

2. **Clergy Mentor (Clergy Mentor is assigned by the local Metropolitan)**

- Candidates work under the leadership of local mentors who contract to serve as guides and administrators. They are not teachers in the traditional sense of individuals who are expected to impart information about a particular theological discipline. The mentor is the person through whom the local cluster communicates with their respective Metropolitan and the Holy Cross program coordinator. While the mentor works as an enabler rather than informer, he is also responsible for training future deacons how they will conduct their liturgical responsibilities. The primary role of the local mentor is to:



Candidate with assigned Mentor

- Act as cluster administrative liaison (return Annual Report Forms 1 &2)
- Assist students to interpret and process any ambiguities with their understanding of the Orthodox Christian tradition
- Conduct liturgical skill-training seminars.
- Expose candidates to other diaconal ministries

Clergy Mentor, candidate and Holy Cross Communication

- Upon completion of the first summer session the candidate should discuss the sessions with the Clergy Mentor, and if possible with their Metropolitan. The Clergy Mentoring portion of the program shall begin as soon as a mentor has been assigned by the Metropolitan. The Diaconate Program Clergy Mentor Guidelines are in place to give a starting point for a Clergy Mentor and Candidate to open into honest dialog and communication.
- Within the Clergy Mentor guidelines there are two Clergy Mentor Annual Report Forms. These forms are designed to create a means for the Clergy Mentor to understand their critical role in the program and to offer a means to communicate how the candidate is growing and what they need to work on prior to being evaluated for ordination after completing the Diaconate Program. These forms are to be completed, signed and sent in to the Metropolis and Holy Cross program coordinator prior to each of the second and third summer sessions (total of two evaluations are required; preferably sent in one month prior to the summer session).
- The overall goal of the Clergy Mentoring portion is to build a healthy Clergy Mentor relationship with the candidate that is honest, positive and productive. Open and honest communication between the Metropolitan, Clergy Mentor, Candidate and Holy Cross program coordinator is critical to keeping the program true to its goal. The goal is to support and teach individuals who hear God's call to serve the Greek Orthodox Church as a humble Deacon.