



## 2018: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States

In 2018, the Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States. In May, 1968, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now called the US Conference of Catholic Bishops) petitioned the Holy See for authorization to establish the permanent diaconate in the United States. In August, 1968, the Apostolic Delegate informed the United States bishops that Pope Paul VI had agreed to their request. In November of that year, a standing committee on the diaconate was created by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the first permanent deacons were ordained in two ordination ceremonies in September, 1976. Twelve deacons were ordained by then-Bishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk at Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton on September 25, 1976. The following day, twenty-eight deacons were ordained by Archbishop Joseph Bernardin at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains on September 26, 1976.

The Archdiocese now has a total of two hundred and twenty-four deacons. One hundred and sixty-six are in active ministry. Fifty are in Senior Status. Another eight are unassigned or living outside of the Archdiocese.

Please join us in celebrating the ministry of our deacons throughout the Archdiocese during 2018. We are grateful for the contributions deacons make in service to God's Church and His people.

For more information on the diaconate, please contact:

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Or visit the Diaconate webpage:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/diaconate-office/>