



Imagine looking 10 years ahead, what are your hopes for the future of religious life? The **2020 Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life** captured a snapshot of religious life today and provided a glimpse into the next decade. With over 1,500 newer entrants* commenting, it is clear that the future of religious life is filled with abundant hope. Here's a glimpse of some of their hopes.

I hope we . . .

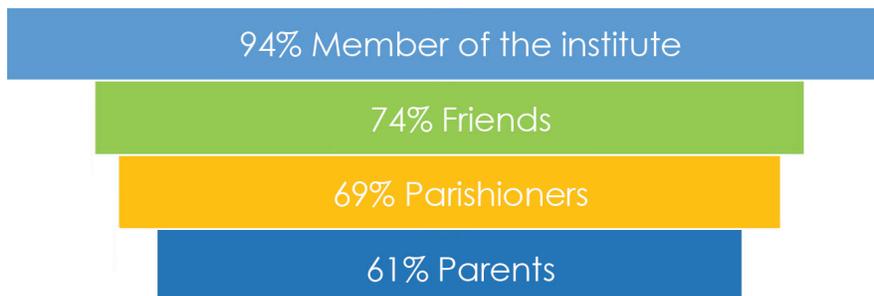
- dream bigger and open new ways of doing things.
- become more intentional about living simply.
- recognize that our presence and our community life is as important as ministry.
- embrace cultural diversity and not only talk about it.
- keep centered on Jesus and willing to go wherever the Spirit leads.
- renew the fidelity to our call, to become who we claim to be!
- focus on the quality of ministry and not quantity of members.
- become a real centralized source of Catholic culture for the local area.

Top three ways to help a person discern their call to religious life

- 95%** MEETING WITH A MEMBER(S) OF THE INSTITUTE 
- 86%** COMMUNAL PRAYER AND MEALS WITH A MEMBER(S) OF THE INSTITUTE 
- 84%** DISCERNMENT WITH A VOCATION DIRECTOR 

- concern ourselves less with diminishment and more on what we can do today.
- find new expressions of our charism to meet the needs of our culture.
- focus on abundance instead of scarcity through collaboration.
- effectively discern the signs of the times especially by immersing ourselves along the margins of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- continue to respond to the needs of God's people.
- find new, creative ways to live the Gospel!

Encouragement for religious life comes from



* Entering from 2003-2018

Top five influences on the decision to enter their religious institutes



I hope that . . .

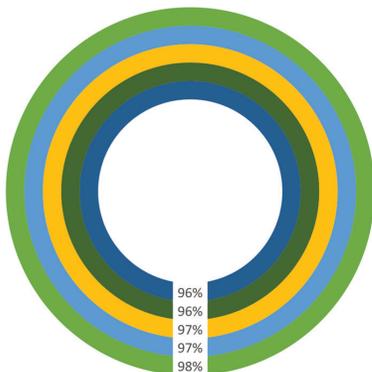
- ... our community takes bolder risks to address our changing demographics, and, in the process, we apply our charism to the needs of the Church.
- ... my institute becomes more radically welcoming to others and aligning ourselves more with the poor and marginalized.
- ... we serve as a sign of hope and voice against injustice.
- ... my institute will learn that the Gospel is lived and witnessed to in the streets, not in a building.
- ... our community will continue its renewal and commitment to living the vows more deeply.

Prayer for Abundant Hope

For all inquirers responding to God's invitation to holiness,
 For all discerners and vocation ministers,
 For all those in initial formation and formators,
 For all those renewing vows and celebrating jubilees,
 For all associates and volunteers in mission,
 Grant to us a glimpse of what is possible.
 We thank you, God, for the gift of unwavering hope and for perseverance in our vocation. AMEN.

Five most important aspects of community life

- 98% Praying with other members
- 97% Living with other members
- 97% Sharing meals with other members
- 96% Ongoing formation/education
- 96% Celebrating holidays/feasts together



I hope to see . . .

- ... new outbreak of missionary drive.
- ... new members joining our congregation.
- ... more understanding between generations within our community.
- ... more creative hope by thinking outside the box of "what has been" to "what could be."
- ... a promising future!

Spark a conversation about religious life. Use the Abundant Hope video series of newer entrants and senior professed members talking about their experiences of intergenerational and intercultural vowed communal life. The videos can be accessed through the NRVC YouTube Channel's [AbundantHopeplaylist:tinyurl.com/58t6zf37](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL58t6zf37).



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Learn more at [NRVC.net](https://www.nrvc.net) about vocations to religious life and the opportunities for supporting the NRVC's mission, including membership, sponsorship, subscriptions, resources, and events.

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