OFFICE OF VOCATIONS and OFFICE OF PERMANENT DEACONS

To assure the safety of all our children and vulnerable people in our diocese, all ministers and volunteers must go through a process of background checks and training. This is especially true of all our seminarians and permanent deacons.

No visiting deacon may minister in the Stockton Diocese, even for individual sacraments such as a baptism or a wedding, without first providing a current letter of good standing from his Bishop or Religious Superior.

All permanent deacons and seminarians who have an assignment in the diocese go through series of background checks, both national and international. They have to do a Live Scan (Department of Justice and FBI), a VIRTUS training, and a Sexual Harassment training. Also, deacons have to do a Psychological Testing after their second year of the six-year program, and for seminarians they do a Psychological Testing before entering the seminary and a follow-up just before becoming a Transitional Deacon. They are also provided with ongoing opportunities for training through an annual retreat and workshops to promote their human and spiritual and ministerial development.

The Office of Vocations and the Office of Permanent Deacons oversees all these processes of investigation and certification for seminarians and permanent deacons in our diocese.

Visit the Office of Vocations on our diocesan website:

https://stocktondiocese.org/vocations

Visit the Office of Permanent Deacons on our diocesan website:

https://stocktondiocese.org/permanent-diaconate-formation

Also, for more information, visit the Diocese of Stockton website’s Safe Environment link:

https://21788.sites.ecatholic.com/usccb-information