

# OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

P.O. BOX 1145, MOUNT OLIVE, NC 28365  
(919) 658-4023

May 30, 2009

Dear Brother in Christ,

I hope that the time of prayer and discernment that you are giving to the question of the diaconate is fruitful for you. The call to service in the Church as a deacon is a call to imitate and conform oneself to Christ, the servant. If this is, indeed, what God is inviting you to do, at this time, I encourage you to submit the application for the diocesan formation program for the permanent diaconate. You may request a copy of the application from our office by phone or from Mr. Eric Brown, [eric.brown@raldioc.org](mailto:eric.brown@raldioc.org), or Deacon Felix Saez, [felix.saez@raldioc.org](mailto:felix.saez@raldioc.org). In order to be considered for a place in the next class of aspirants, the completed application, with all accompanying documents, must be submitted by August 1, 2009.

The discernment of candidates for the diaconate is both the work of the individual who perceives a vocation and of the whole Church. The needs of the Church are of paramount consideration in this process. The minimum age for ordination to the permanent diaconate is 35 years old. There is no maximum age. A candidate must have completed at least a high school education (or its equivalent). If married, a man's wife must give her informed consent to the ordination of her husband. If not married, a candidate must prepare to make a life-long commitment to celibacy.

The diocese has several regions and particular ministries that are in particular need of deacons. These needs will be important criteria in the selection of candidates for the new class of aspirants.

The minimum five-year formation program for the Diocese of Raleigh begins with a monthly (Saturday) meeting, followed by monthly two-day meetings in subsequent years. In addition, there are days of recollection and retreats. The following dates are scheduled days on formation, in Mount Olive, for 2009-2010: September 12, October 17, November 14, and December 5, 2009; January 16, February 13, March 13, April 17, May 15, June 12, and June 26, 2010. Attendance at all formation programs is required.

If you have any particular questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff, at 919-658-4023. Be assured of my prayers for you in your time of inquiry and discernment.

With best wishes,

Very Rev. Dr. James F. Garneau, Ph.D., V.F.  
Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate  
Diocese of Raleigh