

## What does Postulancy Involve?

- ❖ Upon fulfilling the requirements listed inside this brochure you may be made a Postulant by the Bishop
- ❖ The Postulant enrolls in seminary in consultation with the Bishop
- ❖ Ember Day letters are sent to the Bishop from this point on until ordination as a Deacon

## What does Candidacy Involve?

- ❖ Your call is reaffirmed by the Rector/Vicar and Vestry of your sponsoring congregation
- ❖ You are evaluated and receive an annual positive recommendation by your seminary
- ❖ The Commission on Ministry (COM) recommends your candidacy
- ❖ You have been interviewed by the Standing Committee and have received a positive recommendation

## Diaconate

- ❖ You are at least 24 years of age
- ❖ You have completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
- ❖ You have received training in:
  - Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
  - Exploitation & Harassment Prevention
  - Anti-Racism
  - Title IV
- ❖ You have successfully completed your General Ordination Exams (GOEs)

- ❖ Your call is reaffirmed by the Rector/Vicar and Vestry of your sponsoring congregation
- ❖ You have received a positive recommendation from the COM and the Standing Committee

## Priesthood

- ❖ You have been a Transitional Deacon at least six months
- ❖ At least 18 months has elapsed since your application and acceptance of your nomination
- ❖ You have a Parochial Cure
- ❖ Your call is reaffirmed by the Rector/Vicar & congregation where you are currently serving
- ❖ You have received a positive recommendation from the COM and the Standing Committee

For more information on applying for Holy Orders, speak with the priest in your local parish, or call the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida at 407-423-3567 or 1-800-299-3567

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**Episcopal Diocese  
of Central Florida**

*What are the  
Steps to  
Becoming a  
Priest?*



**The Commission on Ministry  
The Diocese of Central Florida**

# THE STEPS TO ORDINATION

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## Have you ever imagined yourself as a priest?

Have others ever suggested that you consider the ordained ministry of the Church?

Jesus said, "Follow me," and surely all Christians are to do that. But out of the many who responded, and the crowds who "heard him gladly," he selected a few to share in his ministry in a special way. They were the original 12 "apostles" - "the sent out ones." Then there was the larger group of 70, who, like the 12, were instructed to teach, heal, and cast out evil.

Since then, down throughout the ages, Jesus has continued to call men and women into positions of leadership and ministry, both lay and ordained. As he said to Peter so long ago, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep."

Could it be that Jesus is calling *you* to the adventure of being an "under shepherd", participating in the leadership and servant ministry of the Great Shepherd?

**This pamphlet is designed to outline the steps involved in responding to such a call.**

May the Lord greatly bless you.

Grace to you,

+ Gregory O. Brewer  
Bishop of Central Florida

## What characteristics is the church looking for in a Nominee (Aspirant)?

- ❖ A lively faith in Jesus Christ and a compassionate heart
- ❖ Good people skills (interacts well with people)
- ❖ Demonstration of leadership and communication abilities
- ❖ A love for the Church

## How do I begin?

- ❖ Request a conference with your parish priest to discuss a possible call to the priesthood
- ❖ Attend the annual Conference on Ministry
- ❖ Complete the Nomination & Application Form
- ❖ Work with your Parish Discernment Committee (PDC)
- ❖ Do a Parish Internship
- ❖ Receive endorsement and support from PDC, Rector & Vestry
- ❖ Interview with Bishop Brewer (in most instances)
- ❖ Attend BACAM (*Bishop's Advisory Commission on Aspirants for Ministry*)
- ❖ Sign a form authorizing the Diocese to receive confidential information about you
- ❖ Complete medical, psychological and psychiatric evaluations

## What are the initial criteria that a Nominee must meet?

- ❖ You are a Confirmed member in Good Standing in the Episcopal Church
- ❖ Your physical and mental health are stable and good
- ❖ You have passed a background check
- ❖ You have the appropriate level of education (at least a baccalaureate degree)
- ❖ Your call is affirmed by the community of faith which pledges to contribute financially to the preparation of the Nominee and commits to involve itself in that preparation