



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office for the Diaconate

### **Accepting New Aspirants for Diaconate Class of 2021**

The Office for the Diaconate of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois announces a new period for application for admission to diaconal formation.

To be considered, applicants must be men of deep faith, prayer, and love, have the desire and ability to collaborate in ministry, have the ability to pursue graduate level theology courses, be in good health both physically and psychologically, normally be at least 32 years of age to begin the formation process and not be over 62 years of age at the time of ordination, have resided in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for at least two years, and have the recommendation and support of one's pastor and parish community.

If an applicant is married, he must be in a stable, mature, and valid marriage for at least seven years, and have the consent of his wife to pursue the deacon formation process. He must also be prepared to embrace the commitment to lifelong celibacy should his wife precede him in death. If he is single, he must demonstrate the ability to accept a commitment to lifelong celibacy since a man may not marry after ordination to the diaconate.

The new period of formation will begin in January of 2017 and will consist of formation classes one weekend per month through ordination in the summer of 2021. Diaconal candidates will also have parish pastoral assignments during their time in formation.

Men who are interested in diaconal ministry should first speak with a priest or deacon in their parish. An **informational meeting** with the formation team will be held in the atrium at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00PM**. The Cathedral complex is located between Fifth and Sixth Streets at Lawrence Avenue.

For further questions or to request an application please contact the Office for the Diaconate at 217-698-8500. No applications will be accepted for consideration after September 15, 2016.