

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

*The Class of 2013:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*

**A Report to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**



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Executive Summary

This report presents findings from a national survey of ordinands to the priesthood in 2013. To obtain the names and contact information for these ordinands, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) contacted all theologates and houses of formation in fall 2012 and requested each site to provide names and contact information for every seminarian who was scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2013. CARA also notified the vocation director at all dioceses and archdioceses in the United States about the project and asked for their support in encouraging their potential ordinands to complete the survey. CARA then contacted the ordinands by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete a brief online survey. At the same time, CARA also e-mailed or faxed a similar request to the seminary rector or president at all theologates in its Catholic ministry formation database as well as all major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to contact their ordinands for CARA and invite them to participate in the online survey.

After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 366 ordinands responded to the survey by March 19, 2013 (two others were being ordained for a diocese outside of the United States and were removed). This represents a response rate of approximately 74 percent of the 497 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates, houses of formation, arch/dioceses, and religious institutes. These 366 ordinands include 279 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood, from 119 different dioceses and archdioceses, and 87 ordinands to the religious priesthood.

Major Findings

- The average age of ordinands for the Class of 2013 is 35.5. The median age (midpoint of the distribution) is 32. Three-quarters of responding ordinands are between 23 and 39. This distribution is slightly older than in 2012, but follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties.
- On average, diocesan ordinands lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 16 years before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of nine years before they entered the seminary.

Background and Country of Origin

- Two-thirds of responding ordinands (67 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white. Compared to the adult Catholic population of the United States, ordinands are more likely to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background (10 percent of responding ordinands), but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (15 percent of responding ordinands). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are *less* likely to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white.
- Three in ten ordinands (31 percent) were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Mexico, Vietnam, Colombia, Poland, the Philippines, and Nigeria. On average, responding ordinands who were born in another country have lived in the United States for 14 years. Between 20 and 30 percent of ordinands to diocesan priesthood for each of the last ten years were born outside of the United States.
- Most ordinands have been Catholic since birth, although 9 percent became Catholic later in life. Eight in ten report that both of their parents are Catholic and a third (34 percent) have a relative who is a priest or a religious.
- Almost all ordinands in the Class of 2013 (97 percent) have at least one sibling. Around half (52 percent) report having more than two siblings, while one in five (20 percent) have five or more siblings. Ordinands are most likely to be the oldest in their family (40 percent).

Education, Ministry, and Work Experience

- Before entering the seminary, six in ten ordinands completed college (63 percent). Almost one quarter (23 percent) entered the seminary with a graduate degree. Among those who completed college before entering the seminary, five in ten (46 percent) entered the seminary at the pre-theology level and 17 percent entered at the theology level. One in three (29 percent) report entering the seminary while in college.
- The most common fields of study for ordinands before entering the seminary are theology or philosophy (23 percent), business (17 percent), and the liberal arts (16 percent).

- About four in ten responding ordinands (42 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, which is a rate equal to that for all Catholic adults in the United States. In addition, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (44 percent, compared to 7 percent among U.S. Catholic adults).
- Just over a quarter (26 percent) carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, averaging a little over \$20,000 in educational debt at entrance to the seminary.
- More than six in ten ordinands (62 percent) report some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary, most often in education or accounting, finance, or insurance. Four percent of responding ordinands report having served in the U.S. Armed Forces. About one in six ordinands (13 percent) report that one or both parents had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Ordinands of the Class of 2013 have been active in parish ministries, with two-thirds (67 percent) indicating they served as an altar server and about half (47 percent) participating in a parish youth group. One-fifth (20 percent) participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary.
- Nearly seven in ten ordinands report regularly praying the Rosary (68 percent) and participating in Eucharistic Adoration (62 percent) before entering the seminary.

Vocational Discernment

- On average, responding ordinands report that they were nearly 17 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. Two in three (67 percent) say they were encouraged to consider a vocation to the priesthood by a parish priest. Other frequent encouragers include friends (46 percent), parishioners (38 percent), and mothers (34 percent).
- Almost half of responding ordinands (48 percent) indicated that they were *discouraged* from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, the person who discouraged them was a friend or classmate or a family member other than their parent.

Introduction

In December 2005, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation (now the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of ordinands to the priesthood. The survey was initially developed by the Secretariat in 1998 and has been administered online since 2005. CARA assumed responsibility for the project in 2006, using the online survey developed by the Secretariat. CARA worked with the Secretariat to upgrade the online survey and to incorporate it into the data collection process for CARA's annual survey of priestly formation programs. This report presents results of the survey of ordinands of the Class of 2013.

To obtain the names and contact information for these ordinands, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) contacted all theologates and houses of formation in fall 2012 and requested each site to provide names and contact information for every seminarian who was scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2013. CARA also notified the vocation director at all dioceses and archdioceses in the United States about the project and asked for their support in encouraging their potential ordinands to complete the survey. CARA then contacted the ordinands by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete a brief online survey. At the same time, CARA also e-mailed or faxed a similar request to the seminary rector or president at all theologates in its Catholic ministry formation database as well as all major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to contact their ordinands for CARA and invite them to participate in the online survey.

After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 366 ordinands responded to the survey by March 19, 2013. This represents a response rate of approximately 74 percent of the 497 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates, houses of formation, arch/dioceses, and religious institutes. These 366 ordinands include 279 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood, from 119 different dioceses and archdioceses, and 87 ordinands to the religious priesthood.

The questionnaire asked ordinands about their demographic and religious background, education, previous ministry and work experience, encouragement and discouragement to consider the priesthood, and experience with vocation programs. This report presents analyses of each question from all ordinands combined as well as separately for diocesan and religious ordinands. The report also contains trend data on selected items since 1999, the first year for which comparable data on both diocesan and religious ordinands are available.

Ordination to Diocesan or Religious Priesthood

Responding ordinands represent 119 dioceses and eparchies and at least 30 distinct religious congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

The largest number of responses from diocesan ordinands was from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis with 10 respondents. Eight of the responding diocesan ordinands are from the Archdiocese of Newark and eight are from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The largest numbers of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood were from the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) with 16 respondents. Ten of the responding ordinands are Benedictines and nine are from the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans).¹

On average, responding diocesan ordinands report they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for more than 16 years before they entered the seminary.

How long did you live in this diocese or eparchy before entering the seminary?

	Years
Mean	16.3
Median	18
Range	0-60

Almost one in six diocesan ordinands (15 percent) report that they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained less than a year before they entered the seminary.

¹ These numbers refer only to ordinands who responded to the survey and do not necessarily mean that these dioceses or religious institutes will ordain the largest number of priests in 2013.

On average, ordinands from religious institutes report that they knew the members of their religious institute almost nine years before they entered the seminary.

<i>How long did you know the members of this religious institute before entering the seminary?</i>	
	Years
Mean	8.8
Median	5
Range	0-56

One in eight ordinands from religious institutes (8 percent) report that they knew the members of their religious institute only a year or less before they entered the seminary.

Age of Ordinands

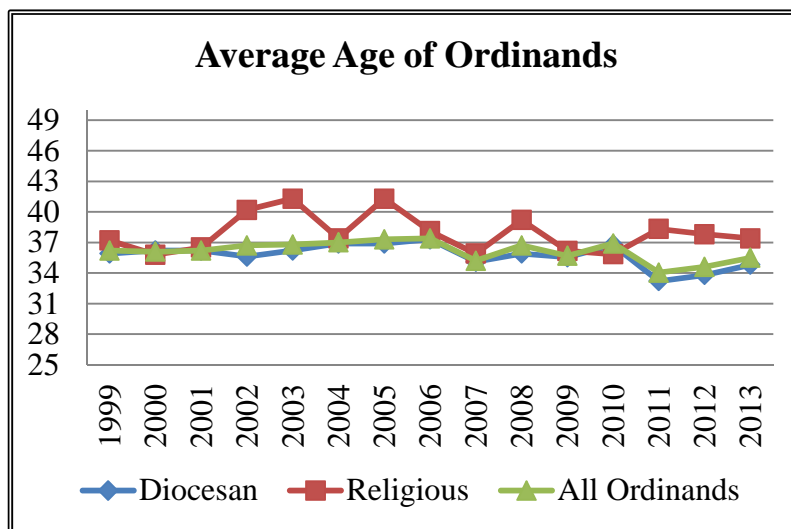
The average age of responding ordinands of the Class of 2013 is 35.5. Three quarters (75 percent) are between 23 and 39.

Age of Ordinands			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each age category			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Less than 25	<1%	<1%	0%
Age 25-29	32	38	13
Age 30-34	30	27	38
Age 35-39	13	11	19
Age 40-44	9	9	9
Age 45-49	5	4	9
Age 50-54	5	3	8
Age 55-59	3	4	3
Age 60 and older	3	4	1
Average age	35.5	34.8	37.4
Median age	32	32	34
Range in years	23-69	23-69	26-66

The youngest responding ordinand of the Class of 2013 is 23 and the oldest is 69 years of age. Nine respondents are being ordained to the priesthood after age 60.

Diocesan ordinands are younger than religious ordinands in the Class of 2013. The median age of diocesan ordinands is 32, which means that half of the diocesan ordinands responding to the survey this year are 32 years old or younger. By contrast, the median age of religious ordinands is 34.

Ordinands of the Class of 2013 average 35.5 years of age, about the same as the average age of 36.2 years among ordinands of the Class of 1999, the earliest year for which we have trend data. On average, ordinands from religious institutes are somewhat older than diocesan ordinands.²



The Class of 2013 follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties.

² Because the total number of religious ordinands is relatively small each year, the line representing the average age of religious ordinands varies widely across years.

Race and Ethnic Background

Two thirds of responding ordinands (67 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian, European American, or white.

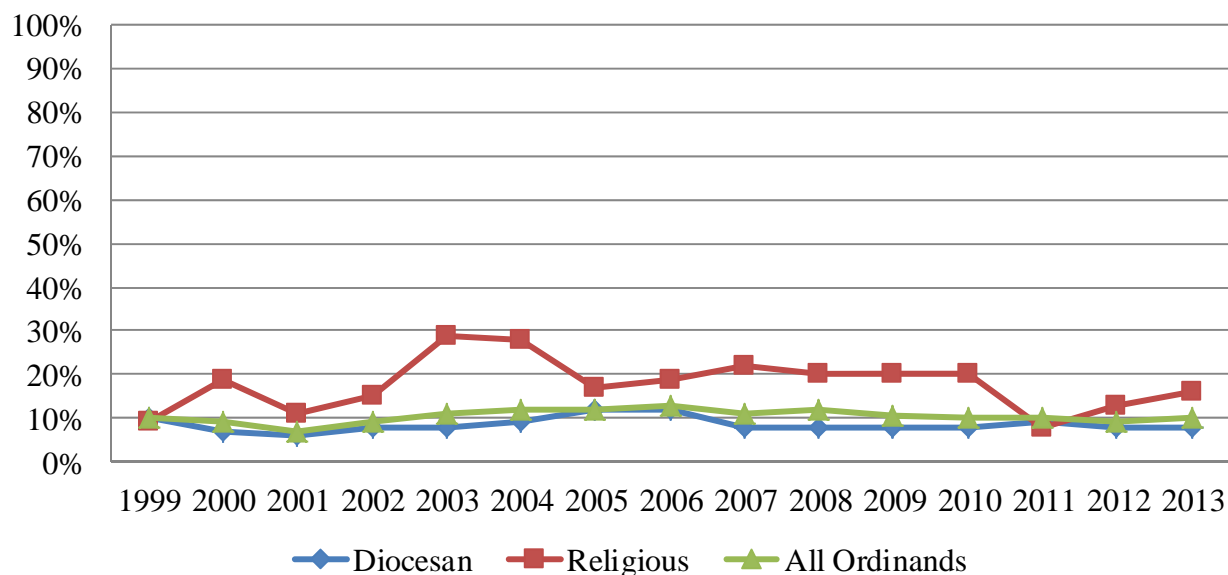
Race and Ethnic Background of Ordinands and Adult Catholics

	All	Diocesan	Religious	Adult Catholics Nationally
Caucasian/European American/white	67%	68%	62%	58%
Hispanic/Latino	15	17	11	34
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	10	8	16	4
African/African American/black	5	4	10	3
Native American	1	1	0	1
Other	2	2	2	----*

*Data unavailable.

Compared to data from a recent CARA telephone poll, Caucasian/European American/white ordinands are over-represented among responding ordinands, relative to their proportion of the U.S. adult Catholic population, while Hispanics/Latinos are somewhat under-represented. Caucasian/European American/white constitute 58 percent of U.S. Catholics overall but are 67 percent of responding ordinands. By contrast, Hispanics/Latinos constitute approximately 34 percent of U.S. adult Catholics but only 15 percent of responding ordinands.

Percentage Asian/Pacific Islander Ordinands



Country of Birth and Age at Entry to United States

Seven in ten responding ordinands (69 percent) were born in the United States.

Country of Birth of Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
United States	69%	69%	66%
Mexico	5	6	4
Vietnam	3	2	5
Colombia	3	4	0
Poland	2	3	0
Philippines	2	2	2
Nigeria	2	1	5
Germany	1	1	2
Cuba	1	1	1
El Salvador	1	1	1
India	1	1	0
Lebanon	1	1	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	0	4
Canada	1	0	2
Dominican Republic	1	0	1
Haiti	1	0	1
Other countries	5	8	6

Ordinands from religious institutes are slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to have been born outside the United States. About seven in ten diocesan ordinands (69 percent) were born in the United States, compared to two-thirds of ordinands from religious institutes (66 percent).

Mexico is the most frequently mentioned country of birth among responding ordinands who were born outside the United States. The responding ordinands identified a total of 35 different countries of origin.

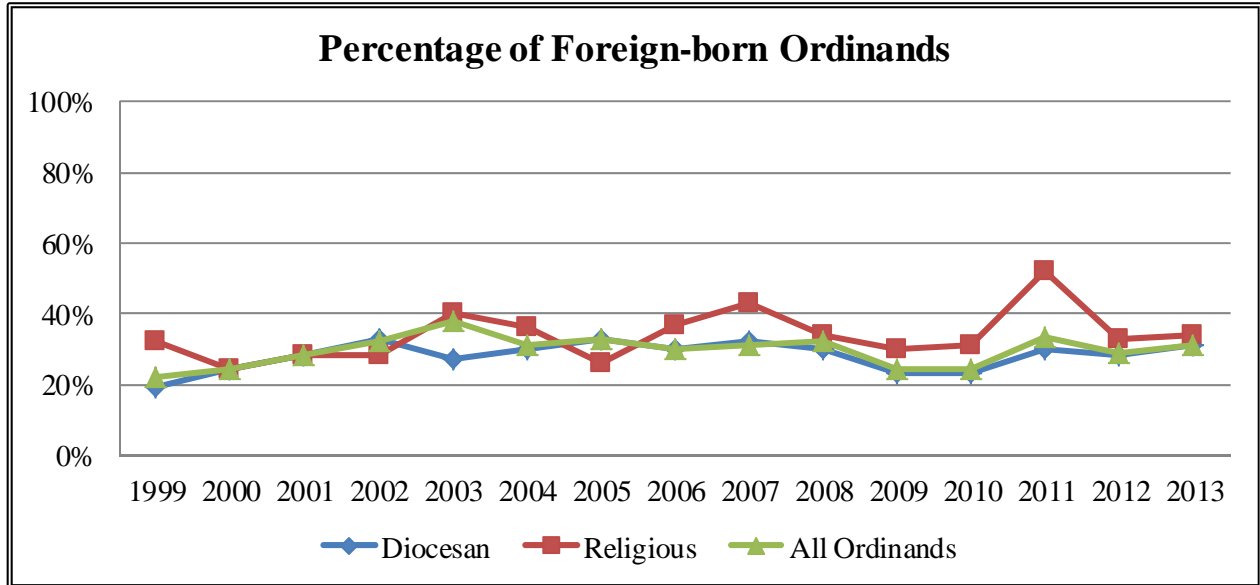
On average, responding ordinands who were born outside the United States have lived in the United States for 14 years. Half first came to live in the United States in 2004 or earlier.

Year of Entry to the U.S. of Foreign-born Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Mean	1999	2001	1995
Median	2004	2005	1996
Range	1958-2011	1958-2011	1959-2010

On average, responding foreign-born ordinands came to live in the United States at age 23. Religious ordinands were, on average, slightly younger than diocesan ordinands when they came to live in the United States.

Age at Entry to the United States of Foreign-born Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Mean	22.7	23.3	21.1
Median	24	22	25
Range	0-41	0-41	0-37

The percentage of ordinands who are foreign-born increased from 22 percent in 1999 to 38 percent in 2003, but has declined since that point and is now at 31 percent in 2013.



While the percentage of foreign-born ordinands from religious institutes has fluctuated somewhat since 1999 due to the relatively smaller number of religious ordinands, the diocesan percentage has remained relatively steady at approximately 20 to 30 percent of all diocesan ordinands.

Catholic Background

Nine in ten responding ordinands (91 percent) have been Catholic since birth. Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of their conversion was about 24.

Catholic Background			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Catholic since birth	91%	91%	92%
Became Catholic later	9	9	8
Average age at conversion	24.3	23.4	27.6

Most ordinands who converted from another denomination or faith tradition are from a Protestant tradition (Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist). One ordinand was formerly Sufi. Two ordinands converted from Mormonism. Two responding ordinands were raised without a faith tradition.

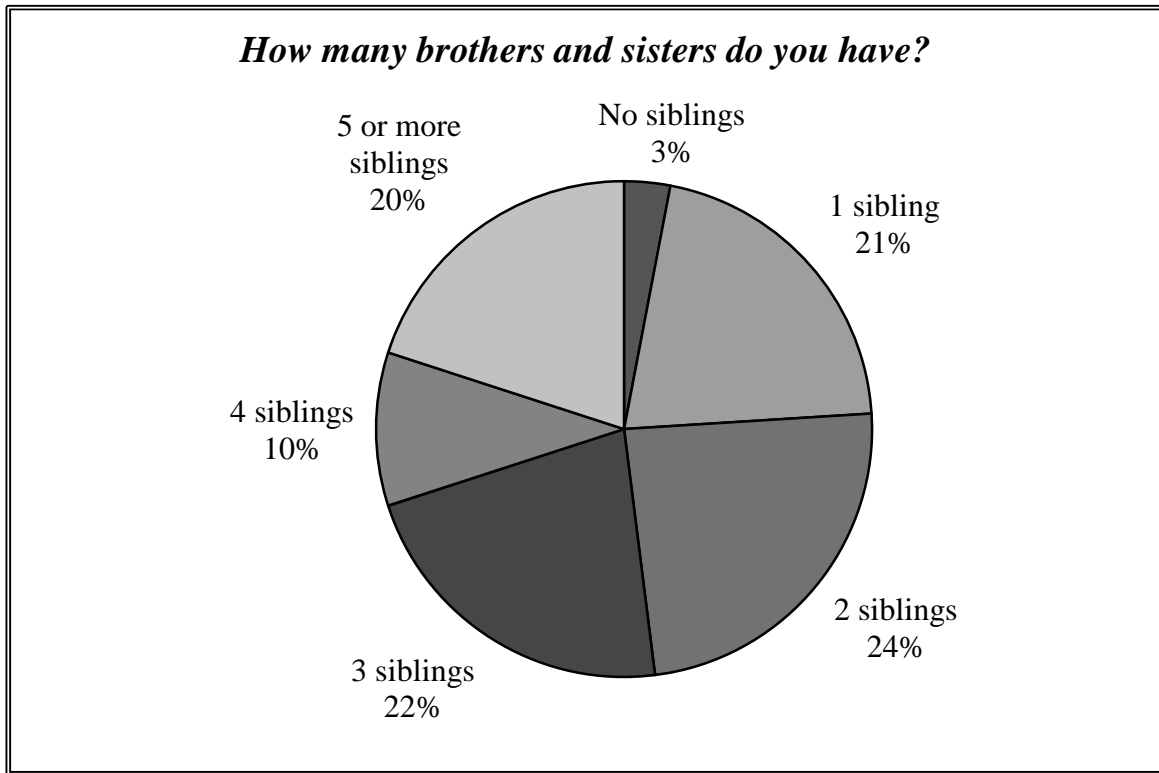
Nearly all ordinands report that when they were children they had at least one parent who was Catholic; eight in ten (81 percent) report that both parents were Catholic.

<i>What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child?</i>			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Both parents Catholic	81%	80%	82%
Mother Catholic, father not	6	7	5
Father Catholic, mother not	4	3	5
Neither parent was Catholic	9	10	8

In addition to the predominantly Catholic background of their parents, many ordinands also report that they have a relative who is a priest or a religious. In the Class of 2013, 34 percent of responding ordinands report that they have a relative who is a priest or a religious (not shown in the table above). Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to report this (40 percent compared to 32 percent).

Siblings

Almost all ordinands in the Class of 2013 (97 percent) have at least one sibling. Around half (52 percent) report having more than two siblings, while one in five (20 percent) have five or more siblings.



On average, ordinands have three to four siblings (mean=3.3). Ordinands from religious orders have, on average, slightly more siblings (mean=3.4) than diocesan ordinands (mean=3.2). Likewise, fewer than 2 percent of the ordinands from religious orders are only children, while 4 percent of diocesan ordinands are only children.

What is your birth order?

	All	Diocesan	Religious
Middle	37%	39%	29%
Oldest	40	39	45
Youngest	20	19	24
Only child	2	0	2
Twin	1	1	1

Overall, ordinands are slightly more likely to be the oldest child in their family.

Education

The responding ordinands are highly educated. Six in ten (63 percent) completed college before entering the seminary.³

Highest Education Completed Before the Seminary			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Elementary	3%	3%	0%
High school	15	17	10
Trade or technical school	2	2	1
Some college, no degree	17	18	16
Undergraduate degree	40	40	41
Graduate degree	23	20	33

A small number of ordinands (3 percent) report that they only completed elementary school before entering the seminary. All ordinands of this group (100 percent) entered the seminary in high school. Fifteen percent of ordinands of the Class of 2013 completed only high school before entering the seminary. One in five (19 percent) attended some college or a technical school. Most responding ordinands (63 percent) completed college before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to have a graduate degree before entering the seminary (33 percent compared to 20 percent).

The education level prior to entering the seminary for responding ordinands of the Class of 2013 is somewhat lower than the education level reported in 1999. At that time, 25 percent of responding ordinands had less than a college degree before entering the seminary, compared to 37 percent of ordinands in 2013. This could be due in part to a larger number of ordinands entering the seminary at the college level rather than after completing undergraduate studies.

<i>At what level did you first enter the seminary?</i>			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
High school	8%	8%	6%
College	29	33	18
Pre-theology	46	47	43
Theology	17	12	33

³ Some respondents entered the seminary at the high school or college level and thus would not complete these levels of education before entering the seminary.

Three in four ordinands (72 percent) who report their highest level of education before seminary is high school entered the seminary while in college. Among those who completed their undergraduate education before entering the seminary (including those who went on to graduate school), seven in ten (69 percent) entered the seminary at the pre-theology level and 18 percent entered at the theology level.

One in four ordinands (23 percent) studied philosophy or theology before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to have done so (34 percent compared to 19 percent). Business and Liberal Arts are the second and third most common areas of study.

Field of Study before the Seminary			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Theology or Philosophy	23%	19%	34%
Business	17	19	12
Liberal Arts	16	16	15
Science	8	8	8
Education	8	8	8
Engineering	7	7	7
Medicine	6	6	5
Social Sciences	5	6	4
Computers or Information Technology	4	4	3
Law	1	1	0
Other	5	6	4

Catholic Education

About four in ten responding ordinands (42 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school. An equal proportion (42 percent) attended a Catholic high school and 44 percent attended a Catholic college.

Attendance at Catholic School*			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Elementary	42%	43%	39%
High School	42	39	51
College	44	40	54

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

Ordinands in 2013 are as equally likely as other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic elementary school. In a 2008 national poll conducted by CARA⁴, 42 percent of U.S. adult Catholics report having attended a Catholic elementary school, compared to 42 percent of ordinands who have done so. Ordinands are more likely than other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic high school (42 percent of ordinands, compared to 22 percent of U.S. adult Catholics) and much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (44 percent of ordinands, compared to just 7 percent of U.S. adult Catholics).

Whether or not they ever attended a Catholic elementary or high school, 63 percent of responding ordinands (64 percent of diocesan ordinands and 60 percent of religious ordinands) participated in a religious education program in their parish. On average, they completed seven years of parish religious education.

Only 4 percent of ordinands report being home schooled at some time in their educational background, with diocesan ordinands being slightly more likely than religious ordinands to have been home schooled (5 percent compared to 2 percent). Among those who were home schooled, the average length of time they were home-schooled was seven years.

⁴*Sacraments Today: Belief and Practice among U.S. Catholics.* April 2008. Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

Educational Debt

A little over quarter of responding ordinands (26 percent) of the Class of 2013 carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary (or at the time they entered the religious institute, for those in religious orders).

Educational Debt			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Percentage with debt	26%	25%	30%
Amount of debt at entrance			
Mean	\$20,250	\$19,645	\$21,954
Median	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$19,000
Range	\$1,000- \$80,000	\$1,000- \$80,000	\$5,000- \$50,000
Current educational debt			
Mean	\$16,031	\$16,434	\$14,737
Median	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$8,000
Range	0-\$90,000	0-\$90,000	0-\$70,000

Diocesan ordinands are just as likely as men being ordained from religious institutes to have educational debt, but the amount of current debt is lower on average among men being ordained from religious institutes.

- Diocesan ordinands who have educational debt average \$19,645 in educational debt at the time they entered the seminary. Several report that their educational debt is currently paid off, with the average current educational debt of those who entered seminary with educational debt being \$16,434.
- Among those who still have educational debt at the time of the survey, the average amount of that debt is \$16,031 but the median amount is \$10,500. This means that half the ordinands who entered with educational debt have paid down that debt to \$10,500 or less by the time they are ordained.

Work Experience

More than six in ten ordinands (62 percent) report some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary; 59 percent of diocesan ordinands and 71 percent of religious ordinands were employed at some point before they entered the seminary.

Prior Full-time Work Experience			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Education	18%	14%	27%
Accounting, finance, insurance	9	9	3
Student	8	9	5
Sales, customer service	8	9	3
Construction, labor, farming	7	9	2
Management	6	7	3
Computers, IT	6	6	7
Church ministry, parish life	6	6	5
Medical, scientist	5	4	7
Restaurant/food services	5	3	11
Engineer, architect	4	4	7
Government, law enforcement	4	2	7
Business	3	4	2
Attorney, Legal services	2	2	2
Military	1	1	0
Other	1	4	1

Ordinands that mentioned prior work experience were most likely to report that they were educators. Only 6 percent of ordinands worked in church ministry or parish life prior to joining seminary.

Military Experience

Four percent of responding ordinands reports having served in the U.S. Armed Forces (5 percent of diocesan ordinands and 2 percent of religious ordinands). Among those with military experience, over four in ten (43 percent) served in the Army.

Service in the U.S. Armed Forces*			
(Percentage checking each response)**			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Army	43%	42%	50%
Navy	29	25	50
Marines	14	17	0
Reserve	7	8	0
National Guard	7	8	0
Coast Guard	7	8	0
Air Force	0	0	0

*Includes only those reporting service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

The table above shows the branch of service among those who reported military service. Only two religious ordinands reported service, compared to 12 diocesan ordinands. Diocesan ordinands are most likely to indicate service in the Army (42 percent) and the Navy (25 percent).

Ordinands were also asked whether either of their parents was a career military person. About one in six ordinands (13 percent) report that either parent had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces. Diocesan ordinands are slightly more likely than religious ordinands to report having a parent with a military career (14 percent compared to 12 percent).

Consideration of Priesthood

On average, ordinands report that they were nearly 17 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood with little variation between diocesan and religious ordinands.

Age When Ordinands First Considered Priesthood			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Mean	16.9	17	16.6
Median	16	16	17
Range	3-65	3-65	3-40

Encouragement to Consider Priesthood

Nine in ten ordinands (90 percent) report being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life. On average, responding ordinands indicated encouragement from three types of individuals. Two out of three (67 percent) say they were encouraged by a parish priest. Other frequent encouragers include friends (46 percent), parishioners (38 percent), and mothers (34 percent).

Encouragement to Consider Priesthood*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Parish priest	67%	69%	61%
Friend	46	43	56
Parishioner	38	37	39
Mother	34	33	37
Father	28	26	32
Teacher/Catechist	22	22	25
Grandparent	21	22	20
Other relative	16	15	19
Campus minister/School chaplain	14	13	18
Religious Sister	14	12	19
Bishop	12	13	8
Youth minister	11	11	13
Religious Brother	10	3	35
Deacon	9	10	6
Military chaplain	1	1	0

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

There are few differences between diocesan and religious ordinands in the encouragement they reported.

- Diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have been encouraged by the parish priest (69 percent compared to 61 percent).
- Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to report encouragement from religious brothers (35 percent compared to 3 percent), religious sisters (19 percent compared to 12 percent), their mother (37 percent compared to 33 percent), and their father (32 percent compared to 26 percent).
- Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to report encouragement from friends (56 percent compared to 43 percent).

Discouragement from Considering Priesthood

Almost half of responding ordinands (48 percent) indicated that they were *discouraged* from considering the priesthood by one or more persons (not shown in the table below). Among those who reported discouragement, on average, two individuals are said to have discouraged them. 38 percent indicated that one person discouraged them, 32 percent indicated that two people discouraged them.

Discouragement from Considering Priesthood*			
Among ordinands reporting someone discouraged them			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Friend or classmate	55%	53%	60%
Other family member	43	39	54
Father	30	31	29
Mother	28	32	17
Colleague or co-worker	21	19	27
Priest or other clergy	19	19	17
Teacher	11	12	8
Religious sister or brother	3	2	6
Youth minister	0	0	0
Someone else	7	7	8

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

Among those who reported being *discouraged* from considering a vocation to the priesthood, ordinands are most likely to report that they were discouraged by friends or classmates (55 percent).

- Two in five responding ordinands (43 percent) said they had been discouraged from considering a priestly vocation by some other family member (but not a parent). Fewer than one in three were discouraged from considering a vocation by their mother (28 percent) or father (30 percent).
- About one in five (21 percent) were discouraged from considering a vocation by a colleague or co-worker.
- Almost one in five (19 percent) responding ordinands report being discouraged from considering a priestly vocation by clergy, but fewer than one in twenty (3 percent) report being discouraged by a religious brother or sister.

Participation in Programs, Activities, or Ministries

Many ordinands were active in Church-sponsored programs and activities before entering the seminary. Parish youth groups, Boy Scouts, and campus ministry programs are among the most common programs or activities reported by ordinands.

Participation in Programs or Activities*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Parish youth group	47%	45%	51%
Boy Scouts	35	33	39
Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center	22	20	27
Parish young adult group	21	17	32
Knights of Columbus	17	19	12
Right to Life	14	15	13
Religious institute volunteer	5	4	7
St. Vincent de Paul Society	4	4	5
Serra Club	<1	0	<1

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

- About half of responding ordinands participated in parish youth groups (47 percent).
- Over one in three participated in the Boy Scouts (35 percent).
- One in five participated in Catholic campus ministry (22 percent), in a parish young adult group (21 percent) or in the Knights of Columbus (17 percent).
- One in six (14 percent) has been active in Right to Life groups.
- Among the activities or programs about which they were asked, ordinands were *least* likely to have been involved as a volunteer in a religious institute, in the Serra Club, or the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Participation in Other Youth Ministry Programs

(Percentage checking each response)

	All	Diocesan	Religious
World Youth Day	20%	20%	19%
Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference	11	12	7
National Catholic Youth Conference	4	4	4

One in five ordinands (20 percent) reports having attended World Youth Day before entering the seminary. Diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference (12 percent compared to 7 percent). Four percent of ordinands overall have attended the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Most ordinands participated in one or more liturgical ministries in the parish before entering the seminary. Two in three were altar servers.

Participation in Parish Ministries*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Altar server	67%	70%	58%
Lector	55	55	55
Minister of Holy Communion	46	46	45
Catechist	35	32	44
Confirmation sponsor/godfather	30	31	27
Campus ministry/Youth ministry	30	27	37
Cantor or music minister	20	17	29
Usher/minister of hospitality	11	13	6
RCIA team member/sponsor	14	15	13
Parish pastoral council member	11	13	4
Liturgy committee member	10	11	7
Full-time parish/diocesan employee	4	4	4

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

Among the parish ministries listed on the survey, responding ordinands were most likely to report that they served in liturgical ministries such as altar server, lector, or Minister of Holy Communion before entering the seminary. Some served in educational roles within the Church, with about one in three serving as catechist, as confirmation sponsor/godfather, or in campus ministry or youth ministry.

Diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have served as altar servers (70 percent to 58 percent).

Prayer Practices

About seven in ten (68 percent) responding ordinands regularly prayed the Rosary before entering the seminary. Another six in ten (62 percent) regularly participated in Eucharistic Adoration before entering the seminary.

<i>Did you participate in any of these prayer practices or groups on a regular basis before entering the seminary?*</i>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Rosary	68%	71%	59%
Eucharistic Adoration	62	65	51
Prayer group/Bible study	44	45	44
High School Retreats	30	30	33
College Retreats	29	27	37
Lectio Divina	22	21	24

*Percentages sum to more than 100 because respondents could select more than one category.

Religious ordinands are similar to diocesan ordinands in their prayer practices prior to entering the seminary.

- Religious ordinands are a little less likely than diocesan ordinands to participate in Eucharistic Adoration (51 percent compared to 65 percent) before entering the seminary. They are more likely than diocesan ordinands to have participated in college retreats before entering the seminary (37 percent compared to 27 percent).
- Two out of five responding ordinands (44 percent) regularly participated in a prayer group or Bible study before entering the seminary and about one out of five regularly (22 percent) participated in Lectio Divina.

Vocation Programs and Vocational Advertising

Among the vocation programs identified, responding ordinands are most likely to have experienced a “Come and See” weekend. However, less than half participated in any of the listed vocation programs before entering the seminary.

Vocation Programs*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
“Come and See” weekend at the seminary or at the religious institute/society	37%	32%	51%
College vocation program	13	11	22
High school vocation programs	10	9	13
Quo Vadis retreat/Discernment retreat	8	9	4
Other parish vocation programs	9	10	6
Elementary school/CCD voc. programs	4	3	8
Operation Andrew	4	5	1
Traveling Chalice/Cup/Cross/Statue programs	3	3	3
*Respondents could select more than one category.			

- About one in ten responding ordinands participated in a college (13 percent), high school (10 percent), or parish (9 percent) vocation program or a Quo Vadis or discernment retreat (8 percent) before entering the seminary.
- Religious ordinands were more likely than diocesan ordinands to report having attended a “Come and See” weekend. About half religious ordinands (51 percent) attended such a program, compared to one in three diocesan ordinands (32 percent).

In addition to the vocation programs listed above, two thirds of responding ordinands (66 percent) have seen the vocational promotion DVD “Fishers of Men,” published by the USCCB. Diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have seen the DVD (71 percent compared to 49 percent).