



DEACONS SURVEY

2025 REPORT

SUMMARY

In September, 2026, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first ordinations of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese. On September 25, 1976, Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Pilarczyk ordained eleven men to the diaconate at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton. The following day, on September 26, 1976, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin ordained twenty-eight men at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Cincinnati. Since that first cohort of thirty-nine men in 1976, the Archdiocese has ordained 343 men to serve as deacons in our parishes, communities and the Archdiocese.

What is the ministry of the deacon in the Church? At its core, the deacon is a servant of the Church. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek diakonia, which means service.

Today, our deacons continue to fulfill the vocation of service to which they have been called through the three-fold ministry of the diaconate: **ministry of the Word**, **ministry of the Liturgy**, and **ministry of Charity**.

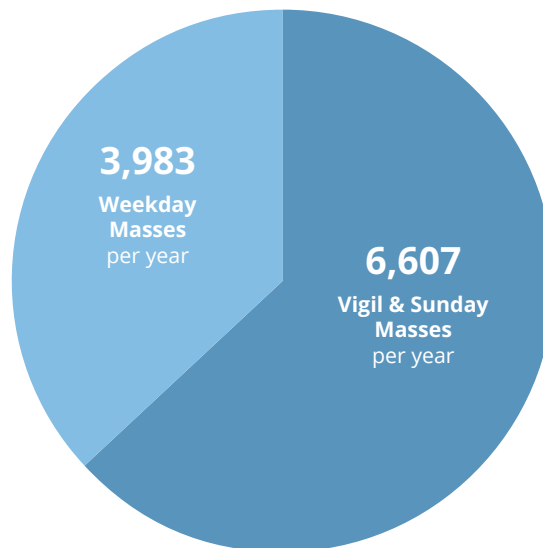
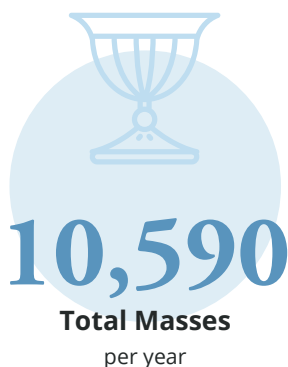
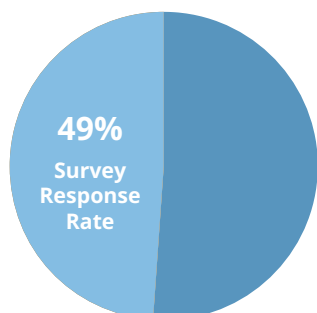
This report provides insights into the contributions that deacons, who serve only in a voluntary role, make to the life of the Church. The Archdiocese is honored to have these men serve as deacons. May we all offer our prayers to those who give of themselves so freely to share their faith and the Gospel with all of us.



THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

SERVICE

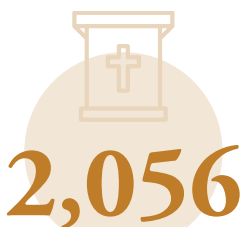




MINISTRY OF THE WORD

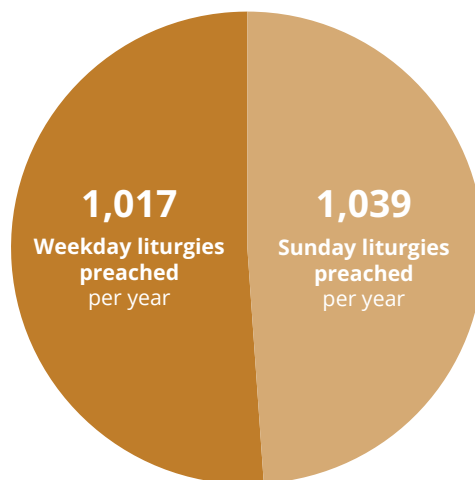
The contributions of permanent deacons to the life of the Church are as diverse as the deacon population itself. While most permanent deacons are still employed at full-time careers to support themselves and their families, they generously give of their time and talents for the benefit of their Family of Parishes and beyond. Through their Ministry of the Word, deacons pray, preach, teach and serve as spiritual leaders in their communities.

PREACHING



2,056

Total liturgies preached
per year



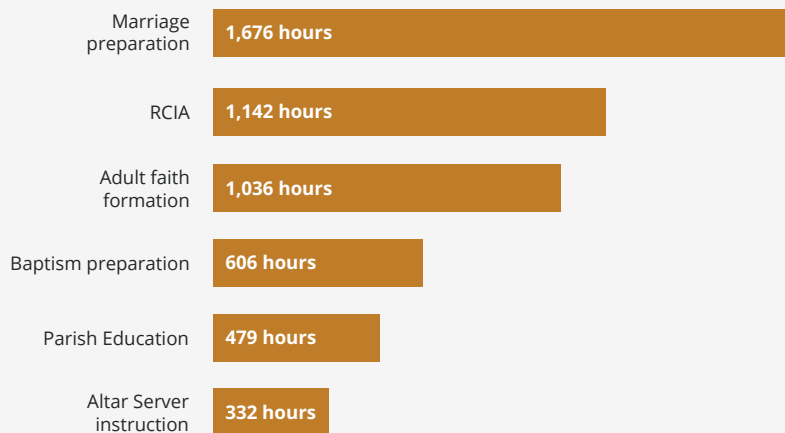
EDUCATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL MINISTRIES



5,998

Hours spent on educational
& instructional ministries
per year

TOP MINISTRIES



Other ministries include teen/high school ministry, baptism preparation, altar server instruction, miscellaneous parish education, EMHC instruction, lector instruction, and early childhood education



MINISTRY OF THE LITURGY

While a deacon is most visible during the celebration of the Mass, his liturgical ministry includes other sacramental and spiritual dimensions. Deacons function as ministers at baptisms, weddings, funeral services and many other areas of parish life, including the celebration of the Eucharist.

PRAYER SERVICES AND RETREATS - FAMILY OF PARISHES



1,592

Adoration/Benedictions

Number of services per year



1,313

Baptisms

Number of baptisms per year



961

Funeral Masses

Number of Masses per year



228

Weddings

Number of weddings
(in and outside of Mass) per year



MINISTRY OF THE LITURGY

A deacon's service extends well beyond the church building itself, to include the full parish family and the broader community. The Ministry of Charity fulfills our Lord's instruction "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). Deacons make significant contributions to the community in numerous areas for the benefit of God's people.

PARISH AND NON PARISH BASED MINISTRIES



9,441

Hours spent on parish and non-parish based ministries
per year

TOP MINISTRIES

Distribution of Holy Communion to the homebound/nursing homes	3,421 hours
St. Vincent de Paul	925 hours
Food Pantry / Poor	879 hours
Mentoring (giving)	715 hours
Knights of Columbus	578 hours
Prison ministry	565 hours

Other ministries include spiritual direction (giving, not receiving), Knights of Columbus, mentoring (giving not receiving), social justice/social action, ministry with domestic or worldwide missions, grief support ministry, pro-life ministry, recovery group ministry (alcohol, drugs, etc), scouting chaplaincy, and sports team chaplaincy

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - FAMILY OF PARISHES

TOP MINISTRIES

Distribution of Holy Communion to the homebound/nursing homes	1,327 hours
St. Vincent de Paul	1,131 hours
Food Pantry / Poor	539 hours
Mentoring (giving)	492 hours
Knights of Columbus	474 hours
Prison ministry	437 hours
Prison ministry	435 hours



6,136

Hours spent on parish administrative services
(for Family of Parishes) per year