



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of  
New York & New England  
Church of Archangel Michael & St. Mena  
4095 Amboy Road, S.I., NY 10308  
[www.MichaelMenaSI.com](http://www.MichaelMenaSI.com)**



## **Requirements to ordinate a SUB DEACON (EPODIAKON)**



**Age:** Completed 24 Yrs. of age. From the Age of 14 to 15 he will undergo

**Achievements:** Must have completed a college bachelor's degree and have a successful work position. Must be a stable and well balanced individual capable of working and taking a leadership role in groups as well as completing responsibilities effectively. Must be proficient in standard annual and seasonal congregational responses and altar responses in addition to praise hymnology.

**Behavior:** In addition to the requirements of a Reader, he must possess leadership skills and wise decision making and good communication and follow-up skills. He should take an active interest in a development and well-being of his fellow brothers in the lesser deaconate ranks. Maintains appropriate good behavior and conduct, becoming of an official servant of the church. Shows reverence and respect at church during services and other functions. His life and service responsibilities are reflected in his secular life, not just his spiritual. Does not partake of actions in his secular life that are contradictory to his spiritual life or church position.

**Spirituality:** In addition to the requirements of a Reader, he must have an active role in the leadership and organization of the church and spiritual growth of church youth. He must be seen as a mentor and be looked up to by the younger youth as well as respected by the older congregants.

**Father of Confession:** His father of confession and parish priest must attest and submit to the diocesan bishop a written letter nominating him for the rank of sub deacon. They shall explain to him the respect and obligation required of him for such a rank and the impact his actions have on the younger church youth and that reflect of the church as a whole.

**Knowledge of Church Tradition:** In addition to the requirements of a Reader, he must be able explain with ease Biblical teachings and church doctrine using said resources. Must have a good amount of knowledge of modern day orthodox writings as well as comparative philosophies and heretical teachings. Must also be familiar with current social issues and church stances on controversial topics.

**Service:** In addition to the requirements of a Reader, Must maintain regular church service attendance and participate in church event and retreat preparation and organization. Each sub deacon will be responsible as leader and mentor for a group of readers and cantors. They will follow-up with regards to the achievements and spiritual development of the members in their group and will organize the service schedule and preparation required of each member in the group. The sub deacon will be responsible for making sure the members in his group attend church services regularly and will follow-up and ask about them when they do not attend. The sub deacon is responsible for visiting and spending time with the members and acting as an "Older Brother" and establishing a special bond of love, acting as a support resource in each member's life.

