

Highlights from the most recent CARA Diaconate Survey

Cara, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate has completed a survey about deacons in the United States. The following highlights outline the results effective March 2008.

- There are an estimated 16,527 deacons in the United States today.
- There are an estimated 13,647 deacons in active ministry.
- 93% of active deacons are married; 4% are widowed; 2% never married.
- Nine in ten deacons are at least 50 years old.
- 81% of active deacons are non-Hispanic whites; 14% are Hispanic or Latino; 2% are African American or Asian.
- Eight in ten active deacons have a least a college degree; 8% have a graduate degree in a field related to religion or ministry.
- 37% of dioceses responding to the survey report that they have at least one deacon who is entrusted with full-time pastoral care of a parish (Canon 517.2) and is financially compensated for that ministry.

SOURCE: Diaconate Post-Ordination Survey 2007-2008, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University, March 2008.