <u>If yes</u> , approximate number of <u>hours</u> of post-ordination formation required <u>annually</u> .
17	83	07	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
80	20	04	67. Are formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons?
98	02	02	68. Is an annual retreat required for deacons?
<b>Mean = 75%</b>		07	69. <u>If yes</u> , approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat.
33	67	05	70. Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?
19	81	06	71. Does the diocese provide separate retreats for wives of deacons?
84	16	02	72. Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?
87	13	03	73. Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)?

## Office of the Diaconate

Yes%	No%	NR	
96	04	04	74. Does the diocese have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)?
<b>Mean = 74</b>		07	75. <u>If yes</u> , number of <u>months</u> Director of Deacons has been in this position.
		23	76. <u>If yes</u> , is this position: 34% Full-time or 66% Part-time
83	17	07	77. Does the diocese have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons?
56	44	04	78. Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons?
<b>Mean = 75</b>		46	79. <u>If yes</u> , at what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?
59	41	10	80. Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination?
71	29	02	81. Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?
91	09	02	82. Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?
50	50	94	83. <u>If no</u> , is the diocese planning to establish a formation within the next two years?
95	05	02	84. Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a formation program?
<b>Mean = 33</b>		05	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: \_\_\_\_\_