

In the first instance, a man who is considering the possibility of offering himself for service as a deacon in the local Roman Catholic diocese, should make contact with his parish priest (or chaplain in the case of someone who is working in a college, hospital etc). Following initial discussion at local level, contact may be made with the Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate. An arrangement will be made to meet with him and, where applicable, with his wife, in order to explore any questions he / they may have, and to decide whether it would be appropriate for him to participate in the propaedeutic period.

Applications will be welcomed from:

- men who are living in the diocese,
- men who, though resident in a neighbouring diocese, are significantly involved in some form of pastoral ministry in the diocese.

During the initial enquiry stage, a recommendation will be sought from the man's parish priest, or from a priest who has responsibility for some area of ministry in which the man is actively involved.

Anyone wishing to participate in the propaedeutic programme which begins in the Autumn, should make his initial enquiry no later than the end of June of that year. During the propaedeutic period every effort will be made to accompany the aspirant on his journey of discernment, and to help him to make a mature decision as to whether he should apply to be accepted into the three-year formation programme. Acceptance into the propaedeutic programme is not, however, a guarantee of acceptance into formation, or of eventual ordination to the permanent diaconate.

Prospective applicants for the Permanent Diaconate may find it helpful to read [The Permanent Diaconate: National Directory and Norms for Ireland](#), which has been published by Veritas, and which is also available on the website: www.catholicbishops.ie