

USCCB & Diaconate

NADD Conference

April 2021



Rev. Luke Ballman
Executive Director

Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations

Agenda

- ▶ Who We Are
- ▶ CARA Diaconate Study
- ▶ National Directory, 2nd edition



Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations (CCLV)

▶ Committee

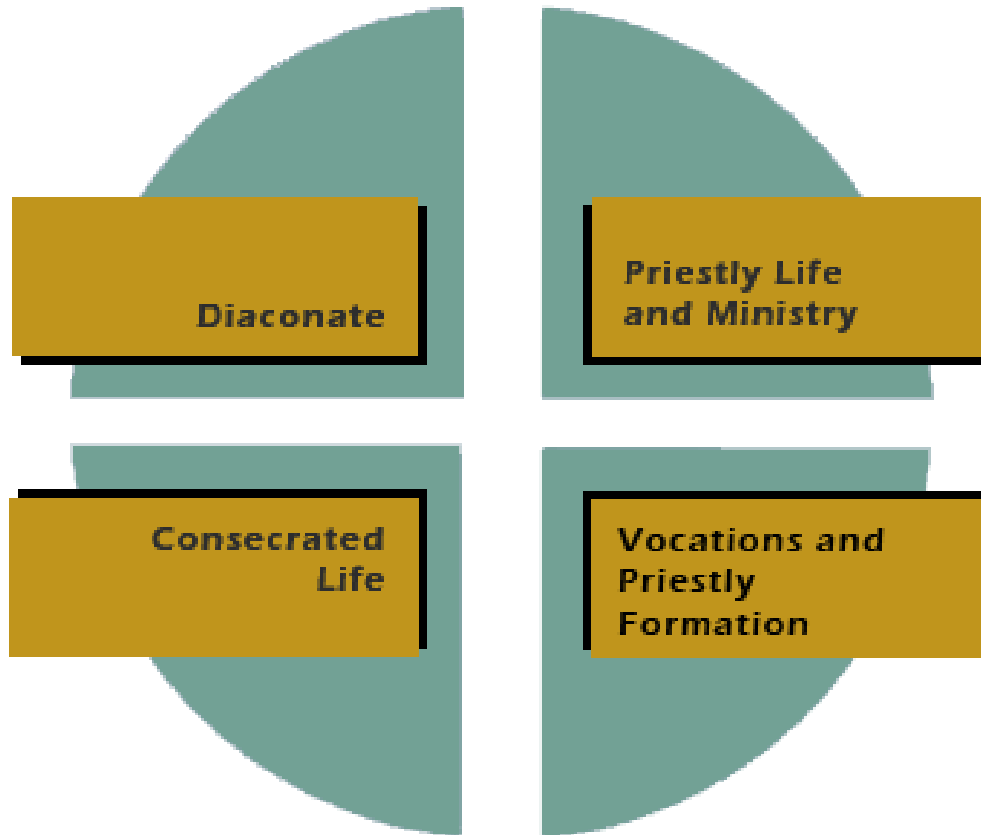
- Bishop James Checchio, Chairman
- + 7 Bishops

▶ Secretariat

- Rev. Luke Ballman, Executive Director
- Rev. Daniel Hanley, Associate Director
- Ms. Casey Brusnahan, Administrative Assistant



CCLV Committee Mandate



*A Portrait of the
Permanent Diaconate:
2019 – 2020 (CARA)*



Number of Permanent Deacons

- ▶ Number of Permanent Deacons (estimate) 19,833
- ▶ Active (72%) 14,287
- ▶ Largest number of deacons:
*Chicago, Galveston-Houston, New York
Atlanta, Philadelphia*
- ▶ Lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon:
*Lexington, Bismark, Rapid City
Duluth, Jefferson City*

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)



Ministry Status of Deacons (Latin Dioceses only)

▶ Active Ministry	75%
▶ Retired from Ecclesial Ministry	20%
▶ Leave of Absence	2%
▶ Suspended From Active Ministry	2%
▶ Inactive for Other Reasons	1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)



Marital Status of Active Deacons

▶ Married	93%
▶ Widowed	4%
▶ Single, Never Married	2%
▶ Divorced, not Remarried	1%
▶ Remarried Subsequent to Ordination	<1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)



Age of Active Deacons

▶ Age 70 or older	34%
▶ Age 60-69	41%
▶ Age 50-59	20%
▶ Age 40-49	5%
▶ Age 39 or younger	<1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)



Race and Ethnicity of Deacons

▶ Caucasian/white	76%
▶ Hispanic/Latino	17%
▶ Asian/Pacific Islander	4%
▶ African American/black	3%
▶ Native American or Other	1%

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: 2019 – 2020 (CARA)



*The National Directory for the
Formation, Ministry, and Life of
Permanent Deacons in the United
States of America*

2nd edition



Development

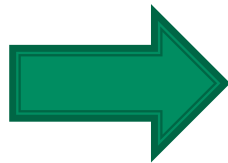
- ▶ 2013/2014 (1st edition) - Doctrinal and Canonical Review, Regional Discussions by Bishops, USCCB approval to seek *recognitio* renewal, Rome grants renewal
- ▶ 2015/2016 – (2nd edition) CCLV forms working group, draft of 2nd edition
- ▶ 2017 – draft completed, USCCB Collaborating Committee review (CDC, DW, CPCYP, DOC, CACG)
- ▶ 2018 – Doctrinal and Canonical Review, postponement of USCCB vote
- ▶ 2019 – USCCB approval, *recognitio* request, *ad limina* visits
- ▶ 2020 - *ad limina* visits (cont.), recommendations rec'd from Rome, revision of draft, *recognitio* granted (Dec 2020)
- ▶ 2021 – professional editing, indexing, typesetting/publishing

National Directory 2nd edition



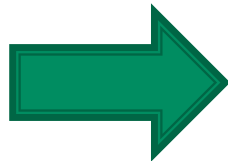
Terminology

~~Pillar~~



Dimension

~~Path~~



Stage

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Time Requirements

- ▶ Married vocation for five years prior to application
- ▶ Widowed for three years prior to application
- ▶ Convert or returning Catholic - Five years from entry into Church prior to application
- ▶ Aspirant stage of formation will ordinarily last two years
- ▶ Pastoral care of a newly ordained deacon extends for the first five years after ordination

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Inquiry/Application

- ▶ Mutual discernment (Church [diocese and parish], applicant, wife/family)
- ▶ Knowledge of faith
- ▶ Disciple of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Involvement in parish (liturgy, Word of God, charity)
- ▶ Attitude towards poor, marginalized (Pope Francis)
- ▶ Freedom to enter discernment

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Aspirant Stage

- ▶ Mutual discernment (Church, applicant, wife/family)
- ▶ Distinctive Program of Diaconal Formation
- ▶ Human Dimension – strengthen marriage, public person, emotional maturity, formation of community
- ▶ Spiritual Dimension – growth in prayer, promises (including celibacy), deepened understanding of vocation, spiritual direction
- ▶ Intellectual Dimension – deeper knowledge of Faith, Scripture, CCC, Philosophy
- ▶ Pastoral Dimension – parish, diocese, Universal Church

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