

Goal 4: Deacons and Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Given that all the baptized are called to the service of the People of God (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #33);

Given that all the faithful are called and gifted for service in the Church and the world (Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium-USCCB, p.8);

Given that parish life demands specific gifts to fulfill its mission and advance the Reign of God;

The whole people of God of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will support deacons and lay ecclesial ministers as they are identified, called forth, trained, formed and then ordained or commissioned for service in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

OBJECTIVES:

Archbishop:

1. The Archbishop will affirm the role of professional lay ecclesial minister, promote its understanding, and provide for training, structures, and rites through which candidates are identified, formed, trained and commissioned for service by fiscal year 2008-2009.
2. The Archbishop will assign deacons to respond to unmet ministerial needs in the Archdiocese (i.e. detention, hospice, health...) by January 2007.

Archdiocese:

3. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Formation for Christian Service will provide formation, training, structures, and rites through which lay ecclesial ministers are identified, formed, trained and commissioned for service by fall 2008 (Co-workers in the VineyardUSCCB).
4. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of the Permanent Diaconate will create and update a database detailing the ministerial work of each deacon in the ASF by spring 2007.
5. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of the Permanent Diaconate will collaborate with the Office of Formation for Christian Service in offering joint theological, scriptural, liturgical, and skill-building courses for deacons and professional lay ecclesial ministers when appropriate by fall 2008.

Parishes:

6. Parishes will communicate the Church's vision for deacons and professional lay ecclesial ministers and encourage community members to consider these vocations beginning fall 2008.
7. Parishes will formally recognize the role of professional lay ecclesial ministers and support their professional development beginning spring 2007.