

February 21, 2022

Greetings in the Lord!

Thank you for your interest in the Permanent Diaconate Formation program for the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama. I welcome your inquiry into the vocation of Permanent Deacon and the life of service to God and his body, the Church. The path to ordination as a Permanent Deacon starts with a desire to serve Jesus Christ in a special way as his ordained minister. This vocation requires prayer, reflection, conversation, information and discernment. Please consider this message as an invitation to you to continue to pursue all of these activities as you approach your decision about entering the formation program.

The first step in the process of entering the formation program for the Permanent Diaconate is to participate in the Inquirer program. Our current diaconate formation Inquirer program has already begun with the support and permission of Bishop Raica. **Unfortunately, we are not accepting any more applicants for the Inquirer Program at this time.** However, I encourage you to seek ways to participate in your parish activities and ministries, and to consider joining the diocesan programs that are being developed for catechists, lectors, acolytes and other ministries of service. Information about these programs can be found on the diocesan web site www.bhmdiocese.org

It is our hope that we will receive permission from Bishop Raica to start the next formation class within the next couple of years. Please look for future announcements regarding the next class of permanent deacons in the One Voice newsletter and information posted on this diocesan web page.

May God bless you as you prayerfully discern a possible vocation to the Permanent Diaconate in our Diocese.

Deacon Christopher Rosko
Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate
Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama