



PERMANENT DEACON REFLECTIONS ON MINISTRY

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

This set of reflection questions accompanies the Agreement Form as a basis for drawing up the annual agreement as well as for the annual performance appraisal conducted by the Pastor. This set of questions is designed to enhance the communication between the Deacon and the Pastor for more effective ministry and supervision. It is recommended that the Deacon meet with his Pastor to use these questions to reflect together as a discussion-starter between them. The fruit of this discussion would be formative for drawing up and renewing the Agreement Form.

I. Ministerial Duties

A. Homiletics:

- Knowledge of the Scriptural Texts
 - o Preparation resources
 - o Cultural world of the Bible
 - o Correct interpretive skills
- Knowledge of the Community in Which the Homily Is Preached
 - o Connection with people
 - o Awareness of community issues
 - o Awareness of current events, social conditions, events of everyday concerns
- Self-knowledge
 - o Appropriate self-disclosure in preaching
- Discuss delivery, style, length, areas of potential improvement

B. Ritual:

- Appreciation of multiple roles in worship (ordained, lay)
- Discuss quality of the Deacon's "liturgical presence" during rituals
- Discuss the frequency of ritual involvement. Is it at a satisfactory level?
- What are some ways to improve the effectiveness of the Deacon's sacramental ministry?
- Does the Deacon have time and place to enhance his prayer life, so as to reflect the presence of Jesus in his role as leader of public prayer?

C. Pastoral:

- What is the Deacon's involvement in the pastoral life of the parish? (Sacramental preparation, ministry to the sick, etc.)
- What is the Deacon's involvement in the pastoral life of the community?
- Does the Deacon connect the needs of the community to the parish?



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II. Time Management

- In the light of the Ministerial Agreement, has the Deacon fulfilled the time commitment?
- Is the Deacon able to achieve a balance between his ministry and his other priorities?
- Are the time requirements realistic?

III. Financial Considerations

- Does the parish support the Deacon's continuing education and annual retreat?

IV. Relationships

- Discuss the Deacon's ministry in relationship to his family.
- Discuss the Deacon's ministry in relationship to the community.
- Discuss how the diaconal ministry has affected the Deacon's growth:
 - o Spiritually
 - o Emotionally
 - o Intellectually

V. Personal Considerations

- Does the Deacon find the experience of ministry satisfying? If not, then how can improvements be implemented?
- What are examples of past diaconal experience that were satisfying?
- Does the Pastor find the experience of working with the Deacon satisfying? If not, how can improvements be implemented?
- What issues need to be confronted and resolved?
- Discuss the Deacon's prayer life; discuss any recommended changes.