Descriptions of Deacon and Priestly Functions:

A Deacon is a person with servant ministry—

The Catechism tell us

The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

In the Ordination service we hear—deacons are called to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely, to make Christ and his love known, by word and example; to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world; to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

Deacons are called, trained, formed, and ordained to a distinctive ministry in the church and the world. The mission of the deacon, as herald of the kingdom of God, is to lead in reaching out to the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the helpless. Deacons bring the world's needs into the Church and the Servant Church into the world; and they assist the bishop and priests in public worship and the administration of God's Word and Sacrament.

One of the things the Commission on Ministry has discovered and related to us—is deacons aren’t made—they are born. Being a deacon is who they are. They are the people who are always there, willing to help in any way. They are the people concerned about social justice, equality for all people, and the needs of all. They are the ones who come to us voicing these concerns and needs, asking us to help and persuading us to join them in Christ’s ministry of servanthood.
Priest

A priest, the Catechism tells us, is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

Priests are called to work as pastor, priest, and teacher, and with the bishop and fellow presbyters to take part in the councils of the Church.

A priest is to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion their lives as such; to love and serve the people, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor; to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism; and in the celebration the Eucharist

Priests are called, trained, formed, and ordained to a distinctive ministry on behalf of the community of faith. The mission of the priest, as pastor to the people of God, is a call to service, of sharing the Gospel and celebrating communal worship, to living in the Spirit as Christ bearer, and showing love and openness to the whole body of Christ’s people. A priest is a leader who embodies initiative and vision; is able to motivate others and to energize churches into dynamic and growing congregations; has the ability to deal positively with the institution, as well as with interpersonal conflicts.

Some traits to look for in people called to be priests:
- Good leadership skills, non-authoritarian, inviting others to participate and use their gifts,
- Good communication skills
- Demonstrates respect for boundaries
- Depersonalizes conflict, receives feedback gracefully
- Demonstrates reconciling skills in daily life
Diaconate
- Servant Leader of all
- Seeker of the marginalized
- Empowerer
- Interpreter
- Table Preparer
- Proclaimer of the Good News
- God’s hands, feet, & voice
- Instigator for justice & peace

Priesthood
- Sacramentalist
- Pastor
- Shepherd
- Gatherer
- Nurturer
- Teacher
- Preacher
- Healer
- Proclaimer of the Good News
- Servant Minister