

# USCCB & Diaconate

NADD Institute

June 2021



Rev. Luke Ballman  
Executive Director

Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations

# Agenda

- ▶ Who We Are
- ▶ CARA Diaconate Study
- ▶ National Directory, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition



# Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations (CCLV)

## ▶ Committee

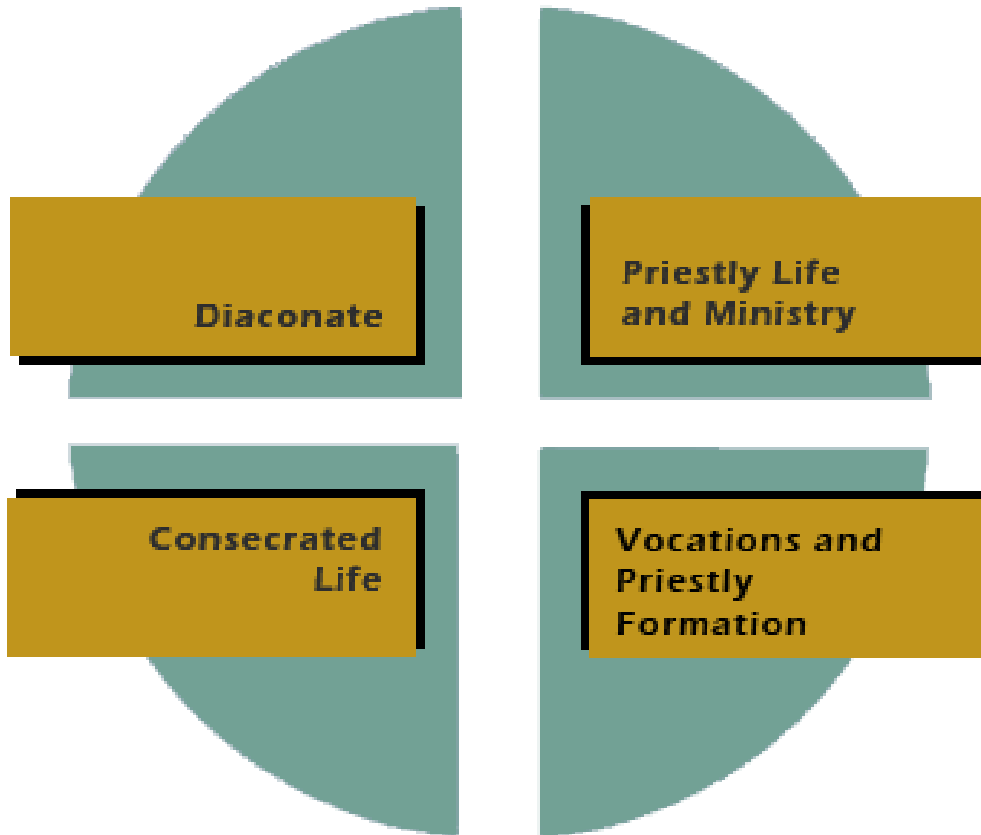
- Bishop James Checchio, Chairman
- + 7 Bishops

## ▶ 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:  
2020-2021 (CARA)*





# Number of Permanent Deacons

▶ Number of Permanent Deacons (estimate) 19,008

▶ Active (78%) 14,722

▶ Largest number of deacons:

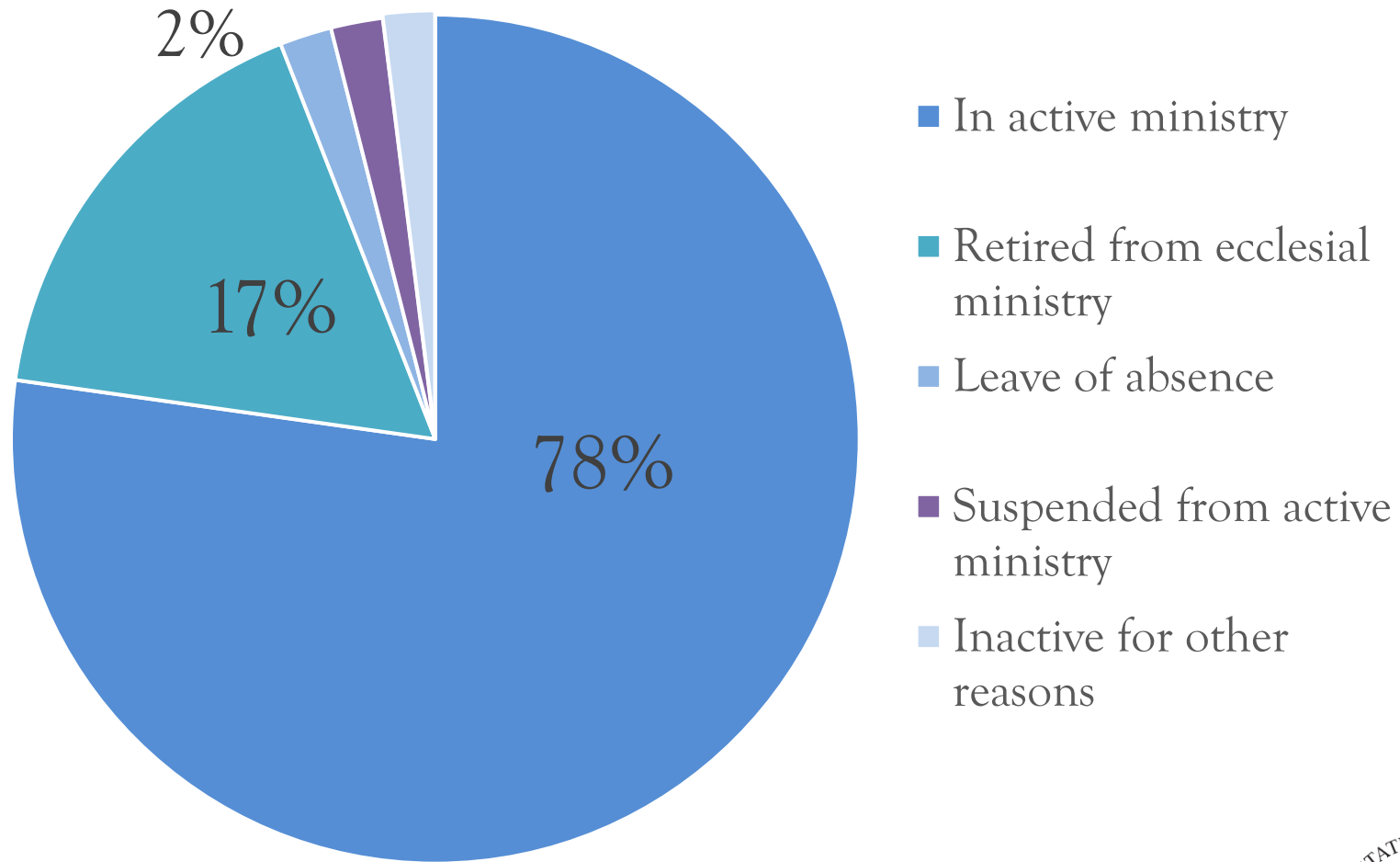
*Chicago, Los Angeles, Galveston-Houston, San Antonio, New York*

▶ Lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon:

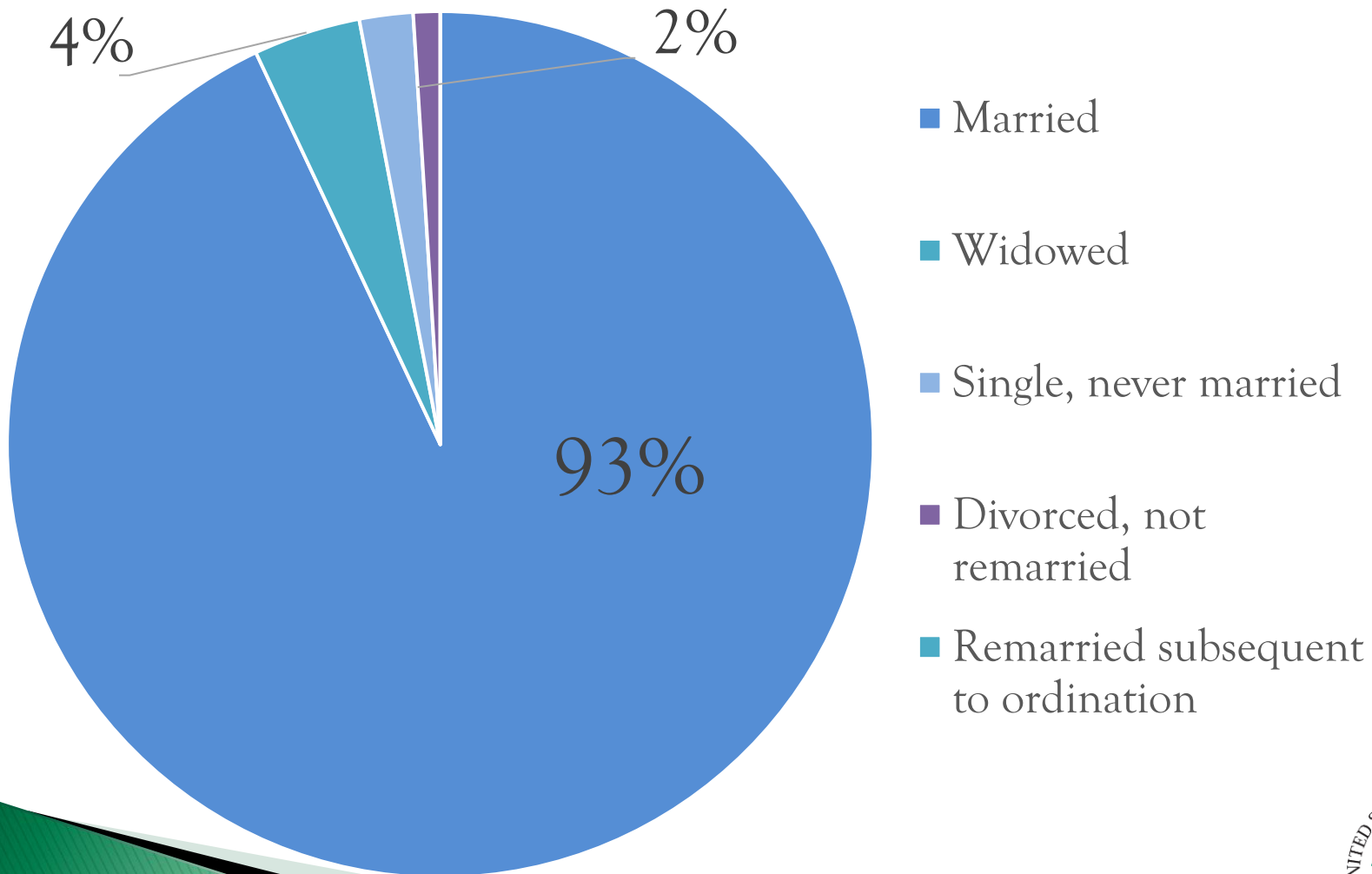
*Lexington, Rapid City, Bismarck, Jefferson City, Amarillo*



# Ministry Status of Deacons (Latin Dioceses only)

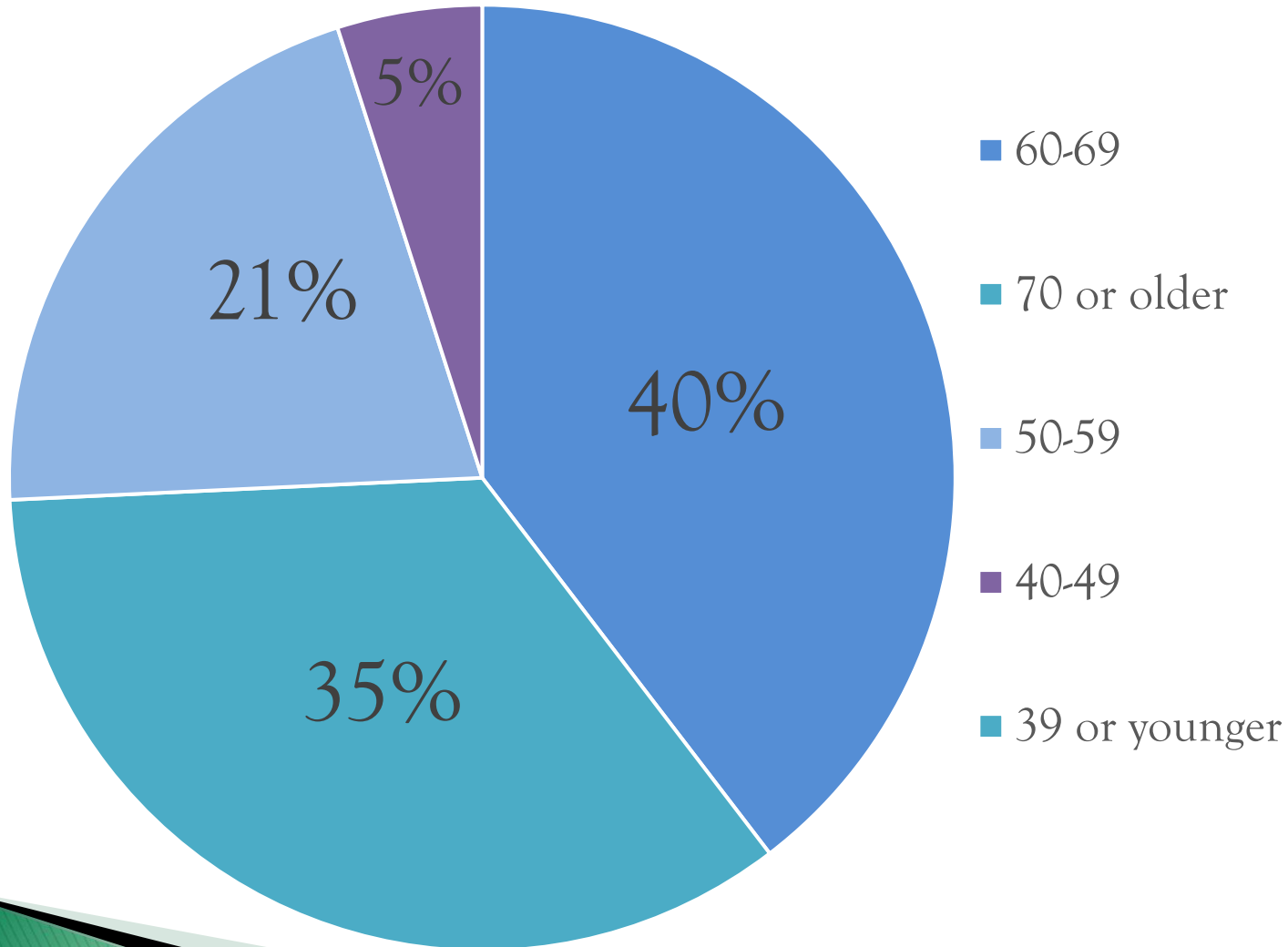


# Marital Status of Active Deacons

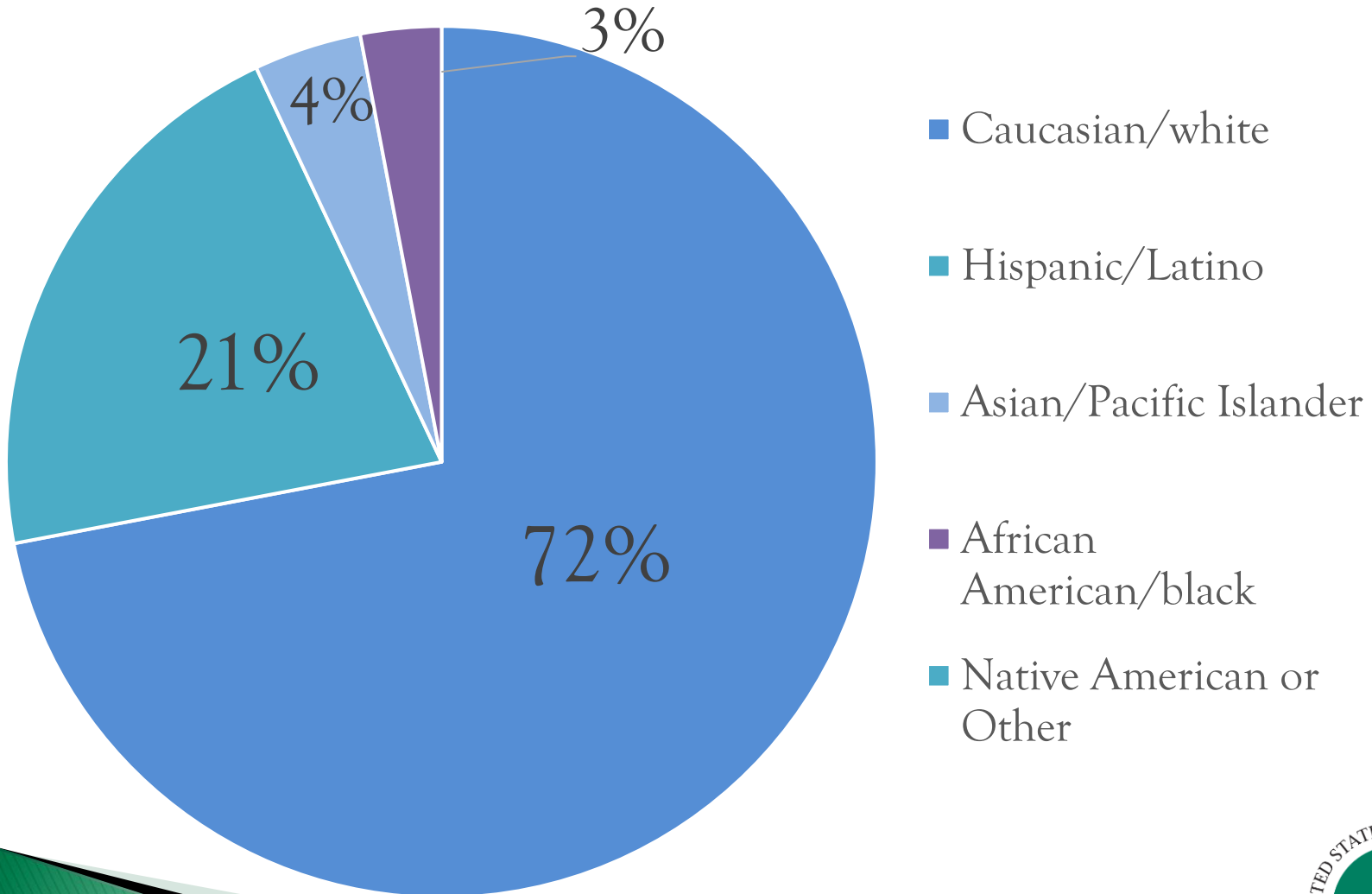




# Age of Active Deacons



# Race/Ethnicity of Active Deacons



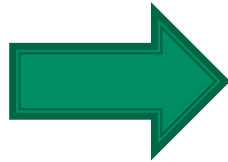
*The National Directory for the  
Formation, Ministry, and Life of  
Permanent Deacons in the United  
States of America*

2<sup>nd</sup> edition



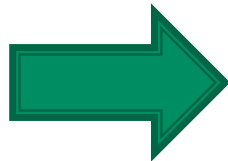
# Terminology

→ Pillar



Dimension

→ Path



Stage

# 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



# 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





# 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



# Candidate Stage

- ▶ Must last at least three years
- ▶ Ministry of Word, Ministry of Liturgy, Minister of Charity
- ▶ Mentor
- ▶ Involvement of pastor
- ▶ Discernment/involvement of wife
- ▶ Understanding of celibacy



# Candidate Stage

- ▶ Human Dimension – how to integrate personal, family, work, and ministry
- ▶ Spiritual Dimension – how to integrate spiritual life with that of his wife, family
- ▶ Intellectual Dimension – competency in required knowledge and skills
- ▶ Pastoral Dimension – practical experience



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