

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



**Who May Apply for Admission to Aspirancy for the Permanent
Diaconate (revised 4-25-2024)**

To apply for admission to the aspirancy path of formation for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Atlanta a man must meet “**the requirements**” that are delineated below. **For an application to be accepted an applicant must fulfill:**

- Have a willingness to make a life-long commitment of service in the church. The applicant will be asked to give assurance that if he is ordained, he will be able to serve in the archdiocese for the **foreseeable future**.
- Be in good standing in the church, having been a member for not less than five (5) years and lived within the Archdiocese of Atlanta not less than three (3) years, or have a letter from his ordinary giving permission for him to be formed for the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.
- Have his application actively supported in writing, by his wife and his pastor.
- **Maximum age to apply to the program is fifty-nine (59).**
- **Minimum age at the time of ordination is thirty-five (35).**
- **The applicant should be no older than sixty-five (65) at time of ordination.**
- **A single man must be committed to “celibacy” subsequent to ordination.**
- **A married man must be committed to “celibacy” subsequent to ordination should his wife die before him.**
- Be citizen of the United States of America, a permanent resident holding a valid “Green Card” or a resident on a valid U.S. Visa. Applicants on a U.S. Visa **will be required to provide evidence that their Visa remains valid on an annual basis.**
- Have stable employment and a fiscally sound financial history.
- Be without a criminal record.
- **Be of sufficient mental and physical health to complete a minimum of five years of formation and, after ordination, serve in an active capacity for a minimum period of 10 to 15 years.**
- Possess a minimum high school diploma and be capable of college level studies.
- Must be able to read, write and speak the English language. During formation, papers may be written and submitted in Spanish (or other languages as approved) if the applicant’s first language is not English.
- If married, be married for at least five (5) years and living examples of the sacrament and be able to provide evidence of a stable and growing marriage.
- Be in a valid marriage recognized by the Roman Catholic Church if he is married. **If any annulments are required (applicant or wife), they must have been received prior to applying.**
- Be able to provide their families with adequate quality time as a husband, father and son (without putting an undue burden on their wives) during formation.
- **Possess a significant history of active participation in pastoral ministry in his parish.**
- **After a full physical examination conducted by a licensed physician, applicant must submit a completed medical statement of health, included in this application (Appendix 2. Health Evaluation).**

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- **Be committed to serving the Archdiocese of Atlanta after ordination.**
- Be capable of committing to a minimum of two (2) Saturdays per month and three (3) weekends per year to formation and studies (in general, a minimum of ten (10) hours per week will be necessary for studies and ministerial work).
- Commit to be present for all required classes, days of reflection, ministry participation and retreats throughout the formation program.

Applications to the aspirancy year of formation to the permanent diaconate will be accepted from any man who has attended **the two required Information/Inquiry sessions.**

All application material should be submitted as a single application package with the exception of transcripts and sacramental records, which may be submitted once the applicant receives them.

Please return Appendix 4 directly to:

*Delegate for Canonical Affairs,
Office of the Vicar for Religious*
Attn: Br. Nicholas Wolfla
Archdiocese of Atlanta
2401 Lake Park Dr.
Smyrna, GA 30080

DO NOT RETURN APPENDIX 4 WITH YOUR SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE!

All men who attended the last two inquiry sessions will be receiving by email the application form, please save it in your hard drive and start to complete it accordingly, do not forget to save it any time that you add new information.

Last day to receive applications to be considered for aspirancy after completion of the Information and inquiry sessions is: February 15, of the following year. Any application received after this date will be considered for the next year 's process. Applicants should bear in mind that the interview and evaluation process can take between six and eight months to complete. Successful applicants will be admitted to the aspirancy class that begins in the last Saturday of January following their acceptance.

Once application is ready, make a hard copy and mail to:

Associate Director of Formation
Office of the Permanent Diaconate
Archdiocese of Atlanta
2401 Lake Park Dr.
Smyrna, GA 30080

Please direct any questions to:

Deacon José Espinosa, 404-920-7386 or jespinosa@archatl.com
Penny Simmons, 404-931-1848 or psimmons@archatl.com