



Dear Brothers in Christ,

I am deeply grateful for your interest in the permanent diaconate and for your openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. In every age, God calls men of faith to serve his church in profound and varied ways – at the altar, in the proclamation of the Word and through works of charity. Each vocation enriches the Body of Christ, but the call to the diaconate, in particular, mirrors Christ's own example of humble and self-giving service.

Every vocation – marriage, priesthood, religious life, single life and the diaconate – is a precious gift to the church. Within this beautiful tapestry, the diaconate holds a unique place. Deacons stand at the intersection of the sanctuary and the world, proclaiming the Gospel, serving at the altar and extending the church's compassion to those most in need. Their lives remind all of us that true leadership in Christ's Church is born of humility.

In the Diocese of Erie today, deacons are needed more than ever. Our parishes depend on their preaching, sacramental presence, and outreach to the marginalized. Their witness strengthens priests, supports families, and builds vibrant parish communities.

For men discerning this call – and for those already ordained – know that your vocation is vital to the life and mission of our diocese.

Fraternally,

Nicholas J. Rouch

The Very Reverend Nicholas J. Rouch, STD
Vicar General