



## Diaconal Continuing Education Self-Study Resources

There currently exists in the **Canons of the Church (Title III, Canon 7: Of The Life And Work Of Deacons, Section 5)** a requirement for ongoing continuing education for all clergy. This document seeks to address this requirement for the permanent diaconate, namely self-study resources.

The life and ministry of the permanent diaconate is primarily in the world, and this is also where most are employed. The balance of secular employment with ministry and parochial assignments in general leaves precious little time for continuing education.

Traditional classroom-based education or seminars may be possible on occasion, but this likely will not be the norm for the ongoing continuing education of the permanent diaconate. Self-study is critical and will almost certainly be the primary experience of continuing education.

Title II, Canon 6: Of The Ordination Of Deacons, Section 5 (f) states the five general areas of competency required for ordination as a Deacon in the Church. These canonical areas of competency are: (1) Academic studies including, The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church. (2) Diakonia and the diaconate. (3) Human awareness and understanding. (4) Spiritual development and discipline. (5) Practical training and experience.

This is a framework for canonical requirements for ongoing continuing education.

The following is a list of self-study resources organized within the five canonical areas. Please note, however, that Area (1) has been broken out into its three constituent parts: Holy Scripture, Theology, and Tradition making for a total of seven subsections within the self-study resources bibliography.

The material for Holy Scripture, Theology, Tradition, and Diakonia comes in part from the excellent bibliographies developed by the Board Of Examining Chaplains (BOEC) in support of the academic modules component of the new diaconal formation process.

The resources for Human Awareness & Understanding is primarily a composite of the bibliographies from past and present sessions of JustFaith. JustFaith JustFaith Ministries is a non-profit organization that forms, informs, and transforms people of faith by offering programs and resources that sustain them in their compassionate commitment to build a more just and peaceful world <http://justfaith.org/>

The material for Spiritual Development & Discipline comes from the bibliographies of several professional practitioners (lay & clergy) in the Diocese.

The resources for Practical Training & Diaconal Continuing Education –comes from two primary sources: 1) the bibliography – developed by the Commission On Ministry (COM) – for the homiletics component of the diaconal formation process, and 2) the bibliography for *The Deacon's Path* w *The Rev. Dcn. Susanne Watson Epting*. It is highly recommendation that deacons in the Diocese of CPA be members of the North American Association for the Diaconate (NAAD). NAAD has been a pioneer and continues on the leading

edge of thought in how best to facilitate Life Long Learning for the Diaconate. Additional information can be found at <http://www.diakonoi.org/>.