

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR INQUIRERS

PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM

Between March and August, 2006, twelve Information Sessions were held throughout the Diocese of Beaumont for those who were interested in applying for the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. Those accepted for the fifth Diaconate Formation Class began the Program on February 24, 2007, a Program which lasts approximately 6 years and includes a parish internship.

Bishop Guillory has initiated an inquiry process to determine interest in beginning a sixth class for permanent diaconate formation. On the next page is Bishop's letter announcing an INFORMATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, May 23, 2010, for those interested in the formation program.

A Catholic layman who thinks he might be called to the Diaconate is encouraged to review the following links on the Permanent Diaconate Office page of the diocesan website:

- A. "**Criteria for a Qualifying Candidate**"--to determine, first of all, whether you qualify;
- B. "**Pre-Formation Requirements--CEMI workshops/courses**"-- if you qualify, you can begin completing the required pre-formation workshops/courses before applying for the Program (not all workshops/courses are offered every year, so it may take a couple of years to complete the pre-requisites.) Being actively involved in service in your parish is also a pre-requisite!
- C. "**Documentation Required for Application**"--so you will know what documents will have to be obtained for the application process at a later time.

(Updated Feb., 2010)

Diocese of Beaumont

Mail: Post Office Box 3948
Beaumont, Texas 77704-3948
Location: 703 Archie Avenue at Forsythe
Beaumont, TX 77701-2899



Office of the Bishop

Telephone: (409) 924-4310
Bishop Fax: (409) 924-4399
Catholic Pastoral Center Fax: (409) 838-4511
Email: bishop@dioceseofbmt.org

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