

The Diaconate in the Diocese of Maryland

Post Ordination Formation

To comply with Canon III.7 Section 4 (f), “For Two years following ordination, the new Deacon shall continue a process of formation authorized by the Bishop,” The following is required:

Year 1

1. Meet regularly with assigned Deacon Mentor.
2. Theological studies with Stephen Fowl or online course from CPSP, EDS or another theological study approved by the Archdeacon for Formation.
3. Send Ember Day Letter to Archdeacon for Formation and the Archdeacon for Deployment and Pastoral Care (Weds. Fri. Sat following Sept.14 [Holy Cross Day] Dec13, 1st Sunday in Lent, and the Day of Pentecost)
4. Design Social Ministry Project in parish assigned.
5. Include in annual report number of times met with mentor, reflections on maturing understanding of diaconal life and report on how you are leading the parish to serve the community.
6. Attend quarterly Deacon meetings
7. Attend Renewal of Ordination Vows Tuesday of Holy Week
8. Attend Diocesan Convention in May
9. Be involved in Regional activities, attending meetings when appropriate
10. Attend Ordinations and Celebration of New Ministries within Region that the Deacon serves

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Year 2

1. Meet regularly with assigned Deacon Mentor
2. Theological studies with Stephen Fowl or online course from CPSP or EDS or another theological study approved by the Archdeacon for Formation.
3. Send Ember Day Letter to the Archdeacon for Formation and the Archdeacon for Deployment and Pastoral Care (Weds. Fri. Sat following Sept.14 [Holy Cross Day] Dec13, 1st Sunday in Lent, and the Day of Pentecost)
4. Include in annual report number of times met with mentor, reflections on maturing understanding of diaconal life, and a report on how you are leading your parish to serve the community.
5. Attend quarterly Deacon meetings
6. Attend Renewal of Ordination Vows Tuesday of Holy Week
7. Attend Diocesan Convention in May
8. Be involved in Regional activities, attending meetings when appropriate
9. Attend Ordinations and Celebration of New Ministries within the Region the Deacon serves.

Social Ministry Project
Required for 1st year Post Ordination Deacons

Objective:

This project is designed to provide continuing formation the first year of Ordination. A deacon is to interpret to the church the concerns, needs, hopes and dreams of the world. To do this a deacon needs to be aware of the concerns, needs, hopes and dreams of the world, beginning with the community in which the deacon serves. This project is expected to provide a deacon with experience of working with the parish to:

- ✘ Assess the needs of a community
- ✘ Identify resources available to address a community's needs
- ✘ Engage a parish to address the needs of the community

Project Components:

The project will include four phases:

- ✘ *Phase I* *Research community needs that the faith community serves, Identify a need to be addressed*
- ✘ *Phase II* *Design a project to address the identified need, Identify resources*
- ✘ *Phase III* *Implement the project*
- ✘ *Phase IV* *Evaluate the project*

The project will include 3 reports sent to the Archdeacon for Formation. The report for Phase I due by February 1, Phase II due by May 1, and Phase IV due by December 1.

Phase I: Research community needs / Identify a need to be addressed

The deacon together with a group of lay people from the parish will conduct research within the community to identify needs and the resources available in the community for addressing community needs. The deacon and committee will identify at least 3 needs that they believe the parish will be able to assist in addressing, either independently or by working with an organization in the community that needs assistance. The deacon and the committee will discuss the identified needs and potential ways the parish could address the needs with the clergy and lay leaders of the parish. The deacon and the committee together with the lay leaders will select one need to be addressed by the parish.

The report associated with this phase will include the following components:

1. The Project
 - a. What is the need chosen and why?
 - b. How were the community needs ascertained?
 - c. How were the 3 potential needs identified?
 - d. How were the lay leaders identified?
 - e. How did the clergy and lay leaders respond?

2. Your Reaction
 - a. What concerns did you have initially about this phase of the project?
 - b. Did you find those concerns realistic? If so, how did you deal with them?
 - c. Did unexpected concerns arise during this phase? If so what were they and how did you deal with them?
 - d. What did you learn during this phase?

Phase II: Design the project to address the need and find the resources

The deacon and the committee will design a project to address the identified need and find the resources needed to implement the project. The design includes providing

- ✘ Parish involvement and ownership
- ✘ Recruitment of volunteers
- ✘ Number of volunteers and volunteer time expected
- ✘ Finances
- ✘ Estimation of money needed
- ✘ Fund raising, money management and accountability
- ✘ Time commitment to project
- ✘ Timeline for completion of project
- ✘ Ongoing project

After the design the deacon and committee will obtain the commitments needed to implement the project. This step may result redesigning the project.

The report associated with this phase will include the following components:

1. The Project Design
2. How commitments to implement the project were achieved.
3. The Re-design (if necessary)

Phase III: Implement the project

The deacon will oversee the implementation the project. The committee and lay leaders from the parish will organize the resources and establish the project.

Phase IV: Evaluate the project

The deacon will oversee the evaluation of the project. The committee and lay leaders will review and evaluate the implementation of project. The review will include measurable criteria as well as ascertaining the opinions from both volunteers and recipients of assistance.

The report associated with this phase will include the following components:

- ✘ Discussion of the measurable criteria for evaluation / opinions obtained from volunteers and recipients.
- ✘ Assessment of parish's willingness to engage in community service
- ✘ Deacon's learning from research, designing, implementing and evaluating the project
- ✘ What worked?
- ✘ What did not work?
- ✘ Suggestions to pass on to others