

THE INTERDIOCESAN DIACONAL FORMATION PROGRAM OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE'S OF SAINT BONIFACE, WINNIPEG, AND KEEWATIN LE PAS
Winter 2021



With the support of the Archbishops of St. Boniface, Winnipeg and Keewatin Le Pas the Diaconal Formation Committee has been working to implement the National Directory for Ministry, Formation and the Life of Permanent Deacons in Canada. The Directory sets out the four pillars of formation being the human, spiritual, theological and pastoral dimensions that would be the direction of formation for the five-year program.

This coming Spring the Diaconal Formation Committee is inviting men to prayerfully consider becoming part of a one-year Aspirancy program in the Fall of 2021. This inquiry period is drawn to show formal interest in the permanent diaconate, to be immersed in the questions of Holy Orders, discernment, and suitability to be admitted to the four-year period of formation.

We invite you to prayerfully invite a possible candidate to “Come and See,” (John 1:39) if they show interest and suitability. They will be invited by you to see if they are open to serving the Church as an ordained servant of the three-fold ministry of service: of charity and justice; service of the Word of God and service to the Liturgy.

Those men who have felt the gentle call of the diaconate need first and foremost a deep-rooted spirituality in the love of Christ and the love of His Church. The prophet Samuel experienced the gentle call, he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you have called me.” Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3)

The inquirer would be an active member of their parish, known to you and the parish community; he will exhibit a heart of discernment, a desire of reaching out to the vulnerable and marginalized, shows a longing to be an agent of social justice, to be a leader, to show a commitment to growing as a man of faith, has the personal call to grow in their faith, is prayerful and inquisitive regarding the many modes of prayer, is at least 35 years old, mature, good at communicating, and has healthy relationships with his family, his friends and interpersonal relationships.

If you know of this person in your parish, please approach them and invite you to contact them for a conversation about the upcoming opportunity “to come and see,” and learn about what the Church calls us all to a vocation to holiness, Love for Christ and the Church, the hearer of the word and the love of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Please send this contact information to initiate communications with Deacon Doug Cross, the Director of Diaconate Formation by email: diaconal.formation@archwinnipeg.ca to begin the inquiry process. The deadline for beginning the Inquiry phase is April 15, 2021.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Cross', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Reverend Mr. Doug Cross
Director of the Diaconate Formation