

Chronological History of the Diaconate in the United States and The Diocese of Columbus

1962-1965: The Second Vatican Council – The Bishops representing the United States do not vote for a permanent diaconate to be restored

June 1967: *Ad Pascendum* – apostolic letter on the Diaconate by Pope Paul VI

May 1968: United States Bishops (NCCB) petition Pope Paul VI for the permanent Diaconate in United States

August 1968: Pope Paul VI allows the permanent diaconate to develop in the United States

1971: 1st Guideline booklet known as the “green book” is published in the United States. The NCCB develops the Committee on the permanent diaconate.

1972: *Motu Proprio* written by Pope Paul VI with further instructions promulgating the diaconate as a permanent order. Bishop Clarence Elwell does not advocate or allow the establishment of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Columbus

1973: Bishop Elwell dies and is succeeded by Bishop Edward Herrmann, the 9th Bishop of Columbus.

1973-1975: Bishop Herrmann appoints Father Ralph Huntzinger as the 1st Director of the permanent diaconate who works with the Diocese of Toledo and begins to train the first class of permanent deacons in Shelby Ohio

1975: Deacon Roger Pry and Deacon Jack Rankin become the first two men ordained as permanent deacons in the Diocese of Columbus

1975-1980: Father Huntzinger is succeeded by Father Thomas Shonebarger, Director of Vocations, as the Director of the permanent diaconate along with Father Joseph Fete who helps with the liturgical development of the role of the deacon. Deacons continue to go to formation at the Precious Heart Seminary in Shelby Ohio. Men attend classes and practicums monthly from Friday evening until Sunday evening.

1981-1983: Father Joseph Hendricks is appointed the Director of permanent diaconate formation and begins to establish the Permanent Deacon School held at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Formation is still done monthly but the men are trained in Columbus. With less travel, wives are now required to attend classes and formation weekends on a selected basis. Father Fete continues to help with liturgical formation. Bishop James Griffin is named 10th Bishop of Columbus succeeding Bishop Herrmann and begins to review the present formation program.

1983: Code of Canon Law is promulgated where the mention of permanent deacons now a part of the new code.

1984: Revised guidelines for the formation of permanent deacons is promulgated by the NCCB – known as the “red book”

1985: Bishop James Griffin appoints Father John Cody is named the Director of the permanent diaconate and special liaison to the bishop. Deacon Joseph Farry becomes the first deacon to serve as Associate Director of the permanent diaconate.

1987: Pope John Paul II travels to the United States and meets with all the permanent deacons and their wives in Detroit, Michigan. This is the first time that a Pope speaks directly to deacons about being a “...*visible sign of the Holy Spirit...through the work of the Second Vatican Council...*”. Deacon Joseph Farry becomes the first deacon to be appointed the director of the permanent diaconate; Deacon Tom Johnston is appointed Associate Director of Formation; Deacon Frank McDevitt is appointed Associate Director of ordained Deacons. Father Cody continues to represent Bishop Griffin as liaison.

1990: Bishop Griffin and the priests of the Diocese of Columbus are not satisfied with the present formation process of permanent deacons and the formation program is put on hold to be studied throughout the diocese. Father David Sorohan, as Episcopal moderator of Catholic Education does an extensive study and makes recommendations that the program needs to be revised.

1991: Bishop Griffin places a moratorium on the formation process. Deacon Joseph Farry announces his retirement as Deacon Director due to turning 70 years old.

1992: Bishop Griffin appoints Deacon Frank Iannarino as the new Director of the Office of the Diaconate. Deacon Iannarino is charged with developing an extensive Guidelines for Deacons in the Diocese of Columbus including a revised Diaconate School of Theology Formation Process. The Diaconate Office now becomes a part of the episcopal curia with a central office at the Catholic Center near the chancery.

1993: The Diaconate School of Theology, with a well-developed course of study and scope and sequence, is accepted by Bishop Griffin, the College of Consulters, and the Presbyteral Council. Bishop Griffin releases the moratorium on the formation of deacons and begins to develop a new class to be ordained in 1997 after four years of extensive formation and parish internship.

1994-1995: Pope John Paul II does a series of Wednesday Audiences/Conferences at the Vatican in preparation for the development of the ratio that will come from the Vatican's Congregation of Clergy and the Congregation of Catholic Education

1996: Pope John Paul II promulgates the Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church. First time deacons as a permanent order are mentioned in the official catechism.

1997: In response to a national study on the permanent diaconate in 1995, the National Association of Permanent Deacon Directors (NAPDD) changes its name to the National Association of Deacon Director (NADD). It commissions Father Kenan Osbourne, OSF to write a "white paper" laying out an extensive study on the theology of the diaconate.

1998: The Ratio from the Vatican is promulgated. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) begins to develop the Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States

2002: The USCCB send to Rome the Directory for its approval.

2004: The Directory is approved by the Holy See and becomes the official guide for diaconate formation in the United States. Bishop Frederick Campbell, as the 11th Bishop of Columbus succeeding Bishop Griffin, is the Chairman of the Bishop's Committee of the Diaconate and requests that his diocese fully implements the National Directory before a new class of candidates are chosen.

2005: The Guidelines for Deacons in the Diocese of Columbus is approved by Bishop Campbell and the Diaconate Council as it is reflective of the National Directory and the Ratio. Bishop Campbell as Vice Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum helps establish the Center of Diaconate Studies at the PCJ.

2007: The office of the National Association of Deacon Directors (NADD) is moved from Rockford, Illinois to the PCJ

2008: Bishop Campbell requires that all inquirers to the permanent Diaconate must be between the age of 35-60. No deacon-candidate may begin candidacy after the age of 60. He also requires that each inquirer must take a series of prerequisite classes at a catholic college or Seminary. The prerequisite are: Theology of the Diaconate; Introduction to Old Testament; Introduction to New Testament; Overview of Church History; Introduction to Philosophy or its equivalent; Fundamental Theology.

2015: The Josephinum Distance Learning Program is developed and included in the Columbus Diocesan prerequisite and post ordination requirements of deacon inquirers, aspirants, candidates and ordained deacons.

2018: The USCCB and the NADD hold a 50th Anniversary National Congress in New Orleans, Louisiana celebrating the permanent diaconate as a full and equal order. Bishop Campbell gives one of the keynote addresses at the congress.

2019: Bishop Robert J. Brennan is appointed the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus after Pope Francis accepts Bishop Campbell's retirement as Ordinary at the age of 75.

2020: Ten men are ordained on November 7, 2020 by Bishop Brennan at Saint Paul Catholic Church with limited people invited due to the Covid-19 pandemic that ravished the United States and the world.

2021: The Holy See promulgated the 2nd edition of the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of the Permanent Deacon in the United States. Bishop Brennan and the Diaconal Council continue to bring the Diocese in full compliance with the 2nd edition.