

7. Every institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life which has the right to ordain permanent deacons must guarantee the human, spiritual, theological and pastoral formation of its candidates by preparing a program which incorporates its own charism and spirituality. Every such program is to conform to this *National Directory*, especially with respect to its theological and pastoral formation. If desired, an institute or society may request to use the formation program in the diocese where a candidate is assigned.¹⁰

I. MINISTRY OF PERMANENT DEACONS

8. The deacon exercises the three *munera* proper to his ecclesiastical ministry which foster the Church's mission of service and communion. "Those who are constituted in the order of the episcopate or the presbyterate receive the mission and capacity to act in the person of Christ the Head, whereas deacons are empowered to serve the People of God in the ministries of the liturgy, the word and charity."¹¹

1. *Threefold Mission of Service*

9. While the unifying principle of the deacon's ministry is the service of charity, which shapes his service of the word and of the liturgy, the three duties are inextricably interrelated.

¹⁰ Cf. Congregation for Catholic Education, *Basic Norms*, n. 52.

¹¹ *Code of Canon Law*, c. 1009 §3, as amended by Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter issued *motu proprio Omnium in Mentem* (26 October 2009).