

The Orthodox Church in America  
6850 North Hempstead Turnpike  
Syosset, NY 11791

## **Statement of a Candidate for Ordination to the Holy Diaconate**

*I am of the Orthodox Christian Faith: as such, I am not in communion with the heterodox. I am not a Mason; nor am I a member of any subversive or secret organizations; I have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that could be a canonical impediment to my ordination. There are no legal impediments to my Ordination.*

*I am in good physical condition: I do not possess any incurable diseases or physical defects which would be impediments to my Ordination.*

*I am requesting Ordination for no reason other than to serve God and the Church according to the Holy Canons and Tradition established by the Holy Fathers. Hence, I further promise:*

- 1. to celebrate all rites and services according to the order of the Church and to be satisfied with the free-will offerings of my parishioners: to celebrate, on Sundays and Holy Days, the Divine Liturgy and other services: to observe the fasts:*
- 2. to preach the Word of God to those entrusted to my care and to all who would hear it, and to take all measures to teach God's People, regardless of age, by initiating classes, retreats. and other educational ministries;*
- 3. to keep a decorous home, as behooves one who serves the Altar;*
- 4. to conduct myself properly in the Sanctuary and to serve as an example to others; to be concerned with the beauty of the Lord's House:*
- 5. to do nothing to bring discredit to my office:*
- 6. to dress in accordance with my calling;*
- 7. to do nothing without the will of the bishop: to adhere always to all instructions from the diocesan authority and other organs of the Church Administration;*

8. *to be guided by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox, Catholic and Apostolic Church and the Holy Fathers;*

9. *to follow all Spiritual and Ecclesiastical authorities understanding that Ecclesiastical Canon Law takes precedence over any civil law, and all Canonical and Ecclesiastical authority must be exhausted before any dispute is brought before civil courts or procedures; and*

10. *to maintain my Certificate of Ordination and make available if requested.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Reference of Father Confessor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Father Confessor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Father Confessor

**Statement of Ordaining Hierarchy**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_

have ordained \_\_\_\_\_ to the Diaconate on

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. He is

assigned/attached to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Ordaining Hierarchy

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Ordaining Hierarchy

The Orthodox Church in America  
6850 North Hempstead Turnpike  
Syosset, NY 11791

## Oath of Allegiance to the Holy Diaconate

*I, the undersigned, presently called to the Order of the Holy Diaconate, bow down to Almighty God as witnessed in His Holy Gospels and do make this solemn vow:*

*I promise, in accordance with the Will of God, to fulfill all Church observances, services, rituals and prayers as prescribed by the Orthodox Christian Tradition;*

*I will recite the prescribed secret prayers diligently before offering the Holy Eucharist, and I vow not to introduce any changes or innovations to the customary Church ceremonial worship services;*

*I promise to uphold the teachings of truth and other pastoral instructions according to the teachings of the Holy Orthodox, Catholic and Apostolic Church and the Holy Fathers; to endeavor with my mind, heart and soul to protect the souls of the faithful entrusted to my care, against every heresy and schism, and to labor with every means available to return to the True Flock of Christ those who may have strayed from His path;*

*I vow to lead an honorable and sober life, putting aside all that is vain, worldly and vulgar; to set a good example, in humility and meekness, in order to guide others to good and noble things;*

*In all that I do, I will seek not my own vain honor and interests, but the Glory of God, the welfare of God's Holy Church, and the salvation of my neighbor;*

*As a cleric of the Orthodox Church in America, I will obey all the decisions of the Higher Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Leadership in all matters pertaining to my spiritual and administrative responsibilities;*

*I will with diligence and with the fear of God care for the good estate and development of the Orthodox Church in America;*

*I will serve under the canonical jurisdiction of the ruling bishop of a diocese of the Orthodox Church in America and I will not seek acceptance into another diocese or church without the written blessing of my bishop. In addition, I vow not to attempt to leave this canonical jurisdiction without a Letter of Release and the appropriate canonical release from the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America;*

*In cases of disputes between me and the spiritual and ecclesiastical authority of the diocese and the Orthodox Church in America , I promise to exhaust all internal procedures of the diocese and the Orthodox Church in America before bringing the dispute to the civil courts or tribunals in my jurisdiction;*

*I also recognize and understand that, with respect to my spiritual and administrative responsibilities within the diocese and the Orthodox Church in America, Ecclesiastical Canon Law takes precedence over any civil law and I understand that, pursuant to Canon Law, I may be subject to Canonical disciplinary measures.*

*I am assured in my heart that, by the prayers of the All-Pure Theotokos and the saints, the Lord God will help me with His blessings and mercy.*

*In affirmation of my solemn vow, I kiss the Word and Cross of my Savior, Jesus Christ Amen*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Father Confessor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date