



Share these fun facts as elevator signs, dining-room-table tents, in newsletters, faith-formation classes, school and bulletin announcements, social-media posts, card inserts, and on meeting agendas to increase awareness of vocations to religious life.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 More than 700 religious institutes and societies of apostolic life are in the U.S.? How many can you name?

2 Eighty-four percent of religious institutes have had at least one serious inquiry since 2003. Invite someone to consider a religious vocation today.

3 Eighty-eight percent of religious institutes accept new members. Invite a discerner to a meal with your community.



4 Eighty-nine percent of religious institutes are promoting vocations to religious life. Religious life continues to be vital and vibrant vocation option.

5 There are over 500 novices in the United States. Send a note of encouragement to a novice this week.

6 Over 500 candidates/postulants are in initial formation in the United States. Encourage them in their vocation discernment with a short note.

7 The majority of religious institute have at least one person in initial formation. Twenty-six percent of religious institutes have one-two people in initial formation.

8 Ten percent of religious institutes have at least 10 people in initial formation. Having more than two is more common in institutes of men than in institutes of women.

9 Thirty-four percent of religious institutes have more than three people in initial formation. Having more than three is more common in institutes of men than in institutes of women.

10 Thirteen percent of perpetually professed sisters, brothers, and priests are younger than 60 years of age, and 13% are 90 or older. All vocations are valuable.

11 Women religious outnumber men religious by more than three to one. (45,100 women religious; 15,549 men religious). Help others understand the diversity of vocations in the church.

12 Nearly three fourths of those in initial formation are Millennials (born from 1982-1996). Invite a Millennial to meet a sister, brother, or priest that you know.



13 Six percent of those in initial formation are part of Generation Z (born after 1996). Visit a Confirmation class to talk about vocations to religious life.

14 Nearly half (48%) of those in initial formation were born in 1990 or later. They are under the age of 30. Think of the people you know under 30 and pray for them today.

15 Ethnic diversity among perpetually professed sisters, brothers, and priests continues to increase. Current percentages: Mixed Races/Ethnicities 1%, African American/Black/African 6%, Hispanic/Latino(a) 10%, Asian/Pacific Islander 13%, Caucasian/white/Anglo 70%.



16 Thirty percent of newer entrants in religious life are African American/Black/African, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino(a), and Mixed Races/Ethnicities. Share your family story with others today.

17 Nearly all (95%) of perpetually professed sisters, brothers, and priests earned at least a college degree, and 70% have a master's degree or more. Arrange to attend Mass at a college campus to pray with college students.



18 The majority (67%) of perpetually professed sisters, brothers, and priests in the U.S. live in the Northeast and Midwest. Extend your reach to all those discerning through your online presence.

19 Seventy-seven percent of religious institutes have a vocation director or vocation team. Send vocation directors a note of encouragement.

20 Men's religious institutes (45%) are more likely to have a full-time vocation director than women's religious institutes (28%). Offer your support to a vocation director today.

21 Ninety-seven percent of religious institutes have a vocation director who is a perpetually professed sister, brother, or priest. Offer to give a talk about vocations at your parish.

22 On average, a vocation director has served in vocation ministry for seven years. Thank them for their service.



23 Vocation teams are made up of perpetually professed, leadership, temporary professed, associates, and other laypeople, such as young adults or parents.

24 Men's religious institutes more than women's include a layperson on a vocation team. Invite others to help promote your religious institute.

25 Seventy-two percent of vocation directors/teams work with the communications director of the religious institute. Promote vocations on your social media sites.

26 Forty-seven percent of vocation directors/team have clerical office support. Pray for administrative assistants and secretaries today.

27 More than half (56%) of vocation directors meet with their leadership team at least quarterly. Pray for all those in Church leadership today.



28 Seventy-four percent of newer members participated in Come & Sees. Institutes of men are more likely than women's to sponsor Come & Sees, live-in experiences, and discernment retreats.

29 Institutes of men are more likely than women's institutes to sponsor volunteer immersion experiences for discerners, online discernment groups, and discernment houses. Glean ideas from others in vocation ministry.

30 Sixty-six percent of newer entrants were invited to consider religious life. Invite someone today to learn more about your religious institute.

31 Fifty-nine percent of newer entrants participated in discernment retreats prior to entrance. Religious institutes are less likely now than they were in 2009 to sponsor vocation discernment retreats.

32 More than half (54%) of novices participate in an Intercommunity novitiate with novices from other religious institutes or societies of apostolic life.

33 Thirty-seven percent of those in initial formation participated in an international formation experience in Italy, Mexico, the Philippines, France, Kenya, Canada, Vietnam, Peru, among others.

34 New York, Missouri, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio have intercommunity novitiate programs. Pray for all novices this week.

35 Sixty-two percent of postulants/candidates interact with other postulants/candidates from other religious institutes and societies of apostolic life.

36 Ninety-nine percent of major superiors rate communal prayer and celebrating holidays/feast days together as important for healthy, holy community life.

37 Ninety-five percent of major superiors rate living with other members, sharing meals, and socializing with community members as important for healthy and holy community life.

38 Ninety-five percent of major superiors rate ongoing formation and lifelong education as important for healthy and holy community life.

39 More than half of major superiors rate valuing cultural diversity beyond tolerance and ministering wherever the need is greatest as "very important" for healthy and holy community life.

40 Personal prayer, daily Eucharist, and Liturgy of the Hours characterize the regular prayer life of sisters, brothers, and priests.



41 Sixty-seven percent of sisters, brothers, and priests pray using *Lectio Divina*/spiritual reading, and reflection as part of their regular prayer life.

42 Sixty-seven percent of women's religious institutes include faith sharing as part of their regular prayer life. Invite a young adult to prayer.

43 Thirty-one percent of women's religious institutes include journal writing, poetry, and prayer blogs as part of their regular prayer life. What writers inspire your prayer?

44 Thirty-six percent of women's religious institutes include common meditation/centering prayer as part of their regular prayer life.

45 Women's religious institutes are more likely than men's to pray with an online community. Learn more about online prayer communities.

46 Women's religious institutes are more likely than men's to pray with ecumenical and interfaith prayer experiences. Consider expanding your prayer repertoire



47 Twenty-four percent of newer entrants were born in 68 countries other than the U.S. Pray for all in initial formation throughout the world.

48 Seventy-six percent of newer entrants report English as their first language, the other 24% speak a total of 59 different languages.

49 Thirty percent of newer entrants speak two languages fluently, and 12% speak three or more languages fluently. Try learning to pray one prayer in another language.

50 Thirty-three percent of newer entrants indicate that at least one of their parents was born outside the United States. Pray for all parents this week.

Source: 2020 NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life



NRVC offers many opportunities for supporting our mission including membership, sponsorship, subscriptions, and participation in our events. Learn more at NRVC.net.

© NRVC, 2020. National Religious Vocation Conference, 5401 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615, 773-363-5454.