



**Diocese of Fall River
Office for the Permanent Diaconate
Deacon Mentor Program**

“Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word They presented these men to the Apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.” Acts 6:3-4

Candidate Responsibilities in the Mentoring Process

In a mentoring relationship the role of a person being mentored is often described as a trainee, student or learner. This is a correct description of the role the candidate plays in the mentoring relationship with his deacon mentor. The candidate contributes to his own formation by fulfilling his role, being a good student and in meeting his responsibilities within the relationship. Depending on circumstances, meeting via Zoom is permissible.

A candidate has certain responsibilities that must be fulfilled. Those responsibilities include:

- Regularly praying for and with the Deacon Mentor;
- Developing respect for the deacon mentor’s experience and views;
- Being open to learning through discussion and experiences;
- Asking questions when uncertain or in need of clarification;
- Actively listening to the deacon mentor;
- Being respectful of the deacon mentor’s time and using him as an effective resource;
- Being willing to engage and challenge the deacon mentor;
- Scheduling all regular meetings with the deacon mentor – the candidate should ask for the meetings (one tactic is to schedule the next meeting at the conclusion of each meeting.)
- Avoiding last minute cancellations or postponements of the meetings;
- Remaining available to meet with the deacon mentor and participate in his ministries when opportunities arise on short notice;
- Arriving at all meetings prepared and be fully engaged during the meeting;
- Sincerely attempting to put into practice, the suggestion and recommendations made by the deacon mentor;

Conclusion

At the very beginning of this guide, we read the words from the Acts of the Apostles. It calls upon the Church to select from among us men filled with the Spirit and wisdom. It is our collaborative responsibility to make that selection. The nature and role of the diaconate in the modern Church is ever changing, ever expanding. A deacon’s ministry is not limited to

the parish from which he came but, rather, to the whole Church. As such, he must be prepared and formed to the best of ability in every way possible.

The role of the deacon-mentor adds a personal dynamic to the formation process and allows a candidate to gain from the experiences of those already in ministry. The service rendered by a deacon-mentor today will have a lasting effect on the diaconate and the whole church for many years to come.