

Components of a call

Inner sense of call

- How does this person articulate their sense of call?
- Can they see themselves serving God in some other way?
- Are they able to explain why they sense a call to a particular order of ministry? What role does the sacramental/liturgical life of the church play in their own life and sense of call?
- Is there some stability and consistency in their discernment and spiritual life?
- How do they nurture their spiritual life?
- Is this person in touch enough spiritually to truly hear a call?

Affirmation by others (not just being liked)

- What does the person's report about their Congregational Discernment Committee experience say about their call?
- What does their Rector/Vicar say?
- Who are the most important relationships in their life? How do those people feel about this prospective call? How will they be impacted?
- What other references provide insight?
- Do people know the applicant well enough to truly hear and support a call?
- Can you see this person as your priest or deacon?

Leadership

- Can this person inspire others?
- Is the person "edgy" (especially if discerning a call to the diaconate)?
- Can this person articulate some sense of the unique leadership dynamics of the order to which they're discerning a call?
- Does this person have a demonstrable track record of successful leadership in their life?

Aptitude and fitness

- Medical fitness/wellness
- Mental fitness/wellness
- Academic fitness
- Job/education background
- Other background check: Are there concerns about character?
- Financial Health
- How do they deal with authority? Do they understand working under the authority and leadership of the Bishop and other clergy?
- How do they interact with others in small groups, large interview, social settings?
- Does this person know enough about the Church and its mission to truly hear a call?

Mission needs of the Church

- Can they see and articulate their call in mission terms, not just personal terms?
- Are they flexible and willing to be deployed as the Diocese needs?
- Are there family issues that limit their mobility?
- Do they describe their call in terms of work in the world more than in the Church or vice-versa?