

# Why Deacon Training Matters: Strengthening the Church's Service

19K

U.S. Deacons

78% actively serving in ministry  
roles across parishes nationwide

74%

Aging Ministry

Active deacons are 60+ years old;  
35% are 70+, highlighting need for  
new leaders

1%

Young Deacons

Only 1% of active deacons are under  
40, emphasizing recruitment  
challenges



## Diverse Ministry Roles

Deacons serve as parish ministers (22%), pastoral care providers (21%), administrators (15%), and in diocesan/hospital roles (9%)



## Continuous Formation

87% of dioceses require ongoing training, crucial with 410 retirements and 378 deaths in 2020 alone



## Family-Centered Ministry

93% of deacons are married, requiring special preparation for balancing family and service

Investing in deacon training ensures a vibrant, prepared diaconate ready to embody Christ's servant role and meet evolving Church and community needs.