

December 7, 2020

Dear Diaconate Directors,

I am pleased to share that on November 13, 2020, Archbishop José H. Gomez, in his capacity as USCCB President, received correspondence from His Eminence Beniamino Cardinal Stella that the Congregation for the Clergy has approved ad quinquennium the Second Edition of the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States of America*. We still need to go through the process of professional editing, indexing, and publishing before the document will become available. I tentatively anticipate that the 2nd edition of the National Directory will be available mid-2021.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of a few items of note that have been modified from the 1st edition:

- Those recently married should live their married vocation for five years prior to requesting admittance into a permanent diaconate formation program
- For those recently widowed, at least three years should elapse prior to their acceptance into a permanent diaconate formation program.
- Five years should elapse between a convert's or returning Catholic's entry into the Church and his acceptance into a permanent diaconate formation program.
- The aspirant stage of formation will ordinarily last two years
- The pastoral care of a newly ordained deacon extends for the first five years after ordination

I'm happy to discuss this further with you, and answer any questions you have. Thank you for the ongoing support of NADD for this project.

Rev. Luke Ballman
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