

POSTULANCY

Step Nine - Becoming a Postulant

The Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, and your sponsoring Rector are notified of the Bishop's decision. Canons require that the name of each new postulant be recorded in a book kept for that specific purpose.

The Canons regarding Postulants for Holy Orders are clear with regard to the educational requirements and standards. It is normative that, before pursuing a course of theological education, you will have obtained an accredited baccalaureate degree. However, the Canons do provide for those persons who have not achieved such a degree. In that case, the Commission on Ministry will oversee the work needed to be done.

The norm in this diocese is that all persons seeking ordination to the Diaconate will participate in a diocesan formation program for approximately three years. This program will involve a substantial commitment of time and some expense.

Step Ten - Postulant Status

The Diaconal Formation Committee (DFC), a subcommittee of the COM, is currently revising the formation program (Fall, 2001). The outline of formation studies will be inserted in this manual when available. This process will include a provision for semi-annual evaluation of each postulant to be submitted to the COM by the Formation Director who is a member of the DFC.

From the time of acceptance as a postulant until ordination to the Diaconate, you are required to communicate with the Bishop four times a year during Ember Weeks (Title III, Canon 4.8).

You will be assigned a Commission on Ministry chaplain for the duration of the training and formation process. The role of the chaplain is a pastoral one and the relationship is characterized by regular communication. The Commission on Ministry will continue to evaluate you throughout your formation process.