

Requirements for Admission

The following considerations apply to all applicants:

- ❖ Be a resident of the Archdiocese of Kingston and a Catholic male in good standing in the Catholic Church and fully initiated in the faith and, if a neophyte, must have lived the faith for three years prior to application.
- ❖ Be at least 35 but not more than 67 years of age at the time of ordination.
- ❖ You must have the recommendation of your pastor.
- ❖ You must be stable in your employment.
- ❖ You must be active in and in good standing with the Church and your parish. At a minimum, this means:
 - You are faithful in attending Mass and regular in Confession.
 - Prayer is integral to your life.
 - You have a relationship with Jesus.
 - You accept and support the Church in her teachings.
 - You are perceived as a man of integrity within the community.
 - You must be willing to serve the Church under the direction of the Archbishop.
 - You must be in good physical health – sufficiently active and energized to endure the rigors of the formation program and later the demands of ministry. Physical stamina is essential.
 - You must be a mature person, in good psychological health and free of addictive behaviors.
 - You must be able to study and pass the courses which are taught at college level. Academic achievement is important.
 - You must be physically, psychologically and emotionally sound and be able to function without the need for constant support or counseling.
- ❖ You must already have a clear history and record of charitable service and outreach to others, especially those who are marginalized. This service can be within your parish or the Church and/or it can be civic outreach. Within your parish or Church, this is beyond any kind of help with Liturgies (reader, usher, extraordinary minister, etc.). Note: This also is a critical key factor in deciding whether to continue the application process.
- ❖ You must be able to make a substantial time commitment to formation for a total of five consecutive years. Time commitments are as follows: (1) one weekend a month beginning in September and ending in June; (2) attend one home meeting a month. All formation weekend classes are held in Kingston, Ontario. Home meetings are scheduled within the archdiocesan deanery you reside in
- ❖ You must reserve additional time for reading, studying and prayer. Note: Time, availability and wife's participation are a critical key factor in deciding whether to continue the application process

The following considerations depend on your marital status:

If you are married:

- ❖ You must be in a stable Catholic marriage of five years or longer. Questions regarding divorce and annulment situations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- ❖ You must have the active and willing support of your wife.
- ❖ Your wife must be willing to take an active part in the formation process.
- ❖ If your wife is Catholic, she too must be active in and in good standing with the Church and your parish. At a minimum, this means:

- She is faithful in attending Mass and regular in Confession.
 - Prayer is integral to her life.
 - She has a relationship with Jesus.
 - She accepts and supports the Church in her teachings.
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- ❖ If your wife is not Catholic, she must live the witness of a good Christian life.
 - ❖ If you have older children at home, they must be supportive of you in pursuing the diaconate.
 - ❖ If you have younger children, it is best if they are at least in the latter years of grammar school. Young children at home do not necessarily preclude admission to the program, but they are a very serious consideration since your first vocation is to your family.
 - ❖ Your spouse must understand and accept that, should she precede you in death, you ordinarily are not free to re-marry.

If you are single or widowed, you must be willing to embrace celibacy freely as a permanent life.