



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH



Application and Admission Process

- 1** At the outset, an inquirer must discuss his interest in the diaconate with his wife (if married), family, pastor, and colleagues to help him discern a possible vocation.
- 2** If the pastor endorses the inquirer's interest in the diaconate, he submits a Pastor's Nomination Form on the inquirer's behalf by the specified deadline.
- 3** The inquirer is notified of the nomination and asked to respond in writing, accepting it or not.
- 4** If the inquirer accepts the nomination, he receives a packet of application materials to be completed and returned by the specified deadline.
- 5** An administrative screening of all application materials is done to determine conformance with the basic norms and guidelines of the Church and the formation program.
- 6** If the application is cleared to proceed, the applicant is scheduled for an initial interview to determine any canonical impediments/irregularities and to clarify any application information.
- 7** Barring any canonical impediments/irregularities or other issues, the applicant is scheduled for an admission interview.
- 8** The applicant also undergoes a psychological evaluation for insight into his personality and suitability for diaconal formation and ministry. The evaluation includes a battery of tests plus a clinical interview.
- 9** A visit to the applicant's home is made to meet his wife and family and give them an opportunity to ask questions about the program. (The applicant is not present.)
- 10** The applicant's wife is asked to provide written consent that she is willing for her husband to proceed with his application and possible admission to the program.
- 11** The Deacon Admissions and Scrutinies Board evaluates all application materials and information from the interviews; the board may choose to meet with the applicant's pastor.
- 12** The board compiles and submits to the diocesan bishop a list of recommended applicants.
- 13** The diocesan bishop reviews and approves or disapproves the admission of each applicant to the Propaedeutic Period, a year-long preparatory program prior to the four-year Deacon Formation Program.
- 14** The applicant receives written notification about whether or not he is accepted into the Propaedeutic Period based on the decision of the diocesan bishop.