



## DIocese OF OGDENSBURG

### *Deacon Formation*

St. Patrick's Church – 4897A State Highway 56 – PO Box 315 – Colton, NY 13625  
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### **Entrance Requirements for those considering the Deacon Formation Program**

1. To be a candidate, a man must be a practicing Catholic, at least thirty-two (32) years of age.
2. He must have completed the *Formation for Ministry* program and at least two years ministry experience. Someone without this background may still be considered a candidate provided he has participated in a similar program or has had similar experience. Each candidate's background and previous training experienced will be judged on a case-by-case basis.
3. An applicant may be single or married. The discipline of the Church requires celibacy for candidates who are unmarried at the time of ordination. Ordained deacons who are predeceased by their wives must remain unmarried and celibate unless dispenses by the Holy See.
4. Married applicants should be partners in a stable marriage. Each applicant must have the consent and ongoing support of his spouse. The applicant's children must be of such an age and position as not to be unduly affected by their father's pursuit of a life that involves special apostolic commitment, time, focus, and energy.
5. If the applicant is planning to marry or is recently married, a waiting period of two years following the marriage must precede his acceptance into the program.
6. Candidates must be capable of doing college level academic work.
7. The admissions process will involve several interviews and extensive screening (psychological and academic), including background checks.
8. A candidate's application must come to the Diocesan Director of Deacon Formation accompanied with his pastor's approval.
9. In the application process, an extensive background check will be conducted. Unfavorable findings will result in the candidate not being accepted. In addition, a candidate should not present himself to the program if he has committed any act that could cause embarrassment to him, to his family, or to the Church if it were subsequently revealed.