

Report from Cuba and Costa Rica (Deacon Miguel Angel Ortiz Corrales)

There are 80 deacons in Cuba and two candidates will be ordained in the diocese of Camagüey next July.

10 of the dioceses have permanent deacons.

The work of the deacons is diverse:

- Baptismal ministry
- Heads of diocesan caritas
- Communication media ministry
- Diocesan family ministry
- Diocesan advisors
- Community animators and formatters
- Liturgical ministry
- Weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in parishes and communities
- Diocesan liturgy teams
- Support and service in the sanctuaries
- Giving retreats to different groups at different levels (vicarial, regional, diocesan, religious orders, etc.)
- Animating and training children and young people as altar servers at the diocesan level
- Prayer groups
- Directing Prayer and Life workshops
- Health and senior age pastoral
- Advisors in farmers' ministry
- Serving full-time in the cemetery chapels
- Funeral services
- Ministry of Catechesis and Formation
- Catechesis
- Diocesan Catechesis Commission
- Diocesan Catechumenate Commission
- Itinerant biblical workshops in the communities
- Adult Catechumenate
- Managers or professors in Diocesan Educational Facilities
- Coordinators of Evangelization Schools
- Prison Ministry
- Visits to the incarcerated and care for their families.
- Diocesan Advisors and Mission Pastoral
- Members of various Diocesan Commissions
- Continuous support to communities with or without a church and to villages (some of these deacons serve whole rural areas with up to 14 communities lacking a church)

- Liturgy of the Word periodically in parishes and communities
- Diocesan Justice and Peace Ministry
- Christian Unity/Ecumenical Ministry
- Diaconal Ministry
- Deacons and Candidates Formation Team
- Members of National Commissions
- PAS
- Executive Secretary of National Commissions
- Justice and Peace
- Deacons' Commission
- Diocesan Ministerial Coordinators

In their vast majority, the deacons' wives participate in their husbands' ministry.

Costa Rica:

Number of deacons: 31

Dioceses with deacons : 4

Ministries performed by deacons:

Pastoral of Culture

Educational Ministry,

University Chaplaincies

Family, youth, rural, social and communication media ministry

At present, 5 candidates are in formation