

**Diocese of Thunder Bay  
Permanent Diaconate Formation Program**

**1. Freedom from Impediments**

Can you answer “NO” to all the following questions?

**I can \_\_\_\_\_**

**I cannot \_\_\_\_\_**

If you cannot, indicate which question(s) you must answer “YES” \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever repudiated the Christian Faith? (C. 1041-2, apostasy)
2. Have you ever, since Baptism, denied a Catholic truth? (c. 1041-2, heresy)
3. Have you ever “withdrawn submission” to the Holy Father, or withdrawn yourself from communion with the members of the Church subject to him? (C. 1041-2 schism)
4. Have you ever married outside the Church, either while you were in an existing bond, or with someone bound by a valid marriage, or by a vow of chastity or sacred orders? (C. 1041-3, attempted marriage)
5. Have you ever committed voluntary homicide, or procured an abortion or co operated in an abortion? (c. 1041-3)
6. Have you ever seriously and maliciously mutilated yourself or anyone else, or attempted suicide? (c. 1041-5)
7. Have you ever performed an act of orders reserved to Priests or Bishops? (c. 1041-6)
8. Have you been baptized, or received into the Church for less than 5 years? (c. 1042-3 neophyte)
9. Have you missed any of the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, and first communion)? (c. 1050-3)
10. Have you ever been a member of the Masons, or any other group(s) who oppose the the beliefs and teachings of the Church? (c. 1374)
11. If married, does your wife object to you being a deacon? (c. 1032-2)

**2. Notes**

A. Impediments listed in questions 1 through 7 can only be dispensed from by the Holy Father. If you think you have incurred one of the above, we recommend that you consult with your pastor or confessor, who can clarify your position, especially with regard to question 4 if you have been married more than once.

B. Impediments 8, 9, and 10 can sometimes be resolved in consultation with your pastor, the Permanent Diaconate Office, and the Bishop.

C. Your wife will be asked to give her consent in writing on the application.

**3. Request for Application to the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program**

If, after completion of the above questions and consultation with your pastor, you both agree that you should apply to the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, please sign this request to attest to the truth of your answers. Ask your pastor to sign as well (your wife does not need to sign this form) and then mail the completed form to:

Deacon Charles Johnston  
Director of Diaconate Formation  
Pastoral Centre  
P. O. Box 10400  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8

**Applicant's Name** (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant must be at least 35 years of age at the time of ordination (c. 1031-3).

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone**(home): \_\_\_\_\_ (work): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Pastor's Endorsement

I know this applicant, and agree to his request for an application to the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program.

**Pastor's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Notes:

D. All the information gathered during the application process will be considered in strict confidence by the Diaconate Formation Committee.

E. While a candidate may withdraw at any time, an annual evaluation of suitability and desire to continue will be conducted by the Formation Team during the Program.

F. After completion of a 3 ½ year Formation Program, the candidate may petition the Bishop for the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Permanent Deacon.

G. Due to the part-time nature of service in the ministry all deacons will be expected to be self supporting.

H. Each applicant will be notified concerning his application as soon as possible after it, and the appropriate references, are received.