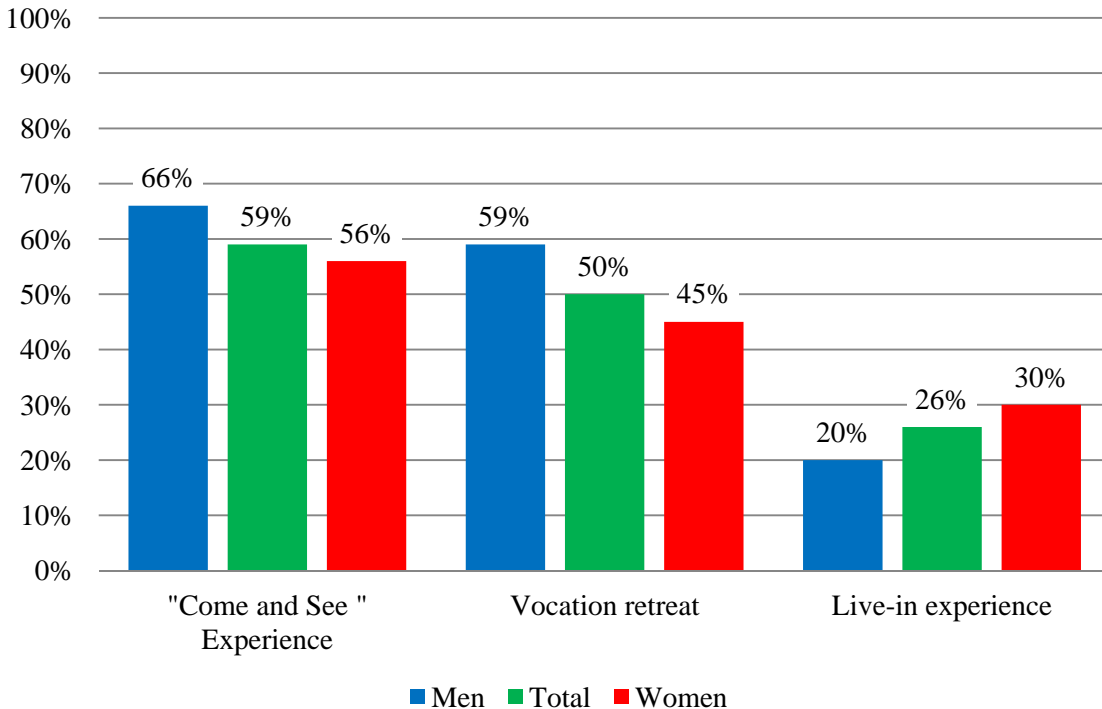


What kind of vocation programs did new members take part in?

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate contacted 190 individuals who professed final vows in religious institutes of men and women in 2014. One hundred eighteen responded to the survey which inquired about the vocation or discernment programs they attended before entering their religious institute. The results are shown below:

Vocation/Discernment Programs and Experiences

Percentage checking each response



Around nine in ten of those who responded said they attended at least one of these programs/experiences. Most popular for both men and women religious, although more popular among men, is the “Come and See” experience, followed closely by a vocation retreat. Around half as many did a live-in experience than the other two programs; this experience was more popular among women. These programs serve two purposes: they educate people about religious communities and they expose them to priests, religious brothers, sisters, and nuns. Other CARA research has shown these two factors are helpful to people as they discern their vocation.

Data from: CARA “New Sisters and Brothers Professing Perpetual Vows in Religious Life: The Profession Class of 2014,” January 2015.

To view the full CARA article go to: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/upload/Profession-Class-2014-report-FINAL.PDF