

**May 2020**

***A Portrait of the  
Permanent Diaconate:  
2019-2020***

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC**

***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate:  
A Study for the  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
2019-2020***



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**Table of Contents**

Executive Summary .....	1
Major Findings .....	1
Introduction.....	4
Number of Permanent Deacons.....	5
Interpolation of Missing Data .....	7
Active Permanent Deacons .....	7
Total Permanent Deacons.....	7
Ministry Status of Deacons .....	8
Incardination Status of Deacons in Active Ministry.....	9
Marital Status of Active Deacons .....	10
Age of Active Deacons .....	11
Race and Ethnicity of Active Deacons .....	12
Highest Level of Education of Active Deacons.....	13
Changes in the Diaconate during the 2019 Calendar Year .....	14
Ministry and Compensation .....	15
Post-Ordination Formation.....	17
Retreats .....	18
Directors of the Diaconate.....	19
Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate .....	20
Appendix: Questionnaire and Response Frequencies for 2019-2020 .....	22

# ***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate: A Study for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2019-2020***

## **Executive Summary**

This report presents findings from a national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies in the United States. The study was commissioned by the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is the twelfth survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate that CARA has conducted for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.<sup>1</sup> The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper.

CARA conducted the survey between February and May 2020. To improve the response rate, NADD sent out emails encouraging participation in the survey. At the completion of data collection, CARA had 2019-2020 information from 129 of the 187 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 69% overall responses rate.<sup>2</sup> The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (71%, or 125 of 176 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (36%, or four of 11 possible responses).

## **Major Findings**

### *Number of Deacons*

- Responding archdioceses with the largest number of permanent deacons include Chicago (764), Galveston-Houston (478), and New York (355). Adjusting for Catholic population size, Latin rite dioceses with the lowest ratio of Catholics per permanent deacon include

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was originally commissioned by the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate, which became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It has been conducted annually since 2005-2006, with the exception of 2010-2011 and 2017-2018.

<sup>2</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Five eparchies, Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese, St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Eparchy, and St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

Lexington (481 Catholics to every deacon), Bismarck (690 Catholics per deacon), Rapid City (704 Catholics per deacon), Duluth (708 Catholics per deacon), and Jefferson City (733 Catholics per deacon).

- The 123 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this question report a total of 13,810 permanent deacons (both active and not active). The four arch/eparchies, that responded, report a total of 57 permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are as many as 19,833 permanent deacons in the United States today.
- Latin Rite arch/dioceses report having 9,935 permanent deacons active in ministry. The four arch/eparchies report 50 active permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include dioceses and eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 14,287 deacons active in ministry in the United States today, or about 72% of all permanent deacons.
- During the 2019 calendar year, 383 new permanent deacons were ordained in responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 334 deacons retired from active ministry and another 289 deacons died. As is the case with priests in the United States, there are not enough new permanent deacons being ordained to make up for the numbers who are retiring from active ministry or dying each year.

#### *Demographic Characteristics of Active Deacons*

- Nine in ten (93%) of active permanent deacons are currently married. Four percent are widowers and 2% have never been married.
- Ninety-five percent of active permanent deacons are at least 50 years old. About a fifth (20%) are in their 50s, four in ten (41%) are in their 60s, and two-fifths (41%) are 70 or older.
- Three-quarters of active deacons (76%) are non-Hispanic whites. Seventeen percent are Hispanic or Latino. Three percent are African American and 4% are Asian or Pacific Islander.
- Three in five active permanent deacons (62%) have at least a college degree. One in ten (12%) have a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.

#### *Compensation and Formation*

- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for ministry, 26% are serving in a “parish ministerial position” other than pastoral care of parish(es) (Canon 517.2), so they are serving in ministerial positions such as Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister. One in eight are entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon

517§2) (13%) or work in parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) (12%). One in nine works in prison ministry (11%), in a diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) (11%), and in diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister) (9%). Fewer work in hospital ministry (8%), parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration) (7%), and works in ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities) (4%).

- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (89%) require post-ordination formation of permanent deacons. These arch/dioceses require a median of 20 hours of post-ordination formation annually.
- Virtually all arch/dioceses (100%) require an annual retreat of deacons and 91% provide other annual gatherings for deacons.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (94%) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). In two in five of these arch/dioceses (39%), the position is full-time.
- In terms of formal policies, four in five arch/dioceses (82%) have a plan for the placement and ministry of deacons. Virtually all (95%) have an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate and, among those with no such program in place, seven in ten (71%) are planning to begin a program in the next two years.
- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (93%) have a minimum age for permanent deacons (which, on average, is 33 years old). Three in five (59%) have a mandatory age for permanent deacon retirement (which, on average, is 74 years old).

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**Introduction**

In spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Diaconate<sup>3</sup> of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) first commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate. CARA conducted the survey each year since then, except for 2010-2011 and 2017-2018; the present survey is the twelfth in this series.

This report presents findings from this latest national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in dioceses and eparchies in the United States and incorporates trend data from previous years' reports. The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate and the questionnaires used in subsequent years are nearly identical.<sup>4</sup> The 2019-2020 questionnaire is presented in the Appendix.

To obtain the names and contact information for the directors of these offices, CARA contacted the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) for a list of current directors of the Office of Deacon in U.S. dioceses and eparchies. CARA also contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. As in previous years, diocesan directors had the option of completing the survey either online or on paper. In addition to follow-up conducted by CARA, NADD sent out emails encouraging participation in the survey.

The final sample includes data from 129 of the 187 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparches belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 69% overall responses rate.<sup>5</sup> The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (71%, or 125 of 176 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (36%, or four of 11 possible responses).

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<sup>3</sup> This office is now known as the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

<sup>4</sup> The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with masters' degrees or doctorates. The surveys in subsequent years asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate." There are also some differences in the subsequent surveys in the way in which marital status is asked.

<sup>5</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA has no clergy personnel except those on assignment from other dioceses and eparchies, so it is excluded from this report and analysis. Five eparchies, Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg, Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese, St. Mary Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy, St. Thomas the Apostle Chaldean Eparchy, and St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago have no permanent deacons in the United States and therefore are excluded from this report and analysis.

## Number of Permanent Deacons

The Archdiocese of Chicago has the largest total number of permanent deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 764 deacons in all, including active and retired. Following Chicago, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston reports 478 total permanent deacons, the Archdiocese of New York reports 355, the Archdiocese of Atlanta reports 330 total permanent deacons, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia reports 309. The table below lists responding arch/dioceses that report at least 200 permanent deacons.<sup>6</sup>

<b>Responding Arch/dioceses with the Greatest Number of Permanent Deacons</b>		
<b>Arch/diocese</b>	<b>Total Number of Deacons</b>	<b>Catholics per Deacon<sup>7</sup></b>
	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>
Chicago	764	2,857
Galveston-Houston	478	3,556
New York	355	790
Atlanta	330	3,545
Philadelphia	309	4,184
Saint Louis	297	1,715
Joliet in Illinois	287	1,968
Phoenix	268	4,573
Orlando	262	1,377
Tucson	256	1,723
Santa Fe	223	1,459
San Antonio	223	3,609
New Orleans	217	2,398
Cleveland	216	3,074
Denver	207	2,894
Detroit	204	5,541
Sacramento	203	5,113
Richmond	200	1,244

- The 123 Latin rite arch/dioceses that responded to these survey questions in 2019-2020 report a total of 13,810 permanent deacons. The four Eastern rite eparchies that responded to the survey report a total of 57 permanent deacons.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The total number of deacons is calculated here as the sum of all deacons active in ministry and all deacons no longer active in ministry, except those who have been laicized (question 1 + question 6 + question 7 + question 8 – question 12).

<sup>7</sup> The total number of Catholics per arch/diocese is taken from the *2019 Official Catholic Directory*.

- On average, responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies report 79 deacons in active ministry. Half of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies report 59 or fewer deacons in active ministry.
- The Diocese of El Paso has over 20,000 Catholics per deacon. Other responding arch/dioceses that also have relatively high numbers of Catholics per deacon include San Jose, with more than 16,000 Catholics per deacon; Fresno, with more than 13,000; Madison, with more than 13,000; San Bernardino, with more than 11,000; and Laredo, with more than 10,000.

<b>Responding Arch/dioceses with the Lowest Ratio of Catholics per Permanent Deacon</b>	
<b>Arch/diocese</b>	<b>Catholics per Deacon #</b>
Lexington	481
Bismarck	690
Rapid City	704
Duluth	708
Jefferson City	733
New York	790
Savannah	813
Memphis	883
Anchorage	893
Pensacola-Tallahassee	912

- The Diocese of Lexington has the most favorable ratio of Catholics to deacons among responding arch/dioceses, with 481 Catholics per deacon. The Diocese of Bismarck is second, with 690 Catholics per deacon.
- None of the responding arch/dioceses with a ratio below 900 Catholics per deacon is located in the West (except for Anchorage) and Northeast (except for New York).

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<sup>8</sup> Eparchies are reported separately here because of possible double-counting of Eastern rite deacons listed by Latin rite dioceses as serving within their boundaries.

## Interpolation of Missing Data

### Active Permanent Deacons

To obtain the most complete figure for the total number of active deacons in the country, it is necessary to create estimates for the 58 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey and an additional two diocese that responded to the survey but did not report on the total number of permanent deacons. To do this, we draw on data for total deacons reported in *The Official Catholic Directory (OCD) 2019* and then make an estimate of the proportion of those reported deacons who are active in ministry.

The figure used here for the proportion of deacons who are active is calculated from the survey responses. Responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies indicate that 72% of their deacons are active in ministry. We also adjust for the fact that the number of deacons listed in the *OCD 2019* is lower than the total number that responding arch/dioceses reported—the total number of permanent deacons reported in the *OCD 2019* constitutes 87% of the number reported in the survey by the same group of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Thus, for the 60 non-responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and Eastern Catholic arch/eparchies, we estimate the total number of active deacons as:

$$\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in the OCD 2019)} * .72 / 0.87$$

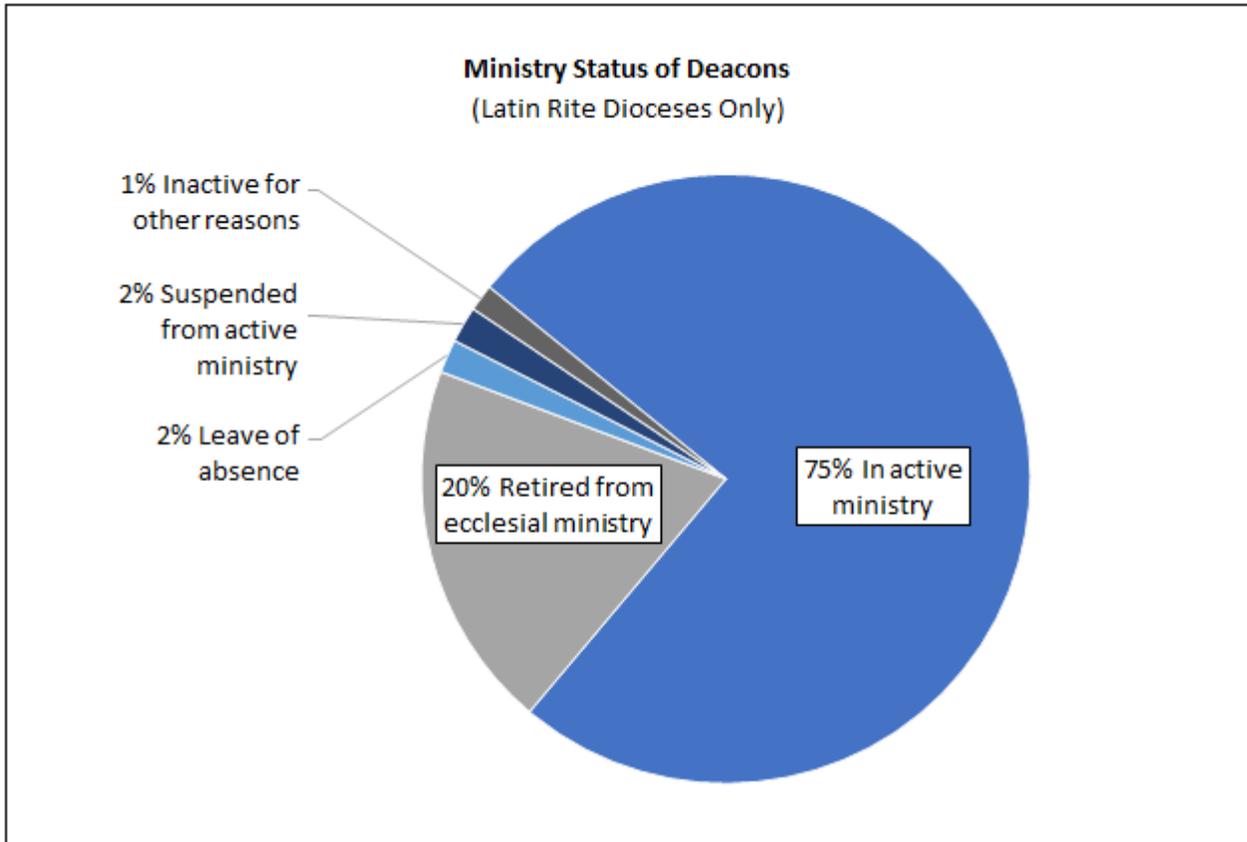
This yields an estimate of 4,302 active permanent deacons in the 60 non-responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies. Adding that extrapolation to the 9,985 active deacons reported to be active in ministry yields an estimate of **14,287** active permanent deacons nationally.

### Total Permanent Deacons

Using the procedure described above—while excluding the adjustment for active permanent deacons—yields a national estimate of **19,833** total deacons (both active and inactive). This includes 19,656 for Latin Rite dioceses and 185 for Eastern Catholic eparchies.

## Ministry Status of Deacons

*Three quarters of deacons in responding arch/dioceses (75%) are active in ministry, and the remaining quarter (25%) are inactive for a variety of reasons.*



The 25% of deacons not in active ministry include 20% who are retired, 2% suspended from active ministry, 2% on a leave of absence, and 1% inactive for other reasons.<sup>9</sup>

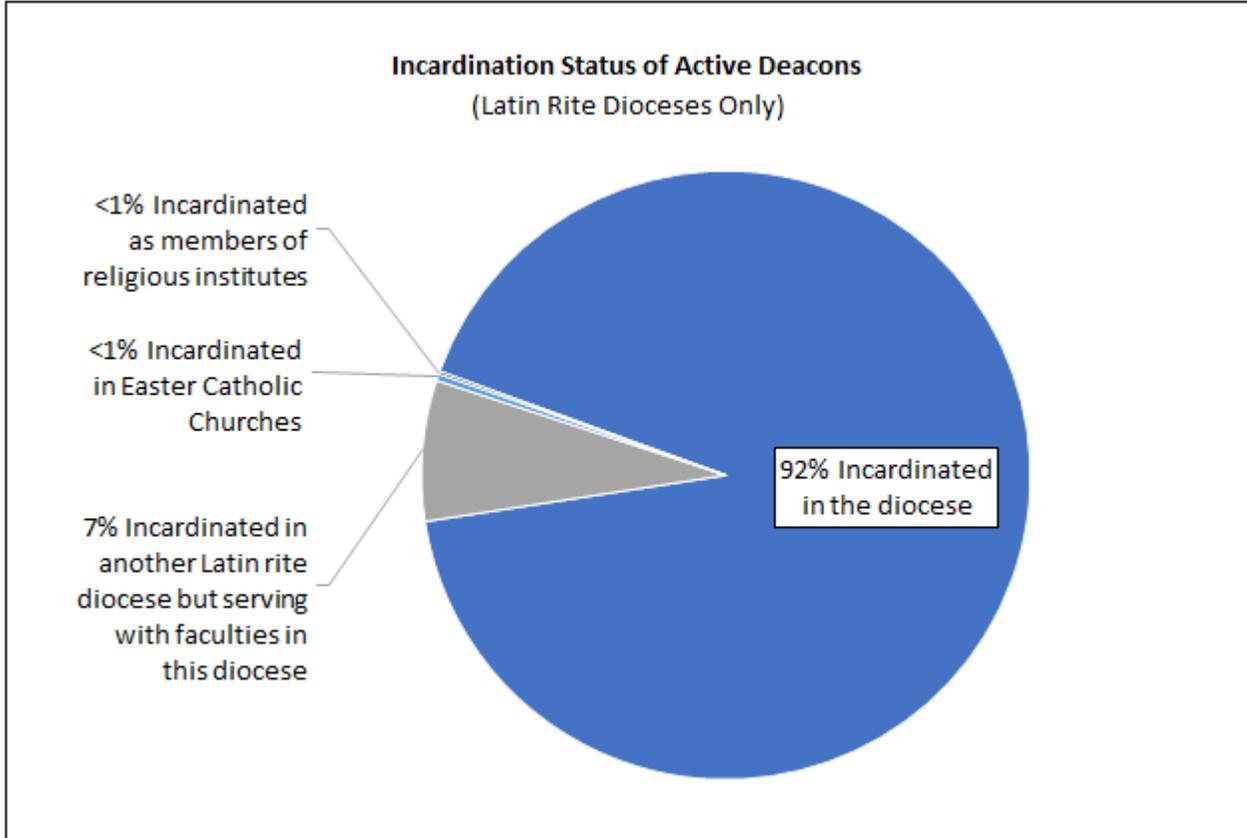
The 123 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this survey question report a total of 9,826 active deacons, and the four arch/eparchies report 50 active deacons.

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<sup>9</sup> The calculation of total deacons for this report excludes deacons who have been laicized. The Latin Rite dioceses responding to the survey report a total of 173 laicized deacons. Were they to be included in totals, they would represent less than 1% of all permanent deacons.

## Incardination Status of Deacons in Active Ministry

*Excluding responses from eparchies, 92% of deacons in active ministry are incardinated in the diocese that reports them.*

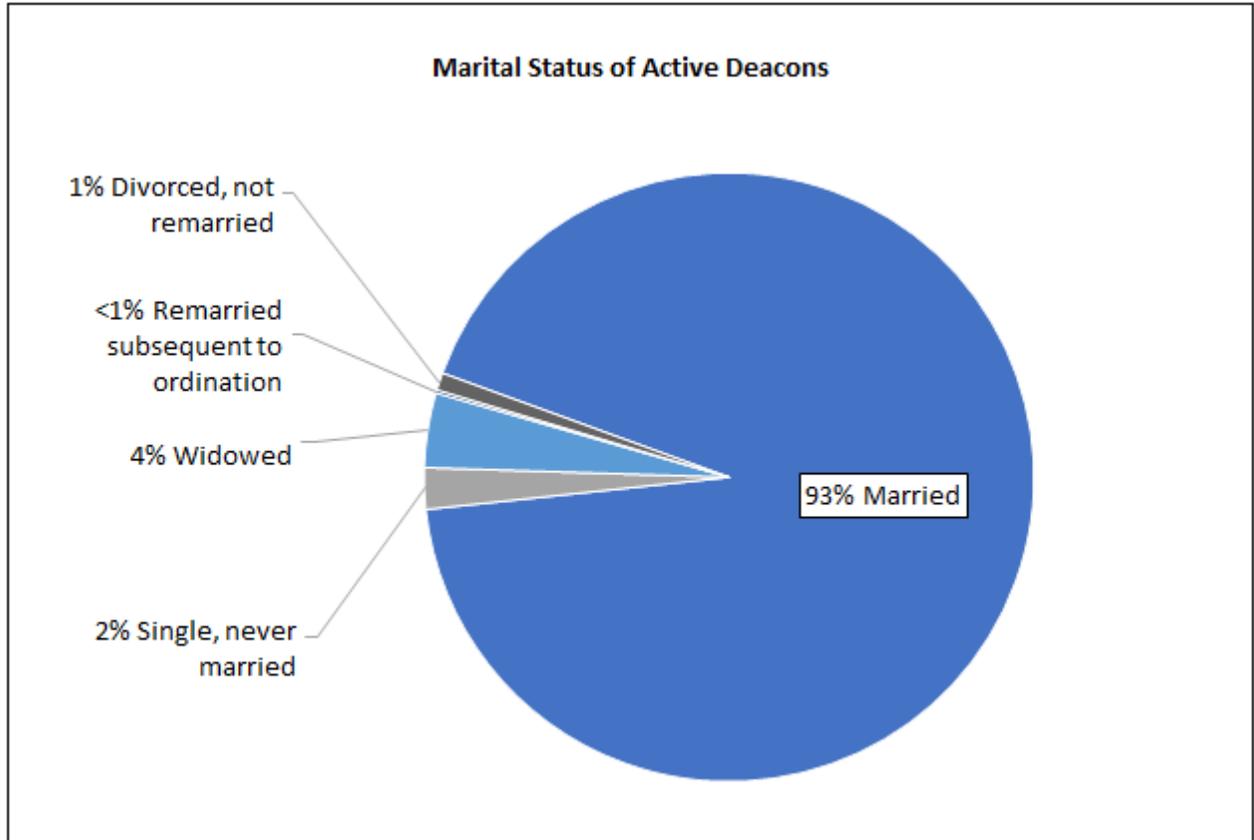


- Among responding Latin rite arch/dioceses, 7% of active deacons are incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serve in the reporting diocese. Less than 1% of active deacons are incardinated as members of religious institutes or incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches that are geographically located within the diocese.<sup>10</sup>
- In addition to the above, and not shown in the figure, on average, in each Latin Rite dioceses, there are:
  - 71 deacons incardinated in the reporting diocese.
  - Six deacons incardinated in another diocese but serving in the reporting eparchy/diocese.
  - Less than one deacon incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches.
  - Less than one deacon incardinated as members of religious institutes.

<sup>10</sup> As in all cases in this report where subgroups are reported, percentages reflect only deacons for whom information was provided.

## Marital Status of Active Deacons

*Most permanent deacons in active ministry are married. The figure below displays the marital status of active deacons.*<sup>11</sup>



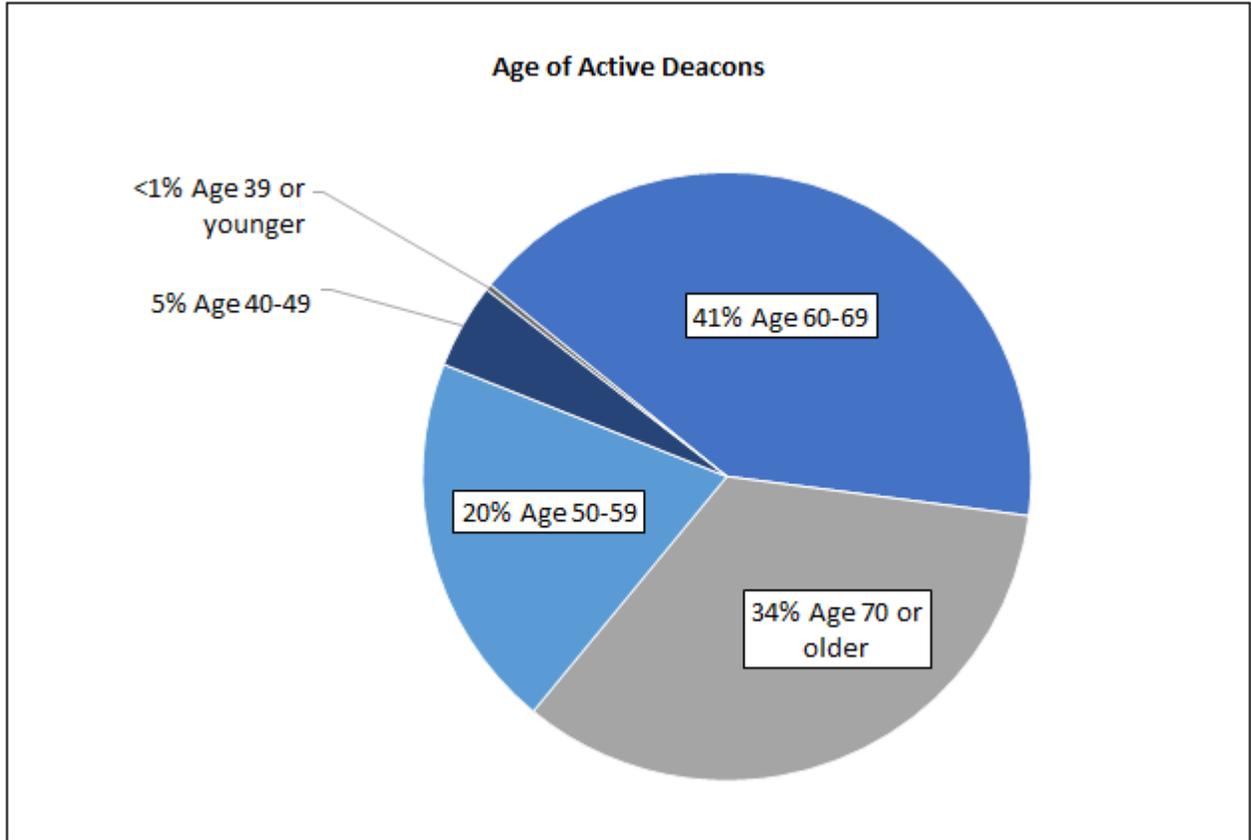
Overall, 93% of active permanent deacons are married, 4% are widowed, 2% have never been married, 1% are divorced, and less than 1% are remarried subsequent to ordination.

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<sup>11</sup> Responses of eparchies are included in the figures for marital status and other demographic characteristics.

## Age of Active Deacons

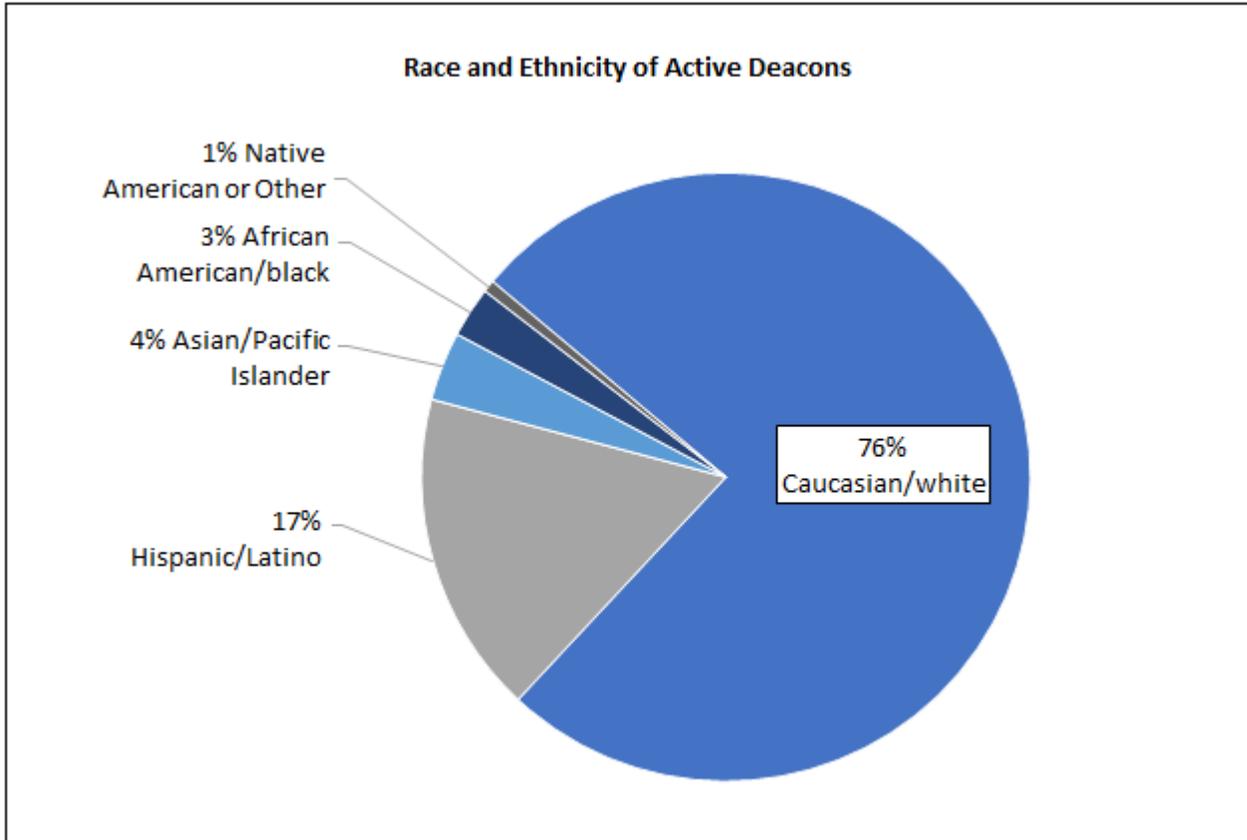
*Three in four active permanent deacons (75%) are at least 60 years old.*



- Four in ten active permanent deacons (41%) are 60 to 69 and more than a third (34%) are 70 or older. A fifth of active deacons (20%) are in their fifties.
- One in twenty deacons in active ministry (5%) is in their 40s, and less than 1% are under the age of 40. According to Canon 1031.2 and the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, the minimum age for ordination to the permanent diaconate is 35 for all candidates.

## Race and Ethnicity of Active Deacons

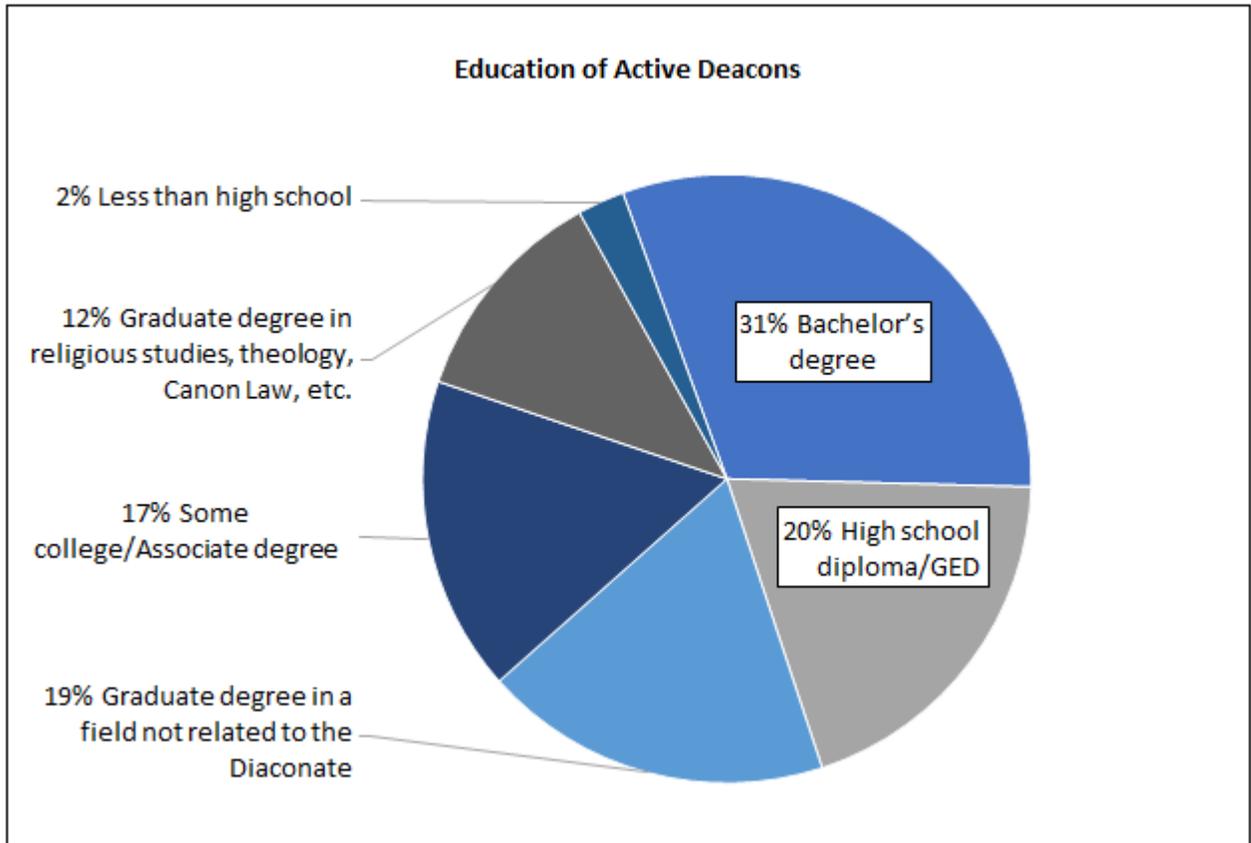
More than three in four active deacons (76%) are Caucasian or white. One in six (17%) active deacons is Hispanic or Latino. Four percent are Asian or Pacific Islander and another 3% are African American or black. One percent of active deacons are Native Americans or members of other racial/ethnic groups.



Active permanent deacons are more diverse racially and ethnically than U.S. priests, although not as diverse as the U.S. Catholic population. According to a national random survey of priests conducted by CARA in 2009, 92% of U.S. priests are non-Hispanic white, 3% are Hispanic or Latino, 2% are African American or black, and 3% are Asian American.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Gautier, M.L., Perl, P.M. and Fichter, S.J. (2012) *Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II*, Liturgical Press, pg. 10.

## Highest Level of Education of Active Deacons



In regards to the highest achieved level of education:

- One in fifty active deacons (2%) has less than high school education.
- One in five active deacons (20%) has a high school diploma or GED.
- One in six active deacons (17%) has some college education or an associate degree.
- Three in ten active deacons (31%) has a Bachelor's degree.
- One in eight active deacons (12%) has a graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc.
- One in five active deacons (19%) has a graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate.

## Changes in the Diaconate during the 2019 Calendar Year

*During the 2019 calendar year, responding offices reported 334 deacons retired from active ministry and 289 died. Another 383 were ordained to the permanent diaconate during 2019.*

<b>Changes in the Diaconate Over Time</b>						
Totals from Responding Dioceses/Eparchies						
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>
Ordained for the diocese	383	494	522	451	NA	NA
Retired from active ministry	334	367	359	295	355	294
Died	289	290	324	270	237	217
Requested laicization	28	27	34	27	19	19
Granted laicization	26	23	27	21	15	7
Divorced/separated after ordination	23	25	25	17	8	14
Remarried without dispensation	5	10	7	8	3	8
Dispensed from the impediment of orders	7	1	4	5	1	5
Remarried after dispensation	6	3	8	4	1	3
Entered the priesthood	7	11	11	4	12	4

Arch/dioceses were asked to report the number of active permanent deacons that were lost during the 2019 calendar year through retirement, laicization, entering the priesthood, or death, as well as the number of new permanent deacons ordained for the diocese in the year. Additional questions asked about changes in marital status. The first column in the table above presents the total number of deacons in each category among dioceses and eparchies that responded to the 2019-2020 survey.<sup>13</sup> Subsequent columns report the figures for four previous years' surveys for comparison.

- More deacons are ordained than retire in each year for which data are available. This is a good indication of continued stability in the diaconate nationally.
- In 2019, 28 deacons requested laicization.
- Seven permanent deacons were reported to have left the diaconate to prepare for the priesthood.
- In 2019, 23 permanent deacons divorced or separated after ordination. About the same number were remarried without dispensation (five) and after dispensation (six).

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<sup>13</sup> 103 of the 129 responding dioceses and eparchies in 2019-2020 answered all of the questions in this set.

## Ministry and Compensation

*About one in seven (15%) active permanent deacons are financially compensated for ministry in 2019, a continuation of a downward trend from 27% in 2001, 26% in 2017, and 16% in 2018. Of those financially compensated for ministry, deacons who are compensated for parish ministerial position other than Canon 517.2 (in addition to their diaconal responsibilities) make up the largest proportion among those compensated for their ministry.*

<b>Active Deacons Who Are Financially Compensated for Their Ministry</b>			
<b>Percentage among Active Deacons Who Are Compensated</b>			
	<b>Compensated Full-Time</b>	<b>Compensated Part-Time</b>	<b>Among All Compensated</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Other parish ministerial position	25	27	26
Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517§2)	9	20	13
Parish non-ministerial position	14	7	12
Diocesan non-ministerial position	12	8	11
Prison ministry	10	11	11
Diocesan ministerial position	8	11	9
Hospital ministry	7	9	8
Parochial education	9	3	7
Ministry in a social services agency	5	3	4
<b>Total in compensated ministry</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Respondents were asked about the number of active deacons in each of several categories who are financially compensated for their full-time or part-time ministry (see the table above). The percentages are based on all arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that responded to the survey and indicated at least one deacon that was compensated in any of the categories above.

Among deacons who are compensated for ministry:

- One in four (26%) works in other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister) with 25% of those compensated full time and 27% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in eight (13%) is entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517§2) with 9% of those compensated full time and 20% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in eight (12%) works in parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) with 14% of those compensated full time and 7% compensated part-time working in those positions.

- One in nine (11%) works in prison ministry with 10% of those compensated full time and 11% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in nine (11%) works in a diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance) with 12% of those compensated full time and 8% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 11 (9%) works in diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister) with 8% of those compensated full time and 11% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 13 (8%) works in hospital ministry with 7% of those compensated full time and 9% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 14 (7%) works in parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration) with 9% of those compensated full time and 3% compensated part-time working in those positions.
- One in 25 (4%) works in ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities) with 5% of those compensated full time and 3% compensated part-time working in those positions.

## Post-Ordination Formation

*Nine in ten (89%) of responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies require post-ordination formation for deacons. Among those that do require post-ordination formation, the median number of hours required per year is 20.<sup>14</sup>*

<b>Post-Ordination Formation</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Post-ordination formation required of deacons	89	11
<i>Average number of hours required annually: 20</i>		
<i>Median number of hours required annually: 20</i>		
Post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English	20	81
<i>Percentage providing formation in Spanish: 18%</i>		
<i>Percentage providing formation in other languages: 2%</i>		
Formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons	80	20

- One in five arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (20%) provides post-ordination formation in a language other than English, most typically in Spanish. Other languages include Polish, Romanian, and Haitian Creole.
- Four in five (80%) provide formation opportunities for the wives of deacons.

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<sup>14</sup> The median is the middle value in the distribution when responses are ordered from lowest to highest. By definition, 50 percent of cases in a distribution fall at or below the median and 50 percent fall at or above the median.

## Retreats

*Virtually all dioceses and eparchies (100%) require an annual retreat of deacons. On average, three in four (76%) deacons participate in the retreat.*

<b>Retreats</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	%	%
An annual retreat is required of deacons	100	0
<i>Average percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 76%</i>		
<i>Median percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 80%</i>		
Diocese provides couples' retreats for deacons and their wives	82	18
Diocese provides deacon-only retreats	32	68
Diocese provides separate retreats for wives of deacons	20	81
Diocese provides annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)	91	9

- Four in five responding arch/dioceses (82%) provide couples retreats for deacons and their wives.
- One in three arch/dioceses (32%) provides retreats for deacons only. One in five (20%) provides separate retreats for wives of deacons.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (91%) provide annual gatherings of deacons in addition to or apart from a retreat.

## Directors of the Diaconate

*Nine in ten arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (94%) have a Director of the Diaconate or a person with a similar title.*

<b>Directors of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Diocese has a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)	94	6
<i>Full-Time: 39%</i>		
<i>Part-Time: 61%</i>		
<i>Average number of months in this position: 65</i>		
<i>Median number of months in this position: 48</i>		

- In 39% of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies with the Director of the Diaconate position, the position is full-time. The position is part-time for the other 61%.
- Current directors have held their position for an average of five years and six months, although the median tenure for directors is four years and nine months.

## Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

*Four in five responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (82%) have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons.*

<b>Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Diocese has a plan for placement and ministry of deacons	82	18
Diocese has an active formation program for the diaconate	95	6
<i>If no, is the diocese planning to establish one within the next two years?</i>	71	29
Diocese has minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program	93	7
<i>Average minimum age for acceptance: 33</i>		
<i>Median minimum age for acceptance: 32</i>		
Diocese has a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons	59	41
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age &lt;70: 1%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 70-74: 14%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 75-79: 82%</i>		
<i>Percentage requiring retirement at age 80+: 3%</i>		
Diocese has a formal policy for deacons who are divorced/separated post-ordination	49	51
Diocese has an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly	69	31

- Virtually all responding arch/dioceses (95%) have an active formation program for the diaconate. Among those that do not, seven in ten (71%) report that there are plans to establish such a program within the next two years.
- Nine in ten arch/dioceses (93%) have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into the diaconate formation program. In these arch/dioceses, the minimum age ranges from 28 to 40, with a median of 32.
- Over half (59%) have a mandatory age of retirement for deacons: 15% require retirement before 75, 14% between 70 and 74, 82% between 75 and 79, and 3% at the age of 80 or older.

- Half of the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (49%) have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination.
- Seven in ten of the responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies (69%) have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly.

**Appendix:**  
**Questionnaire and Response Frequencies for 2019-2020**



## BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR THE DIACONATE POST-ORDINATION SURVEY



Please fill in the total number of deacons in your diocese for each category below

- Mean = 79** 1. Total number of Deacons in **ACTIVE MINISTRY IN THIS DIOCESE**. **NR = 02**
- Of the number reported in item 1:**
- Mean = 69** 2. Active Deacons who are **INCARDINATED** in this diocese. **NR = 00**
- Mean = 6** 3. Active Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in this diocese. **NR = 01**
- Mean = <1** 4. Active Deacons incardinated in **EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES** that are geographically located in this diocese (e.g., Byzantine, Maronite, etc.). **NR = 01**
- Mean = <1** 5. Active Deacons incardinated as members of **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES**. **NR = 00**  
*(items 2 through 5 should total to the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1)*
- Mean = 06** 6. Deacons incardinated in this diocese but serving another diocese. **NR = 03**
- Mean = <1** 7. Deacons who serve both Eastern and Latin rite Churches (“bi-ritual”). **NR = 09**
- Mean = 26** 8. Deacons **NO LONGER IN ACTIVE MINISTRY** in this diocese. **NR = 02**
- Of the number reported in item 8:**
- Mean = 20** 9. Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 02** 10. Deacons on a leave of absence. **NR = 01**
- Mean = 02** 11. Deacons who are suspended from active ministry. **NR = 02**
- Mean = 01** 12. Deacons who have been released from the clerical state (“laicized”). **NR = 01**
- Mean = 01** 13. Other inactive deacons (not retired, on leave of absence, suspended or laicized). **NR = 01**  
*(items 9 through 13 should total to the same number reported in item 8)*

**Of the number of ACTIVE Deacons reported in item 1:**

Marital Status			Race and Ethnicity		
Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
69	01	14. Married	59	02	24. Caucasian/white
02	02	15. Single, never married	02	01	25. African American/black
03	01	16. Widowed	13	01	26. Hispanic/Latino
<1	02	17. Remarried subsequent to ordination	03	01	27. Asian/Pacific Islander
01	02	18. Divorced, not remarried	01	03	28. Native American or Other

Age			Highest Level of Education		
Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	02	19. Age 39 or younger	02	02	29. Less than high school
03	02	20. Age 40-49	12	01	30. High school diploma/GED
15	02	21. Age 50-59	11	01	31. Some college/Associate degree
30	02	22. Age 60-69	20	01	32. Bachelor's degree
25	02	23. Age 70 or older	07	01	33. Graduate degree in religious studies, theology, etc.
			12	01	34. Graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate

**In the most recent calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2019) how many deacons have:**

Mean	NR		Mean	NR	
<1	16	35. Requested laicization (Canon 290)	<1	15	40. Divorced/separated after ordination
<1	16	36. Granted laicization (Canon 290)	<1	16	41. Entered the priesthood
<1	17	37. Been dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087)	03	09	42. Retired from active ministry
<1	17	38. Remarried after dispensation	02	06	43. Died
00	17	39. Remarried without dispensation	03	10	44. Been ordained for your diocese

## Ministry and Compensation

Of the total number of deacons in active ministry in the diocese (as reported in item 1), the number who are financially compensated, either full-time or part-time (excluding stipends and/or reimbursement for expenses, such as mileage) for the following: *(among dioceses and eparchies that reported at least one deacon in one of the categories below)*

Full-time%	NR		Part-time%	NR	
09	02	45.	20	02	46. Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2).
25	02	47.	27	02	48. Other parish ministerial position (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister).
14	02	49.	07	02	50. Parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).
09	02	51.	03	02	52. Parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration)
10	01	53.	11	02	54. Prison ministry.
07	02	55.	09	02	56. Hospital ministry.
05	01	57.	03	02	58. Ministry in a social services agency (e.g., Catholic Charities).
08	02	59.	11	01	60. Diocesan ministerial position (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister).
12	01	61.	08	02	62. Diocesan non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).

## Post-ordination Formation

Yes%	No%	NR	
89	11	02	63. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons?
<b>Mean = 20</b>		16	64. <u>If yes</u> , approximate number of <u>hours</u> of post-ordination formation required <u>annually</u> .
20	81	01	65. Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?
		81	66. <u>If yes</u> , please indicate the language(s): <b>Modal response:</b> Spanish
80	20	02	67. Are formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons?
100	00	02	68. Is an annual retreat required for deacons?
<b>Mean = 76%</b>		03	69. <u>If yes</u> , approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat.
32	68	01	70. Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?
20	81	01	71. Does the diocese provide separate retreats for wives of deacons?
82	18	02	72. Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?
91	09	01	73. Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)?

## Office of the Diaconate

Yes%	No%	NR	
94	06	01	74. Does the diocese have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)?
<b>Mean = 65</b>		09	75. <u>If yes</u> , number of <u>months</u> Director of Deacons has been in this position.
		07	76. <u>If yes</u> , is this position: 39% Full-time or 61% Part-time
82	18	01	77. Does the diocese have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons?
59	41	02	78. Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons?
<b>Mean = 74</b>		43	79. <u>If yes</u> , at what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?
49	51	02	80. Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination?
69	31	03	81. Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?
95	06	02	82. Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?
71	29	95	83. <u>If no</u> , is the diocese planning to establish a formation within the next two years?
93	07	02	84. Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a formation program?
<b>Mean = 33</b>		12	85. <u>If yes</u> , what is the minimum age requirement?

*In the event we need clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following contact information:*

Survey completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_