

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

***Diaconate Post-Ordination Survey  
2006-2007***



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**Table of Contents**

Executive Summary .....	1
Major Findings.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Number of Permanent Deacons .....	6
Ministry Status of Deacons.....	8
Marital Status of Active Deacons .....	10
Age of Active Deacons .....	11
Race and Ethnicity .....	13
Highest Level of Education .....	14
Changes in the Diaconate in 2006 .....	15
Ministry and Compensation.....	16
Post-Ordination Formation .....	18
Retreats .....	19
Directors of the Diaconate .....	20
Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate .....	21
Appendix: Questionnaire and Response Frequencies.....	23



## Executive Summary

In Spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Permanent Diaconate of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate. The present survey is the second year that CARA has conducted this survey. The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate. The questionnaire used in the 2006-2007 survey is almost identical to that used in the 2005-2006 survey.<sup>1</sup>

In October 2006, CARA contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. At the same time, CARA distributed the survey to all dioceses and eparchies that do not have an active diaconate formation program, using a list of contacts provided by the Secretariat for the Diaconate. An identical survey was placed online, giving diocesan representatives the option of completing the survey either online or on paper. As with in 2005-2006, the timing of the 2006-2007 survey distribution coincided with CARA's annual survey of diaconate formation programs for its Catholic Ministry Formation database.

CARA completed data collection in March 2007, after extensive follow-ups by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had received 2006-2007 information from 107 of the 194 dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs belong to the USCCB, for a 55 percent completion rate.<sup>2</sup> In cases where a diocese or eparchy supplied diaconate information in 2005-2006 but not in 2006-2007, the data from 2005-2006 is used again here. This brings the total of responding diaconate offices to 144, or 74 percent of all dioceses and eparchies. Included in this total are two responses from the Archdiocese of Omaha, one for its rural diaconate program and another for its urban diaconate program (both from 2005-2006 data). Unless otherwise noted, the findings reported here rely on data from all 144 diaconate offices.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with masters' degrees or doctorates. The current survey instead asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate."

<sup>2</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. has been excluded from this report and analysis.

## Major Findings

### *Number of Deacons*

- Dioceses with the largest number of permanent deacons include Chicago (632), Galveston-Houston (454), and Trenton (418). Adjusting for Catholic population size, the dioceses with the most deacons per 1,000 Catholics include Van Nuys – Byzantine (2.79), Fairbanks (2.06), Newton (Melkite) (1.80), and Amarillo (1.66).
- The 144 responding dioceses and eparchies report a total of 13,002 permanent deacons, an increase of 1,171 from the number reported in 2005-2006. Of that total, 10,052 (77 percent) are in active ministry in the diocese or eparchy that reported them.
- Interpolating for dioceses and eparchies that did not respond in either year of the survey, we estimate the total number of permanent deacons in U.S. dioceses and eparchies to be 16,661. Some 13,024 of these, or 78 percent, are in active ministry in their respective dioceses.
- Ninety-two percent of dioceses have a minimum age for acceptance into the diaconate formation program, with a typical minimum age requirement of 32. Fewer than half of dioceses (44 percent) have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry. Among those that do, the average mandatory retirement age is 75.

### *Demographics of Deacons*

- Consistent with findings last year, 93 percent of active deacons are married. Four percent are widowed, 2 percent are single, 1 percent is divorced, and 0.4 percent are remarried.
- A plurality of deacons (36 percent) are in their sixties. Three in ten are in their fifties, and a quarter are age 70 or older. Just ten percent are below the age of 50. Deacons' reported ages are similar to those of last year, although there are now slightly fewer deacons in their sixties and slightly more in their seventies. Compared to the 1996 survey, deacons are older on average (more likely to be in their sixties and seventies than in their fifties or younger).
- Mirroring findings from 2005-2006, 81 percent of active deacons are identified as non-Hispanic white. Fifteen percent are Hispanic/Latino, 2 percent are African American/black, 1 percent are Asian, and 1 percent are Native American or some other race or ethnicity.
- More than half of active deacons (54 percent) have at least a bachelor's degree. Of the 1,423 deacons who hold a graduate degree, one in three earned their degree

in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, or another area related to the Diaconate.

### *Compensation and Formation*

- About four in ten active deacons are financially compensated for their ministry in a parish (11 percent full-time and 30 percent part-time). On average, dioceses have 14 deacons who are financially compensated for full-time parish ministry and 31 who are compensated for part-time parish ministry. More than a third of deacons are employed (full- or part-time) in a secular occupation.
- Eighty-two percent of responding dioceses and eparchies require post-ordination formation for deacons. In the typical diocese with this requirement, 20 hours of formation a year is required. Twenty percent of dioceses provide formation in languages other than English, and 81 percent provide formation opportunities for deacons' wives. An annual retreat is required for deacons in 91 percent of dioceses and eparchies and, in the typical diocese, 80 percent of deacons participate in these retreats.
- Nearly all responding dioceses (94 percent) have a Director for the Office of Deacon, most often occupied as a part-time position. Eighty-two percent of responding dioceses and eparchies have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons, and 88 percent have an active formation program for the diaconate. This is a slight increase from 2005-2006, when 78 percent of dioceses had a plan for placement and ministry and 84 percent had an active formation program.

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**Introduction**

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In October 2006, CARA contacted the directors of all diaconate formation programs in its Catholic Ministry Formation database to request their cooperation in completing the survey. At the same time, CARA distributed the survey to all dioceses and eparchies that do not have an active diaconate formation program, using a list of contacts provided by the Secretariat for the Diaconate. An identical survey was placed online, giving diocesan representatives the option of completing the survey either online or on paper. As with in 2005-2006, the timing of the 2006-2007 survey distribution coincided with CARA's annual survey of diaconate formation programs for its Catholic Ministry Formation database.

CARA completed data collection in March 2007, after extensive follow-ups by mail, e-mail, telephone, and fax. At the completion of data collection, CARA had received 2006-2007 information from 107 of the 194 dioceses and eparchies whose bishops and eparchs belong to the USCCB, for a 55 percent completion rate.<sup>4</sup> In cases where a diocese or eparchy supplied diaconate information in 2005-2006 but not in 2006-2007, the data from 2005-2006 is used again here. This brings the total of responding diaconate offices to 144, or 74 percent of all dioceses and eparchies. Included in this total are two responses from the Archdiocese of Omaha, one for its rural diaconate

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<sup>3</sup> The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with masters' degrees or doctorates. The current survey instead asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate."

<sup>4</sup> The Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. has been excluded from this report and analysis.



program and another for its urban diaconate program (both from 2005-2006 data). Unless otherwise noted, the findings reported here rely on data from all 144 diaconate offices.

Sections of this report reference average (mean) results as well as median results for dioceses and eparchies. The median represents the numeric value at which there are an equal number of responses above and below this number. The median is frequently lower or higher than the average because it is not skewed by extremely large or small values that “move” averages higher or lower from the median. Occasionally, the median result is referred to as representing the “typical diocese.”

This report also includes some cross-time comparisons, using data from the 2005-2006 Post-Ordination Diaconate Survey as well as from a 1996 USCCCB survey of offices of the permanent diaconate. Data from the 1996 survey were published in the June 2000 CARA Special Report, *The Permanent Diaconate Today*.

Occasionally throughout this report, dioceses are compared based upon their total number of deacons and upon the number of deacons per 1,000 Catholics in the diocese. These comparisons are presented only in cases where there are statistically significant differences among the groups being compared. If sub-group comparisons are not presented for a particular question, it can be assumed that there are no statistically significant differences among groups.

## Number of Permanent Deacons

The Archdiocese of Chicago has by far the largest number of permanent deacons, with a total of 632 in 2006-2007. Dioceses with the next highest totals of permanent deacons are Galveston-Houston, Trenton, Washington, and New York. The table below lists dioceses more than 200 permanent deacons.<sup>5</sup>

Arch/diocese	Number of Deacons	Deacons per 1,000 Catholics
Chicago	632	0.27
Galveston-Houston	454	0.30
Trenton	418	0.52
Washington	398	0.69
New York	385	0.15
Hartford	330	0.49
San Antonio	324	0.48
Los Angeles	300	0.07
Boston	284	0.15
Baltimore	276	0.53
St. Louis	271	0.49
Rockville Centre	264	0.18
Phoenix	261	0.47
Cleveland	256	0.32
Joliet	224	0.34
Santa Fe	223	0.74
St. Paul and Minneapolis	217	0.34
Philadelphia	213	0.15
Newark	210	0.16

The following dioceses and eparchies (none of which submitted a completed survey in 2005-2006 or 2006-2007) are listed in *The Official Catholic Directory 2006* as having no deacons: Grand Island, Greensburg, Salina, St. Peter (Chaldean), St. Thomas Syro-Malabar, and St. Thomas the Apostle (Chaldean).

Adjusting for the size of the Catholic population, the following dioceses and eparchies have the greatest number of deacons per 1,000 Catholics: Van Nuys – Byzantine (2.79), Fairbanks (2.06), Newton (Melkite) (1.80), Amarillo (1.66), Juneau (1.64), Tulsa (1.26), and Bismarck (1.14).

<sup>5</sup> To account for dioceses that did not return a survey in 2005-2006 or 2006-2007, data in this table are supplemented by data from *The Official Catholic Directory 2006*.

Four in ten dioceses and eparchies (39 percent, or 76 dioceses) have fewer than 0.25 deacons per 1,000 Catholics. This includes six listed in the table above as having a comparatively higher total number of deacons (New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Rockville Centre, Philadelphia, and Newark). A third of dioceses and eparchies (33 percent, or 64 dioceses) have 0.25 to 0.49 deacons per 1,000 Catholics, and the remaining 28 percent (54 dioceses) have 0.50 or more deacons per 1,000 Catholics.

Later sections of this report draw comparisons among two sub-groups of the 144 responding dioceses relating to the number of deacons per 1,000 Catholics:

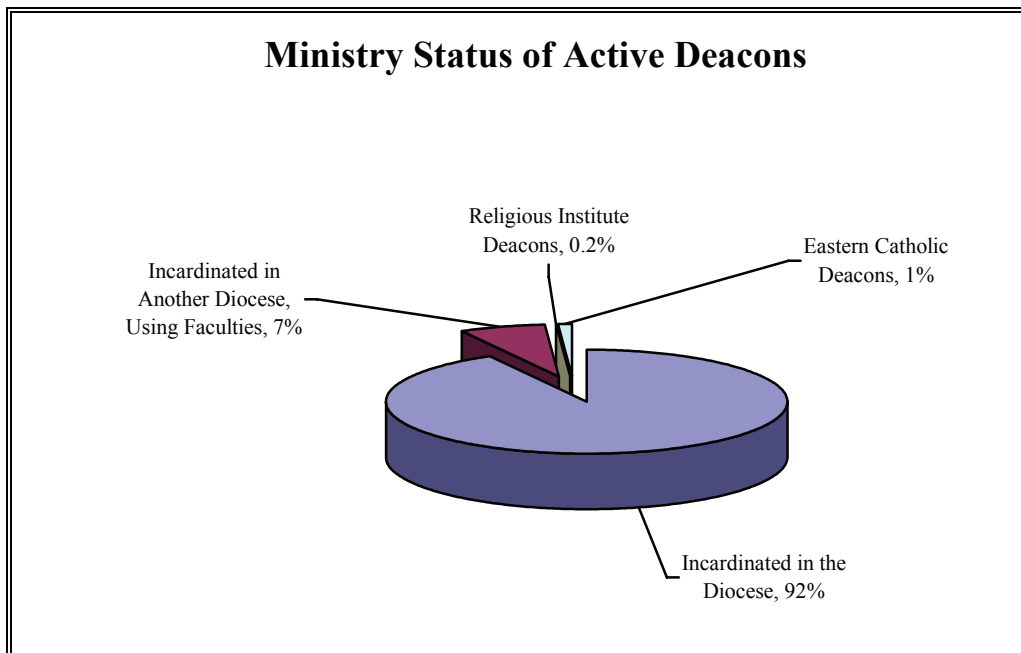
- Those with fewer than .25 deacons per 1,000 Catholics (49 dioceses, or 34 percent of all 144 responding dioceses)
- Those with .25 or more deacons per 1,000 Catholics (95 dioceses, or 66 percent of all 144 responding dioceses)

Sub-group comparisons are also made among dioceses with 50 or fewer total permanent deacons (65 dioceses, or 45 percent of all 144 responding dioceses) and those with more than 50 total permanent deacons (79 dioceses, or 55 percent of all 144 responding dioceses).

## Ministry Status of Deacons

Responding dioceses and eparchies report a total of 13,002 permanent deacons, an increase of 1,171 from the number reported in 2005-2006. Of that total, 10,052 (77 percent) are in active ministry in the diocese or eparchy that reported them. This is comparable to the 78 percent of permanent deacons reported to be active in 2005-2006, and higher than the percentage estimated to be active in 1996 (88 percent).<sup>6</sup>

The figure below shows the ministry status of the 10,052 deacons in active ministry.<sup>7</sup> Most (8,622 deacons, or 92 percent) are incardinated in the diocese.



The remaining 23 percent of permanent deacons who are not in active ministry in the reporting diocese or eparchy are either serving in another diocese (767 deacons), serving in both Eastern and Latin rite Churches (22 deacons are “bi-ritual”), or no longer in active ministry in the diocese or eparchy (2,161 deacons).

<sup>6</sup> These and other comparisons in this report utilize findings from the 1996 USCCB survey of diaconate formation programs as reported in *The Permanent Diaconate Today*, June 2000, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

<sup>7</sup> Although respondents were asked to give the ministry status of all active deacons in their diocese, status was provided for only 9,403 deacons (94 percent of the 10,052 total reported by dioceses). Percentages are calculated out of this total, rather than out of the reported overall total of active deacons.

The 2,161 permanent deacons reported to be no longer in active ministry in their diocese are classified as follows:

- 1,397 (65 percent) are retired from ecclesial ministry
- 238 (11 percent) are on a leave of absence from active ministry
- 157 (7 percent) are suspended from active ministry
- 113 (5 percent) have been released from the clerical state
- 259 (12 percent) are inactive for some other reason

***Number of Active Deacons: Interpolation for Missing Data***

Given that 26 percent of dioceses did not respond to the survey in 2005-2006 or 2006-2007, the totals presented above are smaller than those reported in *The Official Catholic Directory*. To provide an estimate of the number of deacons in active ministry for all dioceses, we use data from responding dioceses as well as data reported in *The Official Catholic Directory 2006*.

First, we calculate the ratio of active to total deacons for each responding diocese by dividing the number of active deacons as reported in their most current survey by the number of total deacons reported by each diocese.

$$\frac{\text{Number of active deacons (as reported in CARA survey)}}{\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in CARA survey)}}$$

The average for this ratio is .8121. Thus, on average, responding dioceses report a total of active deacons that is about 81 percent of the number of total deacons reported.

We then use this ratio to create corresponding estimates for all non-responding dioceses by multiplying the total number of deacons reported in the OCD by .8121.

$$\text{Number of total deacons (as reported in the OCD 2006)} * .8121$$

This provides an estimated number of active deacons in each non-responding diocese.

When we add these estimates to the number of active deacons reported by responding dioceses, the total estimate for permanent deacons in active ministry in their dioceses in the United States is **13,024**.

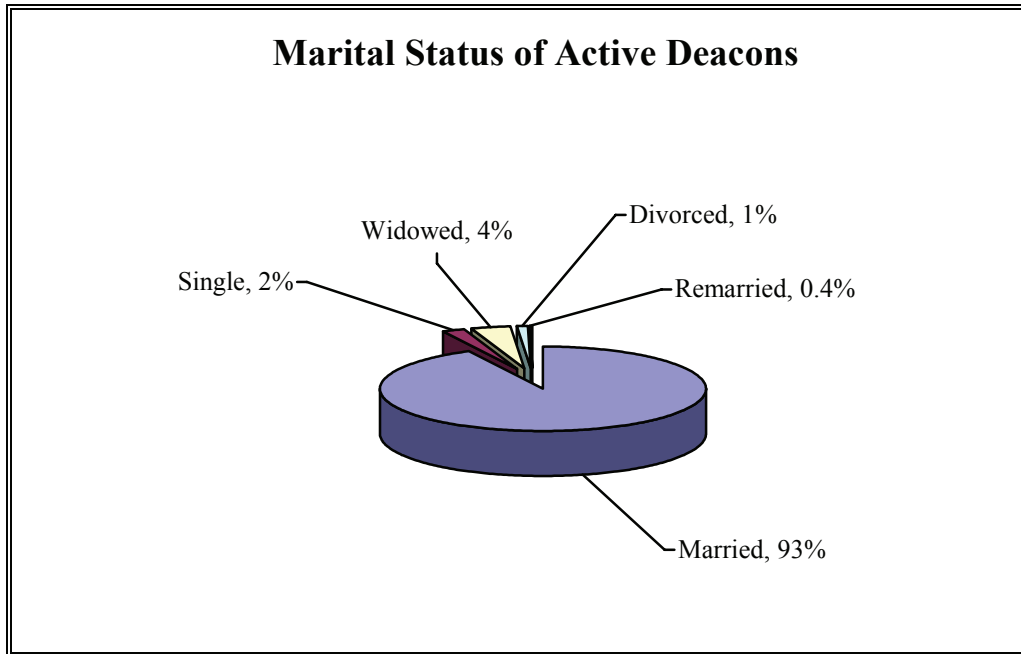
If we then add in the *OCD* reported figure for total deacons from non-responding dioceses to the total number of deacons reported by respondents, we get a national estimate for total number of permanent deacons of **16,661**.<sup>8</sup> From these estimates, we can infer that about 78 percent of deacons nationally are in active ministry in their respective dioceses.

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<sup>8</sup> By comparison, the 2006 *OCD* reports the total number of deacons as of January 1, 2006 to be 14,995.

## Marital Status of Active Deacons

Most deacons in active ministry are married. The figure below displays the marital status of active deacons.



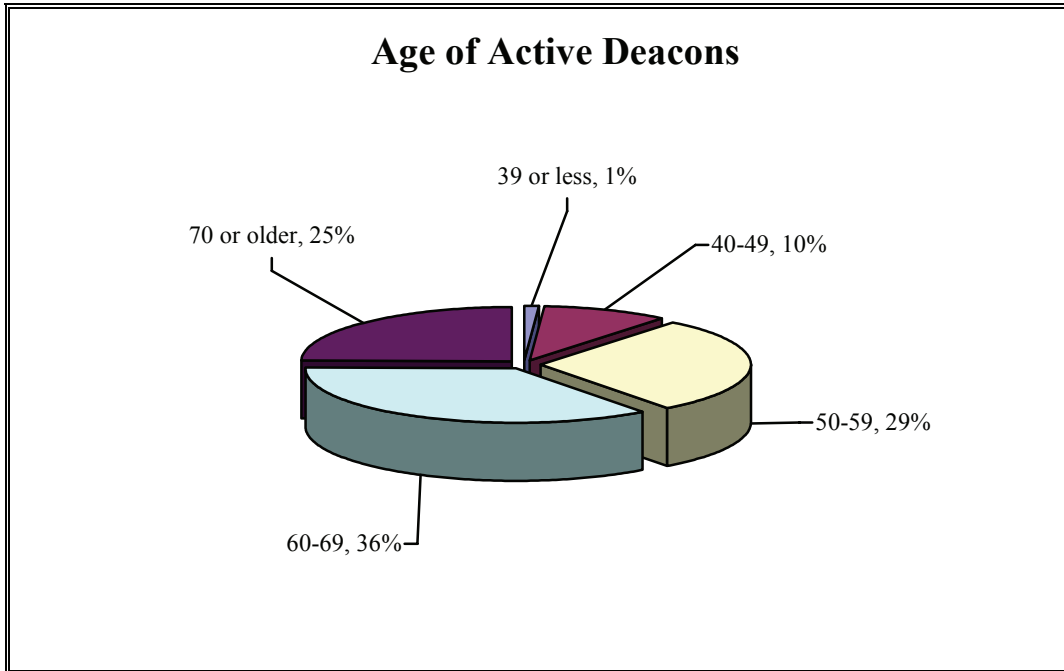
Ninety-three percent of deacons are married. Four percent are widowed, 2 percent are single (never married), and 1 percent are divorced. Fewer than 1 percent have been remarried.

The marital status of deacons has remained consistent over time, as shown in the table below.

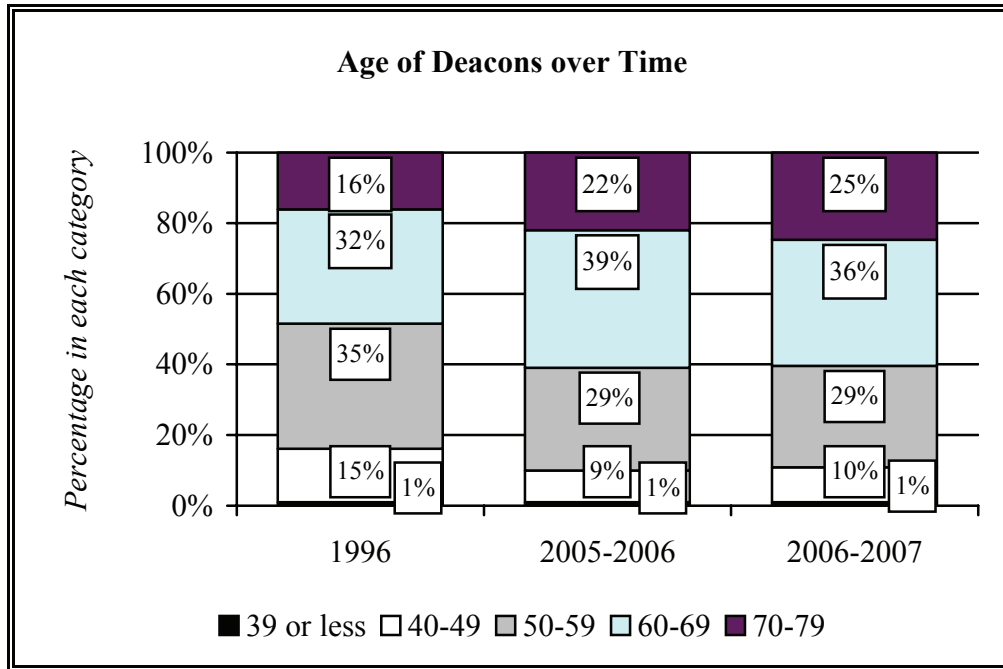
	1996	2005-2006	2006-2007
Married	90%	93%	93%
Widowed	4	4	4
Single, Never Married	3	2	2
Divorced	3	1	1
Remarried	-	0.3	0.4

## Age of Active Deacons

A plurality of deacons (36 percent) are in their sixties. Three in ten are in their fifties, and a quarter are age 70 or older. Just ten percent are below the age of 50. The figure below shows the distribution by age of active deacons.



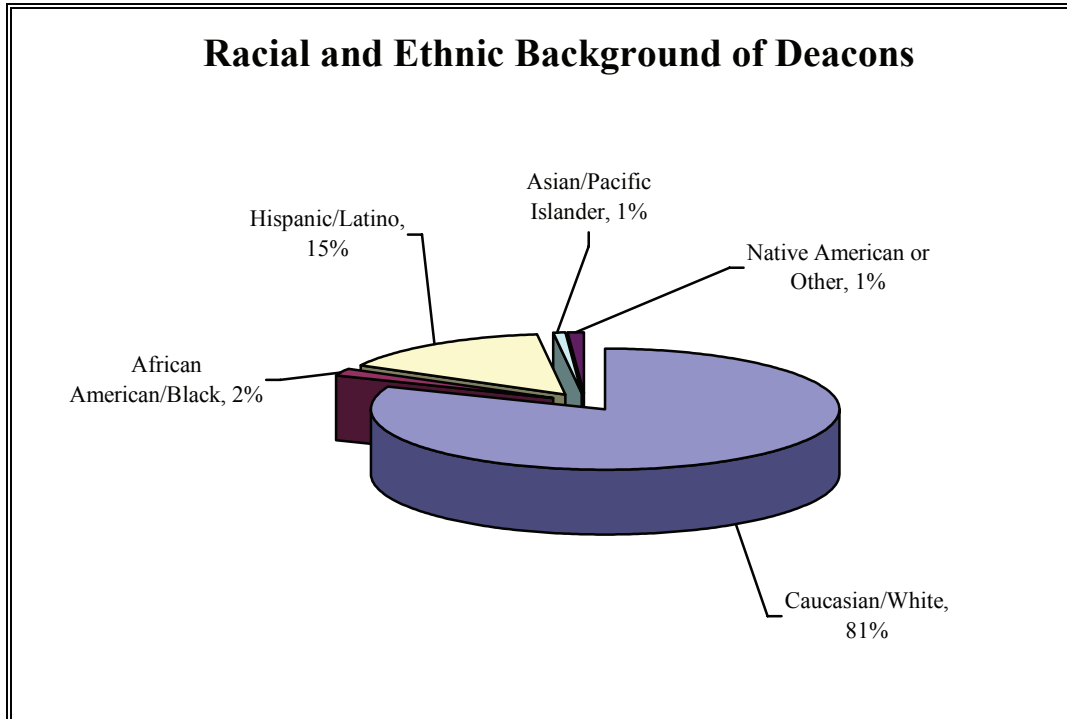
Deacons' reported ages are similar to those of last year, although there are now slightly fewer deacons in their sixties and slightly more in their seventies. Compared to the 1996 survey, deacons are older on average (more likely to be in their sixties and seventies than in their fifties or younger).





## Race and Ethnicity

More than eight in ten active deacons are white, non-Hispanic. Another 15 percent are Hispanic/Latino. Deacons are less diverse than the overall Catholic population in the United States, which is currently about 58 percent non-Hispanic white, 34 percent Hispanic/Latino, 4 percent Asian American/Pacific Islander, 3 percent African American/black, and 1 percent Native American.<sup>9</sup> The figure below shows the racial and ethnic distribution of active deacons in the United States.



Active permanent deacons are substantially more diverse racially and ethnically than U.S. priests. According to a national random sample telephone of priests conducted by CARA in 2002, 94 percent of U.S. priests are white, 2 percent are Hispanic/Latino, 1 percent is African American, 3 percent are Asian American, and less than 1 percent is Native American.

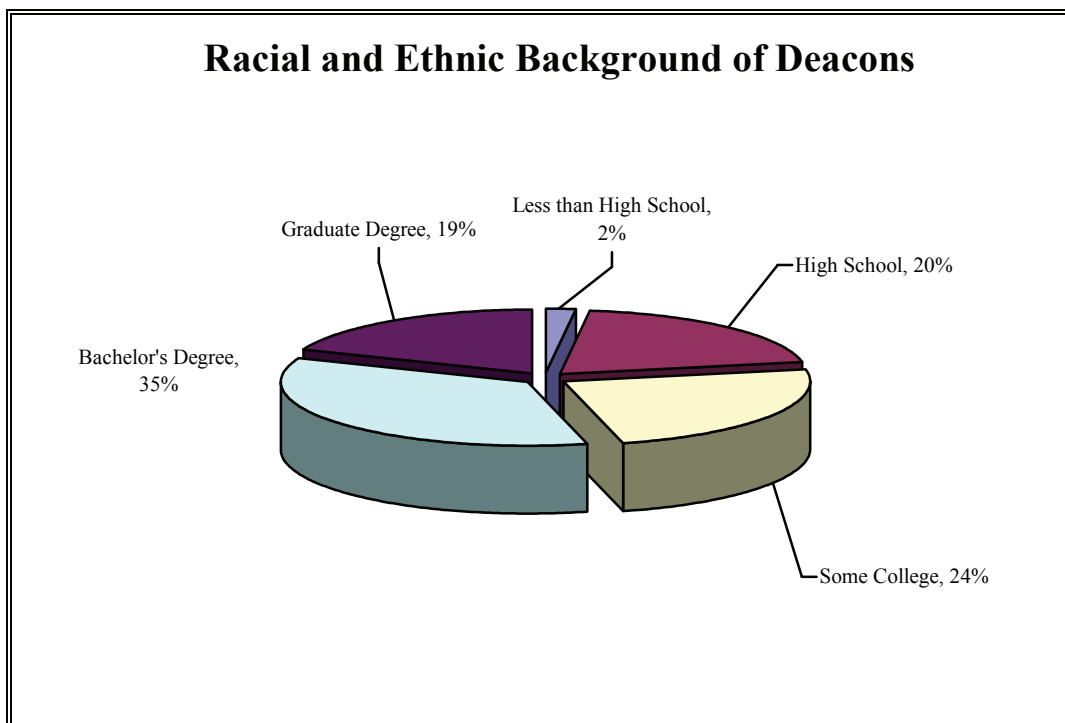
The racial and ethnic makeup of the diaconate as reported in the current survey mirrors that of previous years.

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<sup>9</sup> CARA National Poll, 2007

## Highest Level of Education

More than half of active deacons (54 percent) have at least a bachelor's degree. Of the 1,423 deacons who hold a graduate degree, one in three earned their degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, or another area related to the Diaconate.



Slightly more than one in five deacons has a high school education or less (22 percent). A quarter have attended some college without earning a bachelor's degree. More than a third have earned a bachelor's degree, and one in five has a graduate degree.<sup>10</sup> Although last year's survey revealed a slight increase in the likelihood of deacons having a graduate degree (25 percent, compared to 19 percent in 1996), data from the current survey suggest more consistency in education levels over time.

<sup>10</sup> The 2005-2006 survey asked for the number of active deacons with masters' degrees and doctorates. The current survey instead asked for the number of active deacons with a "graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc." and the number with a "graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate."

## Changes in the Diaconate in 2006

In the typical diocese or eparchy in 2006, as was typical in 2005, two deacons retired from active ministry and one died. These numbers represent the median response for all dioceses (averages are slightly higher). Nationally, in the dioceses and eparchies that responded to these questions, a total of 307 deacons retired from active ministry and 183 deacons died.

<i>In this calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2006) how many deacons have:</i>			
	<b>Diocesan Average</b>	<b>Diocesan Median</b>	<b>National Total</b>
Requested laicization	0.2	0.0	15
Been granted laicization	0.1	0.0	12
Been dispensed from the impediment of orders	0.1	0.0	8
Remarried after dispensation	<0.1	0.0	2
Remarried without dispensation	0.1	0.0	11
Divorced/separated after ordination	0.2	0.0	22
Entered the priesthood	0.2	0.0	13
Retired from active ministry	2.8	2.0	307
Died	1.6	1.0	183

Thirteen deacons entered the priesthood in 2006. On average, few deacons request laicization and even fewer are granted laicization. In the typical diocese or eparchy, no such requests were made in 2006. The national total number of deacons who requested laicization decreased slightly, from 27 in 2005 to 15 in 2006.

Non-response for this series of questions ranges from 35 to 40 percent for questions other than retirement and death. Just over 20 percent of dioceses and eparchies did not provide data for the number of deacons who retired or died in 2006. If these non-responses are assumed to represent zero responses, the averages and medians would be lower, but national totals would be unaffected. See the appendix for specific non-response rates for each question.

## Ministry and Compensation

About four in ten active deacons are financially compensated for their ministry in a parish (11 percent full-time and 30 percent part-time). On average, dioceses have 14 deacons who are financially compensated for full-time parish ministry and 31 who are compensated for part-time parish ministry.

	Full-Time	Part-Time
<i>Of the total number of deacons active in ministry in the diocese, the number who are financially compensated for their ministry, either full-time or part-time (includes reimbursement for expenses, such as mileage):</i>		
<i><u>National totals (percentage of all active deacons)</u></i>		
Diaconal ministry in a parish	1,082 (11%)	3,031 (30%)
Deacons also employed (full- or part-time) in a secular occupation	2,995 (30%)	473 (5%)
Other ministry position	136 (1%)	298 (3%)
Prison ministry	95 (1%)	362 (4%)
Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2)	90 (1%)	86 (1%)
Hospital ministry	65 (1%)	587 (6%)
<i><u>Average number of active deacons per diocese/eparchy</u></i>		
Deacons also employed (full- or part-time) in a secular occupation	34	7
Diaconal ministry in a parish	14	31
Prison ministry	2	5
Other ministry position	2	4
Hospital ministry	1	8
Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2)	1	2

Just over a third of all active deacons are also employed full- or part-time in a secular occupation (30 percent full-time and 5 percent part-time). On average, dioceses offer financial compensation to 34 deacons who are also employed in a secular occupation full-time and 7 deacons employed in a secular occupation part-time.

- More than six hundred deacons (652, or 7 percent of all deacons) are financially compensated for their full- or part-time ministry in a hospital. Five percent are compensated for ministry in prisons.

- Fewer than one in 20 deacons are financially compensated for some other ministry position. In the majority of instances where the “other ministry” category was noted, the respondent specified a diocesan-level ministry position (often the Director of the Diaconate). Youth and campus ministry positions are also commonly mentioned.
- Two percent of deacons in responding dioceses and eparchies (176 deacons) are compensated for their ministry as a person entrusted with the pastoral care of at least one parish (Canon 517.2).

Non-response for this series of questions ranges from 38 percent to 61 percent. Again, if these non-responses are assumed to represent zero responses, the averages per diocese and eparchy would be lower, but national totals would be unaffected. In many cases, a non-response may indicate the lack of a ministry (*e.g.*, Canon 517.2 parishes) or diaconate-compensated ministry involvement. See the appendix for specific non-response rates for each question.

## Post-Ordination Formation

The majority of dioceses and eparchies (82 percent) require post-ordination formation for deacons. The typical diocese requires deacons to complete 20 hours of formation per year. Formation opportunities mirror those offered in 2005-2006, with no area differing more than two percentage points.

<b>Post-Ordination Formation</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Post-ordination formation required of deacons	82%	18%
<i>Average number of hours required annually: 24</i>		
<i>Median number of hours required annually: 20</i>		
Post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English	20%	80%
<i>Percentage providing formation in Spanish: 15%</i>		
<i>Percentage providing formation in other languages: 1%</i>		
Formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons	81%	19%

One in five dioceses and eparchies provide post-ordination formation in languages other than English. Of those dioceses that specified the language, the most common response is Spanish. One diocese each indicates that formation programs are offered in ASL and Ukrainian.

Eight in ten dioceses and eparchies provide formation opportunities for the wives of deacons.

### ***Sub-Group Differences***

Dioceses with more than 50 deacons are *more* likely to require post-ordination formation for deacons (90 percent, compared to 72 percent of dioceses with fewer deacons). They are also *more* likely to provide formation in a language other than English (27 percent compared to 10 percent).

Dioceses with fewer than .25 deacons per 1,000 Catholics are *less* likely than dioceses with more deacons per 1,000 Catholics to provide formation opportunities for the wives of deacons (70 percent compared to 87 percent).

## Retreats

Nine in ten responding dioceses and eparchies require an annual retreat for deacons. An equal proportion offer annual gatherings for deacons, other than retreats.

<b>Retreats</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
An annual retreat is required of deacons	91%	9%
<i>Average percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 78%</i>		
<i>Median percentage of deacons participating in the retreat: 80%</i>		
Diocese provides couples' retreats for deacons and their wives	85%	15%
Diocese provides deacon-only retreats	36%	64%
Diocese provides separate retreats for wives of deacons	19%	81%
Diocese provides annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)	91%	9%

In the typical diocese or eparchy that requires deacons to attend an annual retreat, 80 percent of deacons participate.

Couples' retreats including deacons and their wives are more common than deacon-only retreats or separate retreats for the wives of deacons.

### ***Sub-Group Differences***

Dioceses with a larger number of total permanent deacons are more likely to provide deacon-only retreats (44 percent, compared to 25 percent of those with fewer deacons) and separate retreats for wives of deacons (28 percent, compared to 7 percent).

Dioceses with fewer deacons per 1,000 Catholics (less than .25) are *less* likely than those with more deacons per 1,000 Catholics (.25 or more) to provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives (73 percent compared to 90 percent) or separate retreats for wives of deacons (5 percent compared to 25 percent).

## Directors of the Diaconate

Nearly all responding dioceses and eparchies have a Director of the Diaconate.

<b>Directors of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Diocese has a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)	94%	6%
<i>Full-Time:</i>	35%	
<i>Part-Time:</i>	65%	
<i>Average number of months in this position:</i>	72	
<i>Median number of months in this position:</i>	49	

For most dioceses with a director (65 percent), this position is part-time. There has been a very slight increase in the number of dioceses with a full-time director (35 percent, compared to 32 percent in 2005-2006). Current directors have held their position for an average of six years, although the typical diocesan director for the diaconate has held the position for just over four years.

### *Sub-Group Differences*

Dioceses with over 50 total permanent deacons are *more* likely to have a Director of the Office of Deacon (97 percent, compared to 89 percent of those with fewer deacons). In these dioceses, this position is also more likely to be occupied full-time (49 percent compared to 16 percent of dioceses with fewer deacons).

Dioceses with more deacons per 1,000 Catholics are *more* likely than those with fewer deacons per 1,000 Catholics to have a full-time director (42 percent compared to 18 percent).



## Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

Eighty-two percent of responding dioceses and eparchies have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons, and 88 percent have an active formation program for the diaconate. This is a slight increase from 2005-2006, when 78 percent of dioceses had a plan for placement and ministry and 84 percent had an active formation program.

<b>Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate</b>		
Dioceses and eparchies responding:		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Diocese has a plan for placement and ministry of deacons	82%	18%
Diocese has an active formation program for the diaconate	88%	12%
Diocese has minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program	92%	8%
<i>Average minimum age for acceptance: 32.7</i>		
<i>Median minimum age for acceptance: 32</i>		
Diocese has a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons	43%	57%
<i>Average age of retirement: 73.6</i>		
<i>Median age of retirement: 75</i>		
Diocese has a formal policy for deacons who are divorced/separated post-ordination	44%	56%
Diocese has an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly	70%	30%

Of those responding dioceses that do not have an active formation program (12 percent), seven in ten (71 percent) indicate that there are plans to establish such a program within the next two years.

- Nearly nine in ten dioceses have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into the diaconate formation program (age 32 in the typical diocese).
- More than four in ten have a mandatory age of retirement for deacons (age 75 in the typical diocese).

- Just under half of responding dioceses and eparchies (44 percent) have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination. This is a small increase from last year, when 38 percent of dioceses had such a policy.
- Seventy percent of dioceses have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly.

### ***Sub-Group Differences***

Dioceses with 50 deacons or fewer are *less* likely than dioceses with more deacons to have each of the following:

- A minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program (83 percent compared to 99 percent).
- An active formation program for the diaconate (81 percent compared to 94 percent).
- An active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly (61 percent compared to 78 percent).

Dioceses with more deacons per 1,000 Catholics are *more* likely than those with fewer to have each of the following:

- An active formation program for the diaconate (92 percent compared to 80 percent, although this difference is not statistically significant).
- A minimum age requirement for acceptance into a diaconate formation program (97 percent compared to 82 percent).
- A mandatory age of retirement from active ministry (49 percent compared to 31 percent).

**Appendix:  
Questionnaire and Response Frequencies**



# BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR THE DIACONATE POST-ORDINATION SURVEY



Note: Representatives from 107 dioceses and eparchies responded to the 2006-2007 questionnaire. The average response or percentage for each response is shown next to each question. The percentage of non-response (NR) is shown for each question as well, calculated separately out of 100 percent.

**Please fill in the total number of deacons in your diocese for each category below**

**AVG=71** 1. Deacons in active ministry in this diocese. **NR=1**

**Of the number reported in item 1:**

**AVG=62** 2. Deacons INCARDINATED in this diocese. **NR=3** **NR=17**

**AVG= 6** 3. Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in this diocese.

**AVG= 1** 4. Deacons incardinated in EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES that are geographically located in this diocese (e.g., Byzantine, Maronite, etc.). **NR=35**

**AVG=<1** 5. Deacons incardinated as members of RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES. **NR=38**  
*(items 2 through 5 should total to the same number reported in item 1)*

**AVG= 7** 6. Deacons incardinated in this diocese but serving another diocese. **NR=17**

**AVG=<1** 7. Deacons who serve both Eastern and Latin rite Churches ("bi-ritual"). **NR=34**

**AVG=16** 8. Deacons NO LONGER IN ACTIVE MINISTRY in this diocese. **NR=8**

**Of the number reported in item 8:**

**AVG=11** 9. Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry. **NR=11**

**AVG= 3** 10. Deacons on a leave of absence. **NR=31**

**AVG= 2** 11. Deacons who are suspended from active ministry. **NR=31**

**AVG= 1** 12. Deacons who have been released from the clerical state ("laicized"). **NR=33**

**AVG= 3** 13. Other inactive deacons (not retired, on leave of absence, suspended or laicized). **NR=33**  
*(items 9 through 13 should total to the same number reported in item 8)*

**Of the number reported in item 1:**

**Marital Status**

**AVG=64** 14. Married **NR=3**

**AVG= 2** 15. Single, never married **NR=24**

**AVG= 4** 16. Widowed **NR=23**

**AVG=<1** 17. Remarried subsequent to ordination **NR=44**

**AVG= 1** 18. Divorced, not remarried **NR=37**

**Race and Ethnicity**

**AVG=56** 24. Caucasian/white **NR=6**

**AVG= 2** 25. African American/black **NR=33**

**AVG=12** 26. Hispanic/Latino **NR=19**

**AVG= 1** 27. Asian/Pacific Islander **NR=39**

**AVG= 1** 28. Native American or Other **NR=43**

**Age**

**AVG= 1** 19. Age 39 or younger **NR=35**

**AVG= 8** 20. Age 40-49 **NR=21**

**AVG=21** 21. Age 50-59 **NR=12**

**AVG=27** 22. Age 60-69 **NR=10**

**AVG=19** 23. Age 70 or older **NR=15**

**Highest Level of Education**

**AVG= 2** 29. Less than high school **NR=40**

**AVG=15** 30. High school diploma/GED **NR=29**

**AVG=17** 31. Some college/Associate degree **NR=26**

**AVG=23** 32. Bachelor's degree **NR=22**

**AVG= 7** 33. Graduate degree in religious studies, theology, Canon Law, etc. **NR=56**

**AVG=14** 34. Graduate degree in a field not related to the Diaconate **NR=51**

**In this calendar year (January 1 to December 31, 2006) how many deacons have:**

<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 35. Requested laicization (Canon 290) <b>NR=37</b>	<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 40. Divorced/separated after ordination <b>NR=35</b>
<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 36. Been granted laicization (Canon 290) <b>NR=38</b>	<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 41. Entered the priesthood <b>NR=40</b>
<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 37. Been dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087) <b>NR=40</b>	<b>AVG= 3</b> 42. Retired from active ministry <b>NR=23</b>
<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 38. Remarried after dispensation <b>NR=40</b>	<b>AVG= 2</b> 43. Died <b>NR=21</b>
<b>AVG=&lt;1</b> 39. Remarried without dispensation <b>NR=38</b>	

## Ministry and Compensation

**Of the total number of deacons in active ministry in the diocese (as reported in item 1), the number who are financially compensated for their ministry, either full-time or part-time (includes reimbursement for expenses, such as mileage):**

Full-time NR	Part-time NR	
AVG=34 38 44.	AVG= 7 51	45. Deacons also employed (full- or part-time) in a secular occupation.
AVG= 1 42 46.	AVG= 2 61	47. Entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2)
AVG=14 46 48.	AVG=31 33	49. Diaconal ministry in a parish.
AVG= 2 55 50.	AVG= 5 45	51. Prison ministry.
AVG= 1 54 52.	AVG= 8 48	53. Hospital ministry.
AVG= 2 53 54.	AVG= 4 52	55. Other ministry position: _____

## Post-ordination Formation

Yes	No	NR	
82	18	4	56. Is post-ordination formation required of deacons?
AVG=24			57. <u>If yes</u> , approximate number of <u>hours</u> of post-ordination formation required <u>annually</u> . NR=28
20	80	6	58. Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?
			59. <u>If yes</u> , please indicate the language(s): MODAL RESPONSE: Spanish.
81	19	7	60. Are formation opportunities provided for wives of deacons?
91	9	5	61. Is an annual retreat required for deacons?
AVG=78			62. <u>If yes</u> , approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat. NR=18
36	64	5	63. Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?
19	82	6	64. Does the diocese provide separate retreats for wives of deacons?
85	15	4	65. Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?
91	9	4	66. Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)?

## Office of the Diaconate

Yes	No	NR	
94	6	3	67. Does the diocese have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or similar title)?
AVG=72			68. <u>If yes</u> , number of <u>months</u> Director of Deacons has been in this position. NR=14
			69. <u>If yes</u> , is this position: 35 Full-time or 65 Part-time NR=27
82	18	7	70. Does the diocese have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons?
43	57	5	71. Does the diocese have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons?
AVG=74			72. <u>If yes</u> , at what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry. NR=60
44	56	10	73. Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination?
70	30	4	74. Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?
88	12	3	75. Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?
71	29	85	76. <u>If no</u> , is the diocese planning to establish a formation within the next two years?
92	8	7	77. Does the diocese have a minimum age requirement for acceptance into a diaconate formation program?
AVG=33			78. <u>If yes</u> , what is the minimum age requirement? NR=17

*In the event we need clarification about the data reported here, please supply the following contact information:*

Survey completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_