



CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER
20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63119
P) 314.792.7841
F) 314.792.7842
WWW.ARCHSTL.ORG

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 24, 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, October 5, 2014, there will be a special collection for the formation of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This collection relieves some of their financial burden for studies to become a deacon. Since 1977, 421 men have been ordained as permanent deacons in the Archdiocese. There currently are 195 active deacons ordained for the Archdiocese. There also are 74 retired deacons.

When a formal, reformed permanent diaconate program was initiated in the Archdiocese in January 1977, men went through a two-year formation program, with a third year of post-ordination formation. Since then, the program has gradually expanded to five years of formation, plus three more years of post-ordination formation.

Deacons serve in parishes, hospitals, archdiocesan agencies, and other organizations. Fully half of the active deacons continue to work full-time jobs, requiring them to balance family lives and professions with their ministry as a deacon.

During formation and after ordination, deacons offer their time, personal gifts and material goods to build up the Church in the Archdiocese without compensation. Their service extends into many areas of parish life, as they assist you, the pastors, and me in carrying out the mission of the Church.

I ask you to support the formation of permanent deacons by promoting the Special Collection for the Formation of Permanent Deacons on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis