



41st Diocesan Convention

**DEACONS - SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE
IN AN EMERGING CHURCH**

Opening Prayer

God has created me to do God some definite service. God has committed some work to me which God has not committed to another. I have a mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told in the next. I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good. I shall do God's works; I shall be an instrument of peace.

John Henry Cardinal Newman, revised

THE MINISTRY

Q. What is the duty of all Christians?

A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

(BCP 855)

THE MINISTRY

Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?

A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

A Call to Ordained Ministry: Whose Call?

All Christians are called to ministry through the sacrament of baptism.

Ministry is the service of God in the Church and in the world.

Each minister, whether lay or ordained, is a living witness to Christ's reconciling love and power in one's own place and time.

Understanding the ministry to which one is called is a matter for prayerful discernment.

What Qualities and/or Competencies?

self-awareness *

transparency

authenticity

honesty

communication skills

conflict resolution skills

a practice of self-management

and self-discipline

fiscal responsibility

ability to 'tell the gospel story'

critical thinking

spiritual grounding

genuine charism

a servant's heart

a sense of humor

global perspective

engagement with the world

sacramental sensibility

Candidates' Personal Call



SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Guided by the Holy Spirit

- Articulate
- Listen
- Communal Discernment

The Process

- Prayer
- Sponsoring priest
- Listening Hearts
- Sponsoring Priest
- Parish Discernment Committee
- Recommendation as Nominee
- Spiritual Director

Documentation

- Notify Bishop
- Notify sponsoring priest
- Request PDC
- Report to sponsoring priest
- Experience/Growing edges
- Request of Bishop as Nominee

STAGE I: NOMINATION

Necessary documentation

- Application
- Waiver of information/background
- Personal financial statement
- Ministry Project
- Medical and mental health evaluation

STAGE I: NOMINATION (con't.)

Meeting with Bishop

Informal meeting with COM

Discernment Retreat

- Fellowship
- Prayer
- Worship
- Small Group Interviews

Recommendation of COM

STAGE II: POSTULANCY

Formation: School for Ministry

Saturday classes

- 4 courses per semester
- Deacon: 2 years
- Priest: 3 years

Theological Field Education

- Spring semester
- Summer

STAGE II: POSTULANCY

Formation: School for Ministry


- Hebrew Bible I
 - Preaching
 - Liturgics I
 - Vocation of the Deacon
 - New Testament I
 - Ecumenism/World Religions
 - Liturgics II
 - Pastoral Care
 - Theological Field Education
 - Summer Field Ministry
- Hebrew Bible II
 - Anglicanism
 - Ethics
 - Church History
 - New Testament II
 - Church Mission and Society
 - Christian Spirituality
 - Theology
 - Theological Field Education

STAGE II: POSTULANCY (con't)

Ember Letters

- Four times per year
- Academic
- Diaconal
- Spiritual and Personal Development

Continuing Discernment

- Spiritual Director
 - Sponsoring Priest
 - Learning community
 - Family and friends
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STAGE III: CANDIDACY

- Commission on Ministry review
- Standing Committee review
- Lifelong discernment and formation

Serving God's People in an Emerging Church

The Original "Emergent" Church –

"It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." Acts 6:2b-4

Serving God's People in an Emerging Church

Follow, Lead, and Prepare the Way –Going Forward

With guidance and direction from our Bishop, clergy, and our fellow deacons, utilize our God given gifts and skills to address the greatest needs within EDSD.

- Serving the Homeless, Hungry and those in need of Healthcare – ECC
- Prison Ministry throughout the Diocese of San Diego
- Developing Missional Outreach for the Greater Coachella Valley

Serving God's People in an Emerging Church

Follow, Lead, and Prepare the Way – Future

Emerging Church = Missional Church

- Following the Example of Jesus Christ, The Apostles and disciples (clergy & lay) - Service
- Leadership - Scripture, Office of the Bishop & Lay Leadership
- Prepare the Way – Welcoming and serving all God's Children that they will know God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit



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