

SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area. Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards. ***Let's take a closer look at some of the good works underway in the...***

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Through ordination Deacons become official representatives of the Church, called to ministerial service of Christ through Word, Liturgy and Charity. Responsible to the Bishop, Deacons who possess the required faculties for ministry, provide service to parishes throughout the diocese, assisting in all levels of parish and outreach ministry.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops lists particular requirements for the formation of Deacons in the United States. APA funding helps support both the formation and the life and ministry of Deacons within our diocese.

Permanent Diaconate Formation provides for:

- ✓ A 9 month process of discernment and application for men and their wives (if applicable) with an interest in the Permanent Diaconate.
- ✓ A certificate in Theology from St. Leo University for a four year program.
- ✓ Monthly diocesan level mentoring, spiritual direction, and pastoral workshops
- ✓ Annual retreats, reflection days and the final Canonical retreat before ordination
- ✓ The cost of Ordination at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle for those approved by the Ordinary.

Permanent Diaconate Life and Ministry provides for:

- ✓ A three year Post Ordination for newly ordained Deacons
- ✓ Annual continuing formation sessions for Deacons related to ministry, theology, and liturgy.
- ✓ Annual Mass of Recommitment (offered by the Bishop)
- ✓ Ministerial support for the Deacons and families in times of death and illness.
- ✓ The vetting process of extern Deacons interested in ministering in the diocese.
- ✓ Administrative support to and maintain compliance with the National Directory for the formation, ministry and life of permanent Deacons in the United States.
- ✓ Ongoing communication with the Diaconate Community through "Diakonia," the biannual newsletter and routine electronic communication.



This information has been provided by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development. To learn more about ministries, services and programs funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit dosp.org

