

**May 2025**

***A Portrait of the  
Permanent Diaconate in 2024***



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University  
Washington, D.C.

***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate in 2024***

***A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops***

**May 2025**



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## Executive Summary

This report presents findings from a national survey of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies in the United States. The study was commissioned by the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This study has been conducted by CARA for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 2005.<sup>1</sup> The original questionnaire was designed in collaboration with the Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate.

The survey was administered between February and May 2025. CARA received responses from 140 of the 185 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparchies belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 76% overall response rate. The response rate is higher among arch/dioceses (78% or 138 out of 176 possible responses) than among arch/eparchies (22% or two out of nine possible responses).

### ***Estimated Number of Permanent Deacons in the United States***

- A total of 140 responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies reported a total of 16,769 permanent deacons (both active and not active), with 16,734 permanent deacons from 138 responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and 35 permanent deacons from two responding eparchies. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there were as many as 20,212 permanent deacons in the United States, in 2024.
- A total of 140 responding arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies reported a total of 11,503 permanent deacons active in ministry, with 11,473 permanent deacons from 138 responding Latin Rite arch/dioceses and 30 permanent deacons from two responding eparchies. Extrapolating to include arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies that did not respond to the survey, it can be estimated that there are 13,864 deacons active in ministry in the United States or about 69% of all permanent deacons were active, in 2024.
- Responding dioceses with the greatest number of permanent deacons included: Archdiocese of Chicago (848 permanent deacons), Archdiocese of Atlanta (385), Archdiocese of New York (369), Archdiocese of San Antonio (361), and Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (316).
- Responding dioceses with the lowest number of Catholics per permanent deacon included: Diocese of Rapid City (487 Catholics per permanent deacon), Diocese of Lexington (502), Diocese of Tulsa (575), Diocese of Bismack (649), and Diocese of Duluth (664).
- During the 2024 calendar year, 393 new permanent deacons were ordained in the responding arch/dioceses. At the same time, 545 deacons retired from active ministry and another 361 deacons died. As is the case with priests in the United States, there

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was originally commissioned by the USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate, which became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It has been conducted annually since 2005-2006, with the exception of 2010-2011 and 2017-2018.

are not enough new permanent deacons being ordained to make up for the numbers who are retiring from active ministry and dying each year.

### ***Characteristics of Permanent Deacons***

- Nine in ten (93%) active permanent deacons are currently married, 4% are widowers and 2% have never been married.
- Virtually all (96%) active permanent deacons are at least 50 years old. One in five (18%) are in their 50s, two in five (41%) are in their 60s, and one in three (38%) are 70 or older.
- Three quarters of active permanent deacons (74%) are non-Hispanic whites. One in five (20%) are Hispanic or Latino, 3% are Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2% are African American.
- Two in three active permanent deacons (66%) have at least a college degree. One in ten (15%) has a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.
- Among permanent deacons who are financially compensated for ministry, one in ten (10%) is entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517.2). Additionally, one quarter (24%) works in other parish ministerial positions (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister) and one in five (18%) works in parish non-ministerial position (e.g., administration, business, finance).

### ***Active Academic Formation Program***

- Nine in ten dioceses/eparchies (92%) have an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate. And, among those with no such program in place, three in ten (30%), are planning to begin a program in the next two years.
- Nearly seven in ten (66%) have an active formation program in house, with 40% responding dioceses/eparchies offering courses online.
- Among those having an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate, more than a quarter (27%) has an active ministry formation program for the permanent diaconate in Spanish.

### ***Post-Ordination Formation***

- Nine in ten responding dioceses/eparchies (90%) require post-ordination formation of permanent deacons. These dioceses/eparchies require a median of 20 hours of post-ordination formation annually.

### ***Retreats***

- Virtually all dioceses/eparchies (99%) require an annual retreat of deacons and 90% provide other annual gatherings for deacons.

### ***Directors of the Diaconate***



- Virtually all responding dioceses/eparchies (98%) have a Director of the Diaconate (or a person with a similar title). Among them, 43% employ the Director of Diaconate full-time.

***Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate***

- In terms of formal policies, four in five dioceses/eparchies (85%) have a plan for the placement and ministry of deacons.
- Virtually all responding dioceses/eparchies (96%) have a minimum age of acceptance into permanent diaconate (which, on average, is 32 years old). Three in five (58%) have a mandatory age for permanent deacon's retirement (which, on average, is 75 years old).

## Introduction

In spring 2005, the Secretariat for the Diaconate (which later became the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) first commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of Offices of the Permanent Diaconate. CARA conducted the survey each year since then, except for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Each year, the survey is sent to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in Latin rite arch/dioceses and Eastern rite arch/eparchies in the United States (or more precisely, under the jurisdiction of the USCCB). CARA conducted the most recent survey between February and May 2025. In addition to regular reminders sent out by CARA, the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) sent out emails encouraging participation in the survey and USCCB conducted phone follow ups. At the completion of data collection, CARA received responses from 140 of the 185 arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies whose bishops and eparchs belong to the USCCB and who have an active Office of Deacons, for a 76% overall response rate.

The report is organized into seven parts:

- Part I of the report provides, among other things, estimates for the number of active deacons, all deacons in total.
- Part II focuses on the distribution of permanent deacons by various characteristics including ministry status, incardination status, marital status, age, race and ethnicity, education level, and compensation.
- Part III describes the active academic formation program for the Diaconate both in English and Spanish, that includes the location, online courses, instructors, and funding.
- Part IV describes post-ordination formation of deacons including the existence (or lack) of formation requirement, the number of hours of required formation, languages used in formation, and existence (or lack) of formation opportunities for wives of deacons.
- Part V explores annual retreats (e.g., availability of deacon-only retreats, couples' retreats, and separate retreats).
- Part VI focuses on the directors of the diaconate (such as, for example, existence of full-time and part-time diocesan positions, length of tenure of the directors).
- Part VII provides information about the policies of the office of the diaconate (such as, for example, existence of: a plan for placement and ministry of deacons, active formation program, minimum age of acceptance requirement, mandatory age of retirement requirement, and formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination).
- Methodology explains the procedure for calculating the number of active deacons, all deacons in total, and the number of ordinations to diaconate.

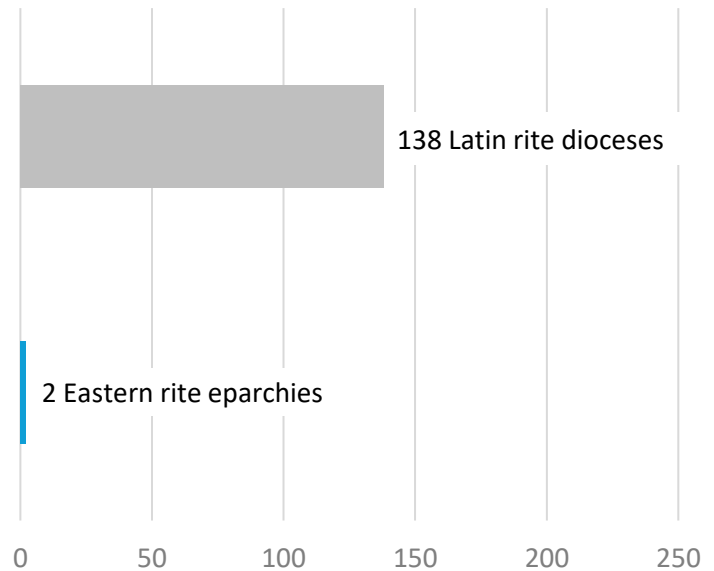
For the purpose of forecasting, confidence intervals are estimated using confidence level of 0.95. Forecasts are only included, if confidence interval is equal to or smaller than 5% of the forecasted amount.

## Survey Respondents by Rite

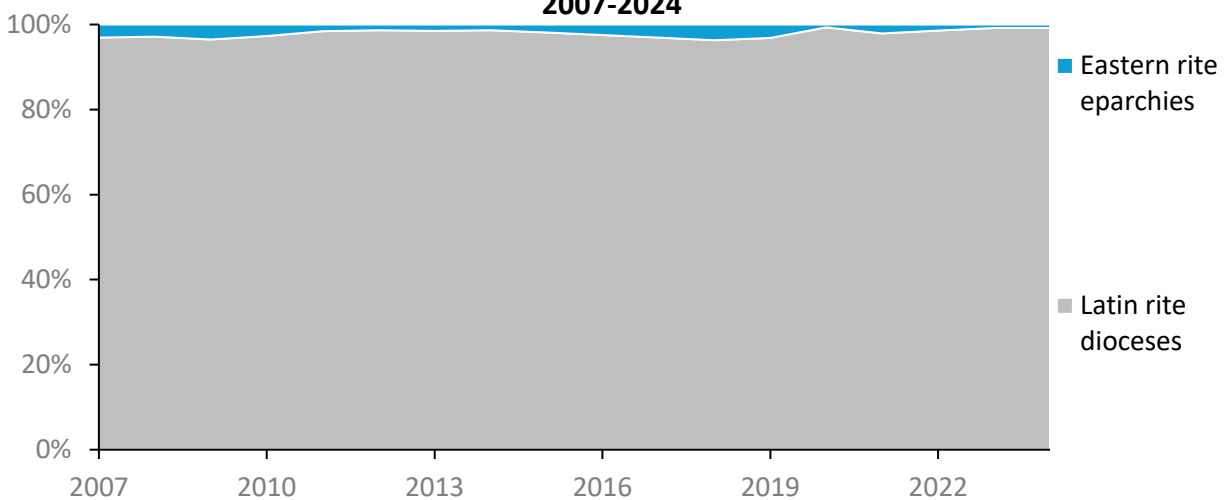
This report is based on a survey conducted in 2025 asking about year 2024. Overall, there were 140 usable responses received. This includes 138 responses from Latin rite dioceses and two responses from Eastern rite eparchy. This means that Eastern rite eparchies constituted 1% of all respondents for year 2024. By comparison, since 2007, Eastern rite eparchies constituted, on average, 2% of responses.

Altogether, dioceses and an eparchies that responded to the survey represent an estimated 76% of all permanent deacons in the United States.

**Respondents to the Survey for Year 2024**



**Survey Respondents from ...  
2007-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Part I: Estimated Number of Permanent Deacons in the U.S.

### Number of Active and All Permanent Deacons

The estimated number of permanent deacons in active ministry was 13,864 in 2024. Since 2011, their number averaged 14,515 and ranged between 13,695 and 15,191.

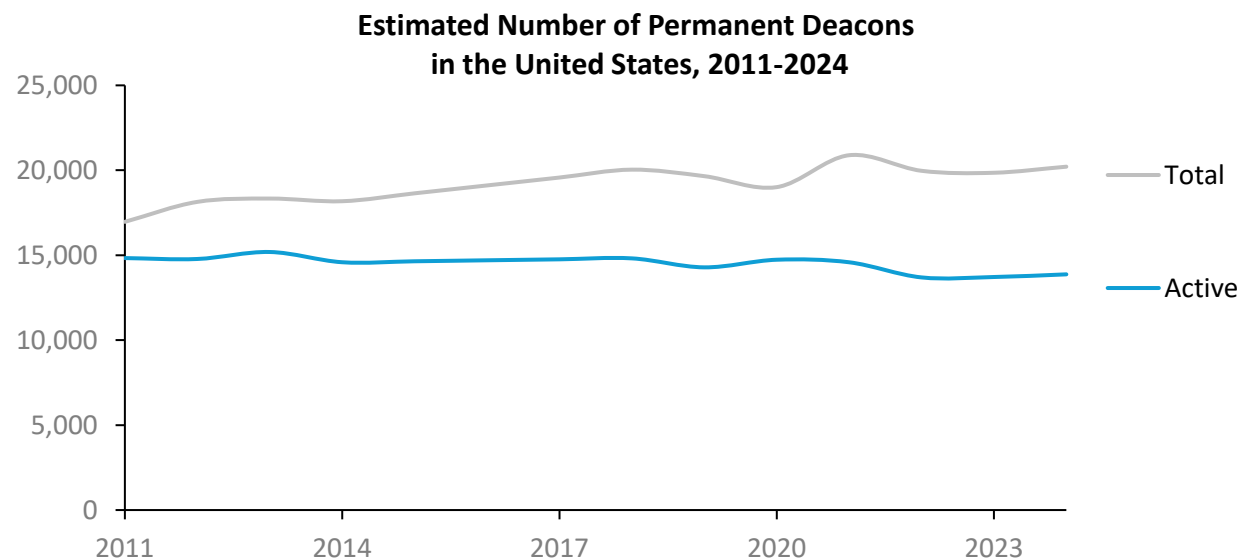
The estimated total number of permanent deacons was 20,212 in 2024. Since 2011, their number averaged 19,184 and ranged between 16,966 and 20,888.

#### Estimated Number of Permanent Deacons in the United States Responses for Year 2024

|        | Latin Rite<br>[#] | Eastern Rite<br>[#] | All<br>[#] |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Active | 13,812            | 52                  | 13,864     |
| Total  | 20,022            | 189                 | 20,212     |

See methodology description at the end of the report for an explanation of how these estimates were calculated.

For alternative estimates / data sources, please see general Church statistics on CARA's website (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/faqs>), Statistical Overview of Catholic Permanent Deacons' Formation in the United States (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/catholic-ministry-formation-directory>), and the Official Catholic Directory (<https://officialcatholicdirectory.com>).



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Dioceses with the Greatest Number of Permanent Deacons

Responding dioceses with the greatest number of permanent deacons included: Archdiocese of Chicago (848 permanent deacons), Archdiocese of Atlanta (385), Archdiocese of New York (369), Archdiocese of San Antonio (361), and Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (316).

| Responding Dioceses with the Highest<br>Number of Permanent Deacons<br>Responses for Year 2024 |                           |                                |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Total Number<br>of<br>[#] | Catholics per<br>Deacon<br>[#] |
| Chicago  | 848                       | 2,452                          |
| Atlanta  | 385                       | 3,117                          |
| New York   | 369                       | 8,829                          |
| San Antonio  | 361                       | 3,181                          |
| Galveston-Houston  | 316                       | 5,380                          |

Responding dioceses with the lowest number of Catholics per permanent deacon included: Diocese of Rapid City (487 Catholics per permanent deacon), Diocese of Lexington (502), Diocese of Tulsa (575), Diocese of Bismarck (649), and Diocese of Duluth (664).

| Responding Dioceses with the Lowest<br>Number of Catholics per Permanent Deacon<br>Responses for Year 2024 |                           |                                  |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Total Number<br>of<br>[#] | Catholics per<br>Deacon ↑<br>[#] |
| Rapid City   | 43                        | 487                              |
| Lexington  | 77                        | 502                              |
| Tulsa  | 105                       | 575                              |
| Bismarck   | 94                        | 649                              |
| Duluth   | 63                        | 664                              |

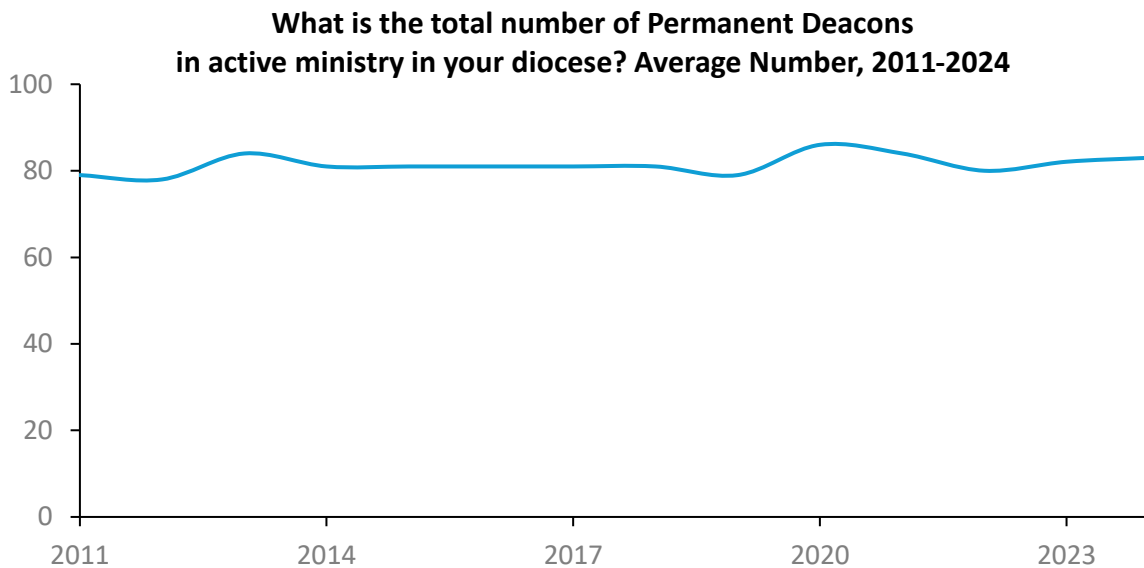
## Number of Active Deacons per Diocese

Altogether, there were, on average, 84 active permanent deacons per diocese/eparchy in 2024 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, there were between 8 and 67 active permanent deacons and in the other half between 67 and 496). Since 2011, the average number of permanent deacons per diocese/eparchy was 81 and ranged between 78 and 86.

### What is the total number of Permanent Deacons in active ministry in your diocese? Responses for Year 2024

|         | Latin Rite<br>[#] | Eastern Rite<br>[#] | All<br>[#] |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Average | 84                | 15                  | 83         |
| Median  | 67                | 15                  | 66         |
| Range   | 8 - 496           | 13 - 16             | 8 - 496    |

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to the survey.

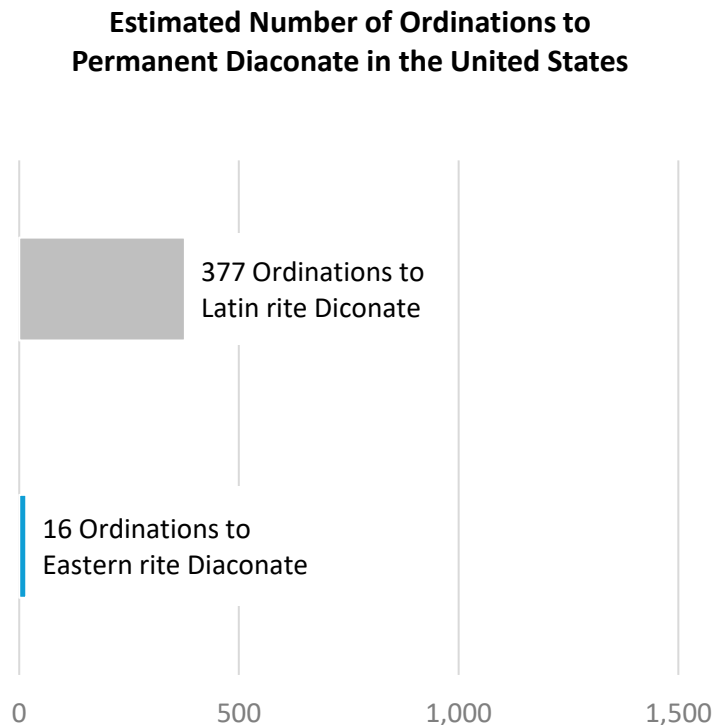


\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

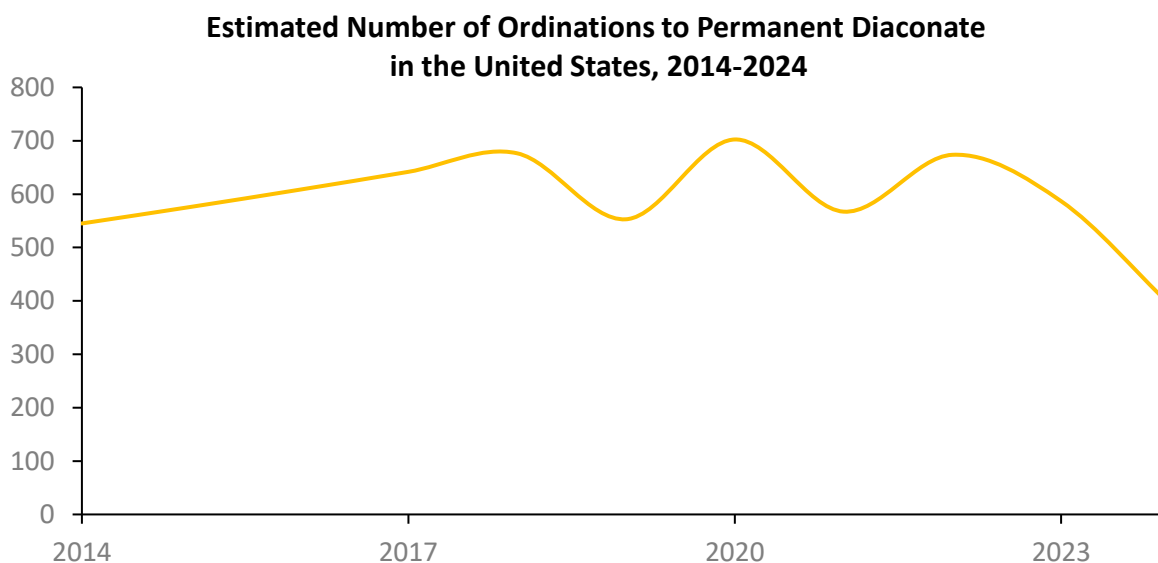
## Number of Ordinations to Permanent Diaconate

There were estimated 393 men ordained to permanent diaconate in 2024 (and 587 a year before). This includes an estimated 377 ordinands to Latin rite dioceses and 16 ordinands to Eastern rite dioceses. Since 2014, the estimated number of all ordinations averaged 593 and ranged between 545 and 702.

See methodology description at the end of the report for an explanation of how these estimates were calculated.



For alternative estimates / data sources, please see Statistical Overview of Catholic Permanent Deacons' Formation in the United States (<https://cara.georgetown.edu/catholic-ministry-formation-directory>) and the Official Catholic Directory (<https://officialcatholicdirectory.com>).



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Changes in Permanent Diaconate

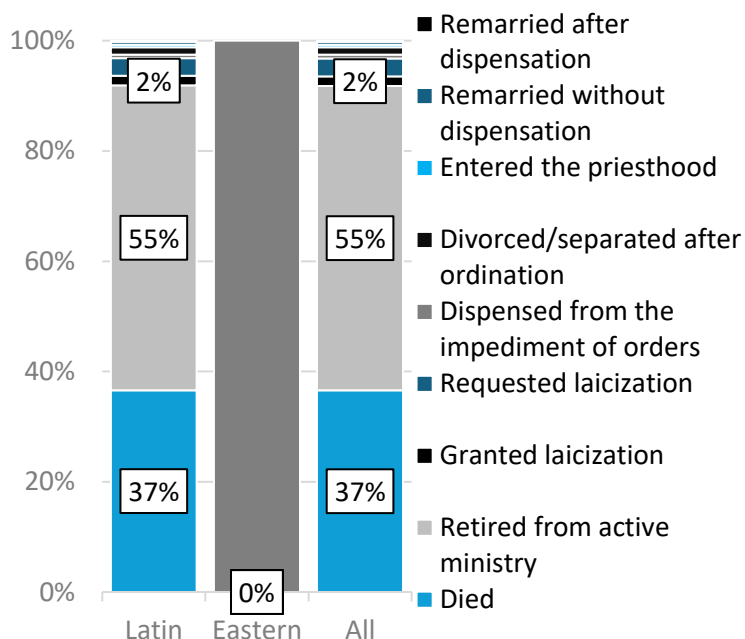
Deacons who retired from active ministry constituted 55% of all permanent deacons who were lost, in 2024. They represented 55% of departures in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of departures in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2006 and 2024, their share averaged 48% and ranged between 41% and 55%.

Deacons who died constituted 37% of all permanent deacons who were lost, in 2024. They represented 37% of departures in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of departures in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2006 and 2024, their share averaged 39% and ranged between 32% and 46%.

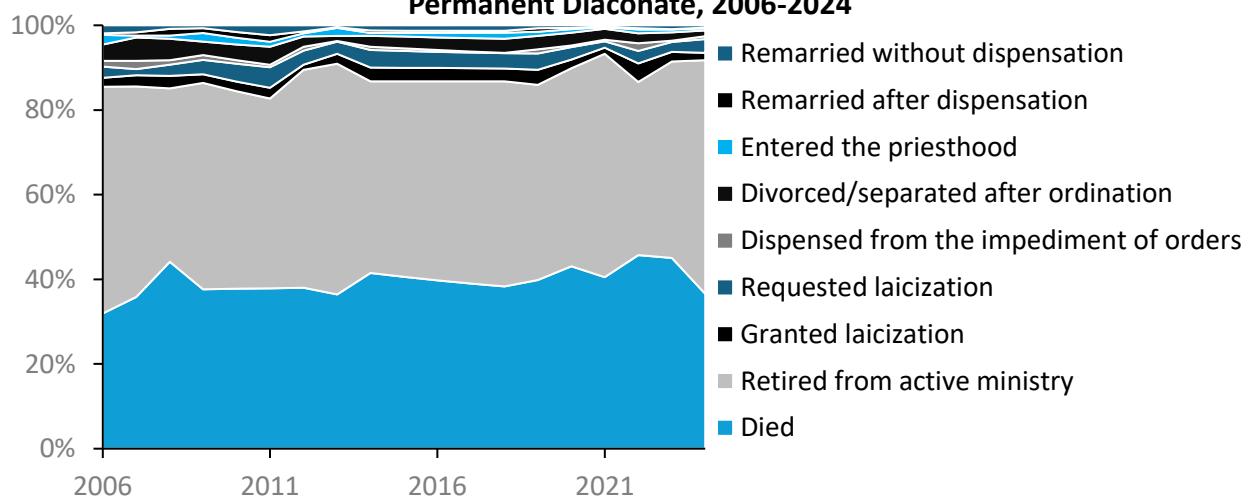
Relatively few permanent deacons who were lost in 2024 were granted laicization (Canon 290) (2%), requested laicization (Canon 290) (1%), were dispensed from the impediment of orders (Canon 1087) (1%), divorced/separated after ordination (1%), entered the priesthood (1%), remarried without dispensation (1%), or remarried after dispensation (0%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that reported 0 permanent deacons in these categories.

**Distribution of Departures from Permanent Diaconate in 2024**



**Distribution of Departures from Permanent Diaconate, 2006-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.



## Part II: Characteristics of Permanent Deacons

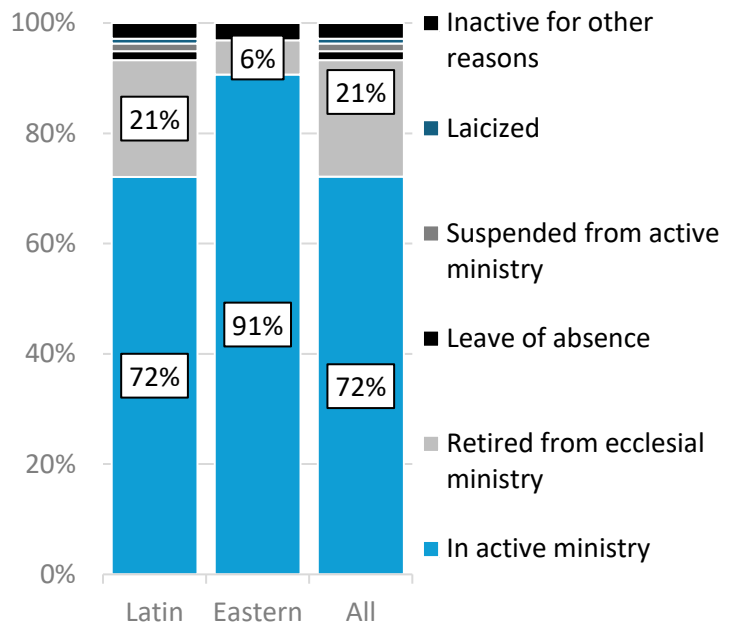
### Ministry Status of Permanent Deacons

Deacons in active ministry constituted 72% of all permanent deacons, in 2024. They represented 72% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 91% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2007 and 2024, the share of deacons in Latin rite dioceses averaged 78% and ranged between 71% and 82%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 70%  $\pm$  3pp of Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

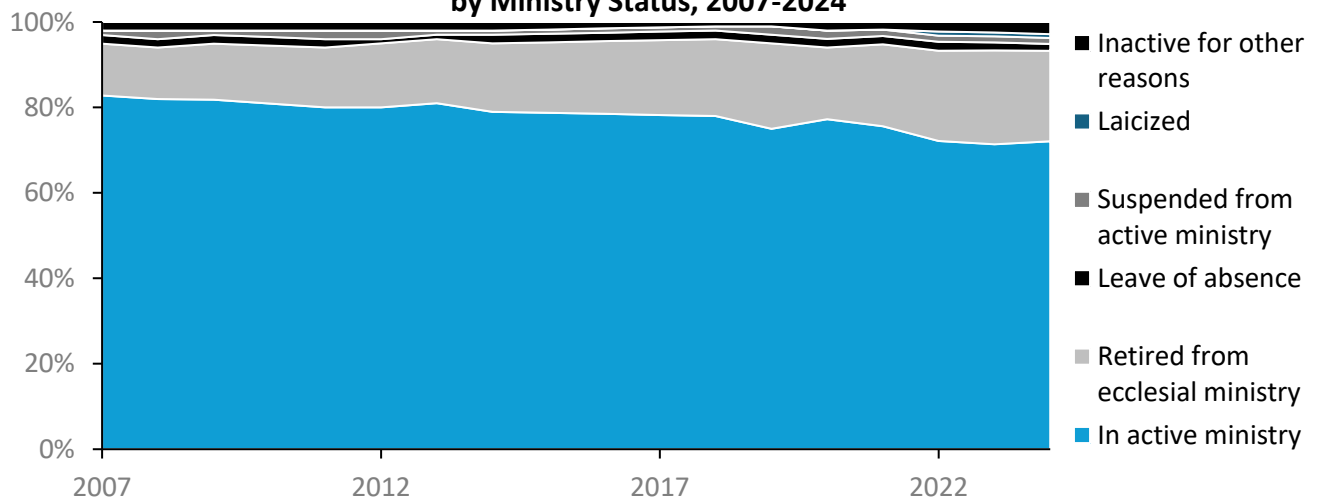
Deacons retired from ecclesial ministry constituted 21% of all permanent deacons, in 2024. They represented 21% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 6% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2024, the share of deacons in Latin rite dioceses averaged 16% and ranged between 12% and 22%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 24%  $\pm$  2pp of Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Overall, relatively few permanent deacons took a leave of absence (2%), were suspended from active ministry (1%), were laicized (1%), or were inactive for other reasons (3%).

**Distribution of Deacons by Ministry Status in 2024**



**Distribution of Deacons in Latin Rite Dioceses by Ministry Status, 2007-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

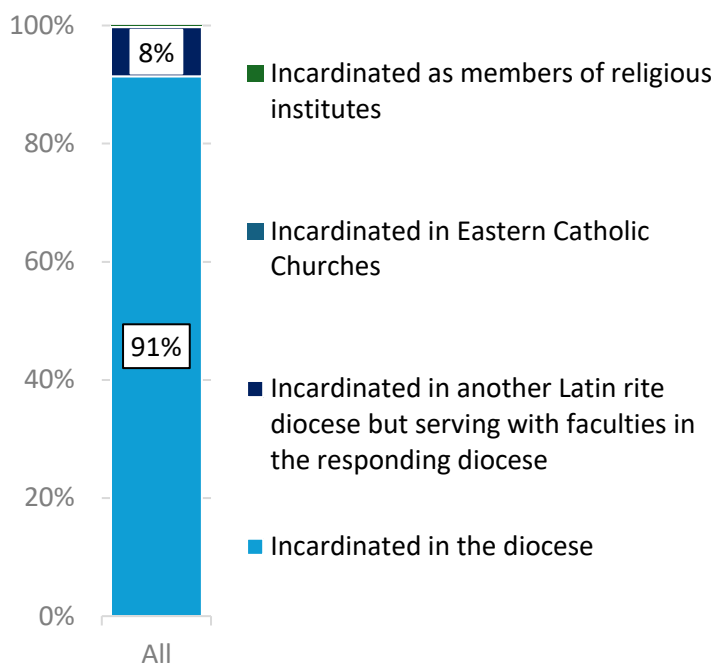
## Incardination Status of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons incardinated in the responding dioceses constituted 91% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. Between 2007 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 90% and ranged between 85% and 93%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 93%  $\pm$ 4pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons incardinated in another Latin rite diocese but serving with faculties in the responding diocese constituted 8% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. Between 2007 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 7% and ranged between 6% and 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 8%  $\pm$ 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons incardinated as members of religious institutes constituted less than 1% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. Between 2007 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 0% and ranged between 0% and 1%. If the trend continues, they will constitute less than 1%  $\pm$ <1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Incardination Status in 2024**



**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Incardination Status, 2007-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Marital Status of Active Permanent Deacons

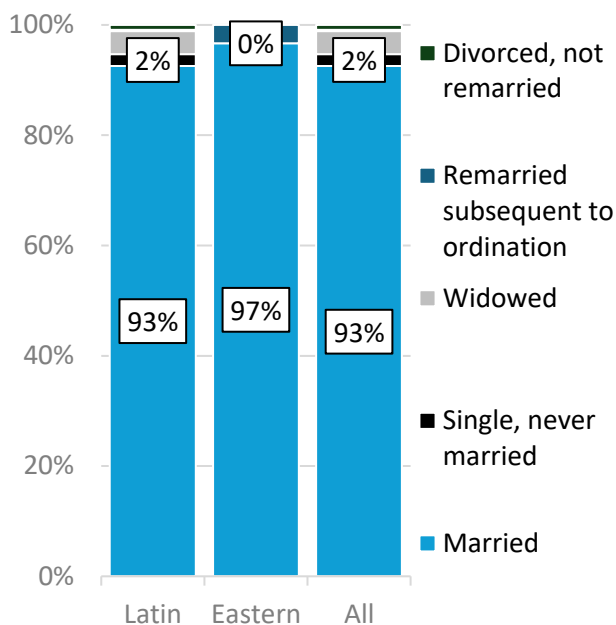
Married deacons constituted 93% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 93% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 97% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 93% and ranged between 91% and 93%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 94%  $\pm$ 1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Widowed deacons constituted 4% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 4% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 4% and ranged between 3% and 4%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 4%  $\pm$ 1pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

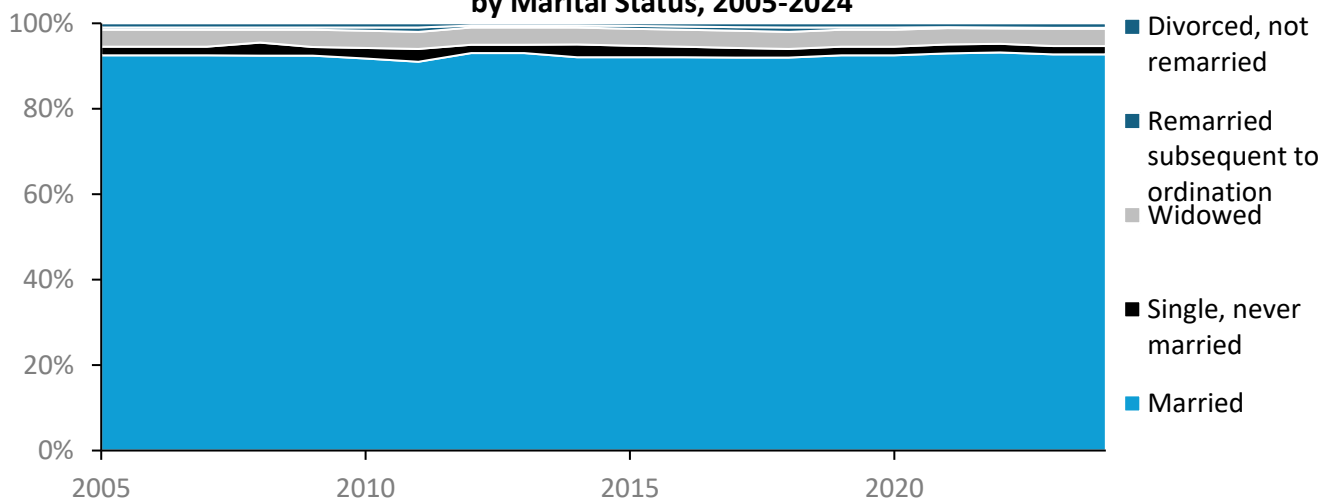
Overall, relatively few permanent deacons were single (never married) (2%), divorced (and not remarried) (1%), or remarried subsequent to ordination (<1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that reported 30 permanent deacons in these categories.

**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Marital Status in 2024**



**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Marital Status, 2005-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Age of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons ages 70 and older constituted 38% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 38% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 10% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 30% and ranged between 22% and 38%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 41%  $\pm$ 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

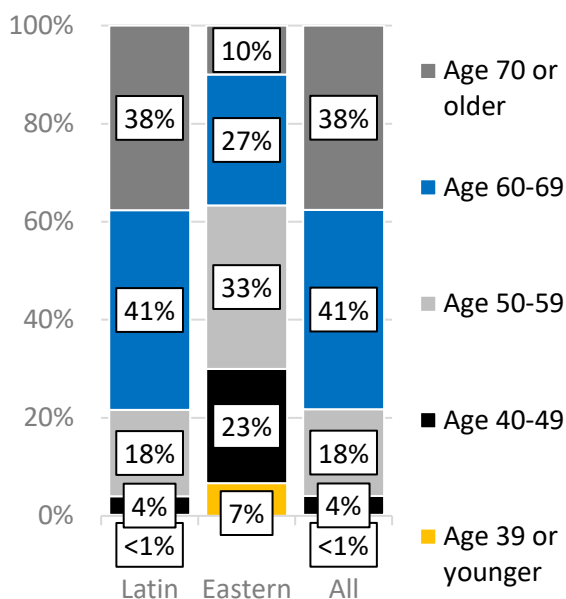
Deacons ages 60 to 69 constituted 41% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 41% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 27% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 40% and ranged between 36% and 43%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 43%  $\pm$ 5pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Deacons ages 50 to 59 constituted 18% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 18% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 33% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 18% and ranged between 18% and 19%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 18%  $\pm$ 5pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

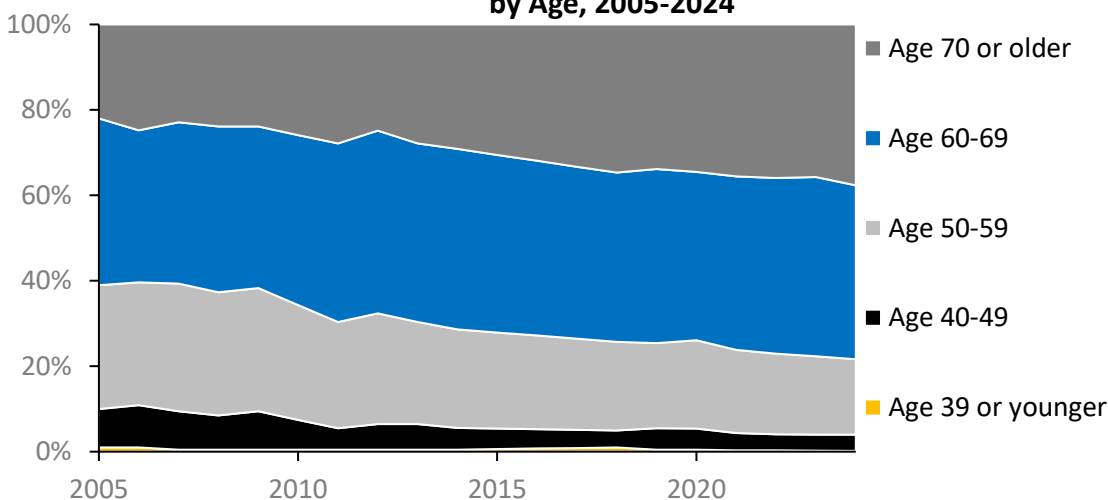
Overall, there are relatively few permanent deacons ages between 40 and 49 (4%), age 39 and younger (less than 1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that reported 30 permanent deacons in these categories.

**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Age in 2024**



**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Age, 2005-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Race and Ethnicity of Active Permanent Deacons

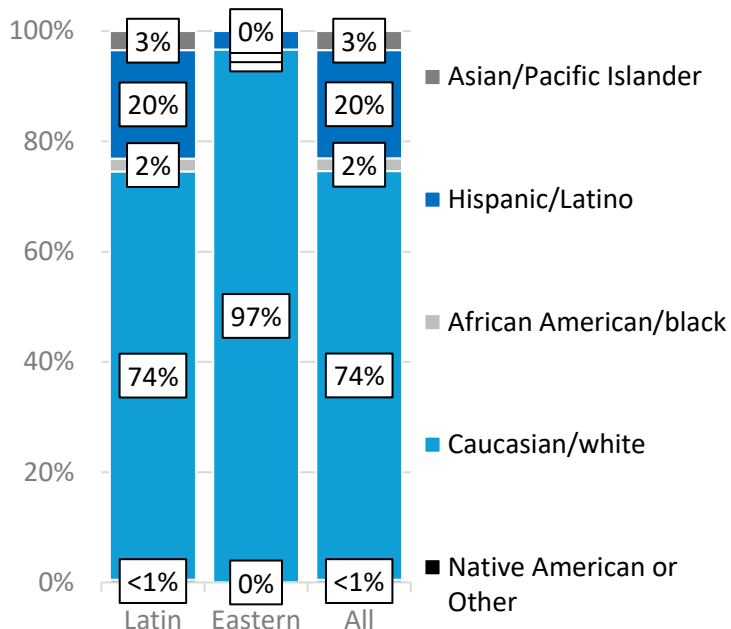
Caucasian/white deacons constituted 74% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 74% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 97% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 77% and ranged between 72% and 81%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 71%  $\pm$ 2pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

Hispanic/Latino deacons constituted 20% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 20% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 3% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 17% and ranged between 14% and 21%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 22%  $\pm$ 5pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

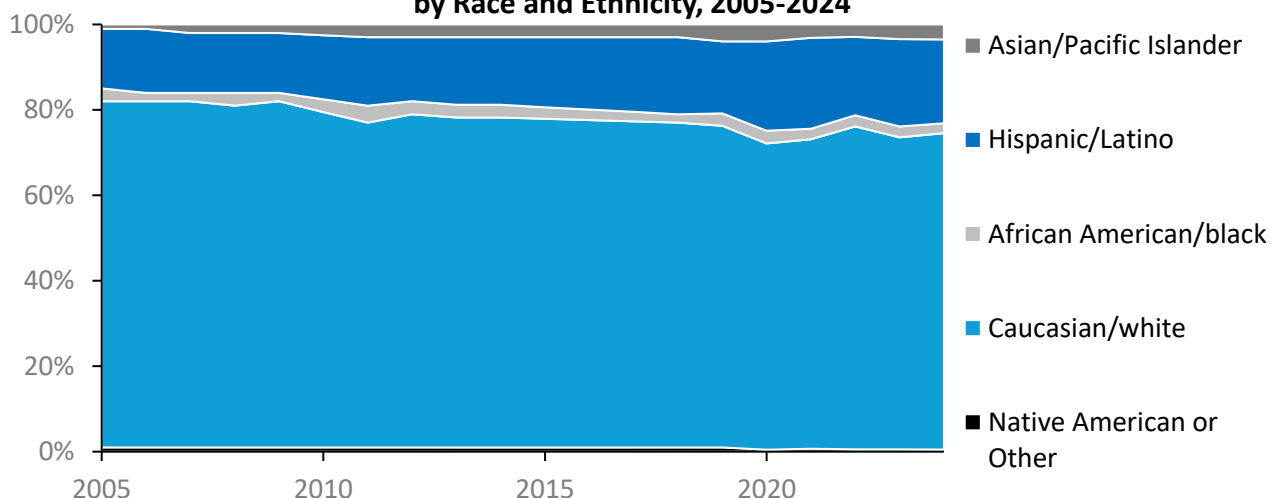
Overall, relatively few permanent deacons are Asian/Pacific Islander (3%), African American/black (2%), or Native American or of some other race/ethnicity (<1%).

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that reported 30 permanent deacons in these categories.

**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Race and Ethnicity in 2024**



**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Race and Ethnicity, 2005-2024**



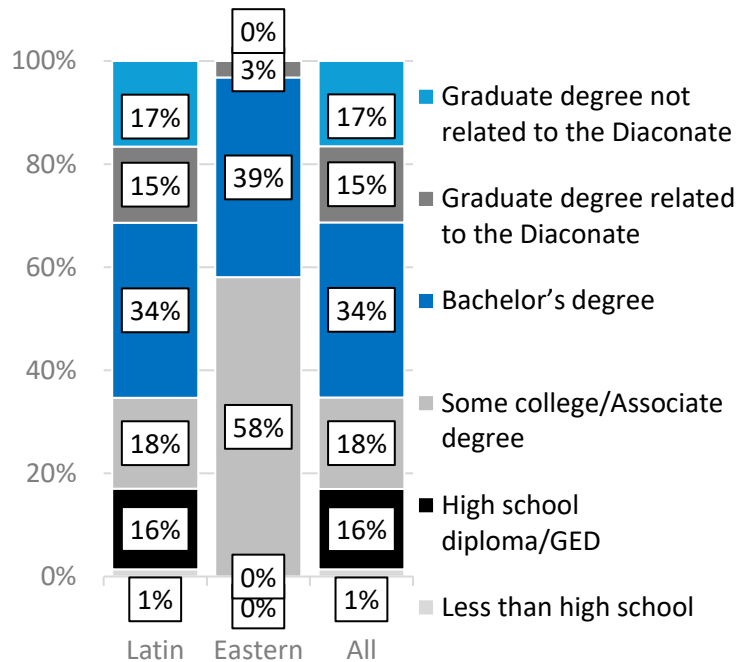
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Education Level of Active Permanent Deacons

Deacons who earned Bachelor's degree constituted 34% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 34% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 39% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 33% and ranged between 31% and 37%.

Deacons with graduate degree in a field not related to the diaconate constituted 17% of all permanent deacons in active ministry, in 2024. They represented 17% of deacons in Latin rite dioceses and 0% of deacons in Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2007 and 2024, their share in Latin rite dioceses averaged 19% and ranged between 16% and 21%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 19%  $\pm$  3pp of active Latin rite deacons, in 2028.

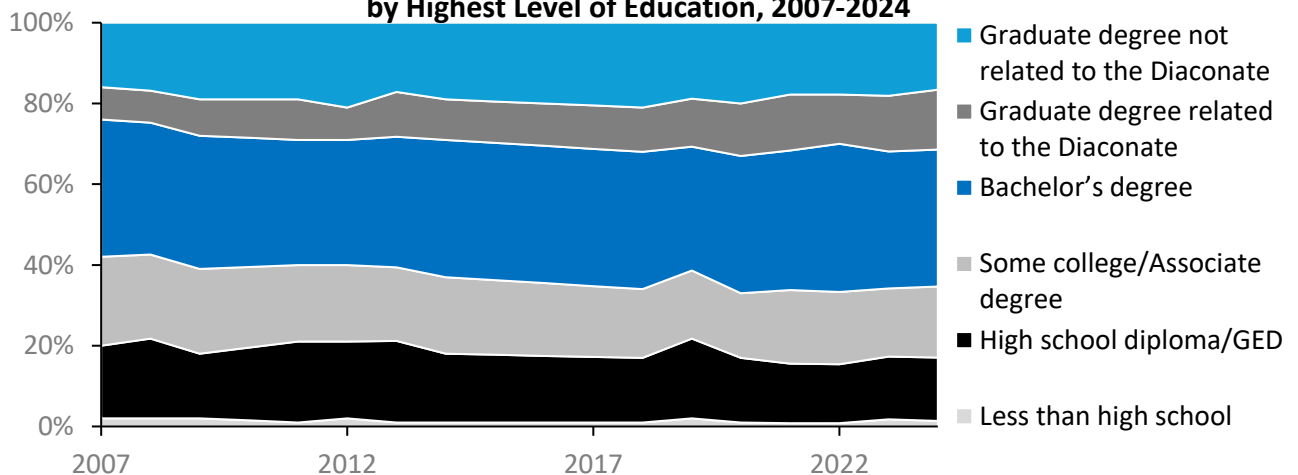
**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry by Highest Level of Education in 2024**



Overall, relatively few permanent deacons did not complete high school (1%).

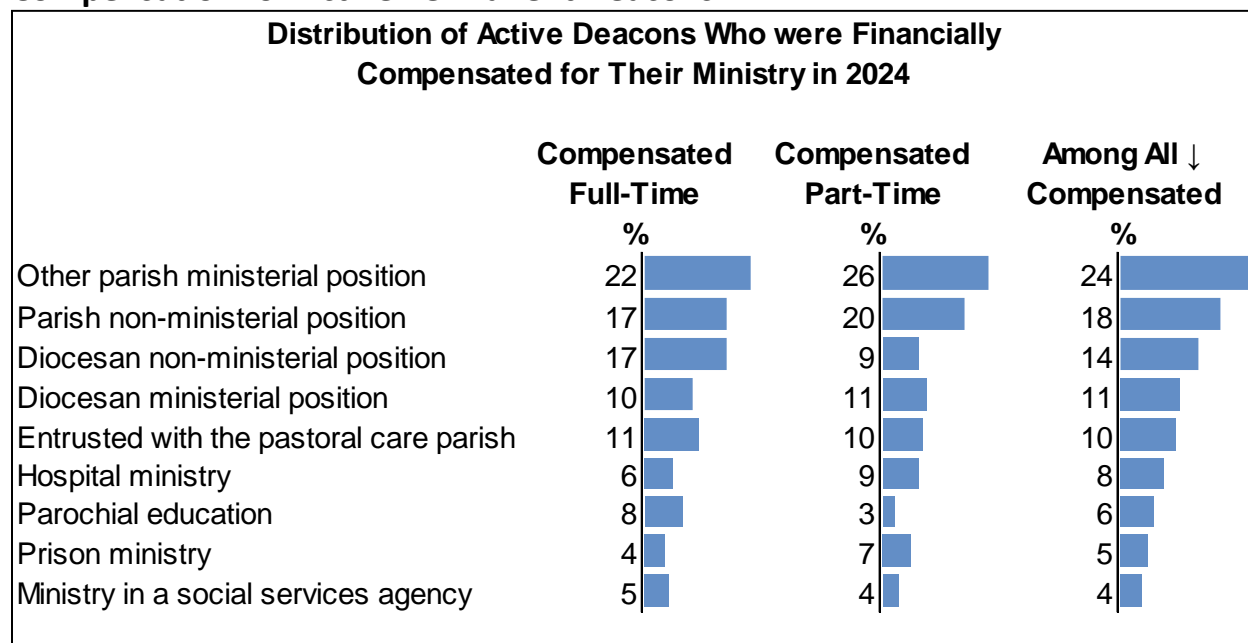
Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that reported 31 permanent deacons in these categories.

**Distribution of Deacons in Active Ministry in Latin Rite Dioceses by Highest Level of Education, 2007-2024**



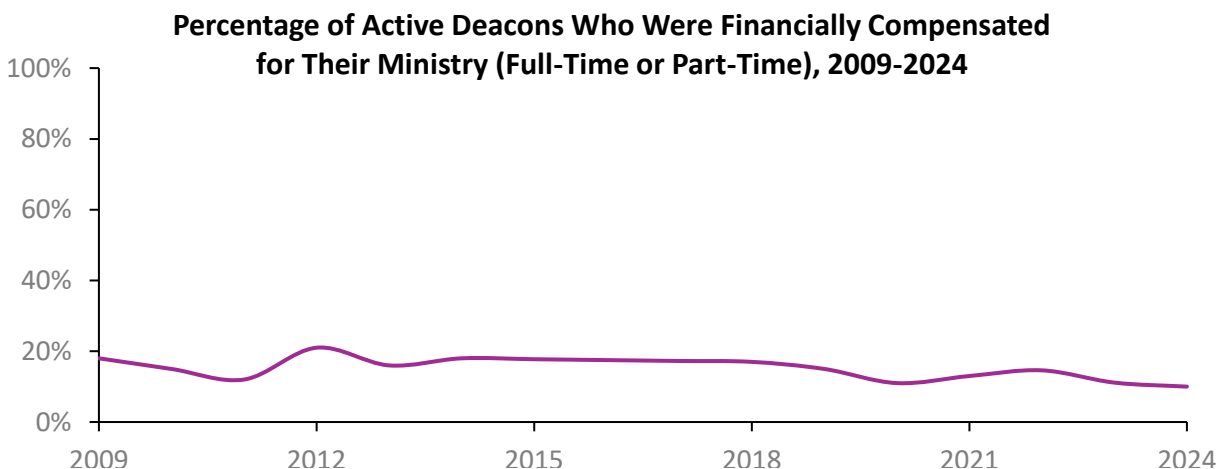
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Compensation for Active Permanent Deacons



Overall, 10% of all active permanent deacons were financially compensated for ministry in 2024 (and 11% a year before). Since 2009, their share averaged 16% and ranged between 11% and 21%. If the trend continues, 12%  $\pm$ 5pp active permanent deacons will be compensated for ministry, in 2028.

Among all active permanent deacons compensated for ministry (both full-time and part-time): 24% served in other parish ministerial positions (e.g., DRE, Youth Minister), 18% served in parish non-ministerial positions (e.g., administration, business, finance), 14% served in diocesan non-ministerial positions (e.g., administration, business, finance), 11% served in diocesan ministerial positions (e.g., DDRE, Diocesan Youth Minister), 10% were entrusted with the pastoral care of one or more parishes (Canon 517§2), 8% served in hospital ministry, 6% ministered in parochial education (e.g., school teacher, educational administration), 6% served in prison ministry, and 4% served in ministry in social services agencies (e.g., Catholic Charities).



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Part III: Academic Formation Program

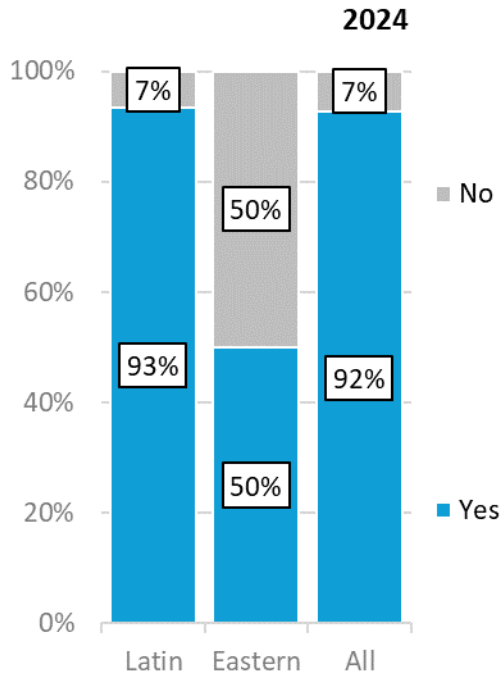
### Active Formation Program for the Diaconate

Dioceses and eparchies that have an active formation program for the diaconate constituted 92% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 95% in 2023). They represented 93% of Latin rite dioceses and 50% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 90% and ranged between 84% and 95%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 96%  $\pm$  3pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

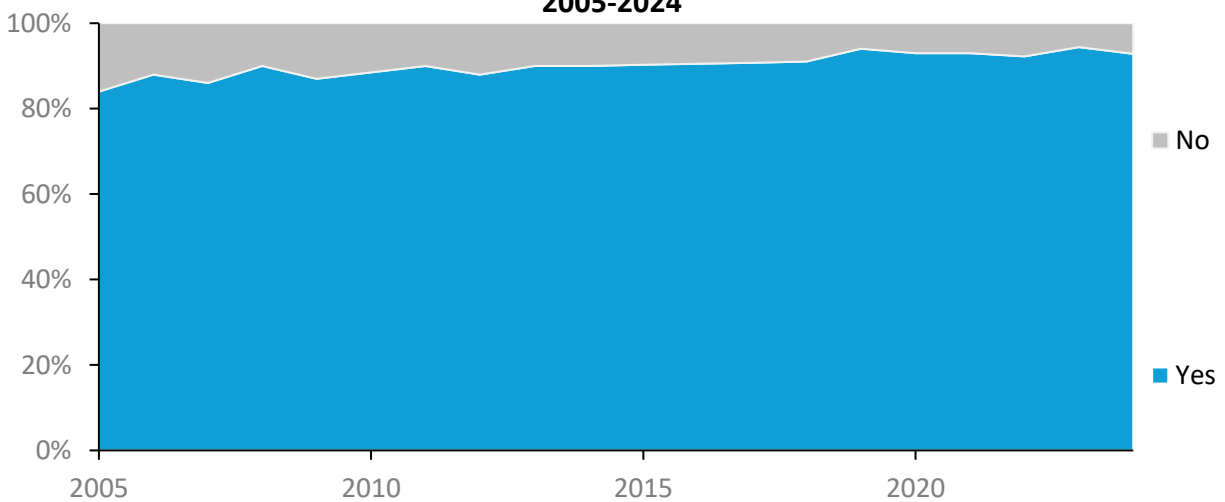
Among those dioceses and eparchies that do not have an active formation program for the Diaconate, 30% reported planning to establish formation within the next two years.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?



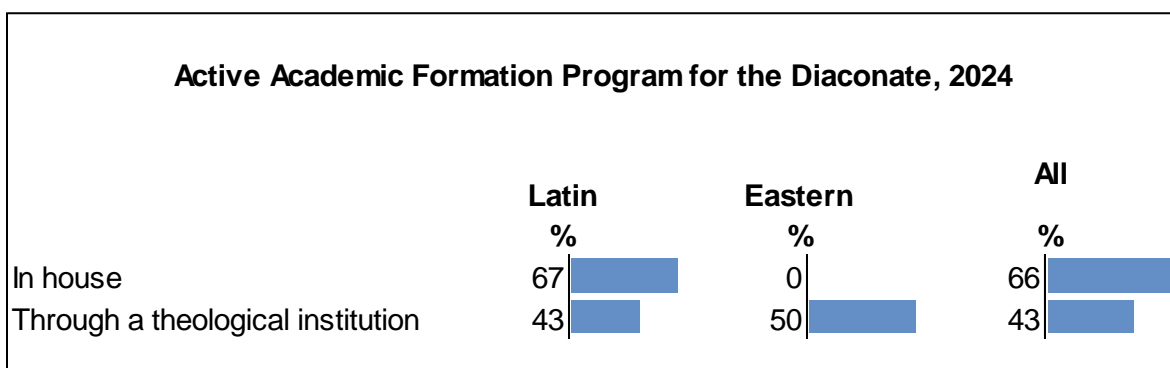
Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate?  
2005-2024



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

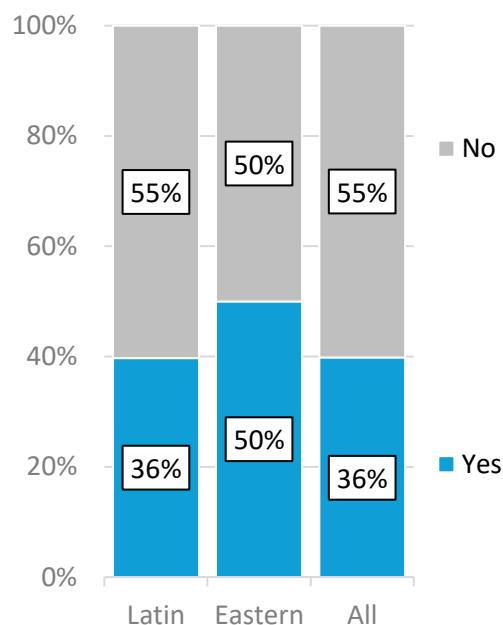


Dioceses and eparchies that have an active formation program for the diaconate constituted 66% of the in-house programs, in 2024 (and 95% in 2023). They represented 100% of Latin rite dioceses and 98% of Eastern rite eparchies.

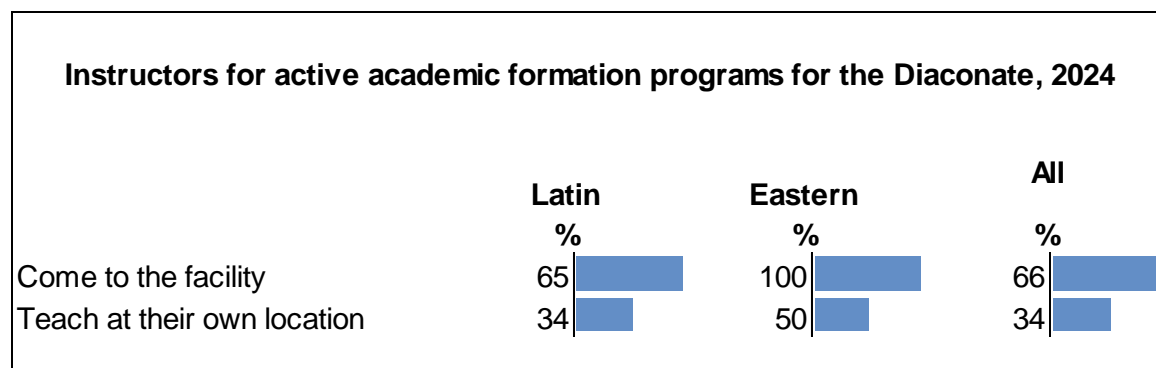


Dioceses and eparchies that offer courses online constituted 36% of all respondents to this question, in 2024. They represented 36% of Latin rite dioceses and 50% of Eastern rite eparchies.

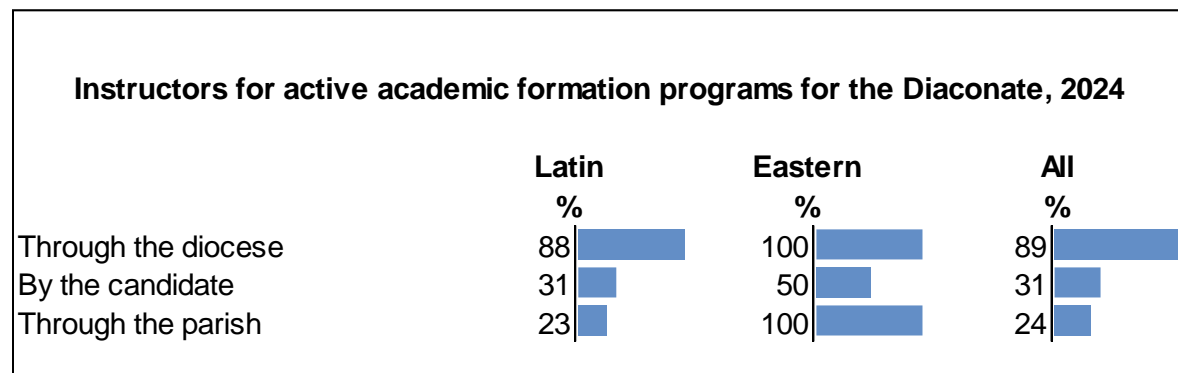
**Do you offer any courses on line?  
2024**



Dioceses and eparchies that have an active formation program for the diaconate constituted 66% of the instructors coming to the facility, in 2024 (and 95% in 2023). They represented 100% of Latin rite dioceses and 65% of Eastern rite eparchies.



Nine in ten responding deacon directors report that academic formation programs (88%) are funded through the diocese.

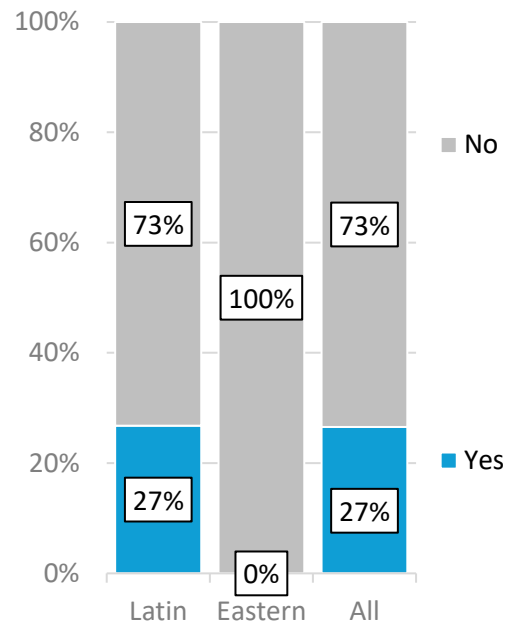


## Active Formation Program for the Diaconate in Spanish

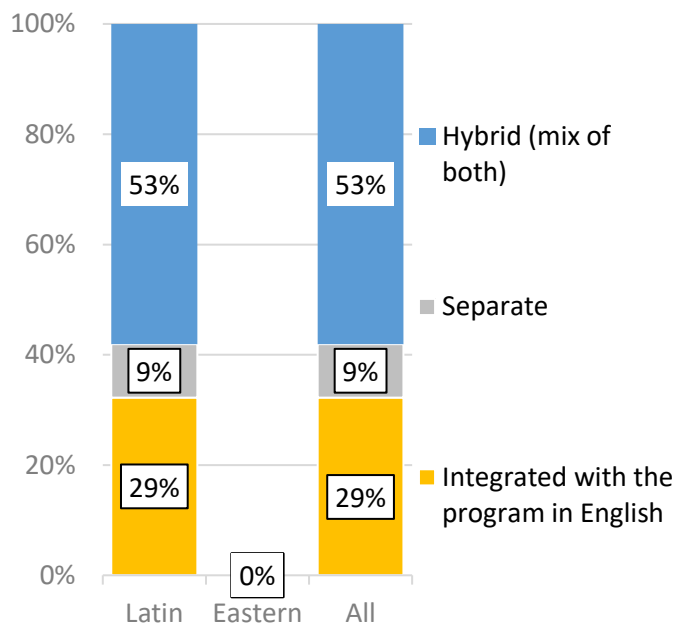
Dioceses and eparchies that have an active formation program for the diaconate in Spanish constituted 27% of all respondents to this question, in 2024. They represented 27% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference).

Among those who do not have an active academic formation program for the Diaconate in Spanish, 14% responding dioceses are planning to establish one within the next two years.

**Does the diocese have an active formation program for the Diaconate in Spanish?**  
**2024**



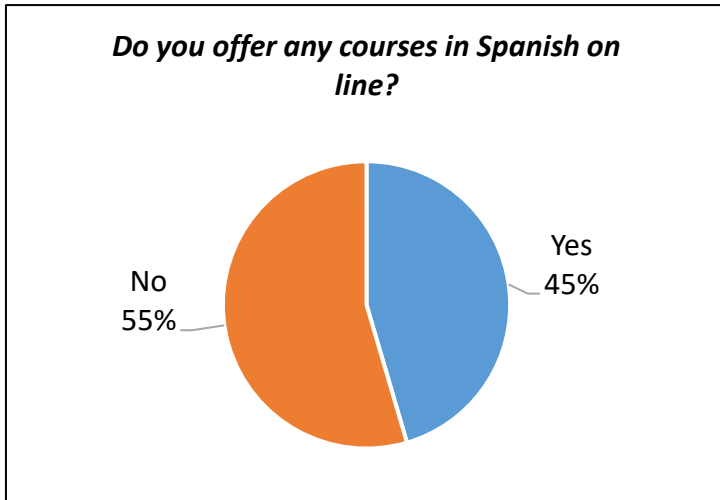
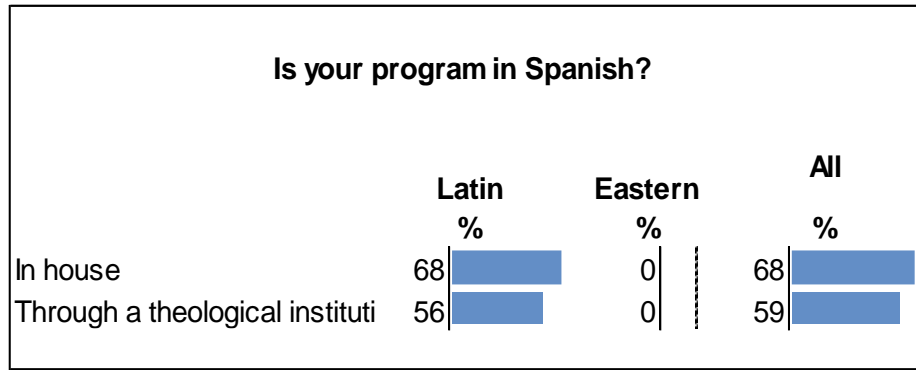
**Is the program in Spanish?**  
**2024**



Among the responding dioceses and eparchies having an active formation program for the diaconate in Spanish, half of respondents report that the program is hybrid for a mix of the program in English and Spanish.

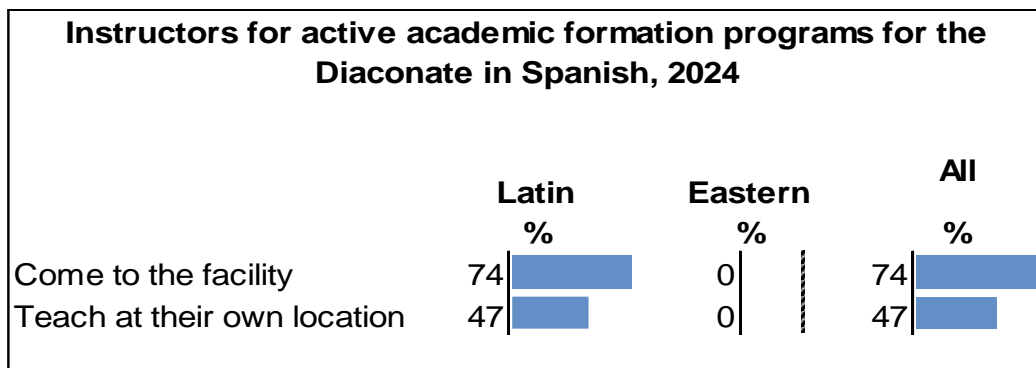
Three in ten respondents (29%) report the Spanish program is integrated with the program in English.

Among those that have an active academic formation program for the Diaconate in Spanish, 68% responding dioceses report the program is in house, meanwhile, 59% having the program through a theological institution.



Among those that have an active academic formation program for the Diaconate in Spanish, nearly half responding dioceses (45%) report offering courses in Spanish on line.

Among those that have an active academic formation program for the Diaconate in Spanish, 74% responding dioceses and eparchies report the instructors for the formation program in Spanish come to the facility, while half teaching at their own location.



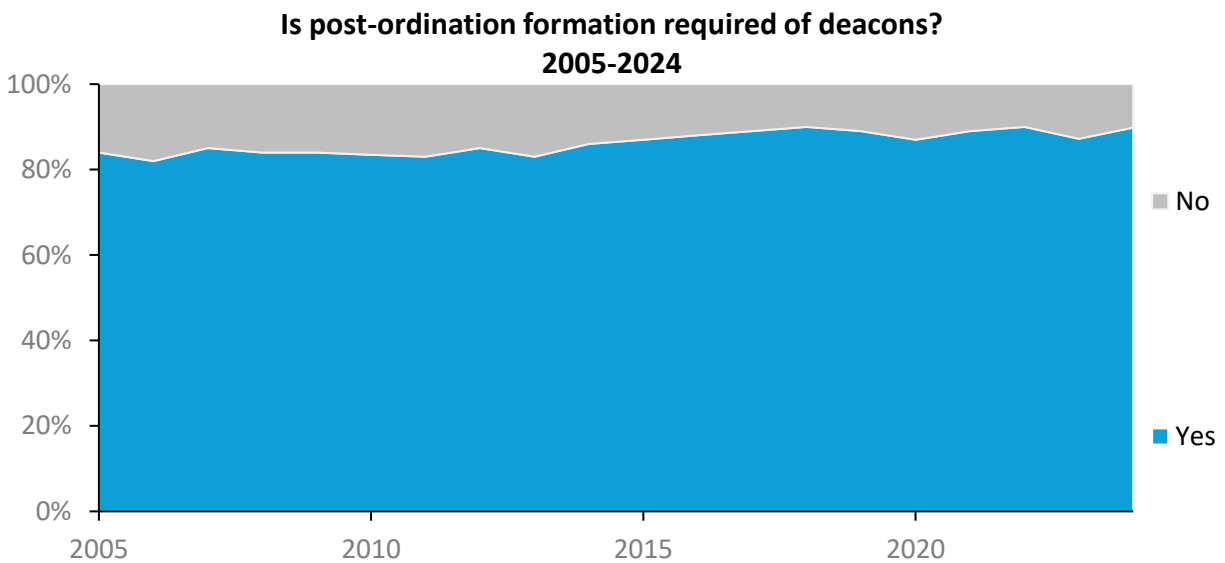
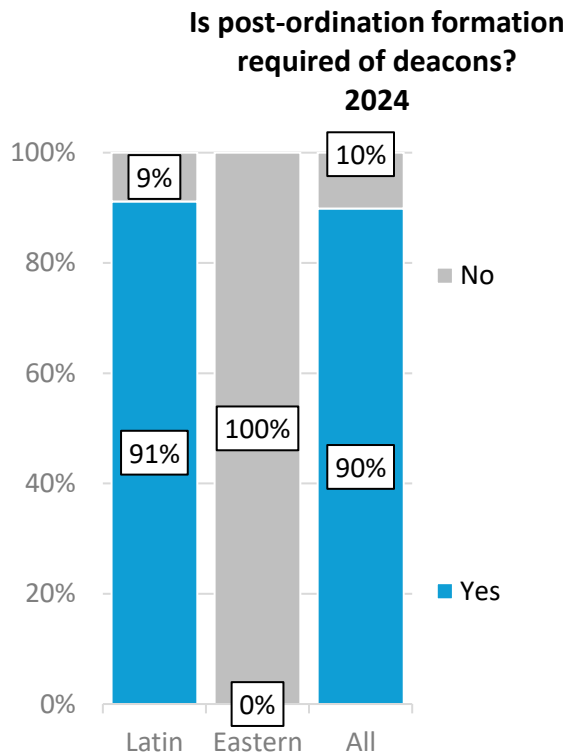
More than nine in ten responding deacon directors (94%) report that academic formation programs are funded through the diocese. Four in ten (38%) are funded by the candidate. Four in ten report they are funded by the parish.

## Part IV: Post-Ordination Formation

### Requirement for Post-Ordination Formation

Dioceses and eparchies where post-ordination formation was required of deacons constituted 90% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 90% in 2022). They represented 91% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 86% and ranged between 82% and 90%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 90%  $\pm$ 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Number of Hours of Required Post-Ordination Formation

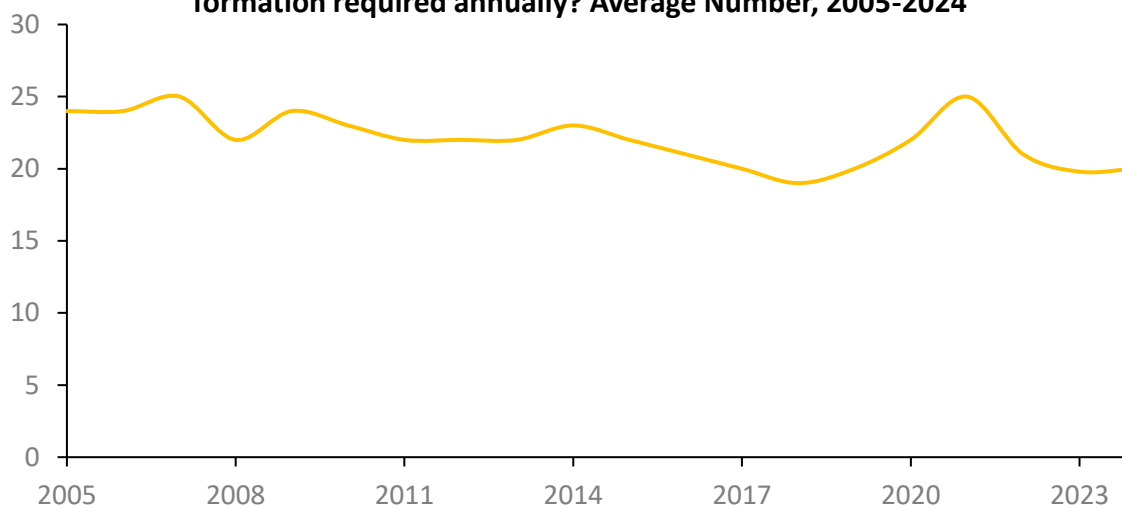
Overall, permanent deacons were required to attend, on average, 20 hours of post-ordination formation, in 2024 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, the required amount was between 2 and 20 hours and in the other half between 20 and 125 hours). Since 2005, the average number of hours of required post-ordination formation per diocese/eparchy was 22 annually and ranged between 19 and 25.

### What is the approximate number of hours of post-ordination formation required annually? Responses for Year 2024

|         | Latin Rite<br>[#] | Eastern Rite<br>[#] | All<br>[#] |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Average | 20                | .                   | 20         |
| Median  | 20                | .                   | 20         |
| Range   | 2 - 125           | . - .               | 2 - 125    |

Notably, no Eastern rite eparchies responded to this question.

### What is the approximate number of hours of post-ordination formation required annually? Average Number, 2005-2024



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

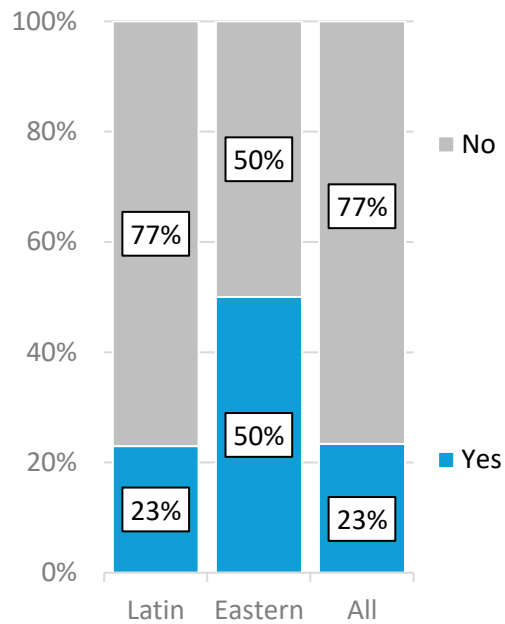
## Languages Used in Post-Ordination Formation

Dioceses and eparchies where post-ordination formation was provided in language(s) other than English constituted 23% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 18% in 2023). They represented 23% of Latin rite dioceses and 50% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 18% and ranged between 16% and 22%.

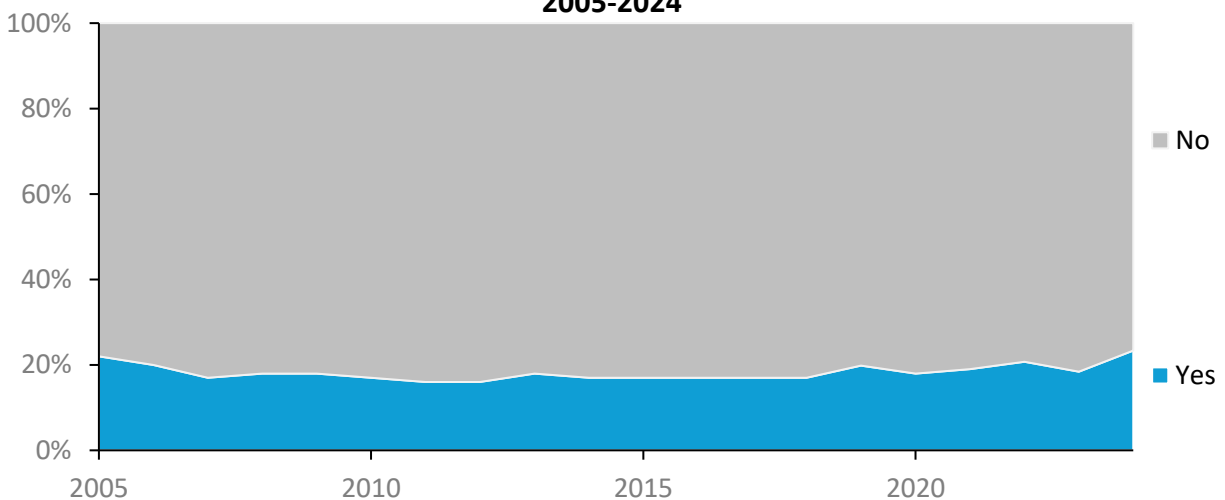
Overall, 20% provide post-ordination formation in Spanish and 1% provide it in Vietnamese.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?  
2024**



**Is post-ordination formation provided in language(s) other than English?  
2005-2024**

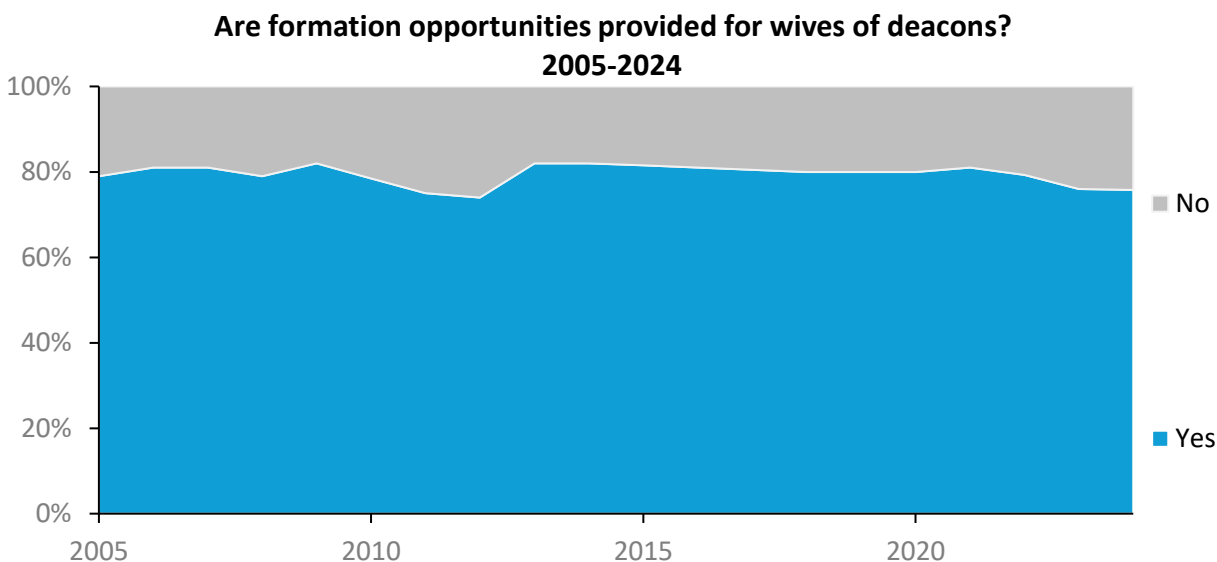
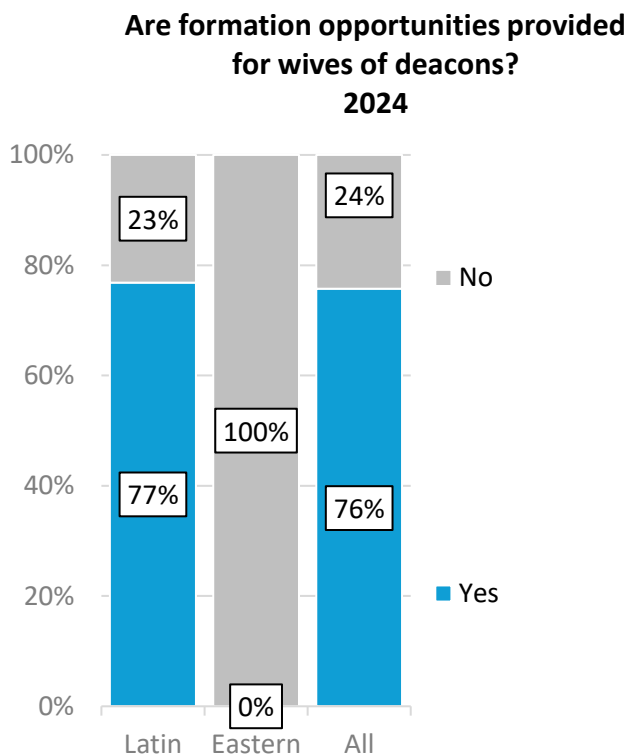


\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Formation Opportunities for Wives of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies where formation opportunities are provided for wives of deacons constituted 76% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 76% in 2023). They represented 77% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 80% and ranged between 74% and 82%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 79%  $\pm$ 5pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

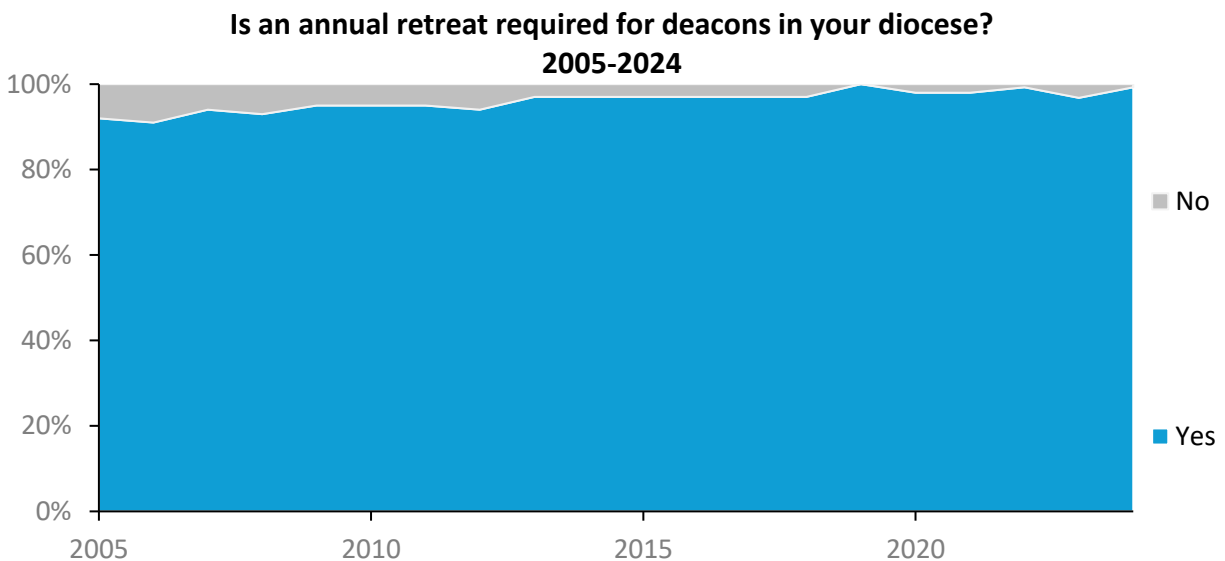
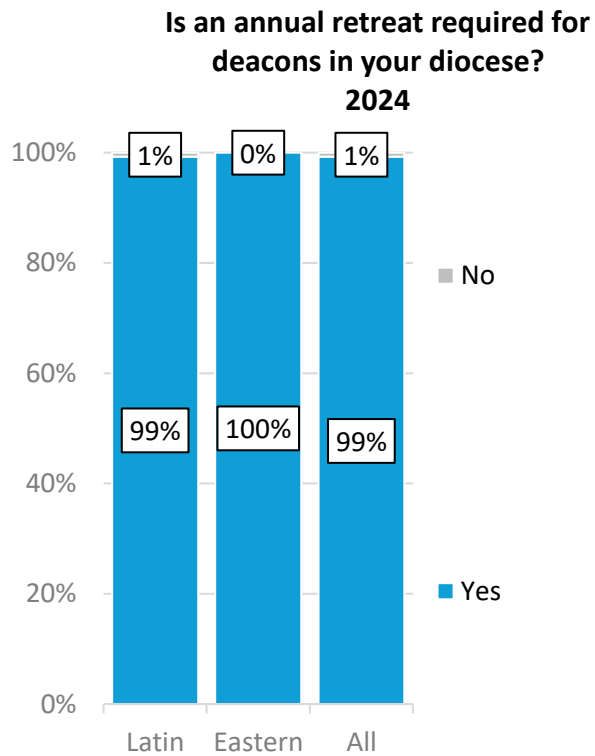


## Part V: Retreats

### Requirement for Annual Retreat

Dioceses and eparchies where retreats were required for deacons constituted 99% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 97% in 2022). They represented 97% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 96% and ranged between 91% and 100%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 100%  $\pm 2$ pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Participation in Annual Retreats

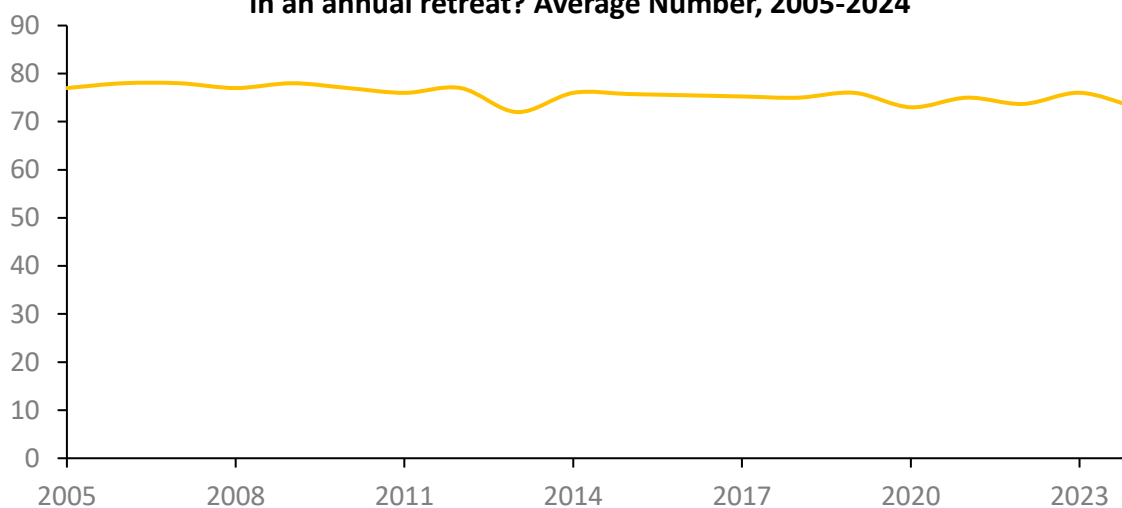
On average, 73% of permanent deacons participated in annual retreats, in 2024 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, between 13% and 75% participated in those retreats and in the other half between 75% and 100%). Since 2005, their share per diocese/eparchy averaged 76% annually and ranged between 72% and 78%. If the trend continues, on average, there will be 73%  $\pm$ 3pp of permanent deacons participating in annual retreat, in 2028.

### What is the approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat? Responses for Year 2024

|         | Latin Rite<br>[%] | Eastern Rite<br>[%] | All<br>[%] |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Average | 73                | 55                  | 73         |
| Median  | 75                | 55                  | 75         |
| Range   | 13 - 100          | 50 - 60             | 13 - 100   |

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

### What is the approximate percentage of deacons who participate in an annual retreat? Average Number, 2005-2024



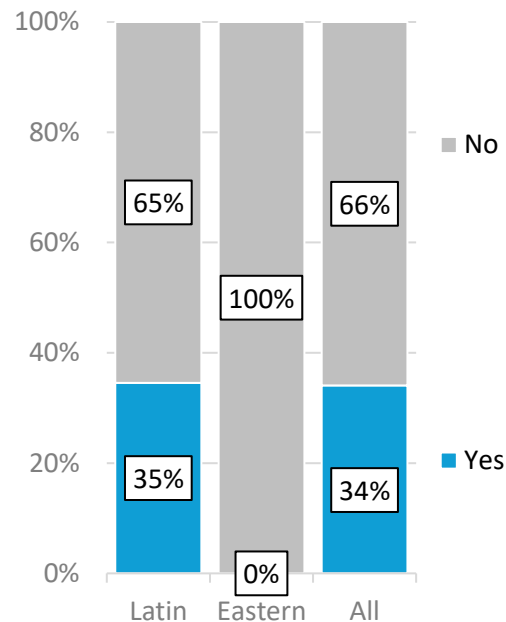
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Availability of Deacon-Only Retreats

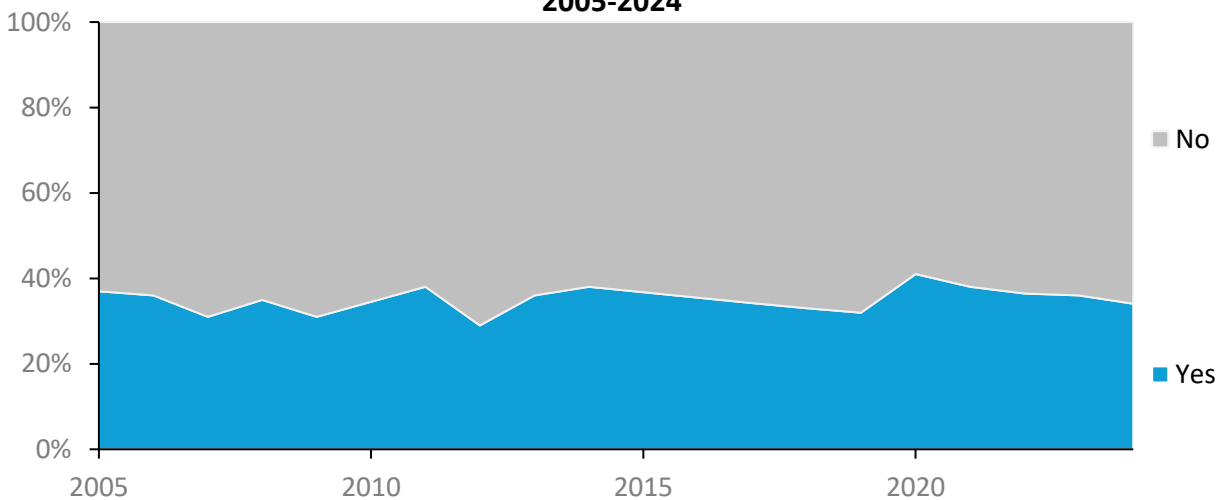
Dioceses and eparchies that provided deacon only retreats constituted 34% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 36% in 2023). They represented 35% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 35% and ranged between 29% and 41%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?  
2024**



**Does the diocese provide deacon only retreats?  
2005-2024**

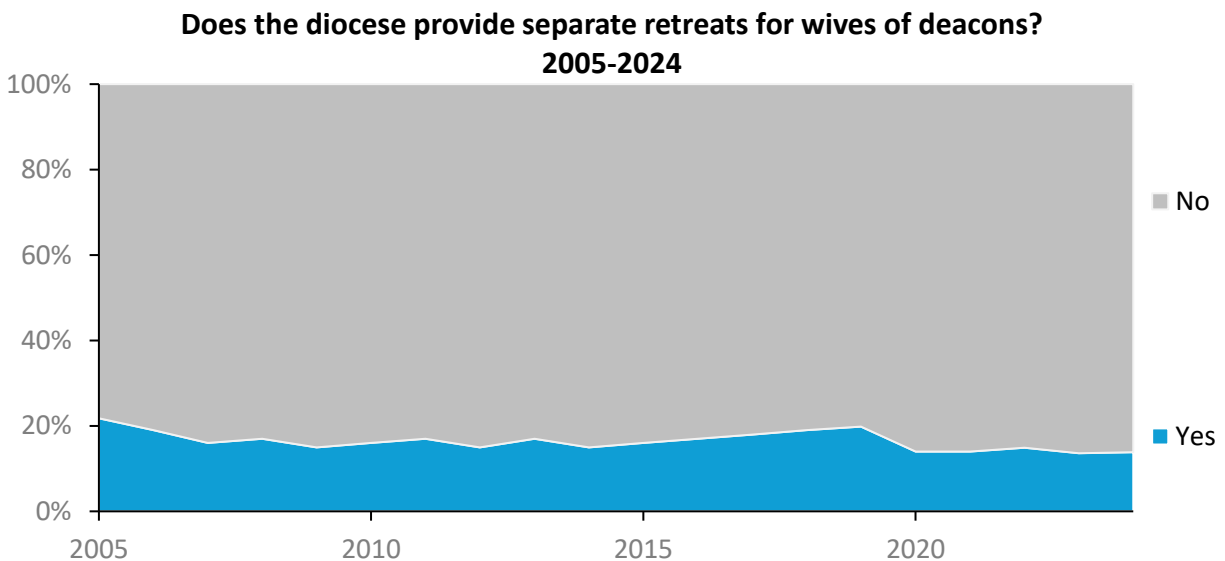
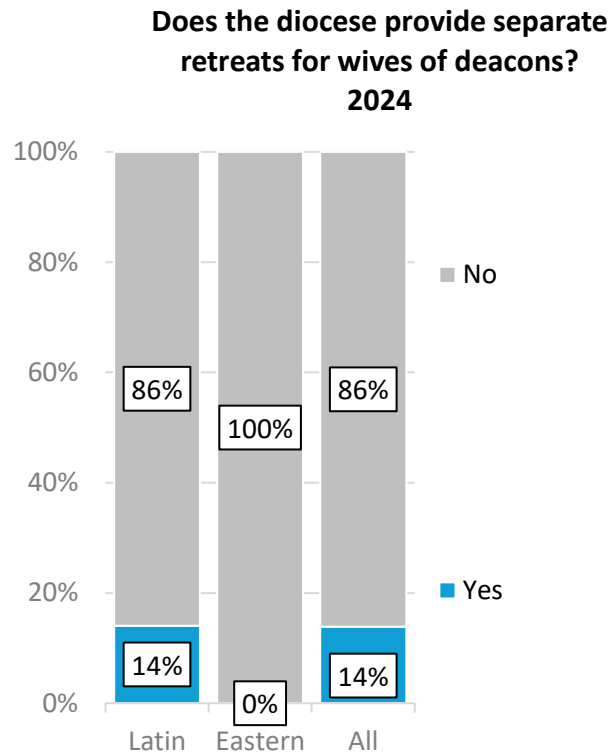


\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Availability of Separate Retreats for Wives of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies that provided separate retreats for wives of deacons constituted 14% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 14% in 2023). They represented 14% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 17% and ranged between 14% and 22%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on only one eparchy that responded to this question.



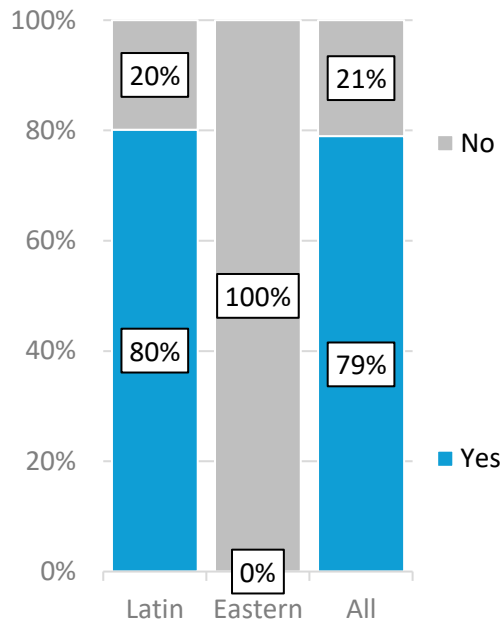
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Availability of Couples Retreats for Deacons and Their Wives

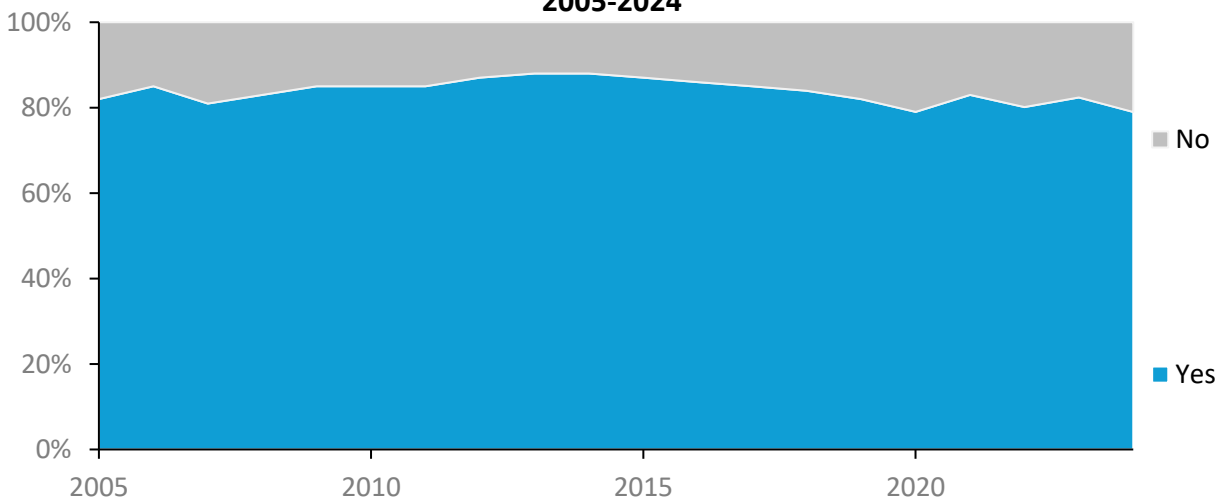
Dioceses and eparchies that provided couples' retreats for deacons and their wives constituted 79% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 82% in 2023). They represented 80% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies (a statistically significant difference). Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 84% and ranged between 79% and 88%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?  
2024**



**Does the diocese provide couples' retreats for deacons and their wives?  
2005-2024**



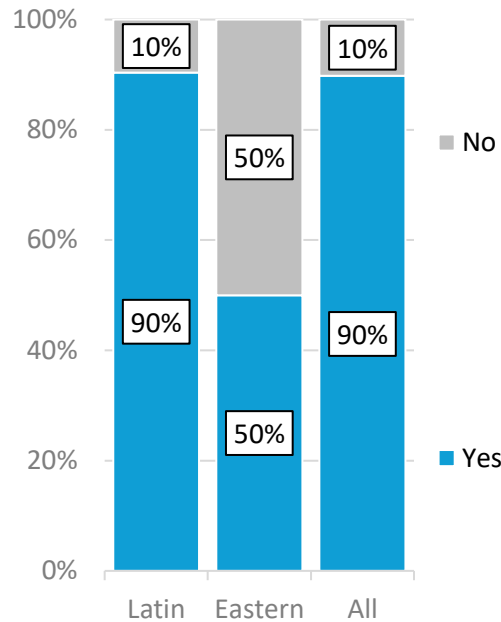
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Availability of Annual Gatherings of Deacons

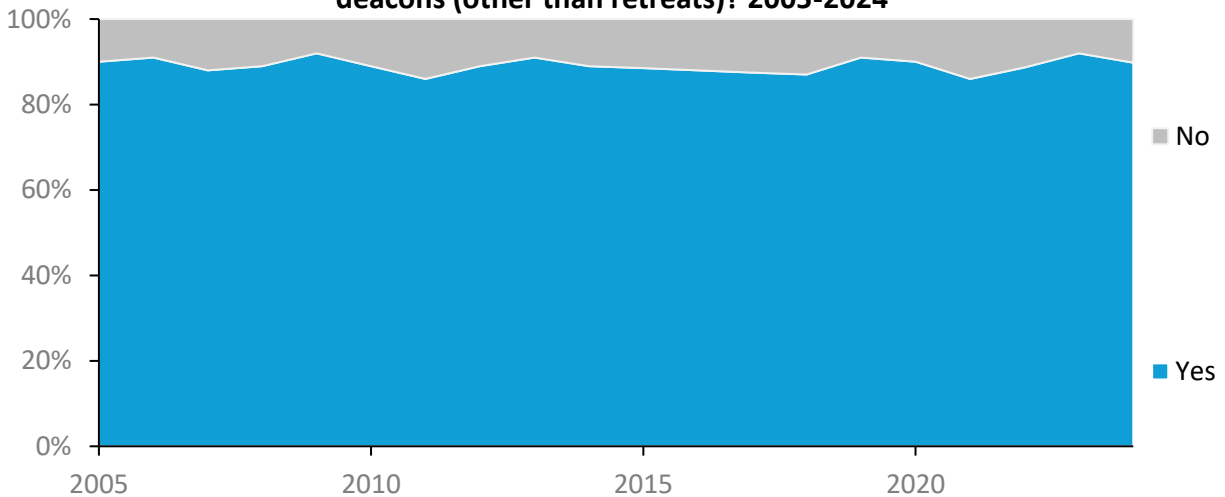
Dioceses and eparchies that provided annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats) constituted 90% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 92% in 2023). They represented 90% of Latin rite dioceses and 50% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 89% and ranged between 86% and 92%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 89%  $\pm$ 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)? In 2024**



**Does the diocese provide annual gatherings of deacons (other than retreats)? 2005-2024**



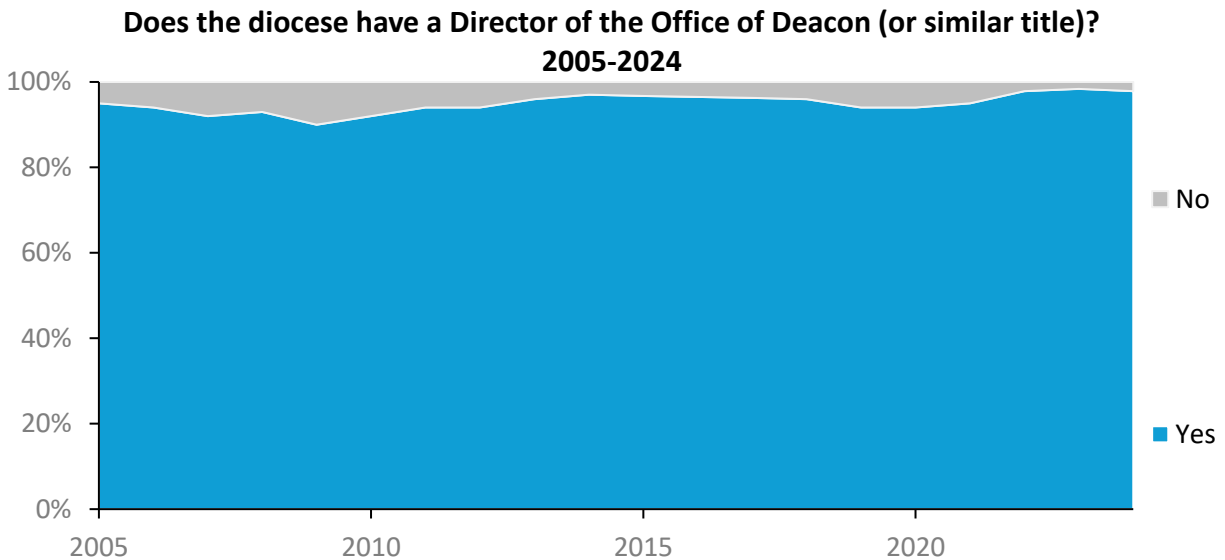
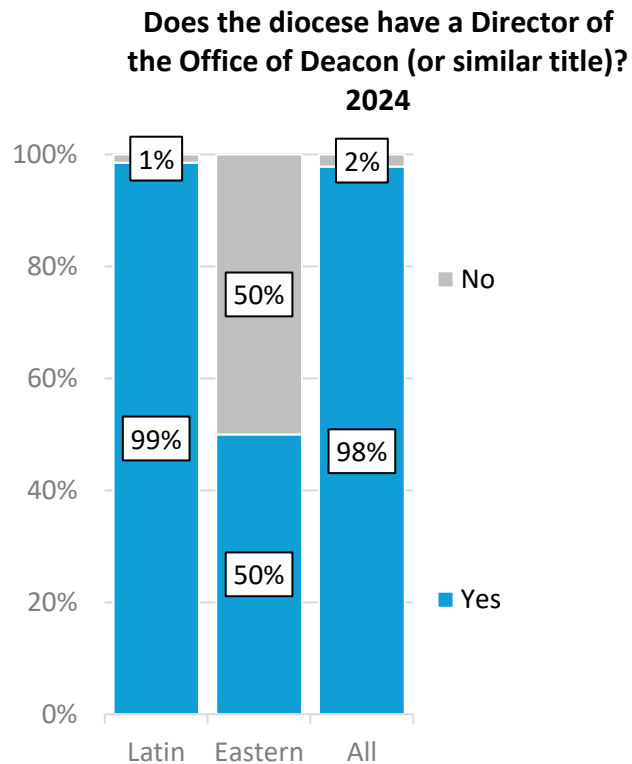
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Part VI: Directors of the Diaconate

### Directors of the Diaconate - Part 1

Dioceses and eparchies that have a Director of the Office of Deacon (or someone with a similar title) constituted 98% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 98% in 2023). They represented 99% of Latin rite dioceses and 50% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 95% and ranged between 90% and 98%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

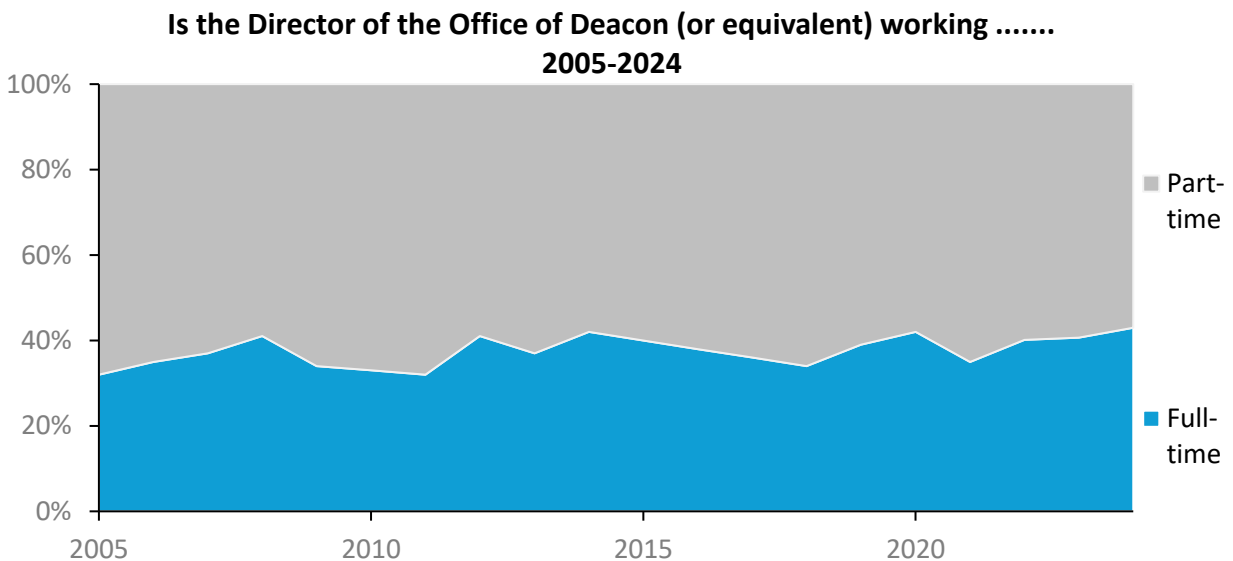
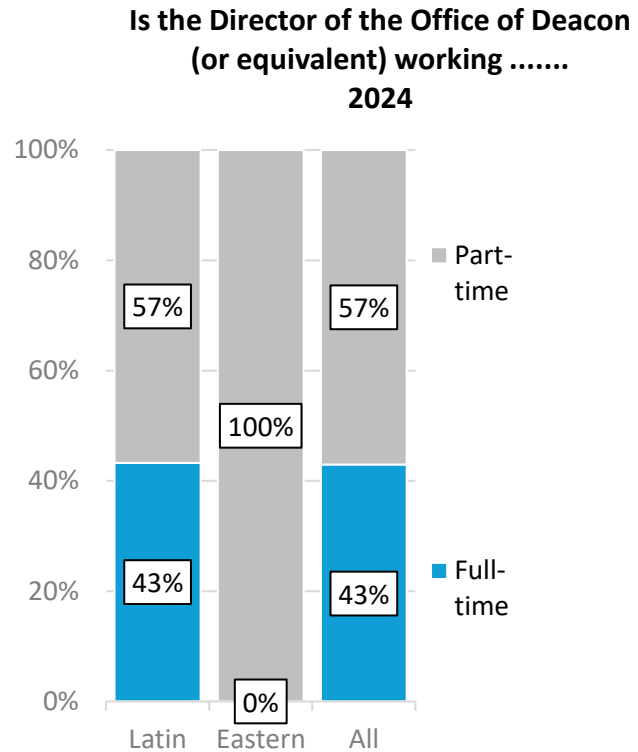


\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Directors of the Diaconate - Part 2

Dioceses and eparchies that have a full-time Director of the Office of Deacon (or someone with a similar title) constituted 43% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 41% in 2023). They represented 41% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 37% and ranged between 32% and 42%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.



## Directors of the Diaconate's Tenure

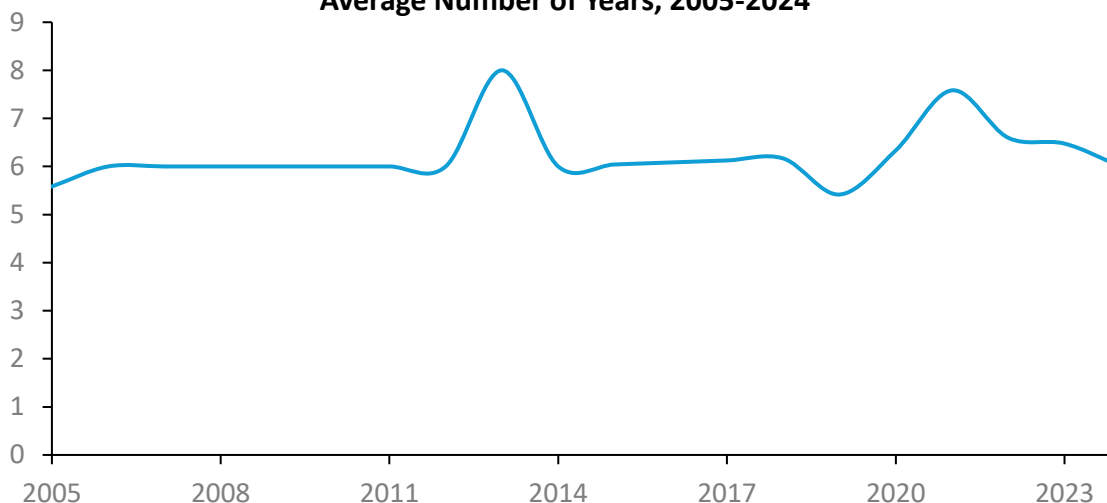
On average, the current Director of Deacons (or someone in an equivalent position) has been in their position for 6 years, in 2024 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, this position has been held between 0 and 5 years and in the other half between 5 and 25 years). Since 2005, the average tenure for this position was 6 years and ranged between 5 and 8 years.

### How many years has Director of Deacons been in this position? Responses for Year 2024

|         | Latin Rite<br>[#] | Eastern Rite<br>[#] | All<br>[#] |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Average | 6                 | 9                   | 6          |
| Median  | 5                 | 9                   | 5          |
| Range   | 0 - 25            | 9 - 9               | 0 - 25     |

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

### How long has Director of Deacons been in this position? Average Number of Years, 2005-2024



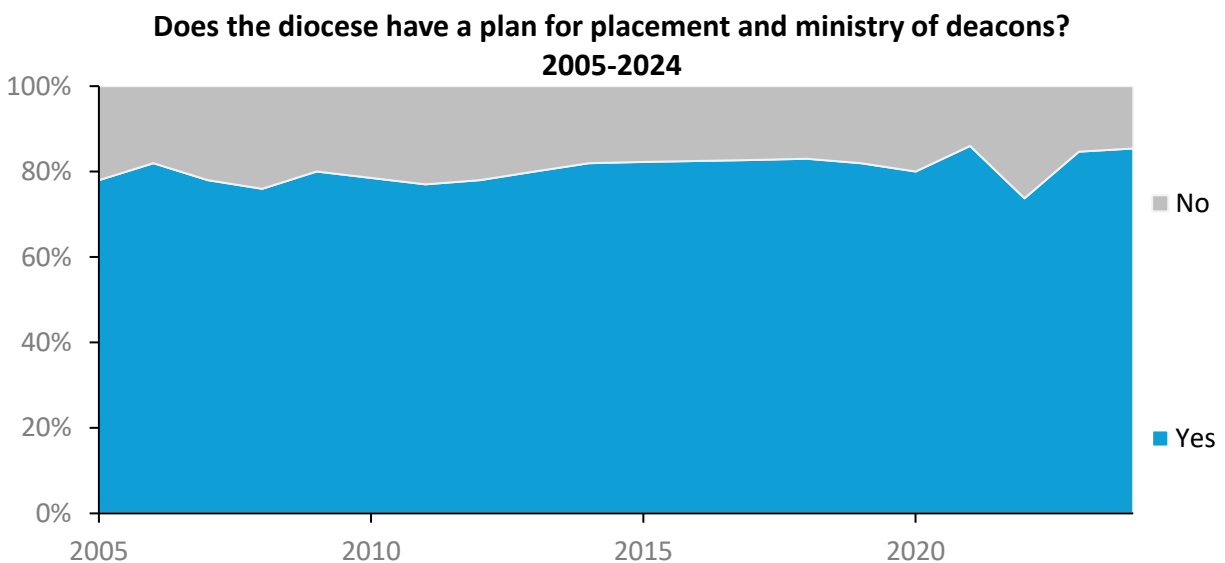
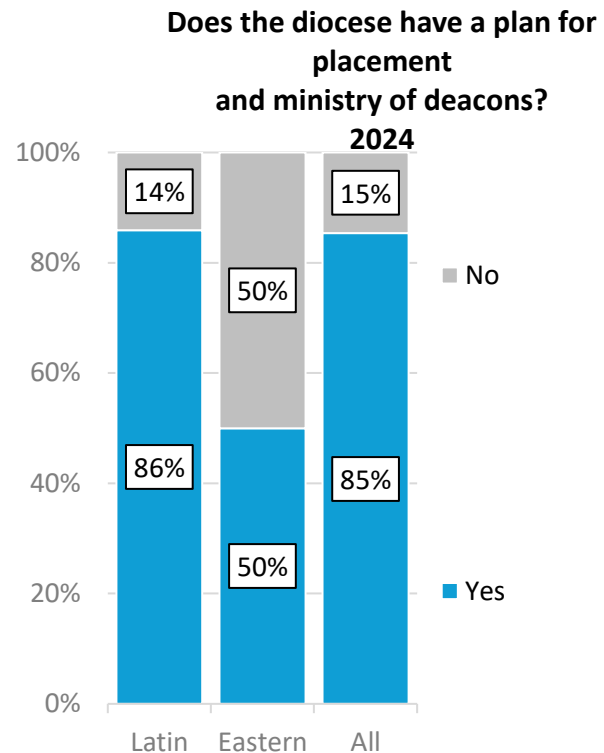
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Part VII: Policies of the Offices of the Diaconate

### Plan for Placement and Ministry of Deacons

Dioceses and eparchies that have a plan for placement and ministry of deacons constituted 85% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 85% in 2023). They represented 85% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 80% and ranged between 74% and 86%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

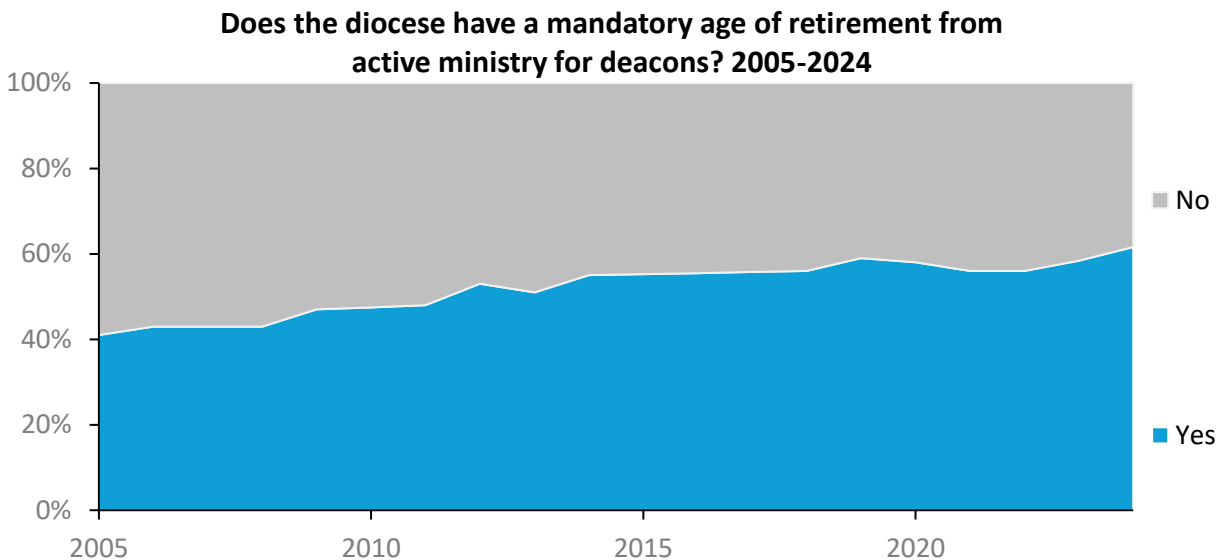
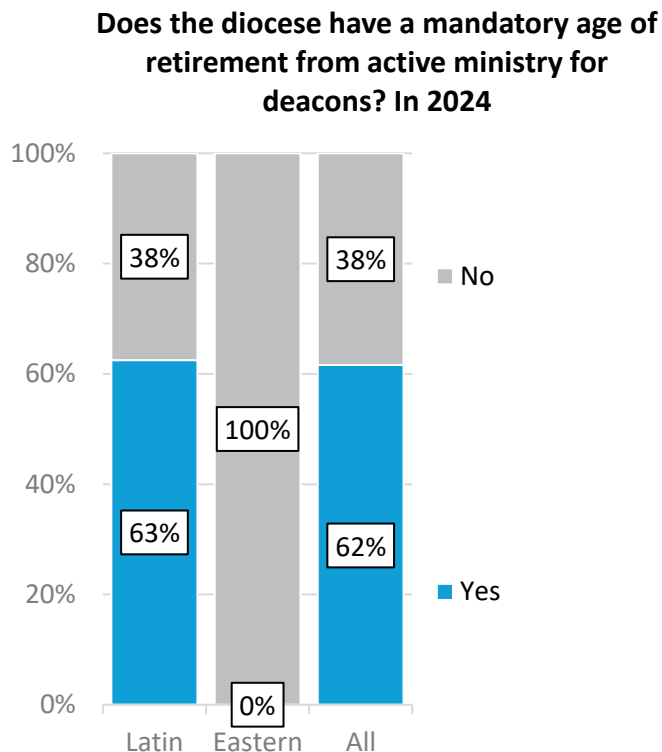


\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Mandatory Age of Retirement from Active Ministry for Deacons - Part 1

Dioceses and eparchies that have a mandatory age of retirement from active ministry for deacons constituted 62% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 58% in 2023). They represented 63% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 52% and ranged between 41% and 59%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Mandatory Age of Retirement from Active Ministry for Deacons - Part 2

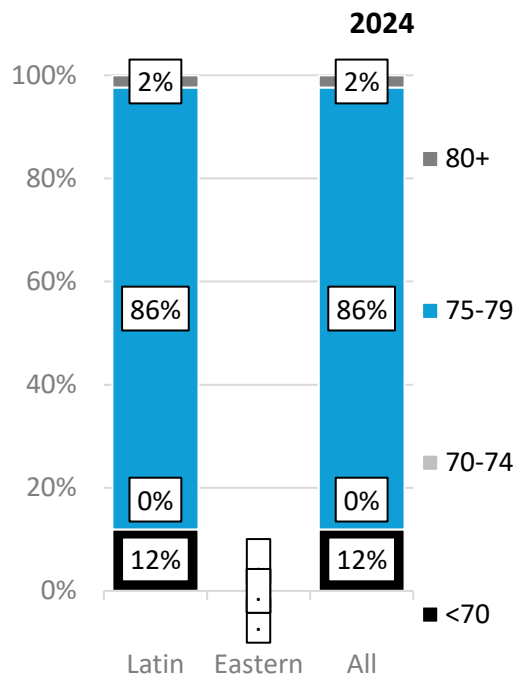
Dioceses that required deacons to retire from active ministry between ages 75 and 79 constituted 86% of all respondents to this question, in 2024. Between 2019 and 2024, dioceses and eparchies with this age requirement constituted, on average, 89%.

Dioceses that required deacons to retire from active ministry between ages 70 and 74 constituted 12% of all respondents to this question, in 2024. Between 2019 and 2024, dioceses and eparchies with this age requirement constituted, on average, 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 0%  $\pm$  4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

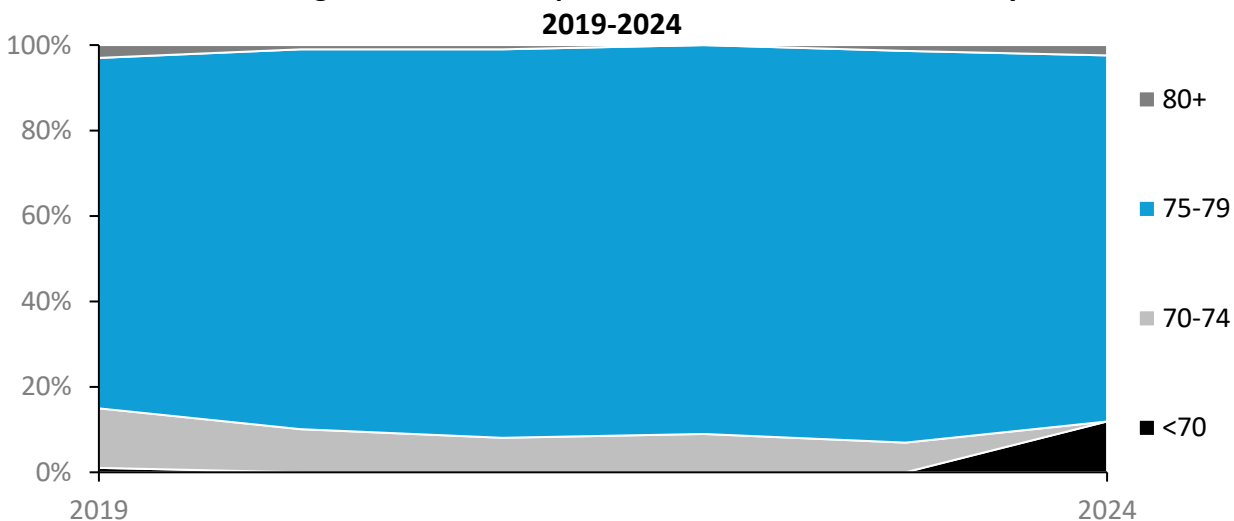
Overall, relatively few dioceses required retirement from active ministry at 80 or older (2%).

Notably, no Eastern rite eparchies responded to this question.

At what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?



At what age are deacons required to retire from active ministry?

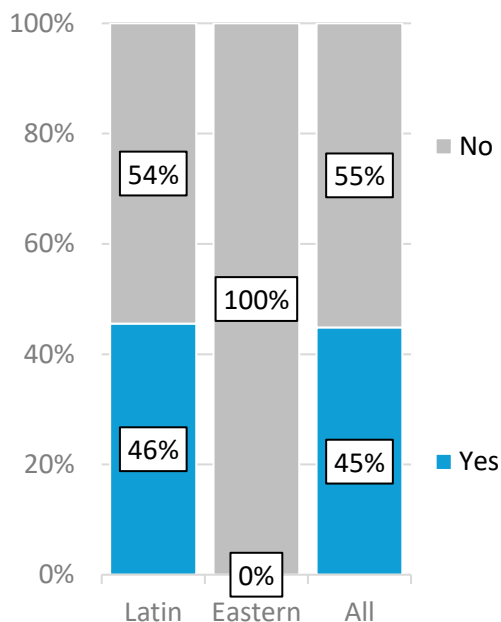


## Formal Policy for Deacons who Are Divorced or Separated Post-Ordination

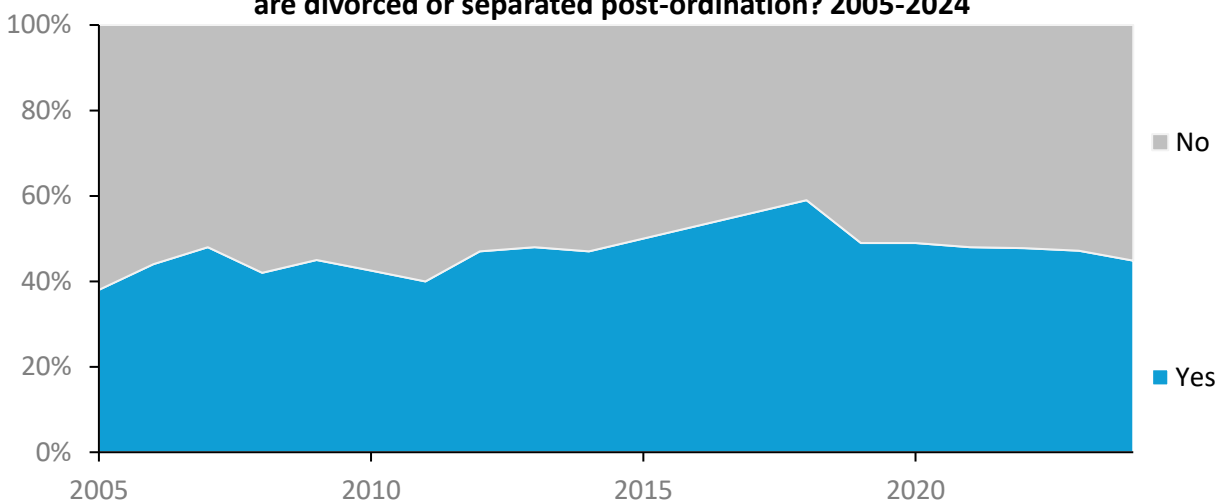
Dioceses and eparchies that have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination constituted 45% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 47% in 2023). They represented 46% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 47% and ranged between 38% and 59%.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination? In 2024**



**Does the diocese have a formal policy for deacons who are divorced or separated post-ordination? 2005-2024**



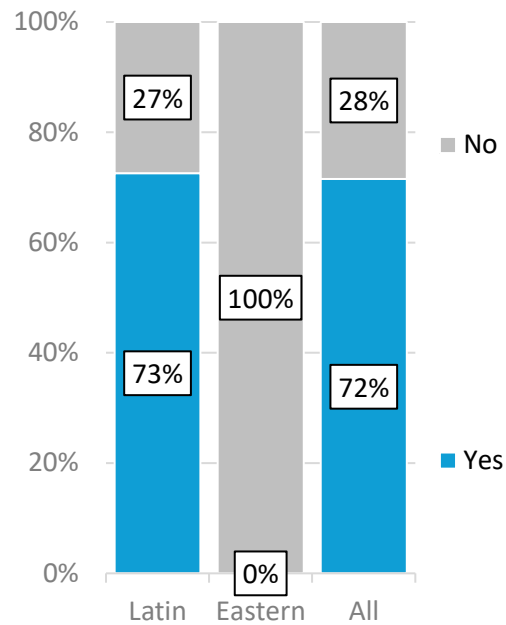
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly

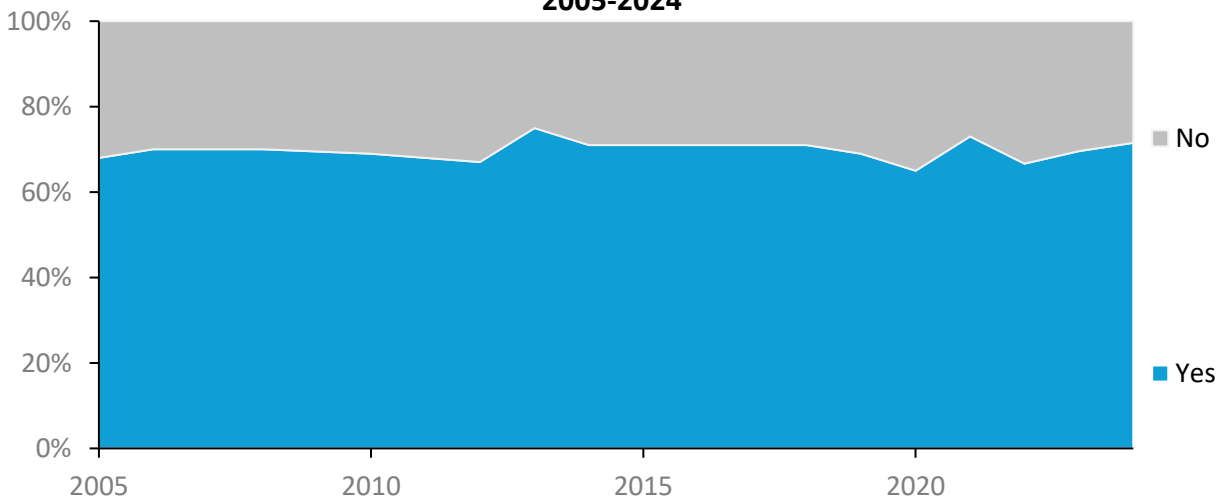
Dioceses and eparchies that have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly constituted 72% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 70% in 2023). They represented 73% of Latin rite dioceses and 0% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 70% and ranged between 65% and 75%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 70%  $\pm$ 5pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly? In 2024**



**Does the diocese have an active Deacon Council or Deacon Assembly?  
2005-2024**



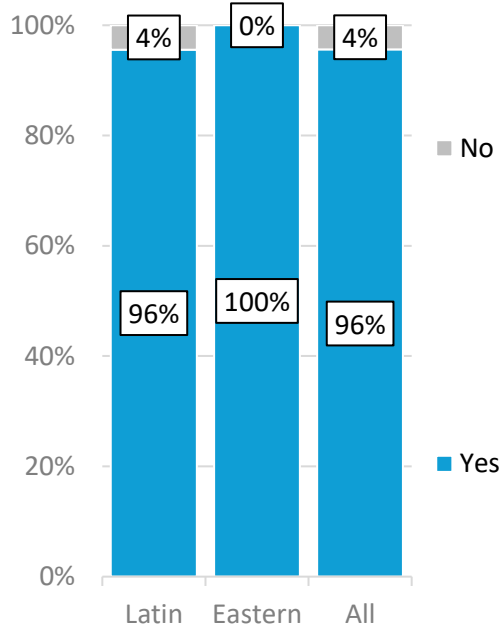
\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

## Minimum Age for Acceptance into a Diaconate Formation Program - Part 1

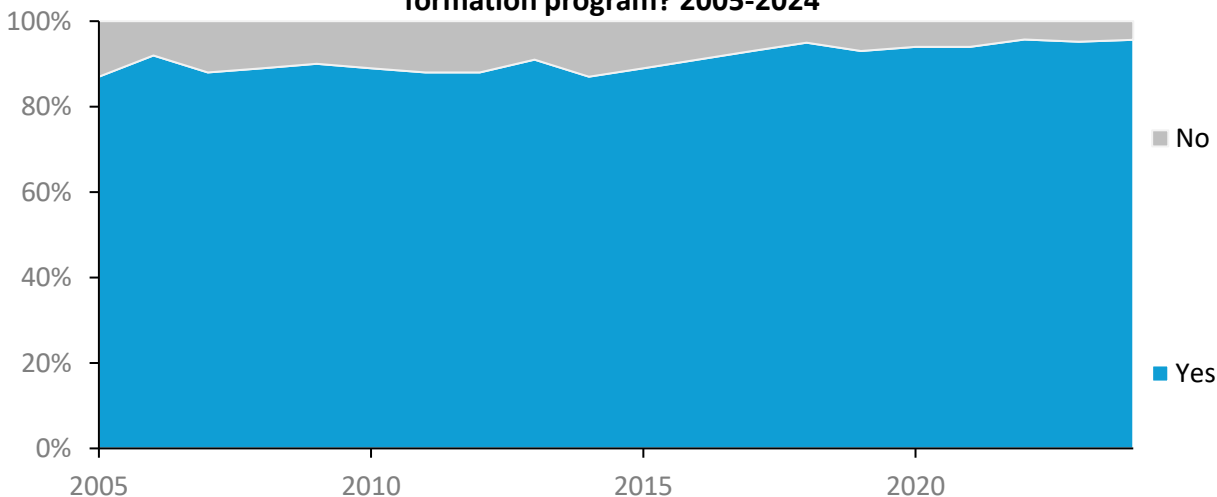
Dioceses and eparchies that have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program constituted 96% of all respondents to this question, in 2024 (and 95% in 2023). They represented 96% of Latin rite dioceses and 100% of Eastern rite eparchies. Between 2005 and 2024, their share averaged 91% and ranged between 87% and 96%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 97%  $\pm$ 4pp of dioceses and eparchies, in 2028.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.

**Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program? In 2024**



**Does the diocese have a minimum age for acceptance into a diaconate formation program? 2005-2024**



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.

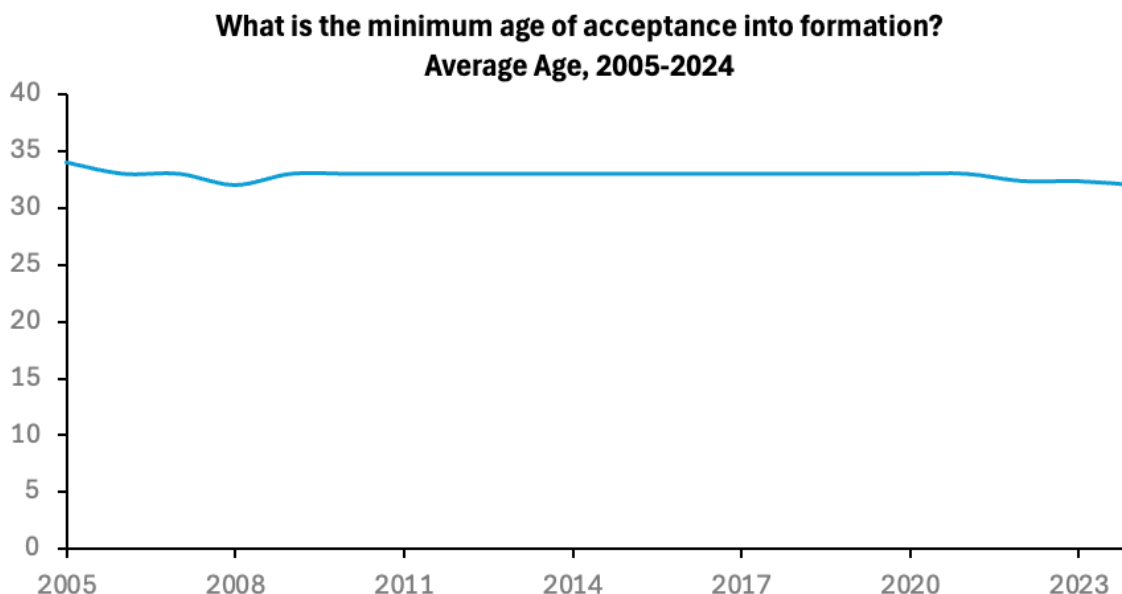
## Minimum Age for Acceptance into a Diaconate Formation Program - Part 2

On average, the minimum age of acceptance into formation for permanent diaconate was 32, in 2024 (in half of responding dioceses/eparchies, minimum age was between 25 and 31 years old and in the other half between 31 and 35 years old). Since 2005, the average minimum age was 33 and ranged between 32 and 34. If the trend continues, on average, the minimum age of acceptance into formation for permanent diaconate will be 32 ±1 year, in 2028.

| What is the minimum age of acceptance into formation? |            |              |         |
|---|------------|--------------|---------|
| Responses for Year 2024                               |            |              |         |
|   | Latin Rite | Eastern Rite | All     |
|   | [#]        | [#]          | [#]     |
| Average   | 32         | 33           | 32      |
| Median  | 31         | 33           | 31      |
| Range   | 25 - 35    | 30 - 35      | 25 - 35 |

\* Responses indicating minimum age higher than 35 were excluded from the analysis.

Notably, the statistics for Eastern rite eparchies are based on two eparchies that responded to this question.



\* Numbers for 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2017 were interpolated.



## Methodology for Calculating Estimates

This report includes estimates for the number of active permanent deacons, the number of all permanent deacons in total (see p. 3) and for the number of ordinations to permanent diaconate (see p. 6).

**The total number of permanent deacons is estimated using the following formula:**

$$\#TotalDeacons = \#TotalDeaconsInOCD : \%DeaconsInSurvey$$

where:

#TotalDeaconsInOCD is the number of all permanent deacons (as reported in the most recent Official Catholic Directory available at the time of preparing this report).

%DeaconsInSurvey is the proportion of the total number of permanent deacons reported in the most recent OCD to the number permanent deacons reported in the survey by the same group of arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies.

**The number of permanent deacons in active ministry is estimated using the following formula:**

$$\#ActiveDeacons = \#TotalDeacons \times \%DeaconsActive$$

where:

#TotalDeacons is the number of all permanent deacons (as calculated above).

%DeaconsActive is the proportion of the number of active permanent deacons to the number of all permanent deacons (based on survey responses from arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies).

**The number of ordinations to diaconate is calculated using the following formula:**

$$\#TotalOrdinations = \#OrdinationsInSurvey \times \#TotalDeacons : \#TotalDeaconsInSurvey$$

where:

#OrdinationsInSurvey is the number of ordinations reported by the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies participating in the survey.

#TotalDeacons is the number of all permanent deacons (as calculated above).

#TotalDeaconsInSurvey is the number of all permanent deacons reported by the arch/dioceses and arch/eparchies participating in the survey.