



**National Association of Diaconate Directors
and
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate**



National Survey of U.S. Permanent Deacons

*This survey gathers information on the attitudes and ministries of permanent deacons in the United States. **Your responses are very important.** Please respond by marking an "X" in the appropriate box for each question below. If you do not know how to respond to a question, or if it does not apply, please leave it blank.*

_____ 1. Year you were ordained as a permanent deacon.

Are you currently:

Yes No

2. Involved in active ministry as a deacon?

3. *If No to Q2*, do you still assist at Mass?

4. *If No to Q2*, do you still serve as a deacon in any way?

5. Fully retired from diaconal ministry?

_____ 6. *If Yes to Q5*, year you fully retired.

_____ 7. *If No to Q5*, year you plan to fully retire.

*Knowing you are a deacon 24 hours a day, approximately how many **hours per week** do you spend preparing for and carrying out your ministry in each of the following areas:*

_____ 8. Ministry of liturgy

_____ 9. Ministry of the Word

_____ 10. Ministry of charity

_____ 11. Other: _____

_____ 12. In a typical week, how many hours do you serve in your ministry as a deacon?

13. Which of the following *best* describes your current ministry? **Please check only one.**

1. Parish ministry only

2. Parish and non-parish ministry

3. Non-parish ministry only

_____ 14. At how many parishes do you regularly minister?

_____ 15. How many years have you ministered in any parish?

16. Besides your work as a deacon, are you employed in a secular job? **Please check only one.**

1. Yes, full-time. 3. Retired from secular job.

2. Yes, part-time. 4. Not currently employed.

_____ 17. *If yes:* In a typical week, how many hours do you work in your secular job?

Discernment for the Diaconate

_____ 18. In what year did you first seriously consider becoming a deacon?

_____ 19. In what year were you accepted as a candidate for the diaconate?

Use these categories to respond to items 20 to 32:

1=Not at all encouraging 2=Only a little

3=Somewhat encouraging 4=Very encouraging

Blank=Not applicable

While you were discerning a vocation to the diaconate, how encouraging were these persons?

1 2 3 4

20. Your wife

21. Your children/stepchildren

22. Your mother

23. Your father

24. Your siblings

25. Other relatives

26. Your coworkers

27. Your neighbors

28. Your bishop

29. Your pastor

30. Another priest or religious

31. A deacon

32. Your fellow parishioners

33. Did you ever consider becoming a priest or a religious brother? **Please check only one.**

1. No, not at all

2. Yes, but only a little seriously

3. Yes, somewhat seriously

4. Yes, very seriously

Yes No

34. Were you ever enrolled in a seminary or in formation for a religious order?

_____ 35. *If yes*, how old were you when you entered?

_____ 36. *If yes*, how old were you when you left?

Formation/Ongoing Formation

Yes No

37. Did you receive any of your diaconate formation online?
38. Did your wife participate in your diaconate formation?
39. Did you have a spiritual director in your diaconate formation?
40. Did you have any of your diaconate formation in a language other than English?
- _____ 41. How many years did you spend in your diaconate formation?
- _____ 42. How many hours per month did you meet in your diaconate formation?

Use these categories to respond to items 43 to 56:
1=Poor 2=Only Fair 3=Good 4=Excellent
Blank=Not treated in formation

Rate your diaconate formation program in these areas

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 43. Theological formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 44. Pastoral formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 45. Spiritual formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46. Scriptural formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 47. Field experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 48. Intellectual formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 49. Personal/human development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 50. Counseling training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 51. Homiletics training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 52. Liturgical training for special liturgies (e.g., Confirmations) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 53. Emcee training for Masses with the Arch/Bishop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 54. Hospital ministry training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55. Prison ministry training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56. Canon law training |

Yes No

57. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons in your arch/diocese?
58. Assuming ongoing informal study, since ordination have you continued in a formal educational program for ministry?
- _____ 59. *If yes*, how many hours of ongoing formation have you participated in during the past 12 months?
- _____ 60. *If yes*, how many courses of ongoing formation have you completed since ordination?

The *National Directory for the Diaconate* classifies *diakonia* in three aspects: Deacon as Evangelizer and Teacher, as Sanctifier, and as Witness and Guide. Please use the categories below to describe your ministry in these aspects.

Use these categories to respond to items 61 to 96:
1=Never or rarely
2=A few times a year
3=Monthly or a few times a month
4=Weekly or more often
Blank= Not applicable to your ministry

How often does your current ministry as a deacon involve the following?

Evangelizer and Teacher – Ministry of the Word

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 61. Baptism preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 62. Preparing children for First Reconciliation/First Communion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 63. Confirmation preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 64. Marriage preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65. Religious education of children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66. Adult faith formation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 67. Teaching/writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 68. Bible study/prayer ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 69. Leading retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 70. Outreach to alienated Catholics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 71. Evangelization |

Sanctifier – Ministry of Liturgy

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 72. Assisting at Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 73. Proclaiming the Gospel at Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 74. Preaching homilies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 75. Presiding at Word and communion services in the absence of a priest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 76. Presiding at wakes and funerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 77. Celebrating Baptisms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 78. Witnessing Marriages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 79. Officiating at Liturgy of the Hours/Exposition of Blessed Sacrament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 80. Conducting public rites of blessing/other prayer services |

Witness and Guide – Ministry of Charity

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 81. Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 82. Spiritual direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 83. Direct outreach to the poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 84. St. Vincent de Paul |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 85. Social work or social service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 86. Ministry to the bereaved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 87. Ministry to the sick/elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 88. Social justice ministry/advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 89. Ministry to racial/ethnic minorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 90. Ministry to those in recovery/12-step programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 91. Youth ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 92. Campus/young adult ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 93. Hospital/nursing home ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 94. Prison ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 95. Community organizing/advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 96. Pro-life ministry |

Compensated Ministry

If any of your *diakonia* involves financial compensation please respond to the questions in this section.

97. Is your compensated ministry position:
 1. Part-time 2. Full-time
98. Where do you work in your compensated ministry?
Please select only one.
 1. Parish
 2. Chancery or diocesan office
 3. College or university
 4. Elementary or high school
 5. Hospital or other health care institution
 6. Social service agency
 7. Retreat center or house of prayer
 8. Military setting
 9. Prison or jail
 10. Other: _____
99. Who sets the pay scale for your ministry as a deacon? **Please select only one.**
 1. The parish where you minister
 2. The arch/diocese sets the pay scale for all permanent deacons
 3. The organization where you minister
 4. Other: _____
- Does this ministry position have:
Yes No
 100. A formal ministerial contract
 101. A formal job description

Attitudes about Deacon Ministry

Use these categories to respond to items 102 to 112:
1=Disagree Strongly 2=Somewhat Disagree
3=Agree Somewhat 4=Agree Strongly

Indicate your agreement or disagreement with these statements about your satisfaction with the diaconate.

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 102. I am happy in my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 103. I am happy in my life as a deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 104. I have difficulty balancing home life and ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 105. I feel burned out in my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 106. Honoring my promise of celibacy is a challenge for me sometimes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 107. I sometimes have difficulty living my promise of obedience to the arch/bishop. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 108. My ministry has impaired my advancement in my secular job. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 109. I seriously considered leaving the diaconate in my first five years of ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 110. I have seriously considered leaving the diaconate in the past five years. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 111. I encourage other men to consider serving as a permanent deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 112. If I had a chance to do it over, I would still become a deacon. |

Use these categories to respond to items 113 to 135:
1=Disagree Strongly 2=Somewhat Disagree
3=Agree Somewhat 4=Agree Strongly

Indicate your agreement or disagreement with these statements about your current ministry.

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 113. Priests I work with understand and accept the role of deacons. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 114. Parish staffs appreciate the role of deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 115. Laity/parishioners understand the role of deacons for the most part. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 116. I have a good relationship with the parishioners in my parish. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 117. I have a good relationship with my supervising priest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 118. I share a common vision with my supervising priest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 119. If requested, I would be willing to serve as a pastoral administrator in a parish with no resident priest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 120. I have been placed in a position that matches my skill set. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 121. My formation and training adequately prepared me for my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 122. I receive evaluations of my ministry on a regular basis. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 123. I am afforded adequate autonomy in my position. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 124. I feel trusted by my supervising priest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 125. I receive respect from those who minister with me. |

Indicate your agreement or disagreement with these statements about your support for your ministry.

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 126. I have sufficient time for personal prayer in my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 127. My wife is supportive of my ministry as a deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 128. My wife is involved in my ministry as a deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 129. My life as a deacon has strengthened my marriage. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 130. My wife and/or children sometimes feel judged by others due to my ministry as a deacon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 131. My ministry as a deacon has put a financial strain on my family. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 132. There is a deacon support group available to me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 133. I have participated in a deacon support group in the last year. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 134. I feel I have someone I can confide in when experiencing issues related to my ministry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 135. Permanent deacons who are widowed should be allowed to remarry without a dispensation. |

177. Of everything you have experienced in the permanent diaconate, what would you most like to see improved?

Thank you for completing this survey

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