

May 2024

*A Portrait of the
Permanent Diaconate in 2023*

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate in 2023

*A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

May 2024



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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 study has been conducted by CARA for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 2005.¹ The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate.

The survey was administered between February and April 2024. CARA received responses from 128 of the 185 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparchies belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 69% overall response rate. The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (70% or 123 out of 175 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (10% or one out of ten possible responses).

Estimated Number of Permanent Deacons in the United States

- The 127 Latin Rite arch/dioceses that responded to this question report a total of 14,834 permanent deacons (both active and not active). The one eparchy that responded reported a total of 18 permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there were as many as 19,855 permanent deacons in the United States, in 2023.
- Latin Rite arch/dioceses reported having 10,244 permanent deacons active in ministry. The one eparchy reported 17 active permanent deacons. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 13,718 deacons active in ministry in the United States or about 69% of all permanent deacons were active, in 2023.
- Responding dioceses with the greatest number of permanent deacons included: Archdiocese of Chicago (827 permanent deacons), Archdiocese of New York (357), Archdiocese of San Antonio (346), Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (308), and Diocese of Joliet in Illinois (307). Responding dioceses with the lowest number of Catholics per permanent deacon included: Archdiocese of Milwaukee (253 Catholics per permanent deacon), Diocese of Lexington (501), Diocese of Rapid City (520), Diocese of Amarillo (597), and Diocese of Knoxville (655).
- During the 2023 calendar year, 564 new permanent deacons were ordained in the responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 368 deacons retired from active ministry and another 357 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 and dying each year.

Characteristics of Permanent Deacons

- Nine in ten (93%) active permanent deacons are currently married, 4% are widowers and 2% have never been married.

¹ 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.

- Virtually all (96%) active permanent deacons are at least 50 years old. One in five (18%) are in their 50s, two in five (42%) are in their 60s, and one in three (36%) are 70 or older.
- Three quarters of active permanent deacons (73%) are non-Hispanic whites. One in five (20%) are Hispanic or Latino, 3% are Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3% are African American.
- Two in three active permanent deacons (66%) have at least a college degree. One in ten (14%) has a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.
- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for ministry, one in ten (9%) is entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2). Additionally, one quarter of (23%) works in other parish ministerial positions (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister) and one in five (20%) works in parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).

Post-Ordination Formation

- Nine in ten responding arch/dioceses (88%) require post-ordination formation of permanent deacons. These arch/dioceses require a median of 20 hours of post-ordination formation annually.

Retreats

- Virtually all arch/dioceses (97%) require an annual retreat of deacons and 92% provide other annual gatherings for deacons.

Directors of the Diaconate

- Virtually all responding arch/dioceses (98%) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). Among them, 41% employ Director of Diaconate full-time.

Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

- In terms of formal policies, four in five arch/dioceses (85%) 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, three in five (57%), are planning to begin a program in the next two years.
- Virtually all responding arch/dioceses (95%) have a minimum age of acceptance into permanent diaconate (which, on average, is 32 years old). Three in five (58%) have a mandatory age for permanent deacon's retirement (which, on average, is 75 years old).

Introduction

In spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Diaconate (which later became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations) 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, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Each year, the survey is sent to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in Latin rite arch/dioceses and Eastern rite arch/eparchies in the United States (or more precisely, under the jurisdiction of the USCCB). CARA conducted the most recent survey between February and April 2024. In addition to regular reminders sent out by CARA, the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) sent out emails encouraging participation in the survey and USCCB conducted phone follow ups. At the completion of data collection, CARA received responses from 128 of the 185 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparchs belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 69% overall response rate.

The report is organized into seven parts:

- Part I of the report provides, among other things, estimates for the number of active deacons, all deacons in total.
- Part II focuses on the distribution of permanent deacons by various characteristics including ministry status, incardination status, marital status, age, race and ethnicity, education level, and compensation.
- Part III describes post-ordination formation of deacons including the existence (or lack) of formation requirement, the number of hours of required formation, languages used in formation, and existence (or lack) of formation opportunities for wives of deacons.
- Part IV explores annual retreats (e.g., availability of deacon-only retreats, couples' retreats, and separate retreats).
- Part V focuses on the directors of the diaconate (such as, for example, existence of full-time and part-time diocesan positions, length of tenure of the directors).
- Part VI provides information about the policies of the office of the diaconate (such as, for example, existence of: a plan for placement and ministry of deacons, active formation program, minimum age of acceptance requirement, mandatory age of retirement requirement, and formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination).
- Methodology explains the procedure for calculating the number of active deacons, all deacons in total, and the number of ordinations to diaconate.

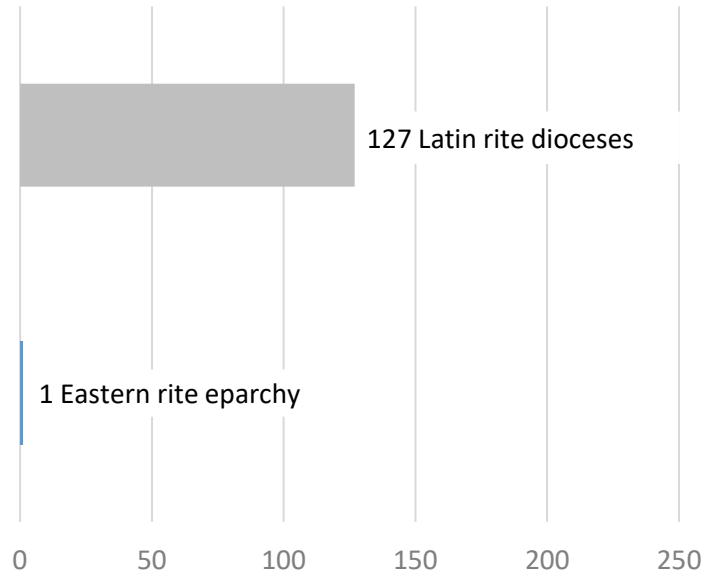
For the purpose of forecasting, confidence intervals are estimated using confidence level of 0.95. Forecasts are only included, if confidence interval is equal to or smaller than 5% of the forecasted amount.

Survey Respondents by Rite

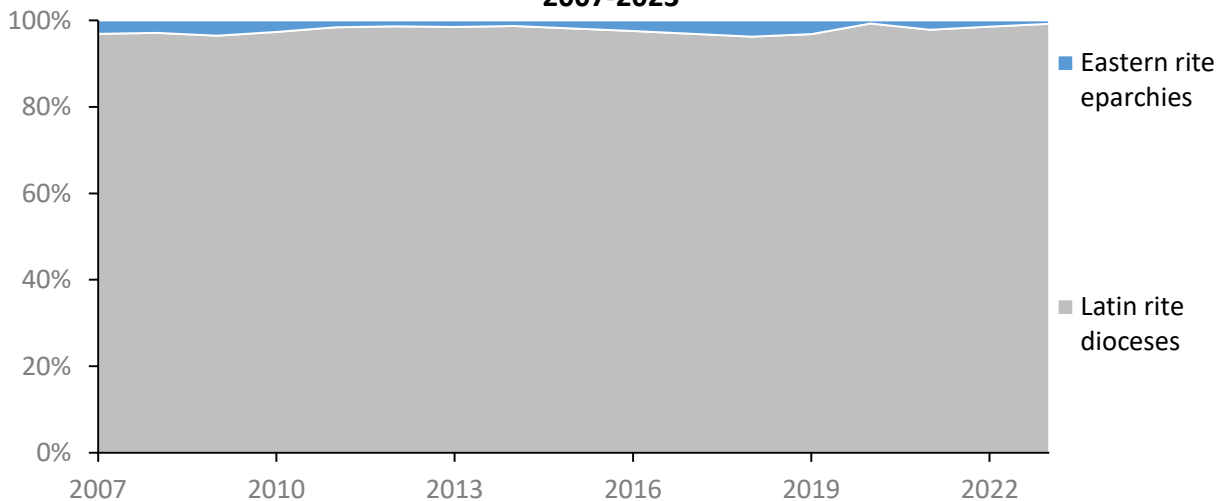
This report is based on a survey conducted in 2024 asking about year 2023. Overall, there were 128 usable responses received. This includes 127 responses from Latin rite dioceses and one response from Eastern rite eparchy. This means that Eastern rite eparchies constituted 1% of all respondents for year 2023. By comparison, since 2007, Eastern rite eparchies constituted, on average, 2% of responses.

Altogether, diocese and an eparchy that responded to the survey represent an estimated 75% of all permanent deacons in the United States.

Respondents to the Survey for Year 2023



**Survey Respondents from ...
2007-2023**



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Part I: Estimated Number of Permanent Deacons in the U.S.

Number of Active and All Permanent Deacons

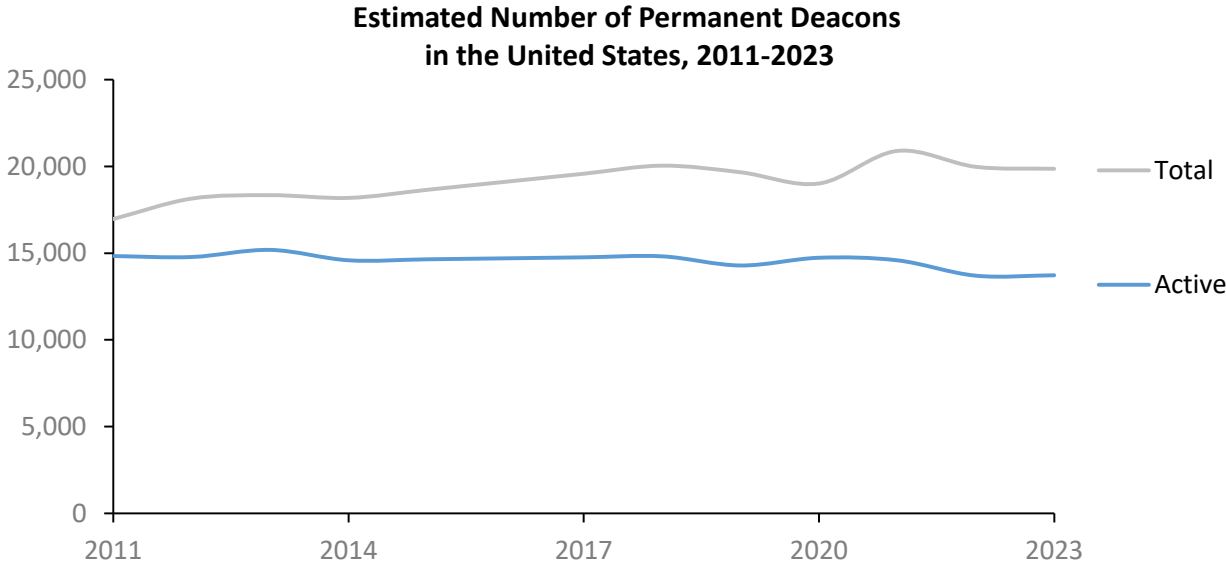
The estimated number of permanent deacons in active ministry was 13,718 in 2023. Since 2011, their number averaged 14,564 and ranged between 13,695 and 15,191.

The estimated total number of permanent deacons was 19,855 in 2023. Since 2011, their number averaged 19,105 and ranged between 16,966 and 20,888.

	Latin Rite [#]	Eastern Rite [#]	All [#]
Active	13,666	52	13,718
Total	19,653	202	19,855

See methodology description at the end of the report for an explanation of how these estimates were calculated.

For alternative estimates / data sources, please see general Church statistics on CARA’s website (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/faqs>), Statistical Overview of Catholic Permanent Deacons’ Formation in the United States (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/catholic-ministry-formation-directory>), and the Official Catholic Directory (<https://officialcatholicdirectory.com>).



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Dioceses with the Greatest Number of Permanent Deacons

Responding dioceses with the greatest number of permanent deacons included: Archdiocese of Chicago (827 permanent deacons), Archdiocese of New York (357), Archdiocese of San Antonio (346), Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (308), and Diocese of Joliet in Illinois (307).

Responding Dioceses with the Highest Number of Permanent Deacons Responses for Year 2023		
	Total Number of Deacons ↓ [#]	Catholics per Deacon [#]
Chicago	827	2,607
New York	357	7,864
San Antonio	346	3,319
Galveston-Houston	308	5,519
Joliet in Illinois	307	1,694

Responding dioceses with the lowest number of Catholics per permanent deacon included: Archdiocese of Milwaukee (253 Catholics per permanent deacon), Diocese of Lexington (501), Diocese of Rapid City (520), Diocese of Amarillo (597), and Diocese of Knoxville (655).

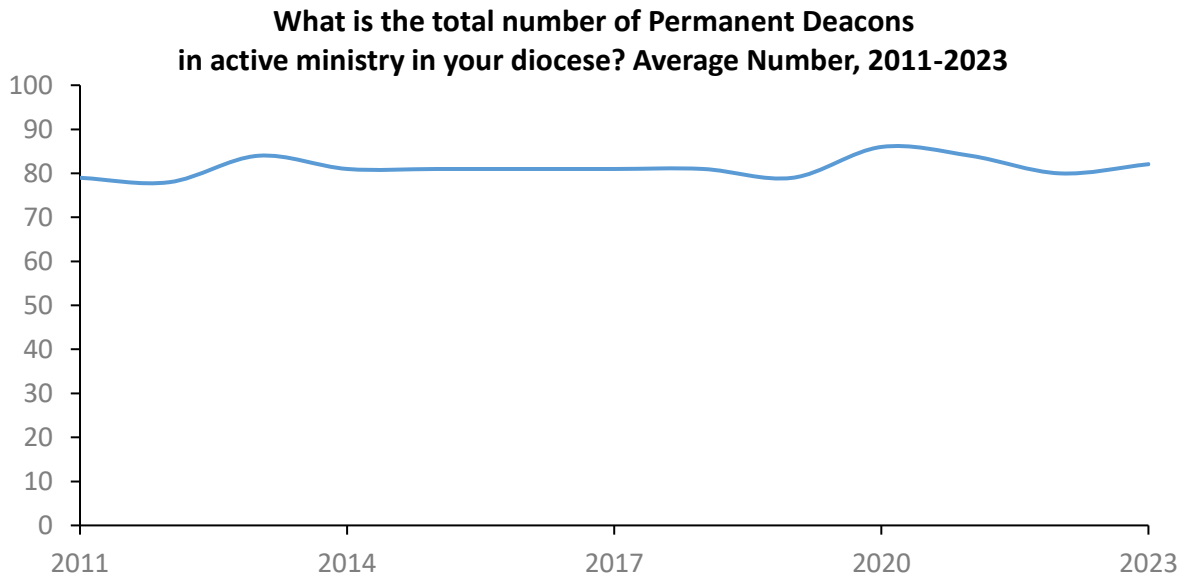
Responding Dioceses with the Lowest Number of Catholics per Permanent Deacon Responses for Year 2023		
	Total Number of Deacons	Catholics per Deacon ↑ [#]
Milwaukee	209	253
Lexington	81	501
Rapid City	41	520
Amarillo	66	597
Knoxville	104	655

Number of Active Deacons per Diocese

Altogether, there were, on average, 82 active permanent deacons per diocese/eparchy in 2023 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, there were between 3 and 65 active permanent deacons and in the other half between 65 and 500). Since 2011, the average number of permanent deacons per diocese/eparchy was 81 and ranged between 78 and 86.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to the survey.

What is the total number of Permanent Deacons in active ministry in your diocese?			
Responses for Year 2023			
	Latin Rite	Eastern Rite	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]
Average	83	17	82
Median	66	17	65
Range	3 - 500	17 - 17	3 - 500

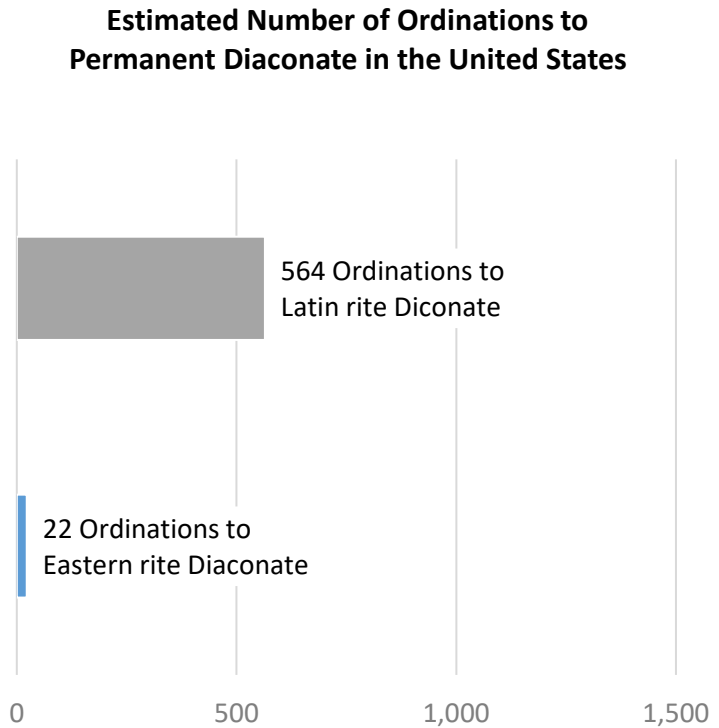


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

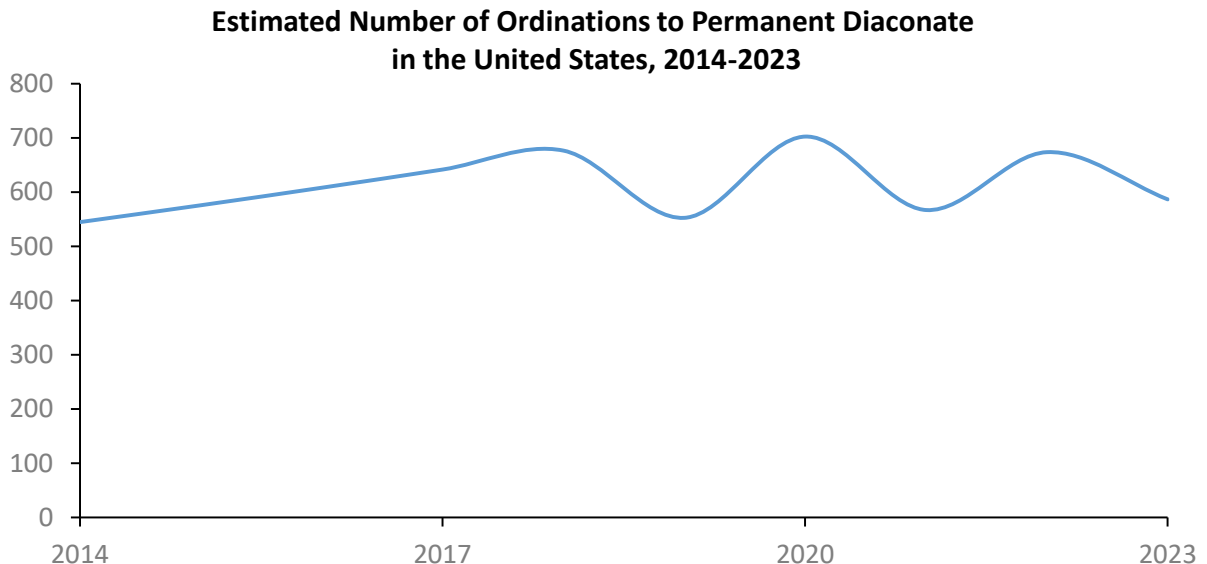
Number of Ordinations to Permanent Diaconate

There were estimated 587 men ordained to permanent diaconate in 2023 (and 674 a year before). This includes an estimated 564 ordinands to Latin rite dioceses and 22 ordinands to Eastern rite a single responding eparchy. Since 2014, the estimated number of all ordinations averaged 613 and ranged between 545 and 702.

See methodology description at the end of the report for an explanation of how these estimates were calculated.



For alternative estimates / data sources, please see Statistical Overview of Catholic Permanent Deacons' Formation in the United States (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/catholic-ministry-formation-directory>) and the Official Catholic Directory (<https://officialcatholicdirectory.com>).



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Changes in Permanent Diaconate

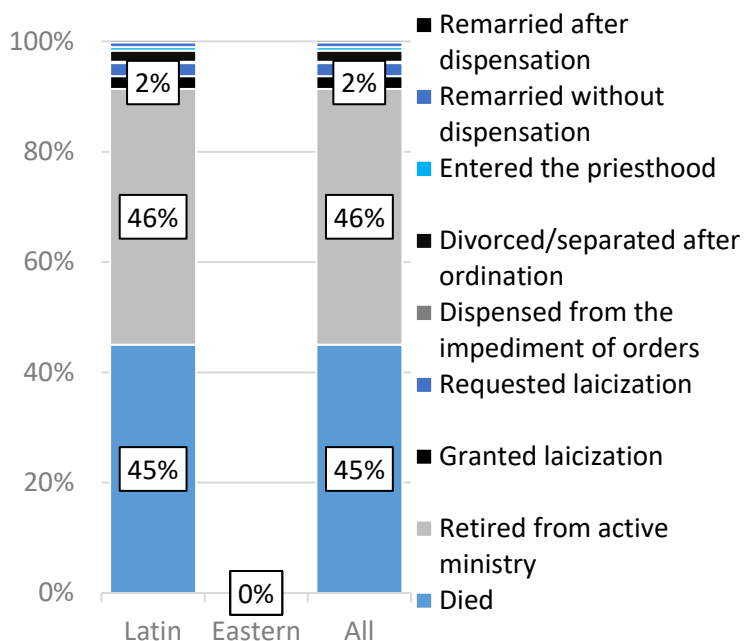
Deacons who retired from active ministry constituted 46% of all permanent deacons who were lost, in 2023. They represented 46% of departures in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of departures in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 48% and ranged between 41% and 55%.

Deacons who died constituted 45% of all permanent deacons who were lost, in 2023. They represented 45% of departures in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of departures in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 40% and ranged between 32% and 46%.

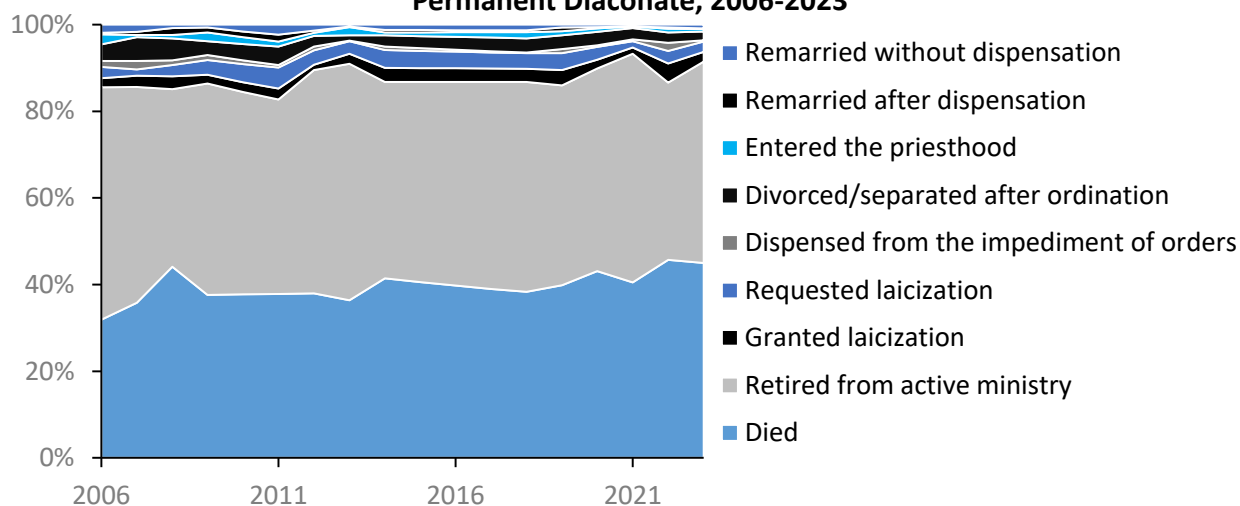
Relatively few permanent deacons who were lost in 2023 were granted laicization (Canon 290) (2%), requested laicization (Canon 290) (2%), were dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087) (0%), divorced/separated after ordination (2%), entered the priesthood (1%), remarried without dispensation (0%), or remarried after dispensation (0%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that reported 0 permanent deacons in these categories.

Distribution of Departures from Permanent Diaconate in 2023



Distribution of Departures from Permanent Diaconate, 2006-2023



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

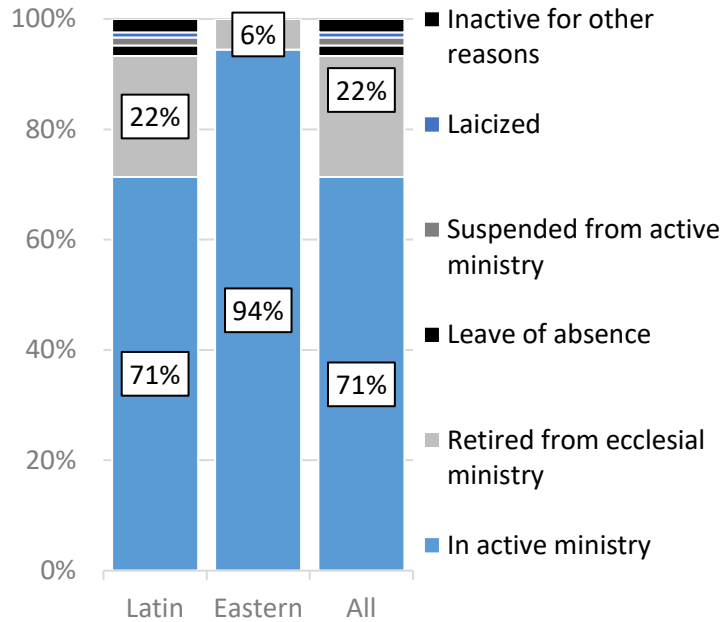
Part II: Characteristics of Permanent Deacons

Ministry Status of Permanent Deacons

Deacons in active ministry constituted 71% of all permanent deacons, in 2023. They represented 71% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 94% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2007 and 2023, the share of deacons in Latin rite dioceses averaged 78% and ranged between 71% and 82%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 70% \pm 3pp of Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

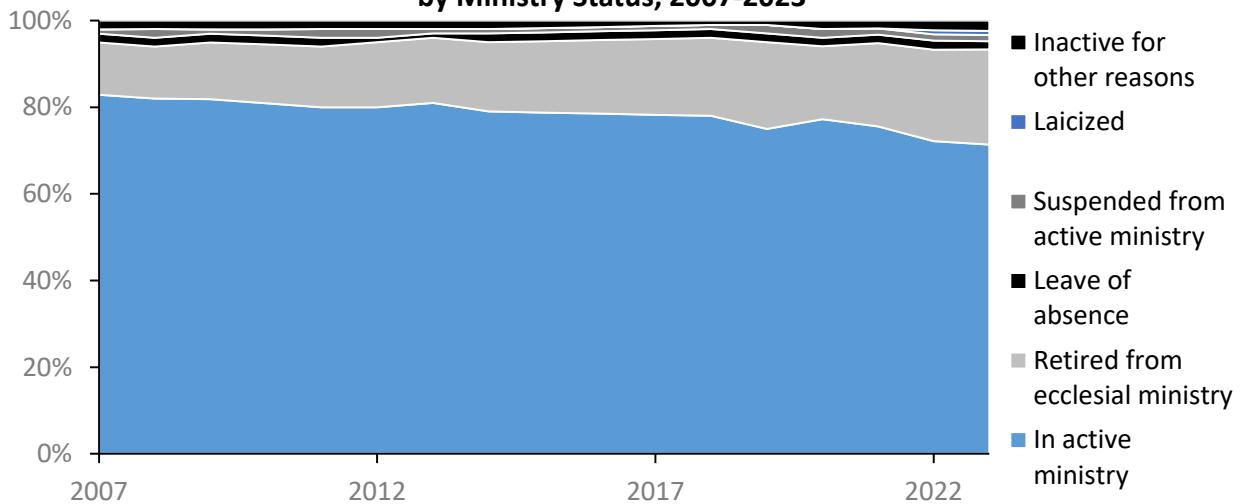
Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry constituted 22% of all permanent deacons, in 2023. They represented 22% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 6% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2023, the share of deacons in Latin rite dioceses averaged 16% and ranged between 12% and 22%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 24% \pm 2pp of Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Distribution of Deacons by Ministry Status in 2023



Overall, relatively few permanent deacons took a leave of absence (2%), were suspended from active ministry (1%), were laicized (1%), or were inactive for other reasons (2%).

Distribution of Deacons in Latin Rite Dioceses by Ministry Status, 2007-2023



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

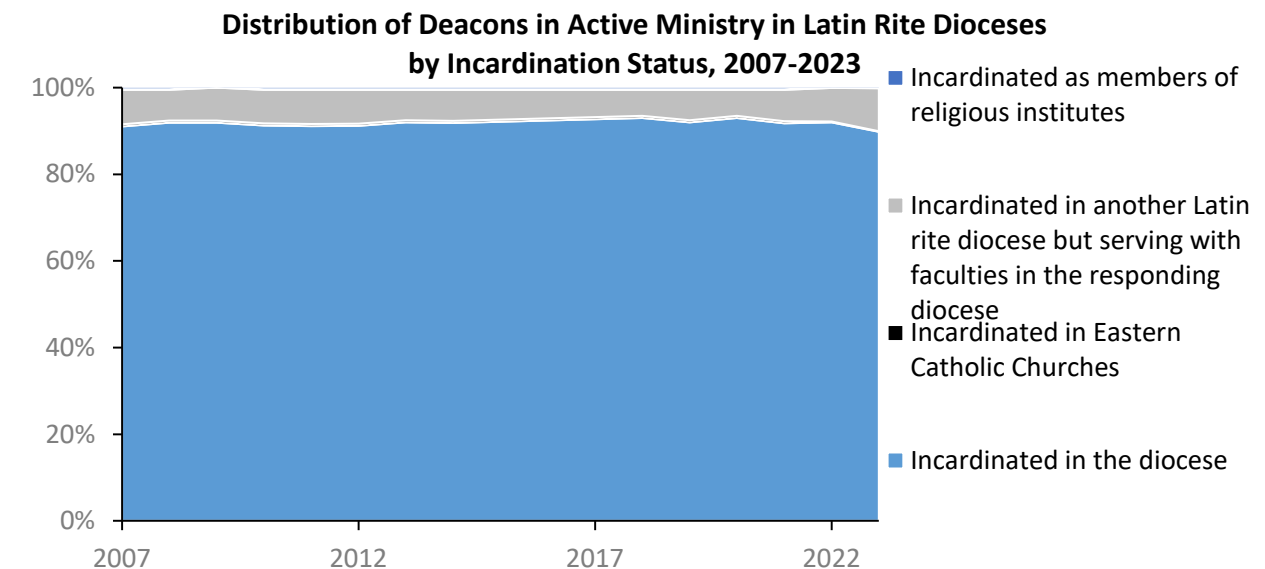
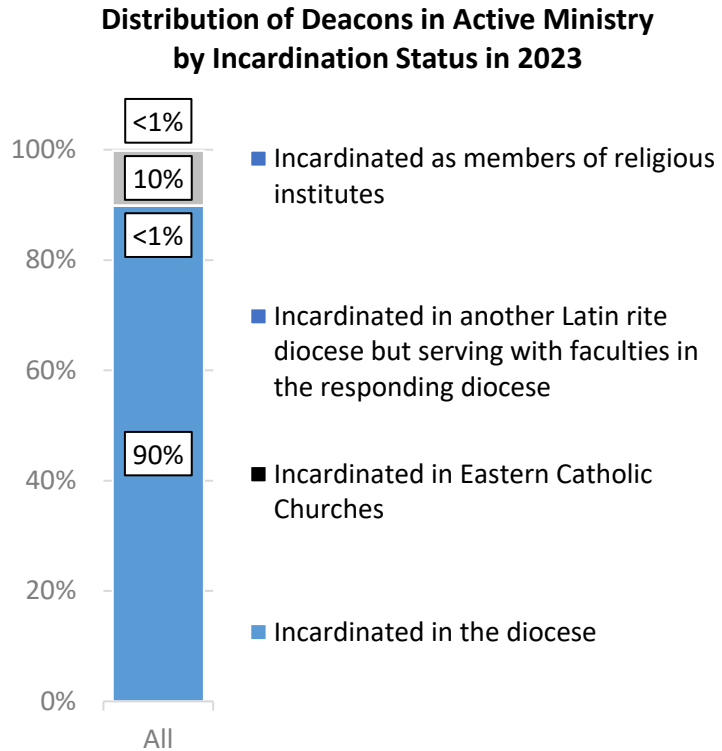
Incardination Status of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons incardinated in the responding dioceses constituted 90% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. Between 2007 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 91% and ranged between 85% and 93%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 93% \pm 4pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in the responding diocese constituted 10% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. Between 2007 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 7% and ranged between 6% and 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 8% \pm 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons incardinated in Eastern Catholic Churches constituted less than 1% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023.

Deacons incardinated as members of religious institutes constituted less than 1% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. Between 2007 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 0% and ranged between 0% and 1%. If the trend continues, they will constitute less than 1% \pm <1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.



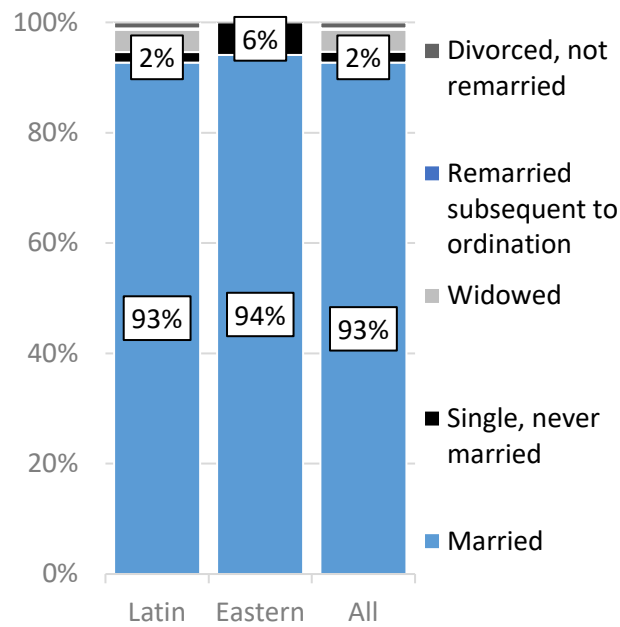
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Marital Status of Active Permanent Deacons

Married deacons constituted 93% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 93% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 94% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 93% and ranged between 91% and 93%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 94% \pm 1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Widowed deacons constituted 4% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 4% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 4% and ranged between 3% and 4%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 4% \pm 1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

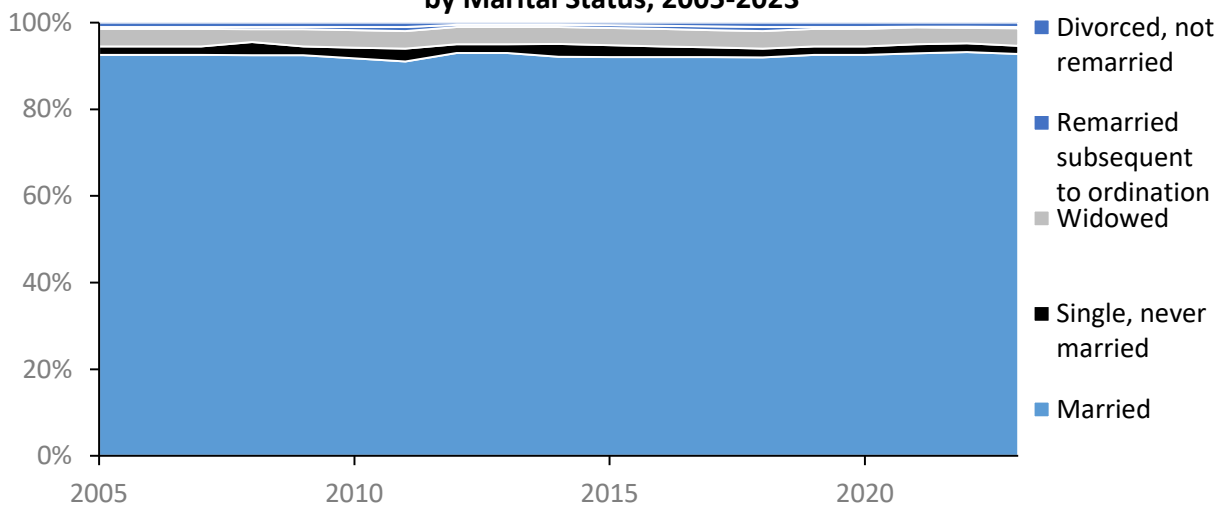
Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Marital Status in 2023



Overall, relatively few permanent deacons were widowed (4%), single (never married) (2%), divorced (and not remarried) (1%), or remarried subsequent to ordination (less than 1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only 1 eparchy that reported 17 permanent deacons in these categories.

Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Marital Status, 2005-2023



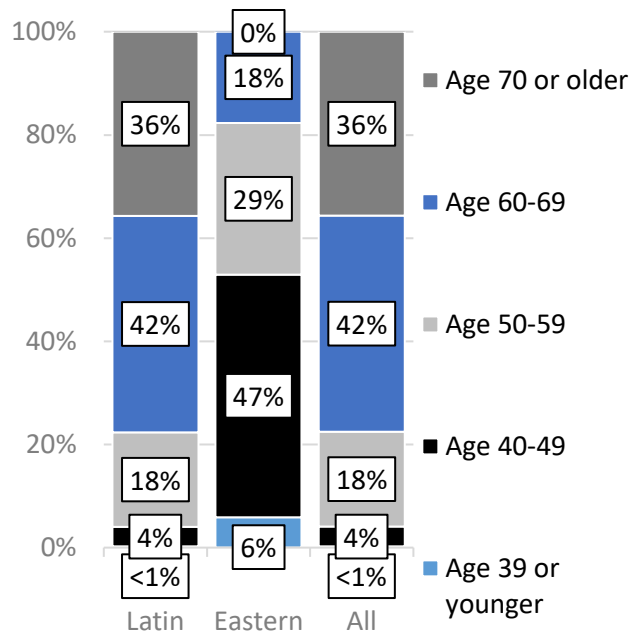
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Age of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons ages 60 to 69 constituted 42% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 42% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 18% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 40% and ranged between 36% and 43%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 43% \pm 5pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons age 70 and older constituted 36% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 36% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 30% and ranged between 22% and 36%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 41% \pm 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

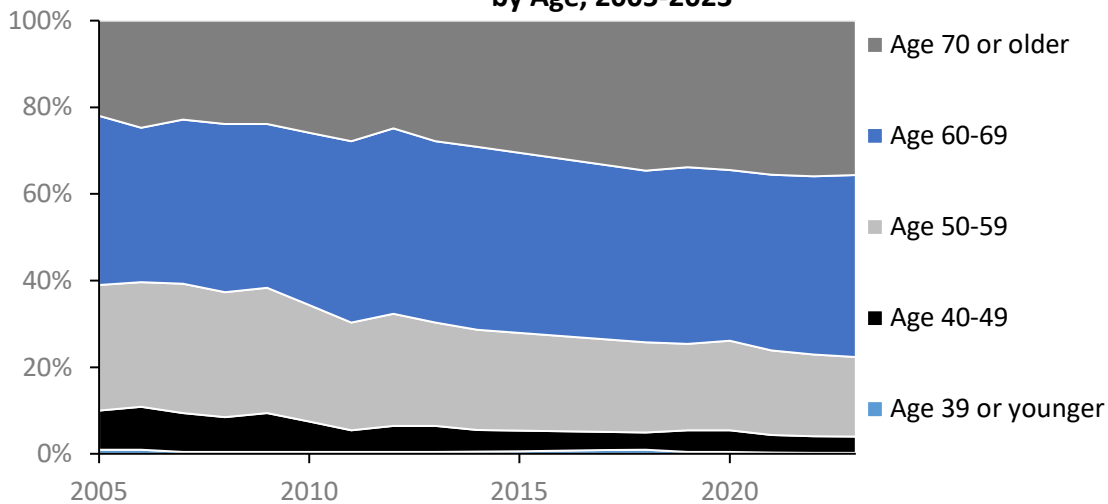
Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Age in 2023



Overall, there are relatively few permanent deacons ages between 40 and 49 (4%), age 39 and younger (less than 1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that reported 17 permanent deacons in these categories.

Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Age, 2005-2023



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Race and Ethnicity of Active Permanent Deacons

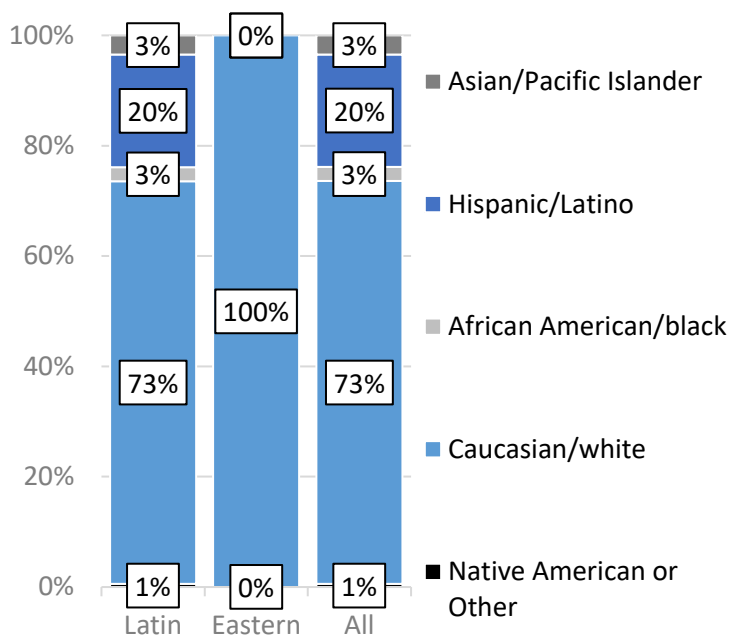
Caucasian/white deacons constituted 73% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 73% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 100% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 77% and ranged between 72% and 81%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 71% \pm 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Hispanic/Latino deacons constituted 20% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 20% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 17% and ranged between 14% and 21%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 22% \pm 5pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

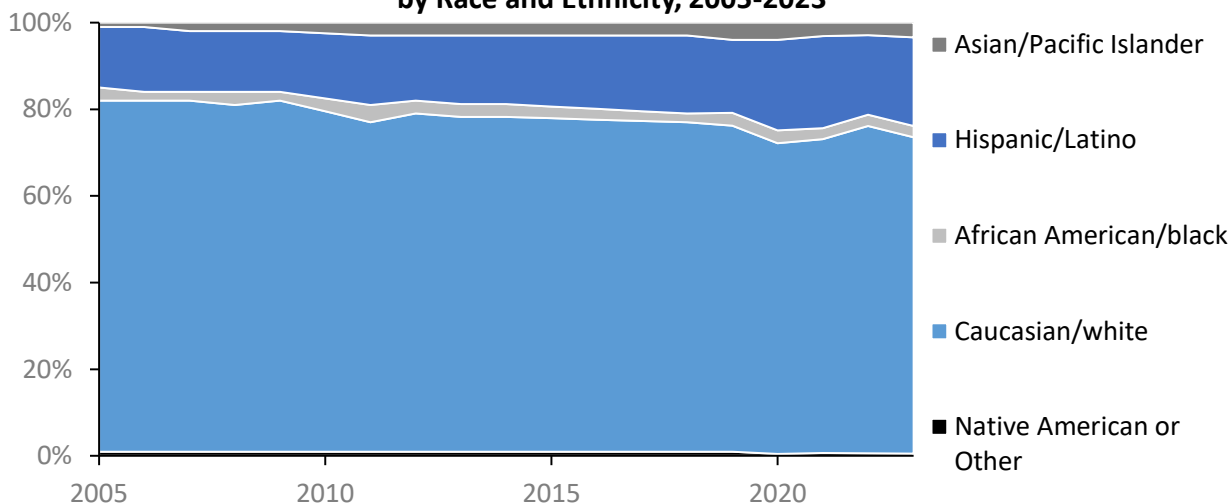
Overall, relatively few permanent deacons are Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), African American/black (3%), or Native American or of some other race/ethnicity (1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that reported 17 permanent deacons in these categories.

Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Race and Ethnicity in 2023



Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Race and Ethnicity, 2005-2023



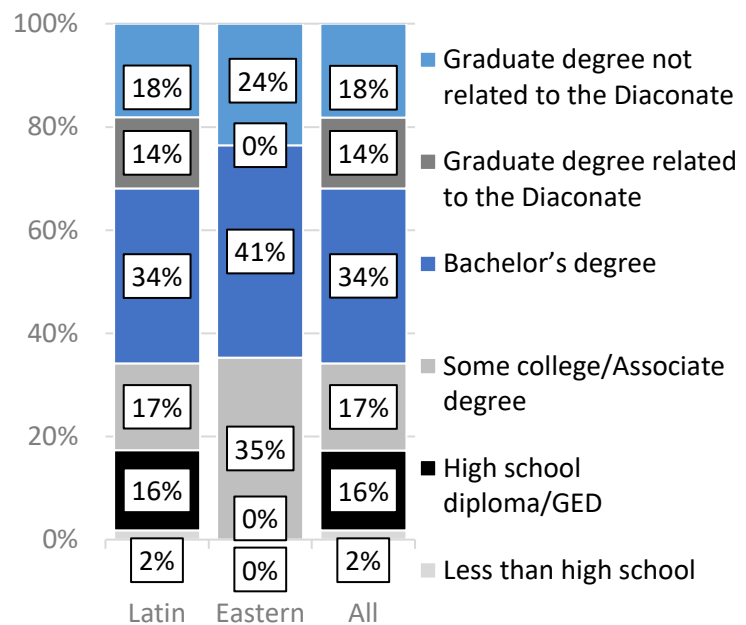
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Education Level of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons who earned Bachelor's degree constituted 34% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 34% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 41% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 33% and ranged between 31% and 37%.

Deacons with graduate degree in a field not related to the diaconate constituted 18% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2023. They represented 18% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 24% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2023, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 19% and ranged between 16% and 21%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 19% ±3pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

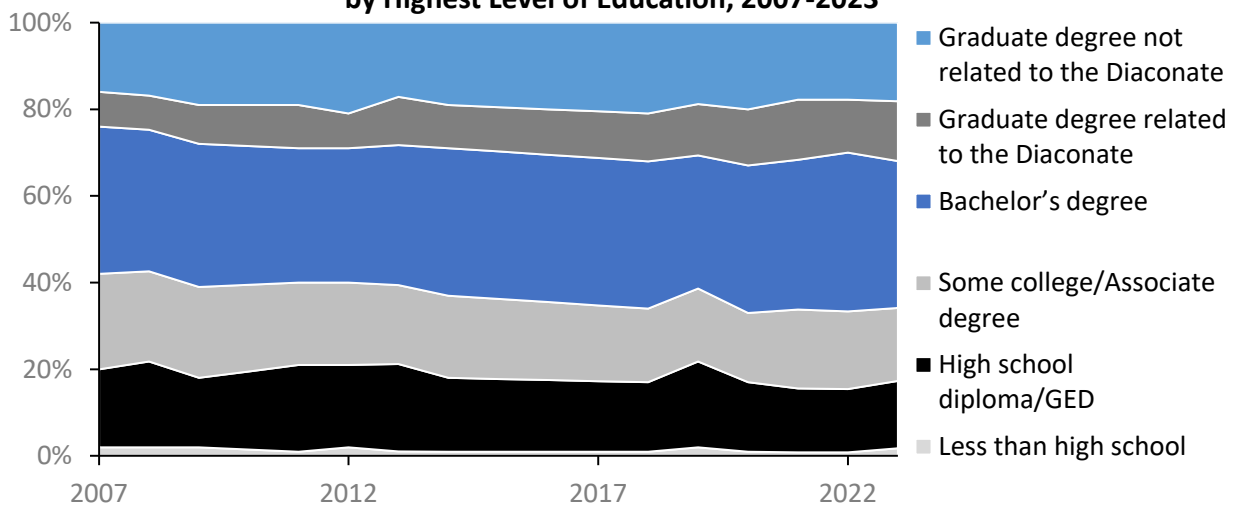
Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Highest Level of Education in 2023



Overall, relatively few permanent deacons did not complete high school (2%).

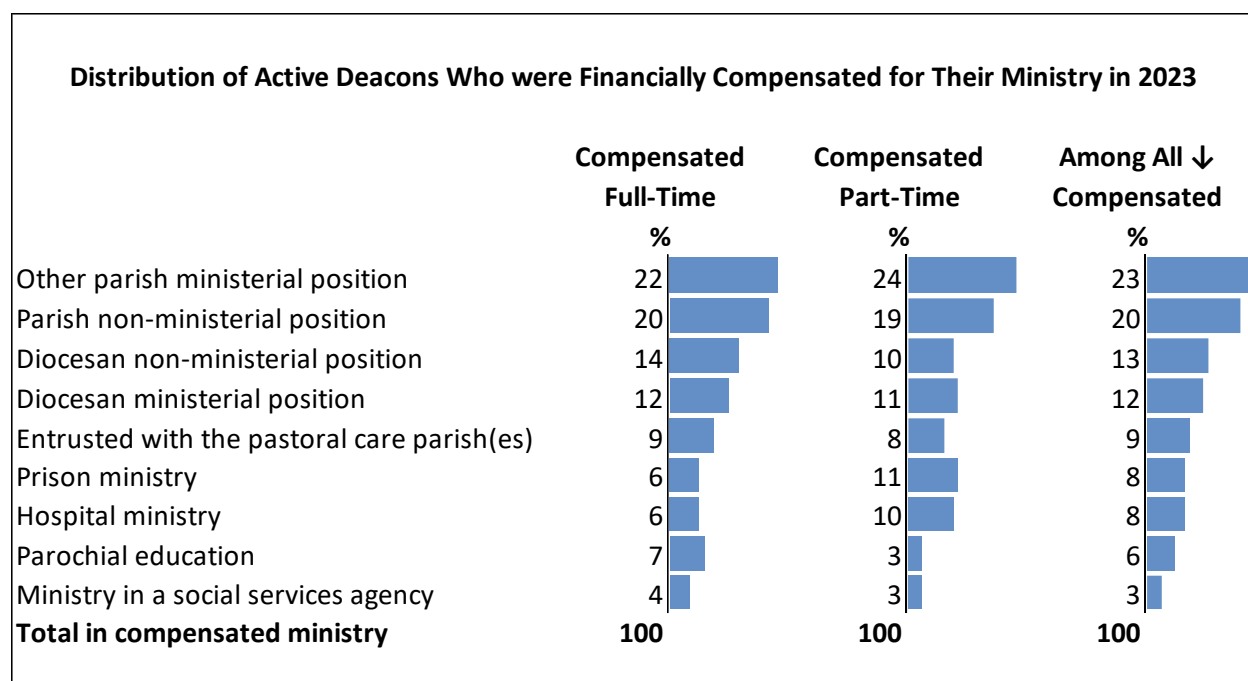
Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that reported 17 permanent deacons in these categories.

Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Highest Level of Education, 2007-2023



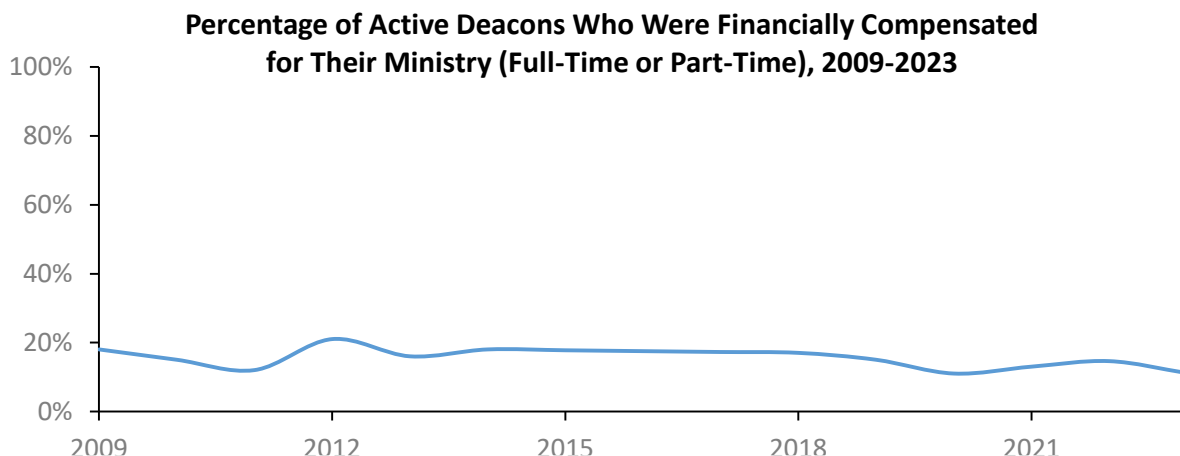
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Compensation for Active Permanent Deacons



Overall, 11% of all active permanent deacons were financially compensated for ministry in 2023 (and 15% a year before). Since 2009, their share averaged 16% and ranged between 11% and 21%. If the trend continues, 12% ±5pp active permanent deacons will be compensated for ministry, in 2028. Among all active permanent deacons compensated for ministry: 62% were compensated in full-time ministry and 38% in part-time ministry.

Among all active permanent deacons compensated for ministry (both full-time and part-time): 23% served in other parish ministerial positions (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister), 20% served in parish non-ministerial positions (e.g., administration, business, finance), 13% served in diocesan non-ministerial positions (e.g., administration, business, finance), 12% served in diocesan ministerial positions (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister), 9% were entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517§2), 8% served in prison ministry, 8% served in hospital ministry, 6% ministered in parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration), and 3% served in ministry in social services agencies (e.g., Catholic Charities).



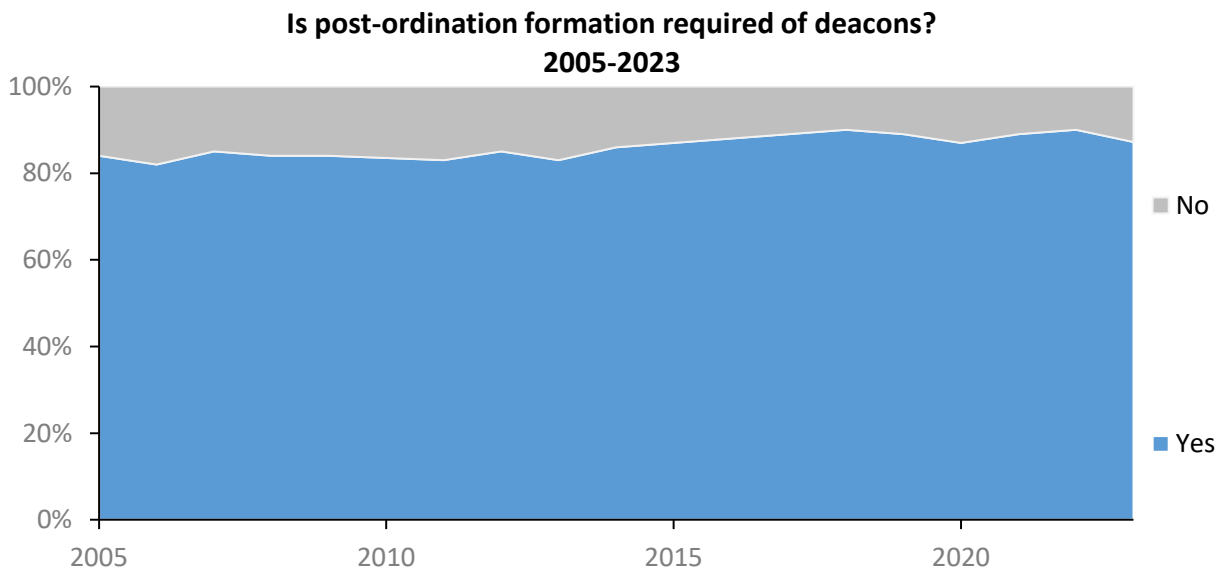
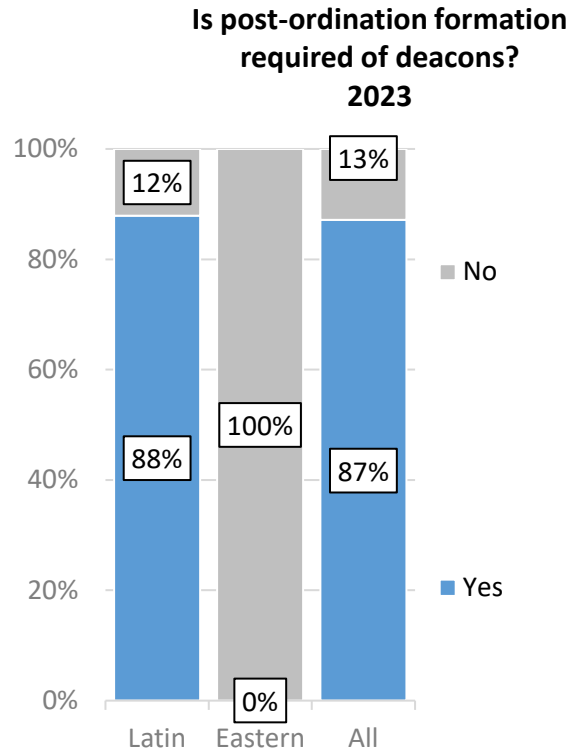
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Part III: Post-Ordination Formation

Requirement for Post-Ordination Formation

Dioceses and eparchies where post-ordination formation was required of deacons constituted 87% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 90% in 2022). They represented 88% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 86% and ranged between 82% and 90%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 90% \pm 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Number of Hours of Required Post-Ordination Formation

Overall, parameant deacons were required to attend, on average, 20 hours of post-ordination formation, in 2023 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, the required amount was between 4 and 20 hours and in the other half between 20 and 50 hours). Since 2005, the average number of hours of required post-ordination formation per diocese/eparchy was 22 annually and ranged between 19 and 25.

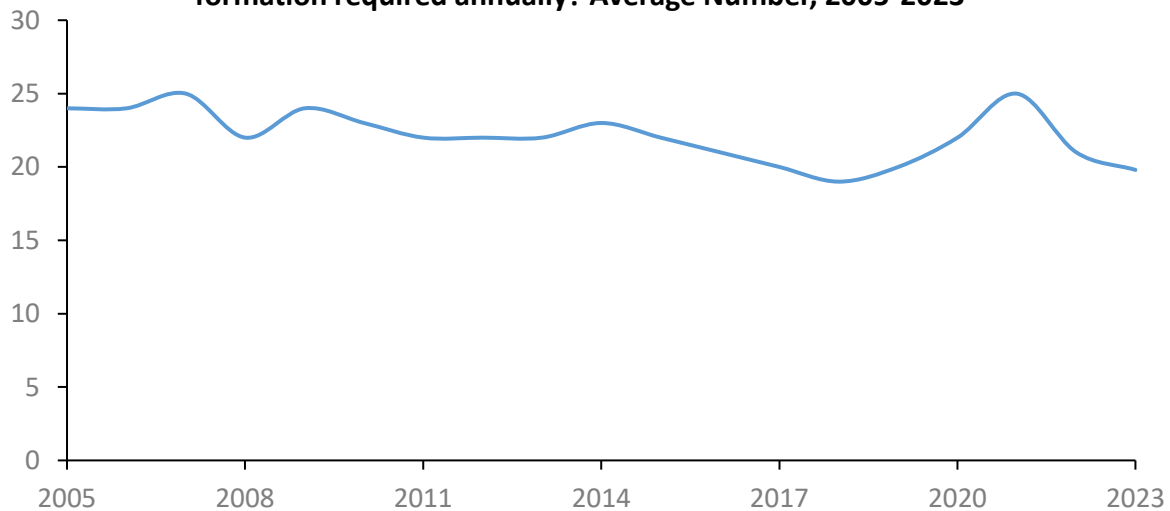
What is the approximate number of hours of post-ordination formation required annually?

Responses for Year 2023

	Latin Rite [#]	Eastern Rite [#]	All [#]
Average	20	.	20
Median	20	.	20
Range	4 - 50	. - .	4 - 50

Notably, no Eastern rite eparchies responded to this question.

What is the approximate number of hours of post-ordination formation required annually? Average Number, 2005-2023



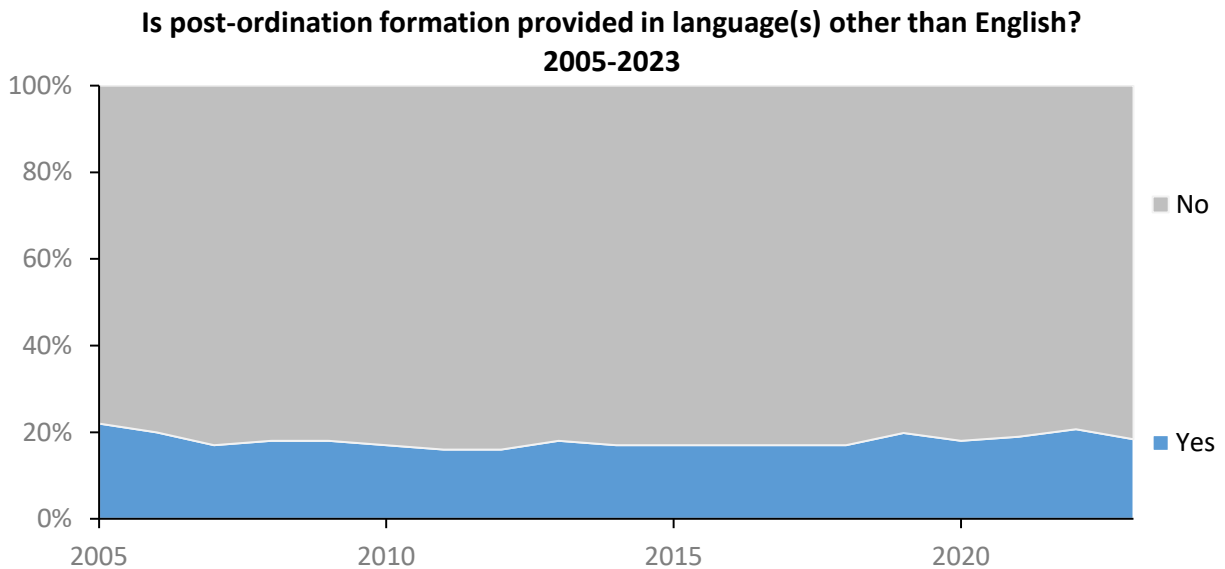
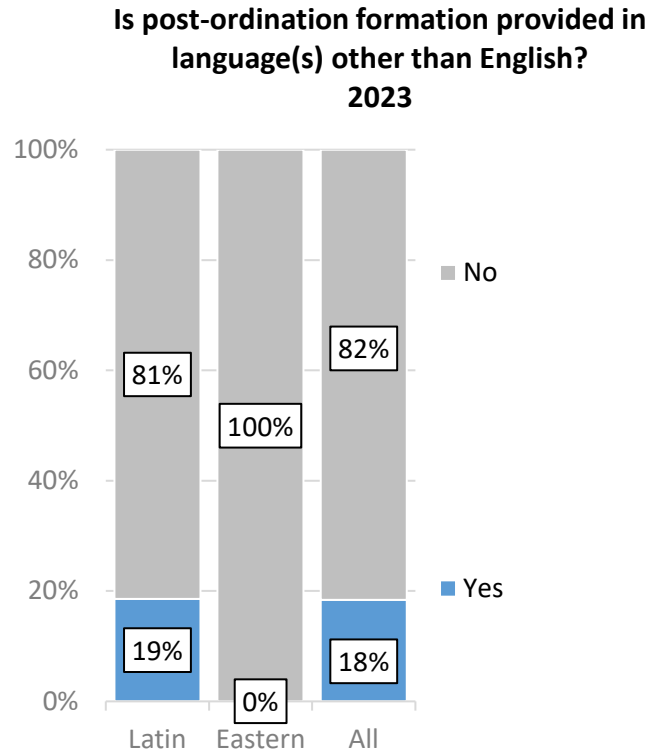
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Languages Used in Post-Ordination Formation

Dioceses and eparchies where post-ordination formation was provided in language(s) other than English constituted 18% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 21% in 2022). They represented 19% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 18% and ranged between 16% and 22%.

Overall, 18% provide post-ordination formation in Spanish and 1% provide it in Vietnamese.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only 1 eparchy that responded to this question.

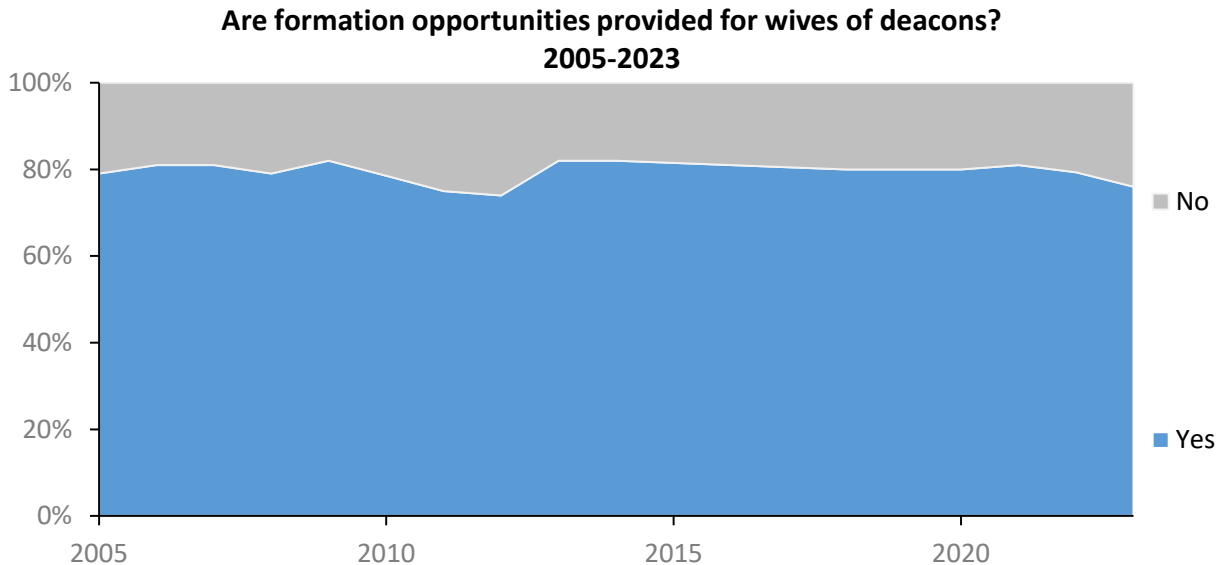
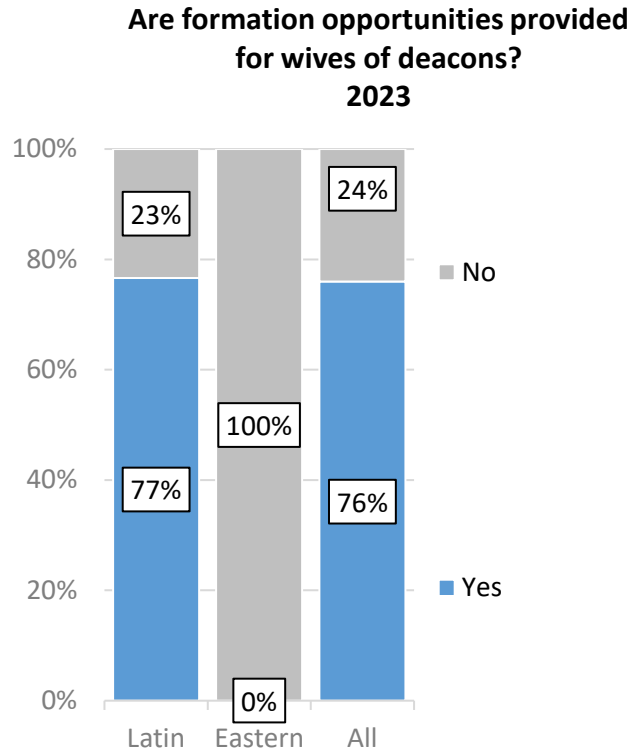


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Formation Opportunities for Wives of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies where formation opportunities are provided for wives of deacons constituted 76% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 79% in 2022). They represented 77% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 80% and ranged between 74% and 82%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 79% \pm 5pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



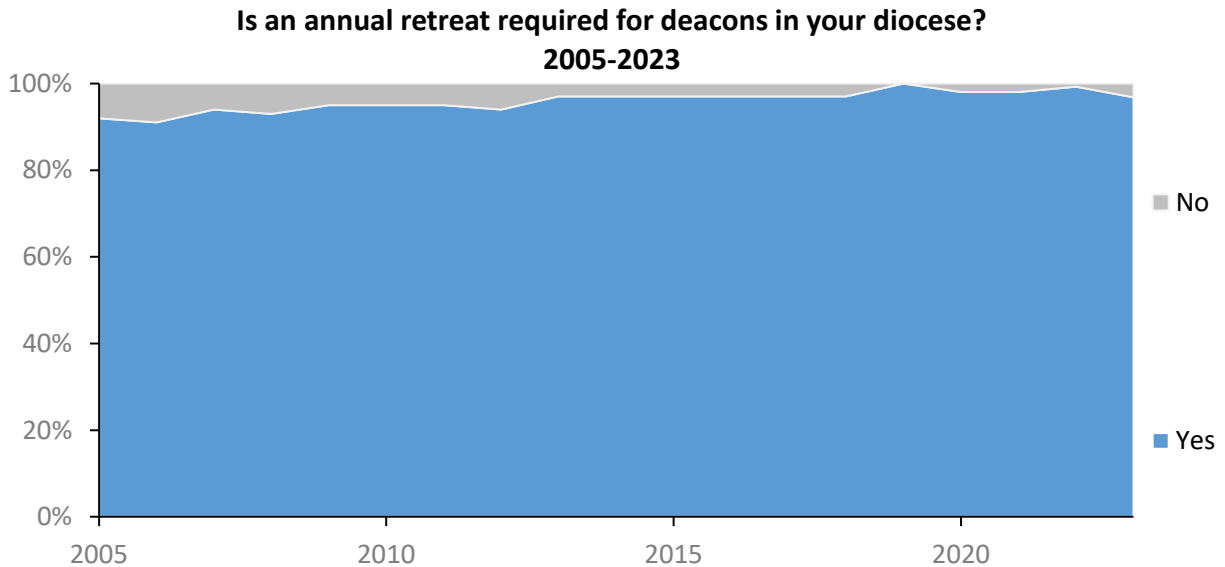
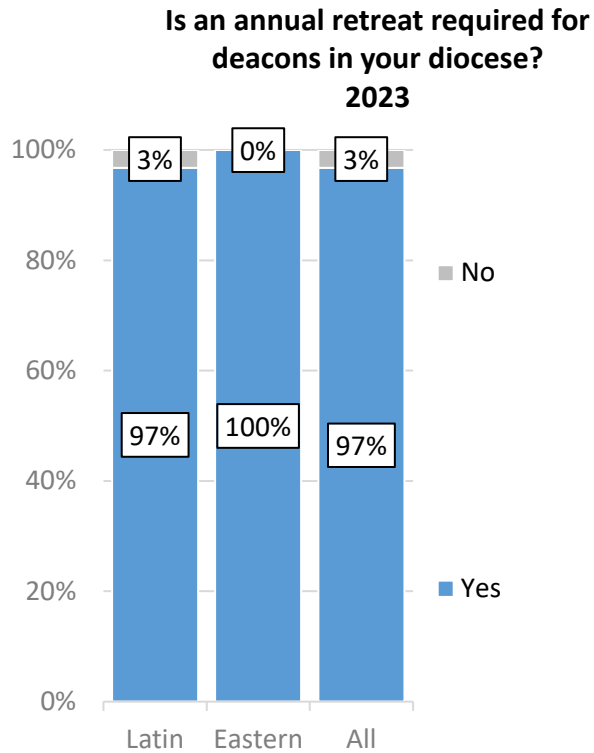
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Part IV: Retreats

Requirement for Annual Retreat

Dioceses and eparchies where retreats were required for deacons constituted 97% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 99% in 2022). They represented 97% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 96% and ranged between 91% and 100%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 100% \pm 2pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



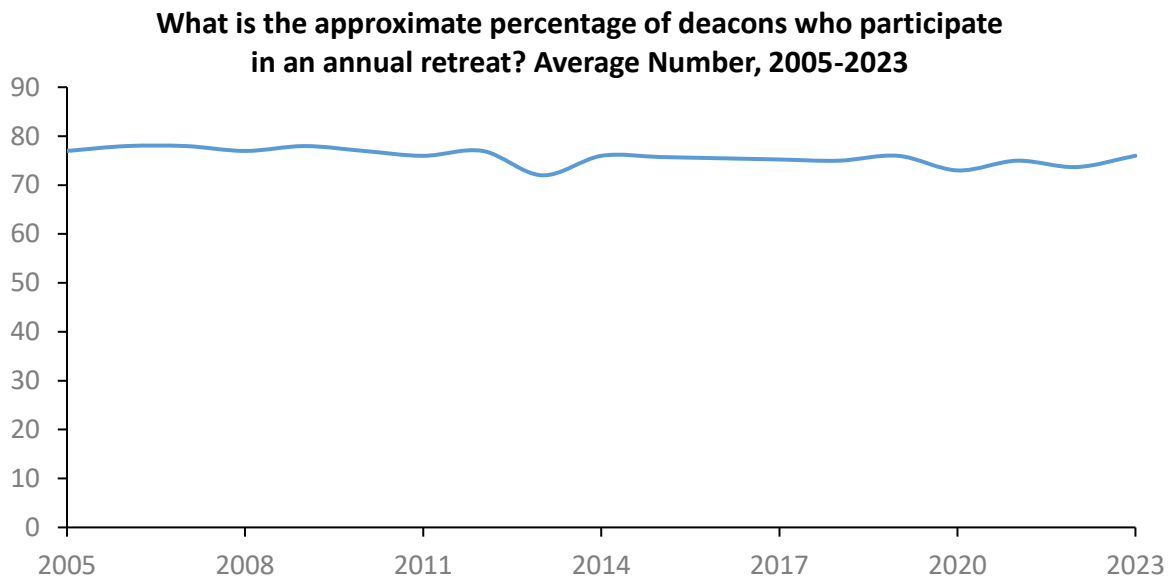
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Participation in Annual Retreats

On average, 76% of permanent deacons participated in annual retreats, in 2023 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, between 20% and 80% participated in those retreats and in the other half between 80% and 100%). Since 2005, their share per diocese/eparchy averaged 76% annually and ranged between 72% and 78%. If the trend continues, on average, there will be 73% \pm 3pp of permanent deacons participating in annual retreat, in 2028.

What is the approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat?			
Responses for Year 2023			
	Latin Rite	Eastern Rite	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]
Average	76	70	76
Median	80	70	80
Range	20 - 100	70 - 70	20 - 100

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

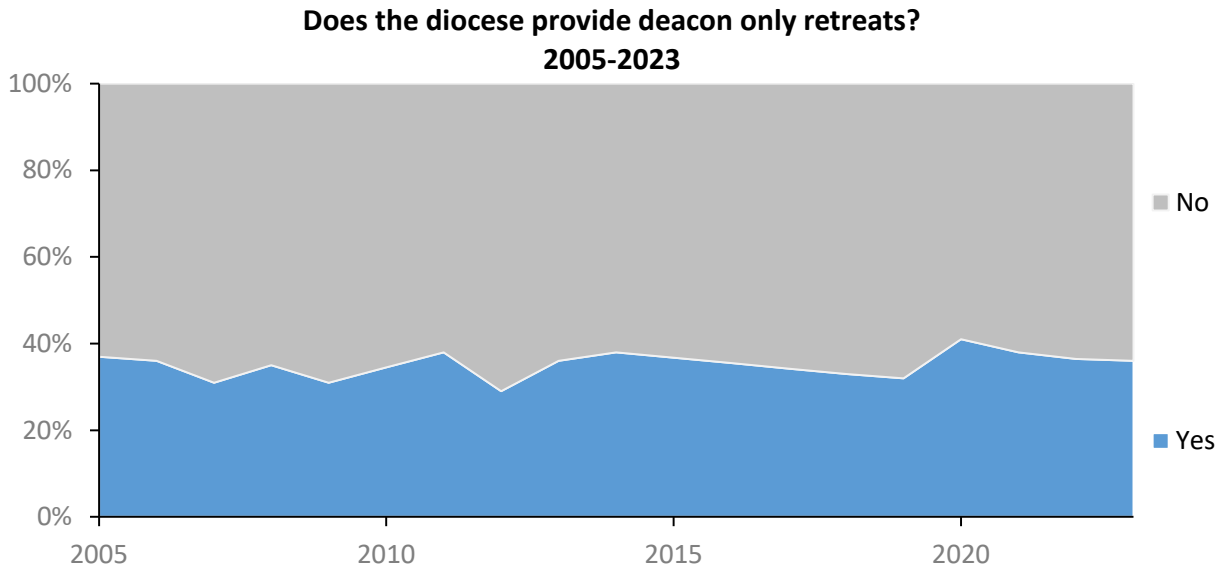
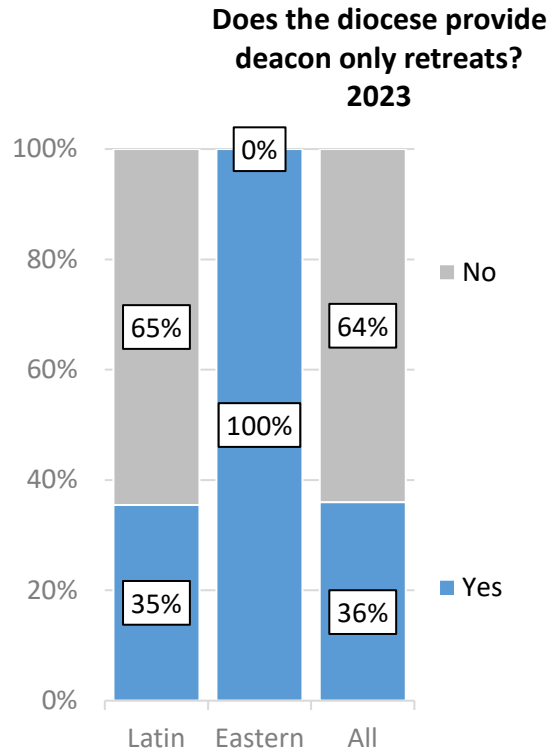


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Availability of Deacon-Only Retreats

Dioceses and eparchies that provided deacon only retreats constituted 36% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 36% in 2022). They represented 35% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 35% and ranged between 29% and 41%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

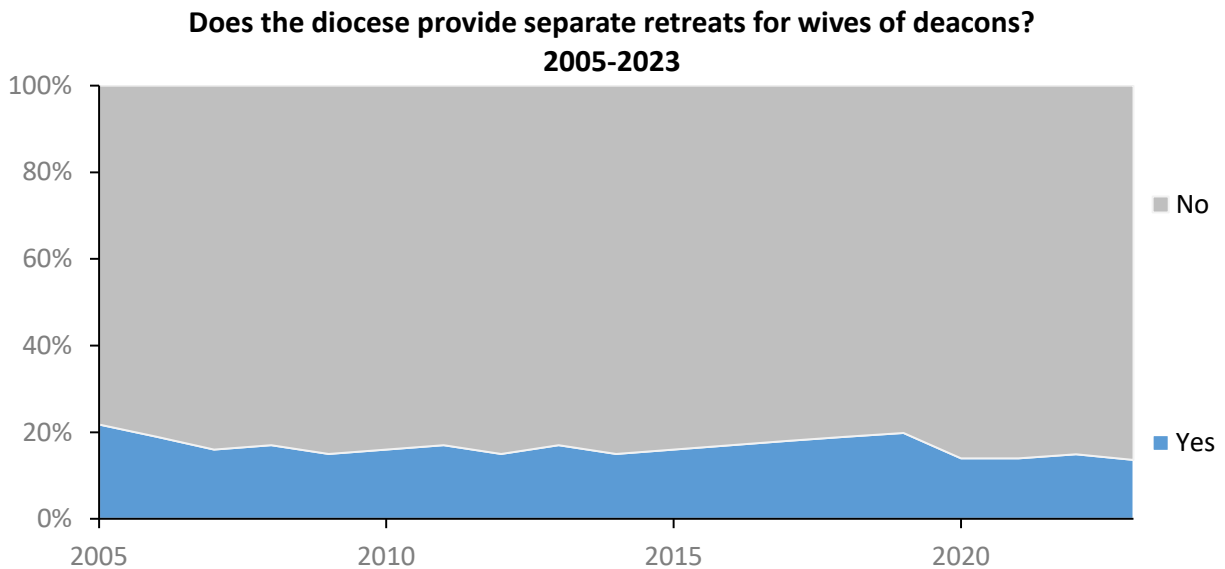
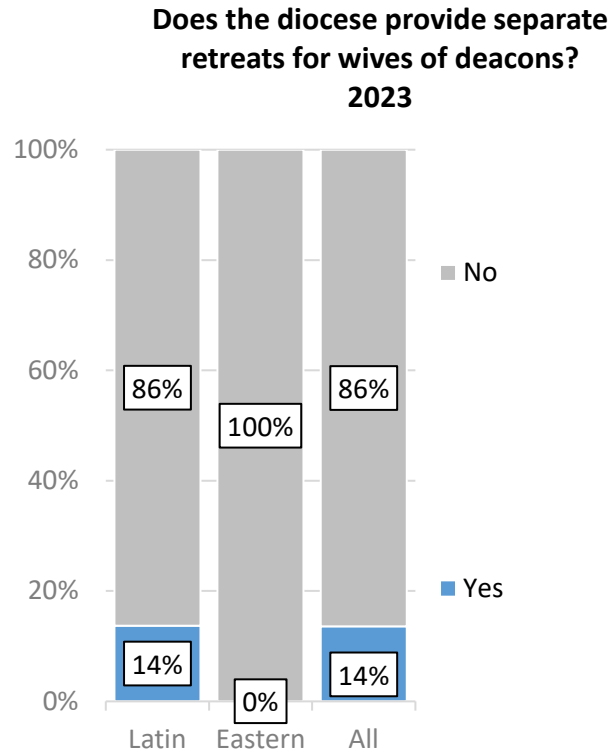


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Availability of Separate Retreats for Wives of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies that provided separate retreats for wives of deacons constituted 14% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 15% in 2022). They represented 14% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 17% and ranged between 14% and 22%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

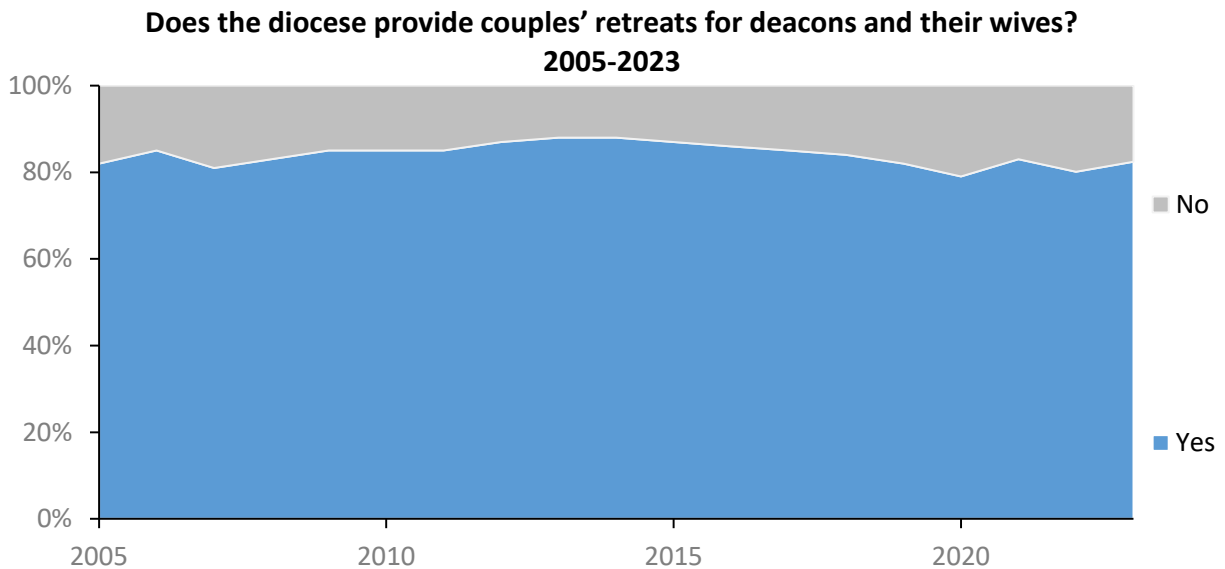
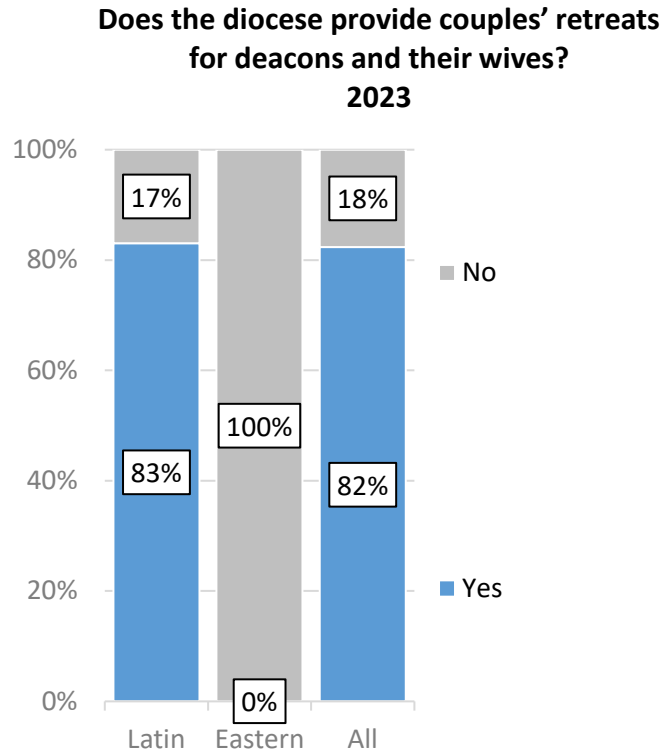


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Availability of Couples Retreats for Deacons and Their Wives

Dioceses and eparchies that provided couples' retreats for deacons and their wives constituted 82% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 80% in 2022). They represented 83% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 84% and ranged between 79% and 88%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

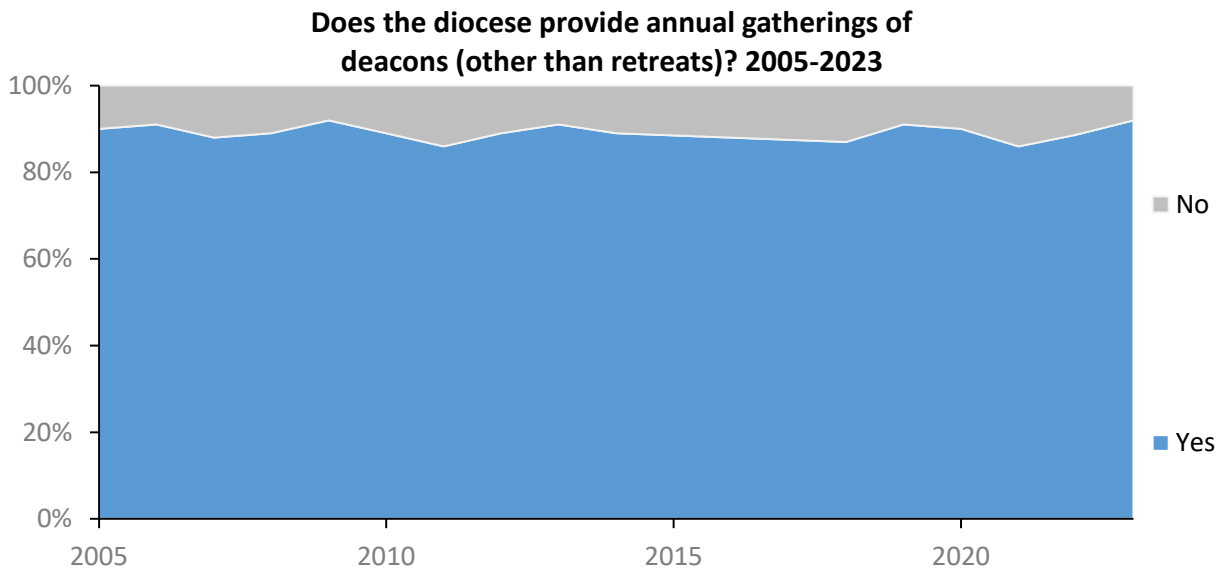
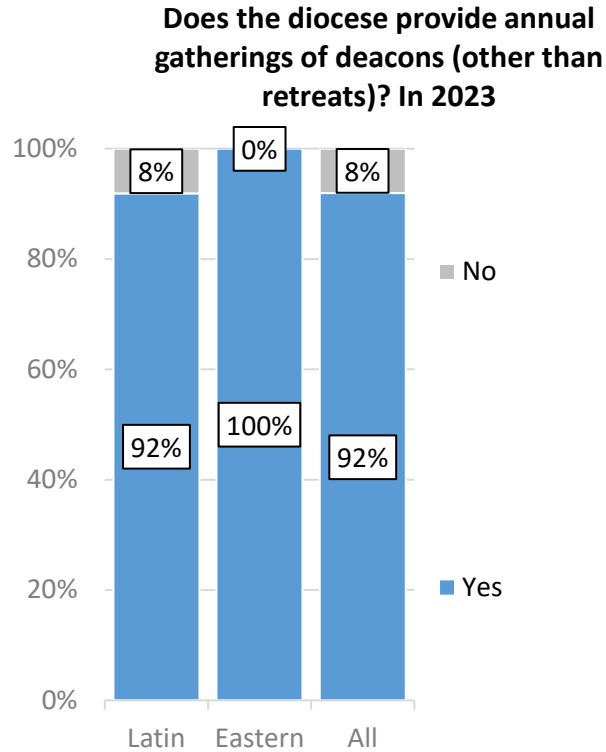


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Availability of Annual Gatherings of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies that provided annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats) constituted 92% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 89% in 2022). They represented 92% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 89% and ranged between 86% and 92%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 89% \pm 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



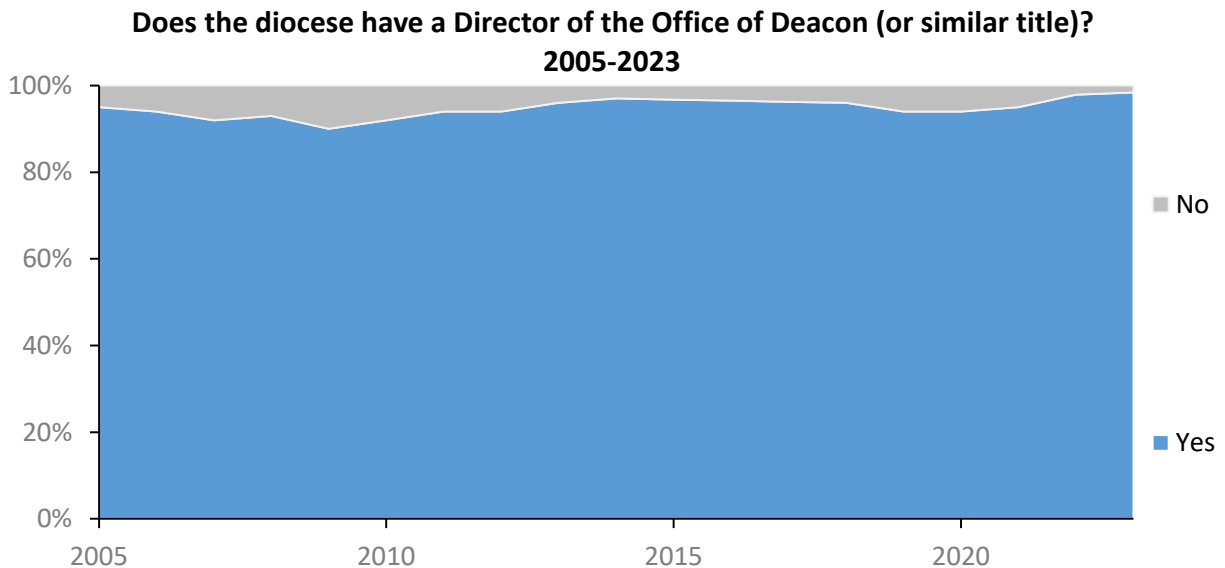
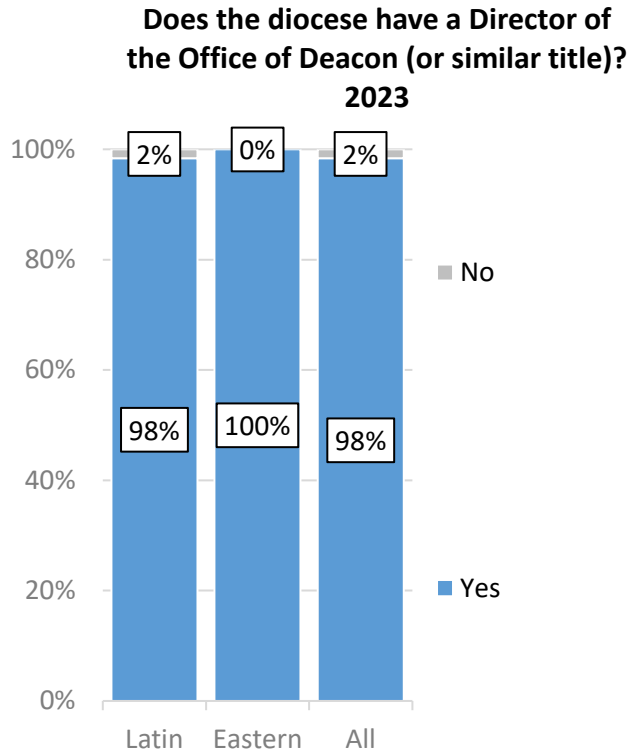
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Part V: Directors of the Diaconate

Directors of the Diaconate - Part 1

Dioceses and eparchies that have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or someone with a similar title) constituted 98% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 98% in 2022). They represented 98% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 95% and ranged between 90% and 98%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

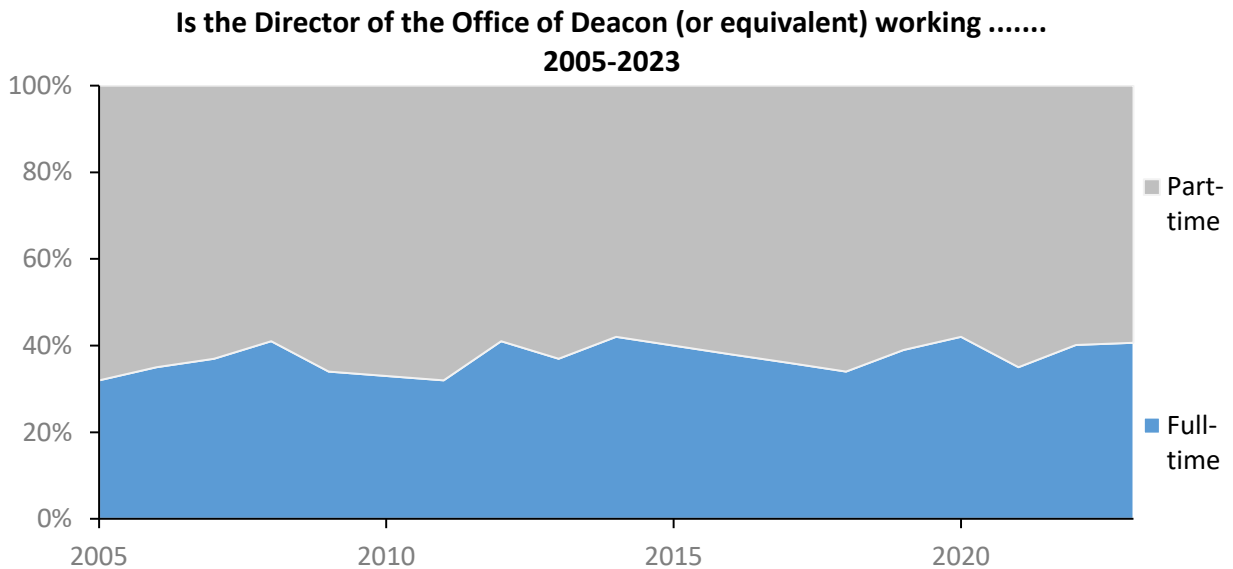
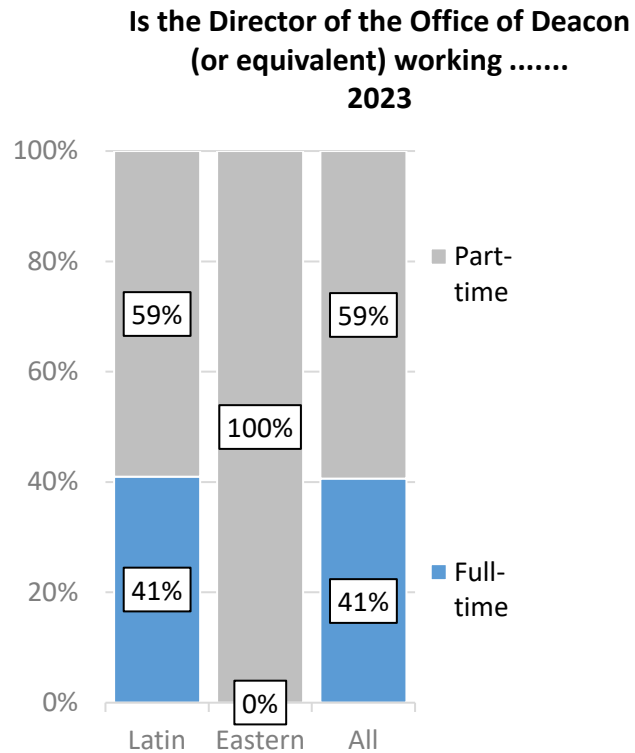


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Directors of the Diaconate - Part 2

Dioceses and eparchies that have a full-time Director of the Office of Deacon (or someone with a similar title) constituted 41% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 40% in 2022). They represented 41% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 37% and ranged between 32% and 42%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



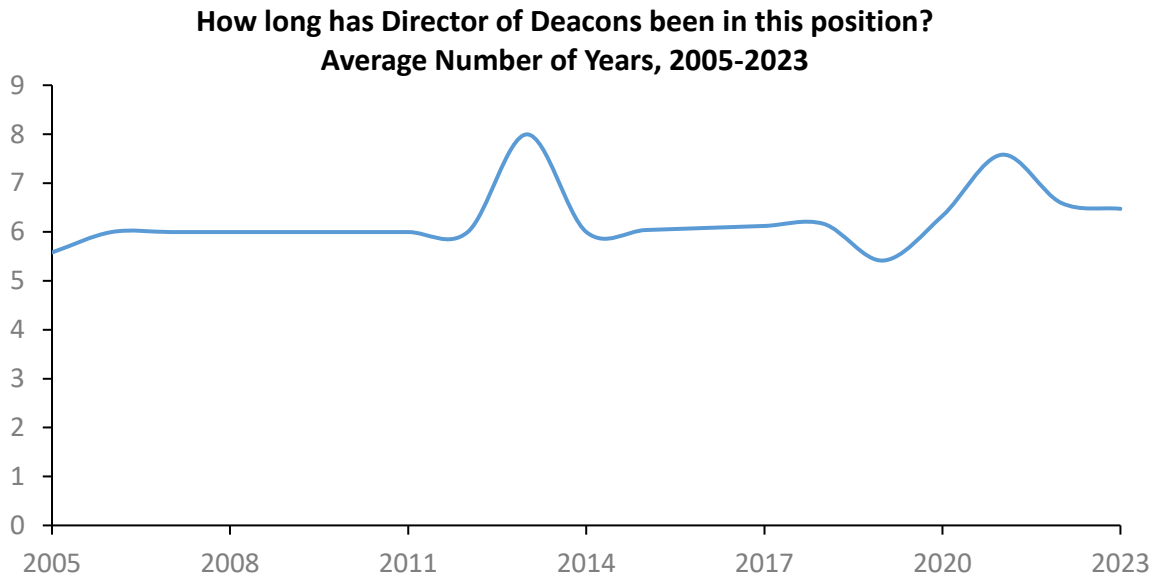
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Directors of the Diaconate's Tenure

On average, the current Director of Deacons (or someone in an equivalent position) has been in their position for 6 years, in 2023 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, this position has been held between 0 and 5 years and in the other half between 5 and 32 years). Since 2005, the average tenure for this position was 6 years and ranged between 5 and 8 years.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

How many years has Director of Deacons been in this position? Responses for Year 2023			
	Latin Rite	Eastern Rite	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]
Average	6	7	6
Median	5	7	5
Range	0 - 32	7 - 7	0 - 32



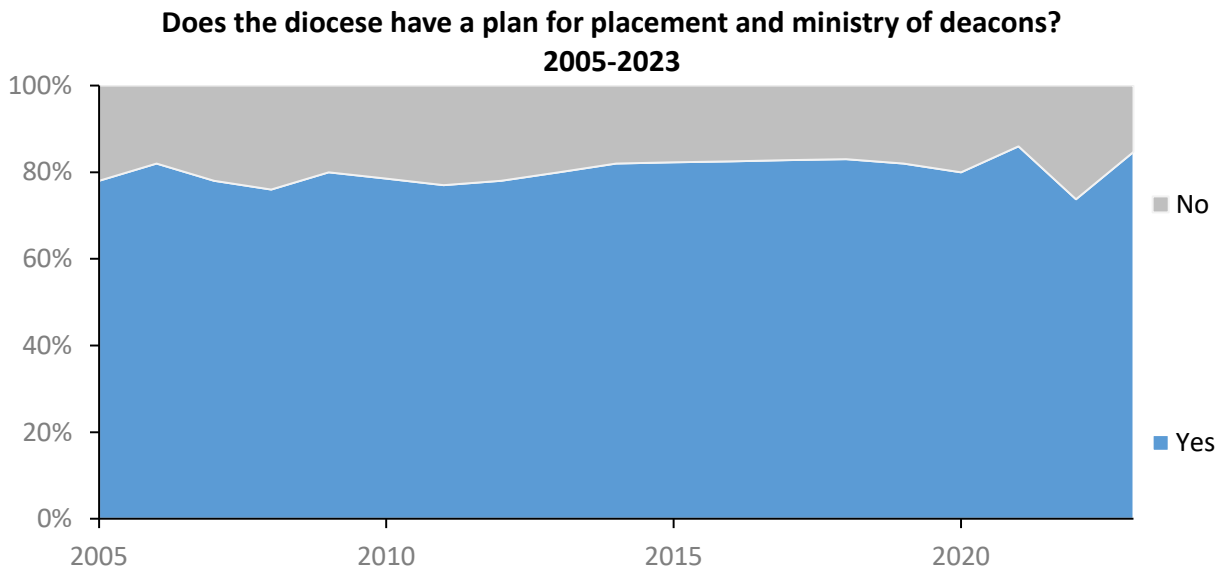
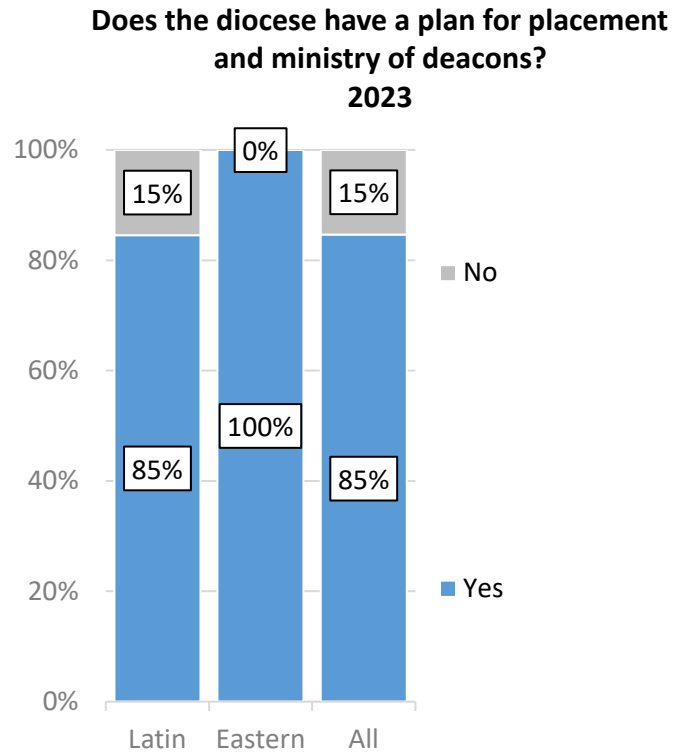
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Part VI: Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

Plan for Placement and Ministry of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies that have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons constituted 85% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 74% in 2022). They represented 85% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 80% and ranged between 74% and 86%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



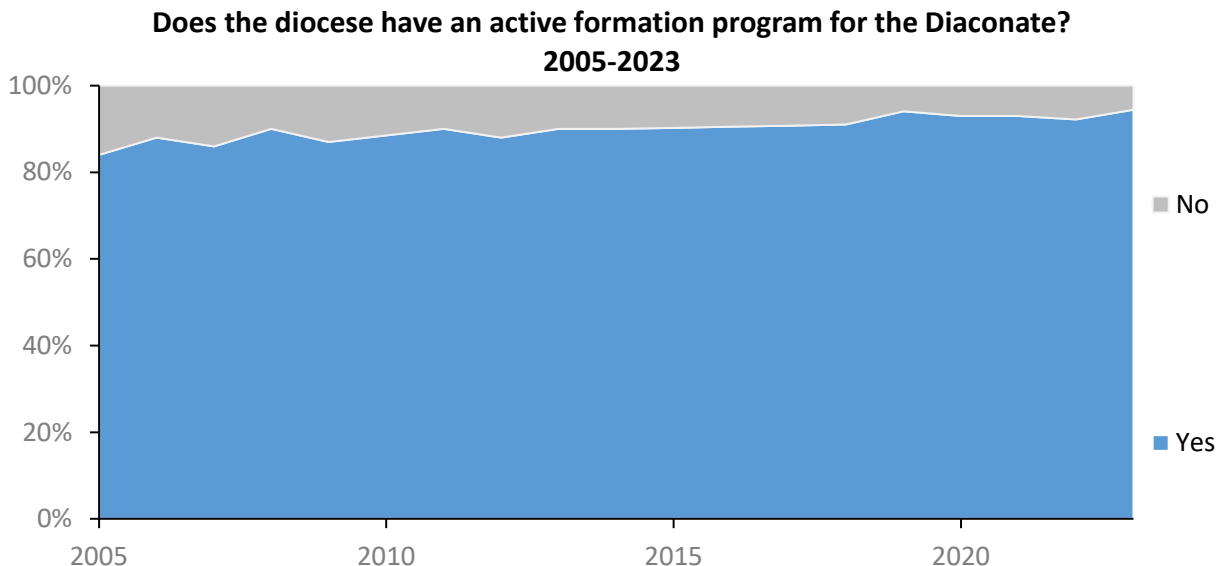
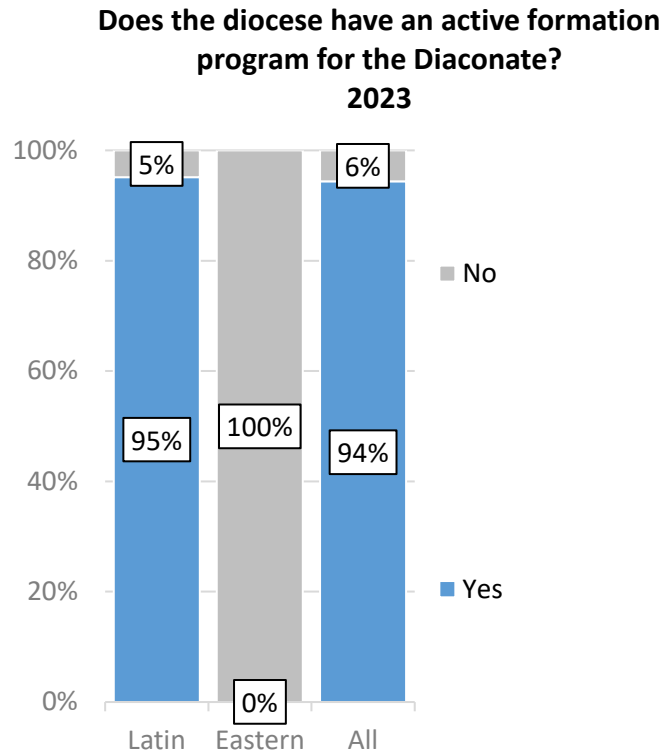
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Active Formation Program for the Diaconate

Dioceses and eparchies that have an active formation program for the diaconate constituted 94% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 92% in 2022). They represented 95% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 90% and ranged between 84% and 95%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 96% \pm 3pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Among those dioceses and eparchies that do not have an active formation program for the Diaconate, 57% reported planning to establish formation within the next two years.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



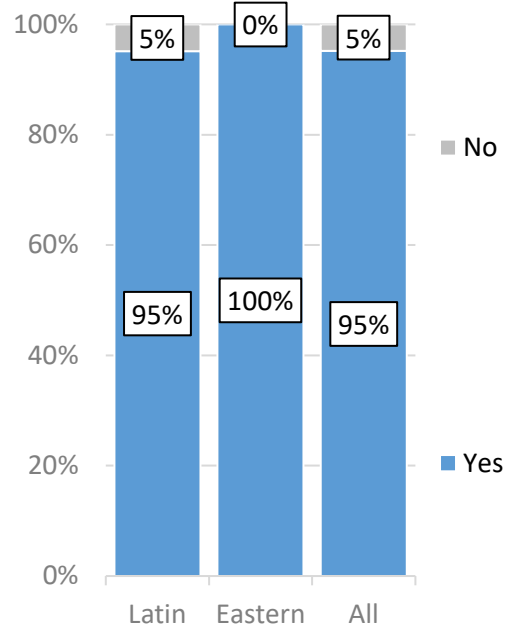
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Minimum Age for Acceptance into a Diaconate Formation Program - Part 1

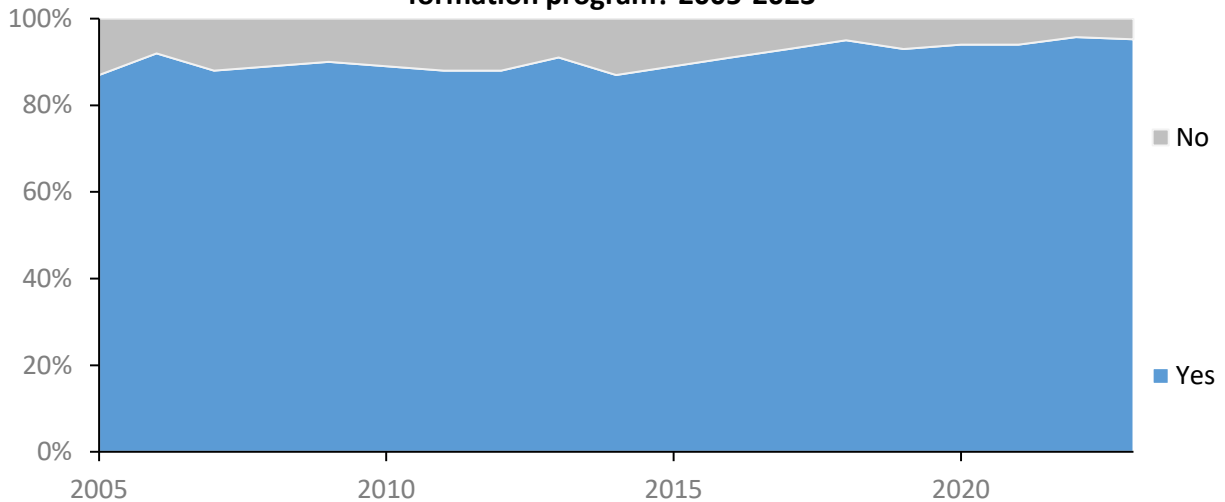
Dioceses and eparchies that have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program constituted 95% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 96% in 2022). They represented 95% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 91% and ranged between 87% and 96%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 97% \pm 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program? In 2023



Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program? 2005-2023



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

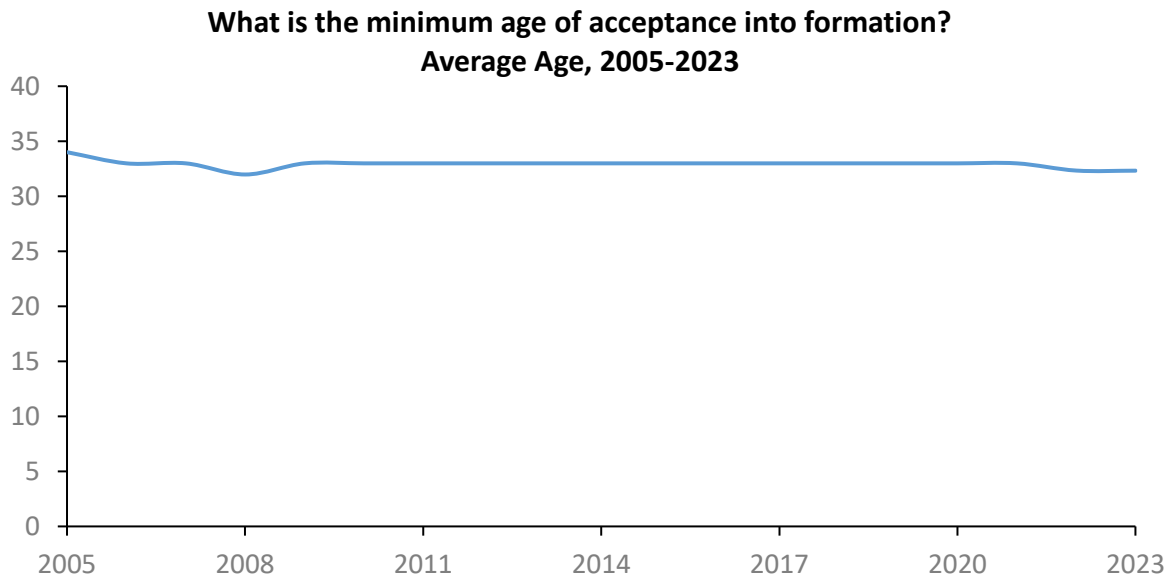
Minimum Age for Acceptance into a Diaconate Formation Program - Part 2

On average, the minimum age of acceptance into formation for permanent diaconate was 32, in 2023 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, minimum age was between 25 and 32 years old and in the other half between 32 and 35 years old). Since 2005, the average minimum age was 33 and ranged between 32 and 34. If the trend continues, on average, the minimum age of acceptance into formation for permanent diaconate will be 32 ±1 year, in 2028.

What is the minimum age of acceptance into formation? Responses for Year 2023			
	Latin Rite	Eastern Rite	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]
Average	32	30	32
Median	32	30	32
Range	25 - 35	30 - 30	25 - 35

* Responses indicating minimum age higher than 35 were excluded from the analysis.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



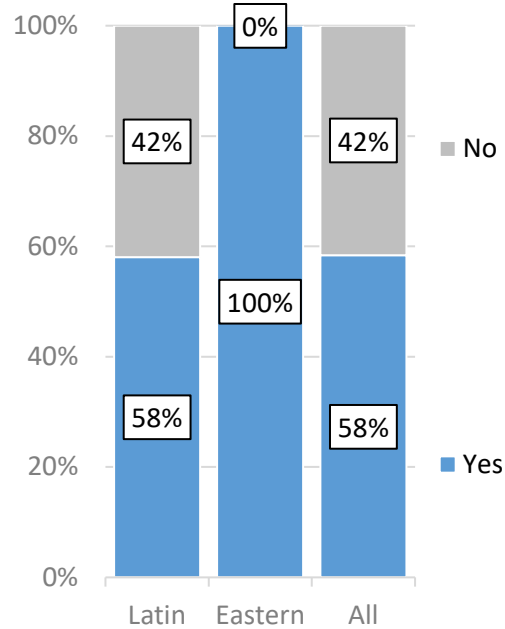
* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Mandatory Age of Retirement from Active Ministry for Deacons - Part 1

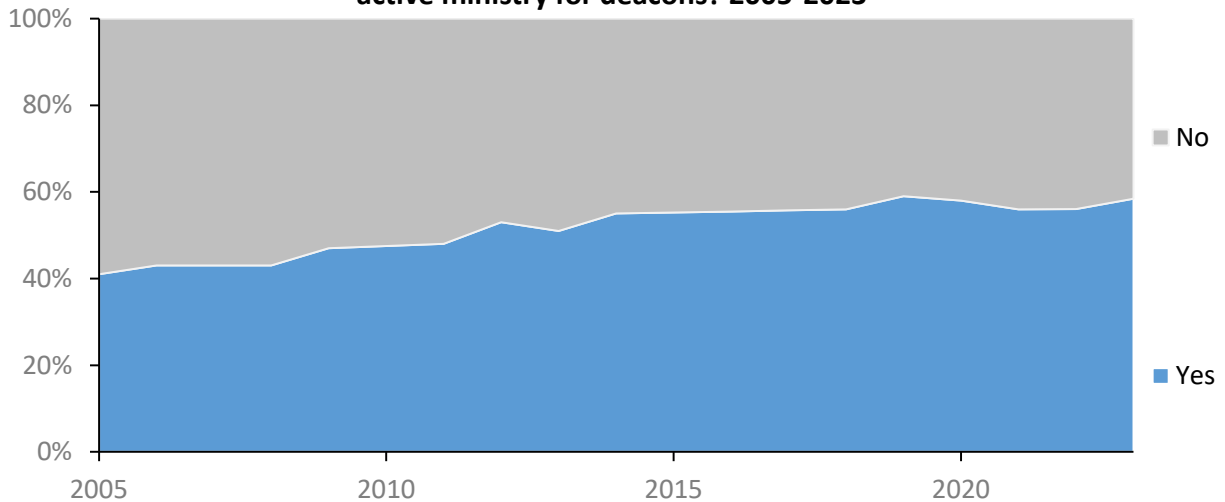
Dioceses and eparchies that have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons constituted 58% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 56% in 2022). They represented 58% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 52% and ranged between 41% and 59%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons? In 2023



Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons? 2005-2023



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

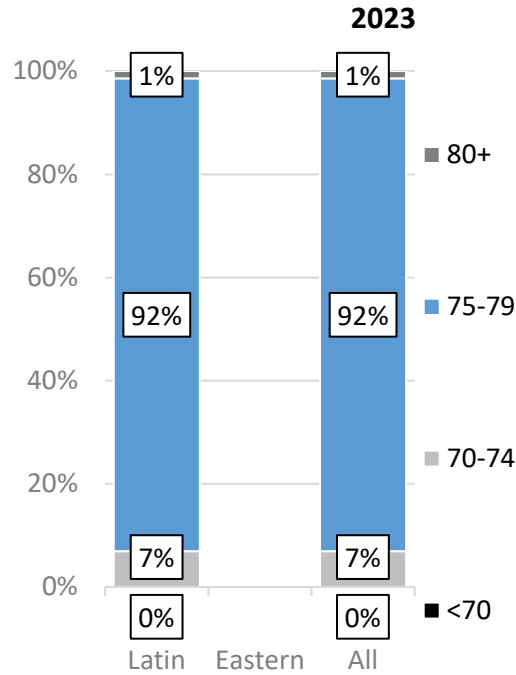
Mandatory Age of Retirement from Active Ministry for Deacons - Part 2

Dioceses that required deacons to retire from active ministry between ages 75 and 79 constituted 92% of all respondents to this question, in 2023. Between 2019 and 2023, dioceses and eparchies with this age requirement constituted, on average, 89%.

Dioceses that required deacons to retire from active ministry between ages 70 and 74 constituted 7% of all respondents to this question, in 2023. Between 2019 and 2023, dioceses and eparchies with this age requirement constituted, on average, 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute $0\% \pm 4pp$ of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

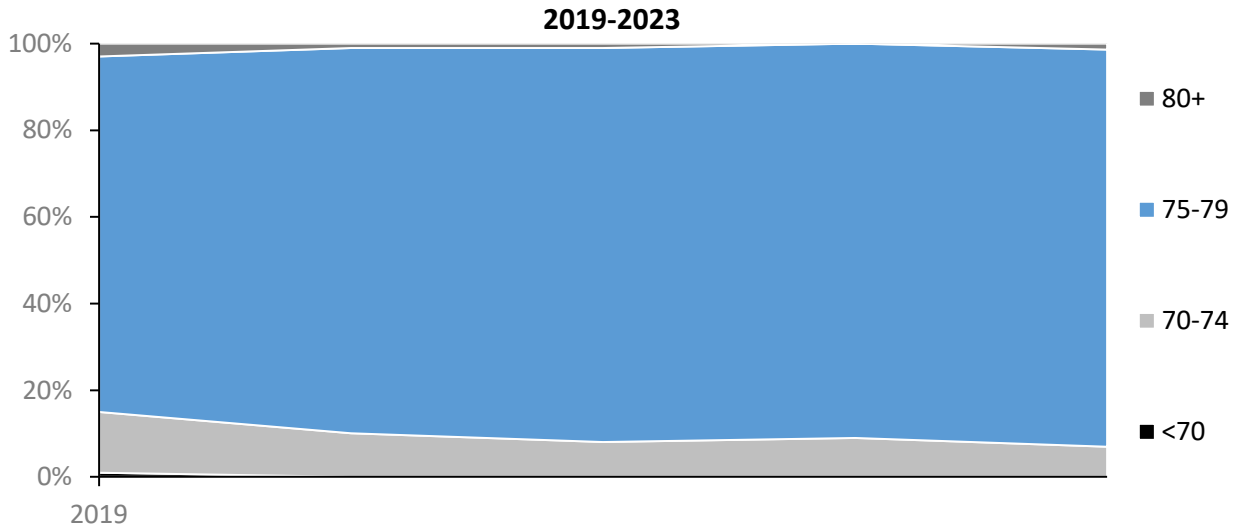
Overall, relatively few dioceses required retirement from active ministry at 80 or older (1%), before 70 (0%).

At what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?



Notably, no Eastern rite eparchies responded to this question.

At what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?

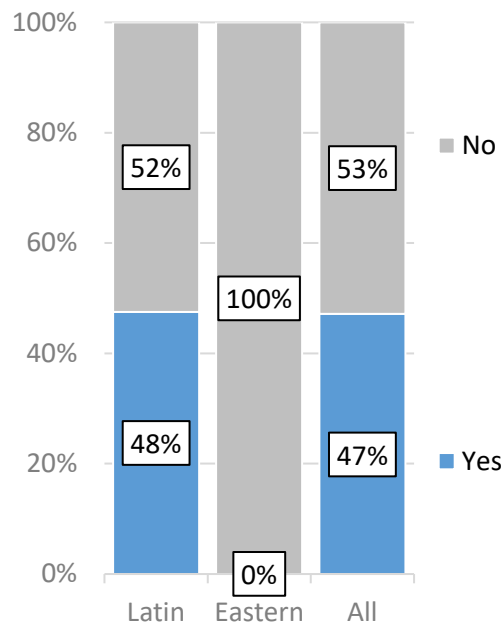


Formal Policy for Deacons who Are Divorced or Separated Post-Ordination

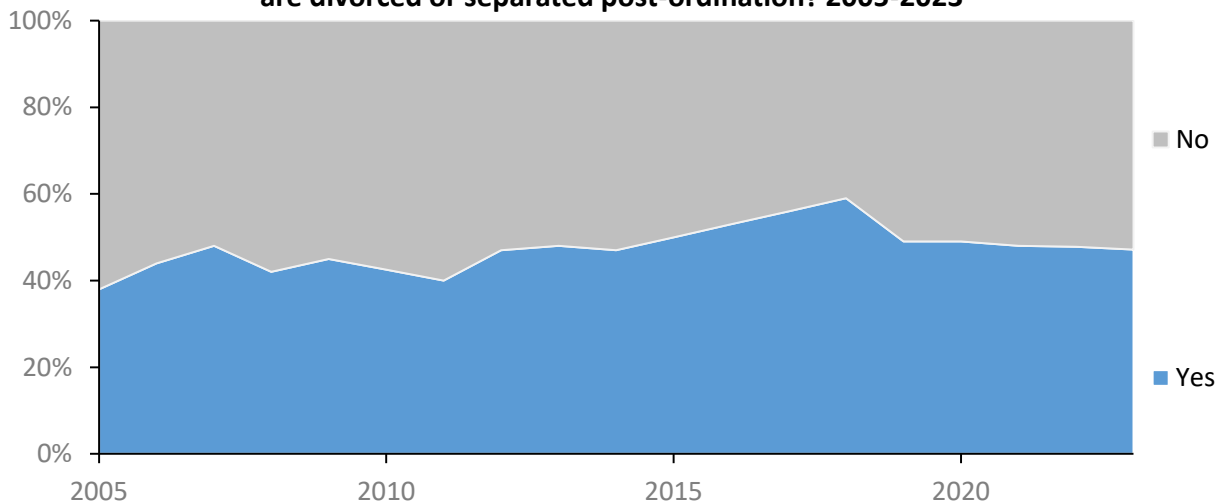
Dioceses and eparchies that have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination constituted 47% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 48% in 2022). They represented 48% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 47% and ranged between 38% and 59%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.

Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination? In 2023



Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination? 2005-2023

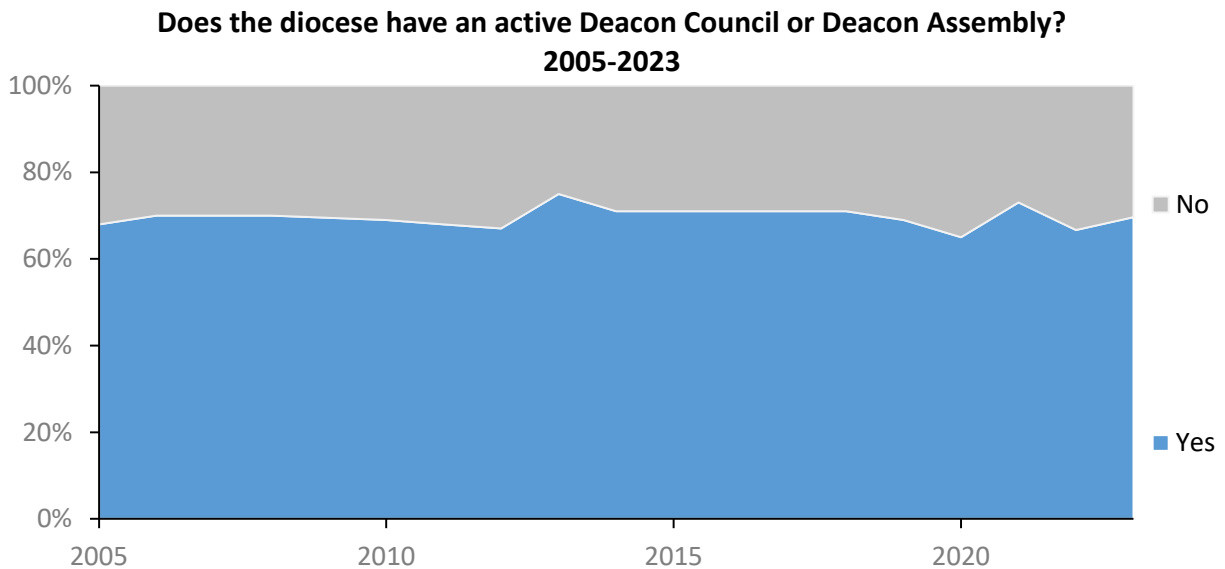
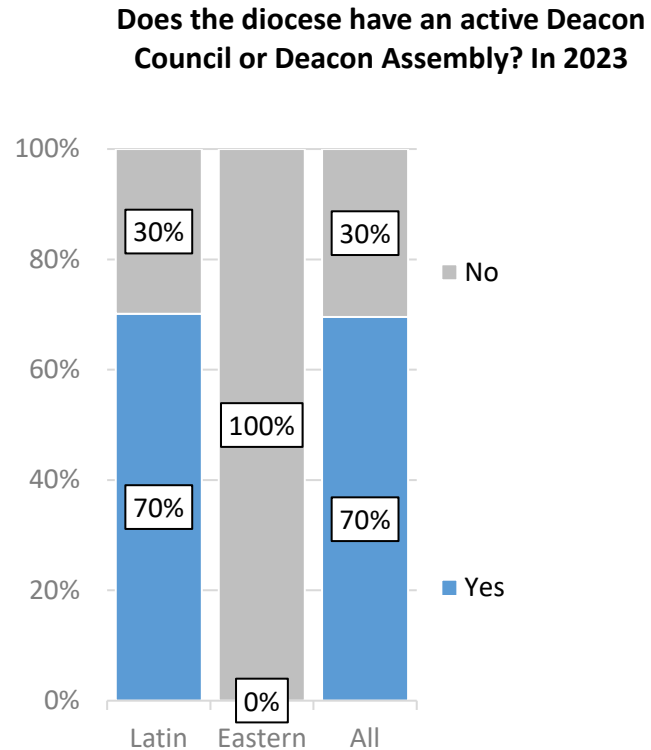


* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly

Dioceses and eparchies that have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly constituted 70% of all respondents to this question, in 2023 (and 67% in 2022). They represented 70% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2023, their share averaged 70% and ranged between 65% and 75%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 70% \pm 5pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

Methodology for Calculating Estimates

This report includes estimates for the number of active permanent deacons, the number of all permanent deacons in total (see p. 3) and for the number of ordinations to permanent diaconate (see p. 6).

The total number of permanent deacons is estimated using the following formula:

$$\#TotalDeacons = \#TotalDeaconsInOCD : \%DeaconsInSurvey$$

where:

$\#TotalDeaconsInOCD$ is the number of all permanent deacons (as reported in the most recent Official Catholic Directory available at the time of preparing this report).

$\%DeaconsInSurvey$ is the proportion of the total number of permanent deacons reported in the most recent OCD to the number permanent deacons reported in the survey by the same group of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies.

The number of permanent deacons in active ministry is estimated using the following formula:

$$\#ActiveDeacons = \#TotalDeacons \times \%DeaconsActive$$

where:

$\#TotalDeacons$ is the number of all permanent deacons (as calculated above).

$\%DeaconsActive$ is the proportion of the number of active permanent deacons to the number of all permanent deacons (based on survey responses from arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies).

The number of ordinations to diaconate is calculated using the following formula:

$$\#TotalOrdinations = \#OrdinationsInSurvey \times \#TotalDeacons : \#TotalDeaconsInSurvey$$

where:

$\#OrdinationsInSurvey$ is the number of ordinations reported by the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies participating in the survey.

$\#TotalDeacons$ is the number of all permanent deacons (as calculated above).

$\#TotalDeaconsInSurvey$ is the number of all permanent deacons reported by the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies participating in the survey.