

# **A guide for those considering Ordination to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Southwest Florida**

## **Nominee**

Review Canons III.5.1-3 and III:6.1(a)

Hear and respond to God's call  
Consult with minister of congregation  
Attend Vocations Information Day  
Register as Applicant for Holy Orders  
One year of Diocesan and Local Discernment (or equivalent approved by the Bishop and Commission on Ministry)  
Congregation (or faith community) files Nomination to the Bishop  
Interview with Bishop who decides to proceed or recommends other ministry  
Bishop admits nominee as a postulant

## **Admission to Postulancy**

Canons refer to III 6:1(b)

One year of Diocesan and Local Discernment (or equivalent approved by the Bishop and Commission on Ministry)  
COM screening and interview process begins.  
Formal Application begins  
    Pre - Screening Process  
    Background check  
    COM verifies intellectual and practical ability to proceed  
    COM verifies language skills and cultural awareness  
    COM requests any other documentation it considers helpful  
Applicant Screening Process  
    Medical exam  
    Mental Health Screening and Psychological Inventories  
COM interviews postulant  
COM evaluation and recommendation on Candidacy  
Bishop may interview Postulant  
Bishop makes decision to admit postulant as a Candidate  
COM assigns a mentor

## **Candidacy**

Canons refer to III 6:2,3

Candidacy is a time of no less than one year for formation in preparation for ordination to the diaconate. In the Diocese of Southwest Florida the Candidate will attend the Deacons Formation Program. During this period, the Candidate will be mentored by COM, and the bishop may assign the candidate to another congregation. At the completion of the Formation program and the period of candidacy the Director of Ministry Development (in consultation with the COM) will prepare a recommendation regarding readiness for ordination to be sent to the Standing Committee. The Standing committee will then certify that all canonical requirements have been met and that if there are no objections will send to the bishop a written certification recommending ordination.