

Diocese of Beaumont

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Pastoral Letter from Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D., Bishop of Beaumont

February 21, 2010
First Sunday of Lent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

An enduring blessing of the Second Vatican Council is the restoration of the permanent diaconate. There have been four classes of permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese of Beaumont, and the fifth class is currently being prepared spiritually and academically for ordination within the next few years.

Over the past forty years, permanent deacons (and their spouses) have offered generous and fruitful ministry for the parishes, missions and criminal justice office of our diocese. Many of these deacons have entered eternal life and I pray that God reward them. The need for permanent deacons is greater than ever and I write to ask Catholic men who meet the Church's qualifications to consider if the Lord may be calling them. Those men who are married should discuss their interest with their wives.

About five years of spiritual formation, academic education, and parish internship are required for ordination to the permanent diaconate. **The criteria and prerequisites required to apply for the program are available on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofbmt.org, under the tab "Ministry Offices" / "Permanent Diaconate."**

No date has been set to begin a new class, but it will not begin before the current class completes its academic courses in a couple of years. In the meantime, interested laymen who meet the criteria can begin to complete the pre-requisite CEMI courses. The application process will be initiated at a later date.

An important **informational meeting** for men, married and single, who are interested in studying for the permanent diaconate will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 23, 2010, 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM, at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica Center. The wives of the married men who attend are also urged to be present.

Please mark your calendar now for this important informational meeting. Please inform your pastor of your interest in the permanent diaconate **and discuss with him your interest in the permanent diaconate.** One of the prerequisites is that you be actively involved in service in your parish. A letter of recommendation from your pastor will be required in the application process.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.
Bishop of Beaumont