

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

*The Class of 2019:  
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*

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



**March 2019**

Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.  
Thu. T. Do, L.H.C.

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Major Findings .....	2
Introduction .....	5
Part I: Ordinands to Secular (Diocesan) and Religious Priesthood .....	6
Part II: Age .....	8
Age When First Considered Priesthood .....	8
Age When Scheduled for Ordination .....	9
Ordinands by Year of Birth .....	10
Part III: Race/Ethnicity and Cultural Background .....	12
Race and Ethnicity .....	12
Country of Birth and Year of Entrance into the United States .....	13
Part IV: Education .....	16
Highest Level of Education before Seminary .....	17
Attained Catholic Education .....	20
Participation in Catholic Religious Education .....	22
Home Schooling .....	23
Educational Debt .....	24
Part V: Work .....	27
Employment Background .....	28
Military Background .....	29
Part VI: Vocational Discernment .....	31
Family Religious Background .....	32
Siblings and Birth Order .....	34
Prayer Practices .....	35
Participation in Faith-Related Activities .....	36
Participation in Parish Ministries .....	38
Influence of Others .....	39
Participation in Vocation Activities .....	42
Formation Activities during Seminary .....	44

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

***The Class of 2019:  
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood***

**Executive Summary**

This report presents findings from a national survey of seminarians scheduled for ordination to the priesthood in 2019. The report is a part of collaboration between the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). The purpose of this report is to compile information regarding men who are ordained to priesthood within a particular year.

The data collection for this report involved identifying the responding ordinands to the priesthood in 2019 by contacting all theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, archdioceses, eparchies, and institutes of men religious in the United States for the names and contact information of all men scheduled for ordination to priesthood in 2019 . The resulting contact list was used to administer the survey.

The survey was administered between February 3 and March 20. The survey invitation was sent by email to 481 identified ordinands. Follow-up emails were regularly sent to the ordinands who delayed their response and one follow-up email was sent to major superiors and vocation directors asking for assistance with encouraging the ordinands to participate in the survey. A total of 379 ordinands completed the survey (79 percent response rate). The responding ordinands included 284 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood (75 percent of all responding ordinands) and 95 ordinands to the religious priesthood (25 percent).

## Major Findings

- Three-quarters (75 percent) of all responding ordinands are preparing for ordination to a diocese or eparchy. Responding ordinands from religious institutes comprise the remaining 25 percent. The biggest group of responding ordinands (one-third) is completing studies at one of the seminaries in the Midwest. One in seven is completing studies at a seminary abroad.
- On average, responding diocesan ordinands lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 18 years before they entered the seminary. Responding ordinands from religious institutes knew the members of their religious institute for six years, on average, before they entered the seminary.

### *Age*

- On average, responding ordinands first considered priesthood when they were 16 years old. Responding ordinands were scheduled for ordination on average 17 years later (at the age of 33).
- Since 1999, the average age of responding ordinands has been in the mid-thirties, trending slightly younger, from an average of 36 in 1999 to the current average age of 33.

### *Race/Ethnicity and Culture*

- The majority of responding ordinands is Caucasian (seven in ten) and was born in the United States (three in four). One in four is foreign-born. By comparison, since 1999, on average each year, 30 percent of responding ordinands were foreign-born.
- The four most common countries of birth among the foreign-born are Mexico, Nigeria, Colombia, and Vietnam. On average, foreign-born responding ordinands came to live in the United States 14 years ago at the age of 22.

### *Education*

- About one in ten (11 percent) responding ordinands report being home schooled. Those who were home schooled report eight years of home schooling, on average.
- Between 38 and 47 percent of all responding ordinands attended a Catholic school for at least some part of their schooling. Six in ten responding ordinands (61 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish for six years, on average.
- More than half of responding ordinands (55 percent) report that they completed college or university undergraduate degree before entering the seminary.
- The most common fields of study responding ordinands who attended undergraduate or graduate school before entering the seminary are theology or philosophy, liberal arts, social science, or engineering.

- One-half of responding ordinands (46 percent) entered their seminary program at the pre-theology level. A quarter (24 percent) carried educational debt, which averaged \$27,662 at the time they entered the seminary. Responding ordinands from religious institutes were as likely as those from dioceses to carry educational debt, but their debt was smaller in comparison to responding diocesan ordinands.

### ***Work***

- Two in three responding ordinands (68 percent) reported full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. One in ten of those responding ordinands worked in education. Responding ordinands from religious institutes are equally likely as responding diocesan ordinands to have prior work experience (69 percent as compared to 67 percent).
- About one in six responding ordinands (17 percent) reported that one or both parents had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces. One in twenty responding ordinands served in the U.S. Armed Forces themselves. The percentage of those with experience in different branches of the military varies considerably from year to year.

### ***Vocational Discernment***

- Almost all responding ordinands reported being baptized Catholic as an infant (89 percent). Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of conversion was 18. Three in four responding ordinands (77 percent) report that both their parents were Catholic when they were children. One in three (34 percent) has or had a relative who is a priest or religious.
- Three in four responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic Adoration (75 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary, a similar proportion (72 percent) prayed the rosary, half (47 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, and two in five (38 percent) participated in high school retreats. About three in ten attended Lectio Divina (36 percent) and/or participated in college retreats (30 percent). Responding diocesan ordinands were 10 percentage points more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to participate in high school retreats.
- In regard to participation in various activities before entering the seminary, more than half of all responding ordinands participated in a parish youth group (53 percent). About three in ten responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (30 percent).
- In regard to participation in parish ministries, more than three-fourths of responding ordinands (78 percent) served as altar servers before entering the seminary. More than half (53 percent) served as lectors and about four in ten served as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (44 percent) or as catechists (38 percent). About a third served in campus ministry or youth ministry (33 percent) or as a confirmation sponsor/godfather (30 percent).

- In regard to participation in vocation programs before entering the seminary, half of responding ordinands (52 percent) reported participating in “Come and See” weekends at the seminary or the religious institute/society. During their seminary years, eight in ten ordinands who participated in available programs reported that a Spiritual Year, a Pastoral Year internship, or a Thirty Day Retreat contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation.
- Nine in ten responding ordinands (92 percent) reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently, the parish priest, a friend, or another parishioner). Responding ordinands indicate that, on average, four individuals encouraged their vocation.
- Less than half of responding ordinands (45 percent) indicate that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a friend/classmate or a family member (other than parents).

## 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 responding 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 improve 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 from the Class of 2019 survey.

To obtain the names and contact information for the ordinands, in winter 2019 CARA contacted all theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, eparchies, and institutes for men religious in the United States to ask them for the names and contact information of all men scheduled for ordination to priesthood in 2019. The resulting contact list was used to administer the survey.

CARA then contacted these men by email to explain the project and to ask them to complete an online survey, (with a paper version of the survey available who preferred that option). CARA also emailed a request to the diocesan vocation directors and to the major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to encourage their ordinands to participate in the online survey.

The survey was administered between February 3 and March 20. The survey invitation was sent by email to 481 identified ordinands. Follow-up emails were regularly sent to the ordinands who delayed their response and one follow-up email was sent to major superiors and vocation directors asking for assistance with encouraging the ordinands to participate in the survey. A total of 379 ordinands completed the survey (79 percent response rate). The responding ordinands included 284 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood (75 percent of all responding ordinands) and 95 ordinands to the religious priesthood (25 percent).

The questionnaire asked responding ordinands about their demographic and religious background, education, previous ministry and work experience, as well as various aspects of vocation discernment (e.g., people encouraging and discouraging them from considering priesthood, experience with vocation programs). This report describes responses to the questions from all responding ordinands combined as well as separately for diocesan ordinands and ordinands from religious institutes. The report also contains selected trend data since 1999, the first year for which comparable data on both diocesan and responding ordinands from religious institutes are available.

## Part I: Ordinands to Secular (Diocesan) and Religious Priesthood

Responding ordinands represent 117 U.S. dioceses and eparchies and 52 distinct religious congregations.

The greatest number of responses from diocesan ordinands was from the Archdioceses of Cincinnati and Washington (eight respondents each) followed by the Dioceses of Cleveland and Paterson (seven respondents each), as well as the Archdioceses of St. Louis, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Newark, and Milwaukee (six respondents each).

The greatest number of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood was from the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) with 16 respondents, followed by the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) with 11 respondents, and the Legionaries of Christ (10 respondents).<sup>1</sup>

<b><i>How long did you live in this diocese or eparchy before entering the seminary?</i></b>		<b><i>How long did you know the members of this institute or society before entering the seminary?</i></b>	
Time in years		Time in years	
	<b>Diocesan</b>		<b>Religious</b>
Mean	18	Mean	6
Median	18	Median	4
Range	0-58	Range	0-34

Responding diocesan ordinands report that they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 18 years on average before they entered the seminary. Half of them reported living in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 18 years or more.

Responding ordinands from religious institutes report that they knew the members of their religious institute for six years before they entered the seminary (a median of four years).

---

<sup>1</sup> These numbers refer only to responding ordinands and do not necessarily mean that these dioceses and religious institutes will ordain the largest number of priests in 2019.

<b>Distribution of Responding Ordinands by the Location of Their Seminary</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Midwest	38	36	39
South	22	21	22
Northeast	16	14	16
West	9	13	8
<b>USA - subtotal</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>
Abroad	15	16	15

One in seven responding ordinands (15 percent) report studying at a seminary outside of the United States (e.g., Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy). Two in five responding ordinands (38 percent) study at one of the seminaries located in the Midwest. More than a fifth of responding ordinands (22 percent) are studying at seminaries in the South. One in six responding ordinands (16 percent) are studying at seminaries in the Northeast and one in ten (9 percent) are studying at seminaries in the West.

## Part II: Age

The second part of the report focuses on the age of ordinands when they first considered priesthood and their current age (in the year when they are scheduled for ordination).

On average, responding ordinands first considered priesthood when they were 16 years old. They are now scheduled for ordination 17 years later on average (at the age of 33). Responding ordinands from religious institutes are two years older than responding diocesan ordinands, on average, at the time of ordination.

### Age When First Considered Priesthood

<i>How old were you when you first considered a vocation to the priesthood?</i>			
Years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	16	16	15
Median	15	16	15
Range	2-56	4-46	2-56

On average, responding ordinands were 16 years old (a median of 15) when they first considered vocation to priesthood. Notably, the age when they first considered a vocation varies substantially, from age two to age 56.

Responding ordinands from religious institutes were one year older on average than responding diocesan ordinands when they first considered a vocation to priesthood:

- On average, responding diocesan ordinands were age 15 (half of them were 15 or older) when they first considered a vocation to priesthood.
- Responding ordinands from religious institutes were on average age 16 (a median of 16) when they first considered a vocation to priesthood.

***How old were you when you first considered a vocation to the priesthood?***

Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Preschool (5 or younger)	6	5	6
Elementary (6 through 13)	34	33	34
High school (14 through 17)	24	18	26
College (18 through 21)	20	29	18
Adulthood (22 or older)	16	15	16

The table above provides an alternative description for the same question that is shown in the table on the previous page. A third of responding ordinands (34 percent) first considered a vocation to the priesthood while they were in elementary school (ages 6 through 13).

A quarter of responding ordinands first considered a vocation in high school. About a fifth of ordinands first considered a vocation to the priesthood in college (ages 18 through 21). One in six first considered a vocation in adulthood (ages 22 or older).

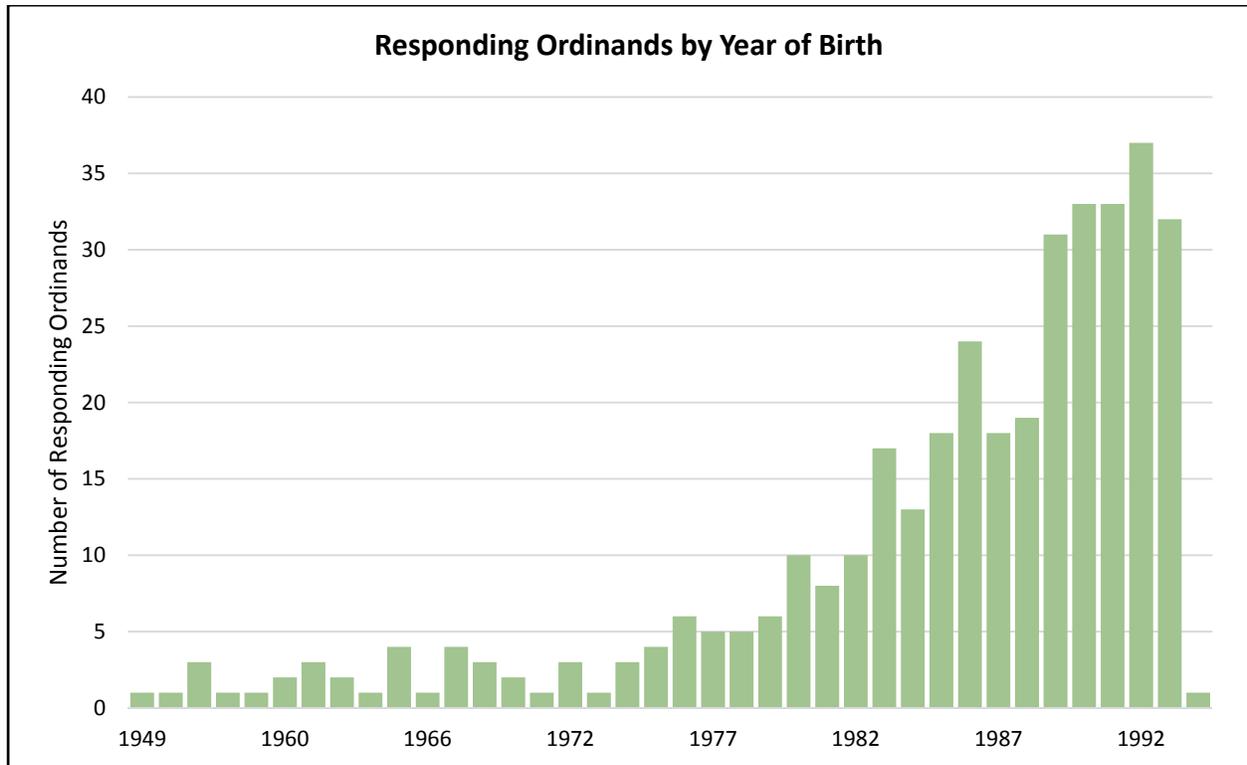
Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to have first considered a vocation to the priesthood during their college years, while diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious to have first considered this during their high school years.

**Age When Scheduled for Ordination**

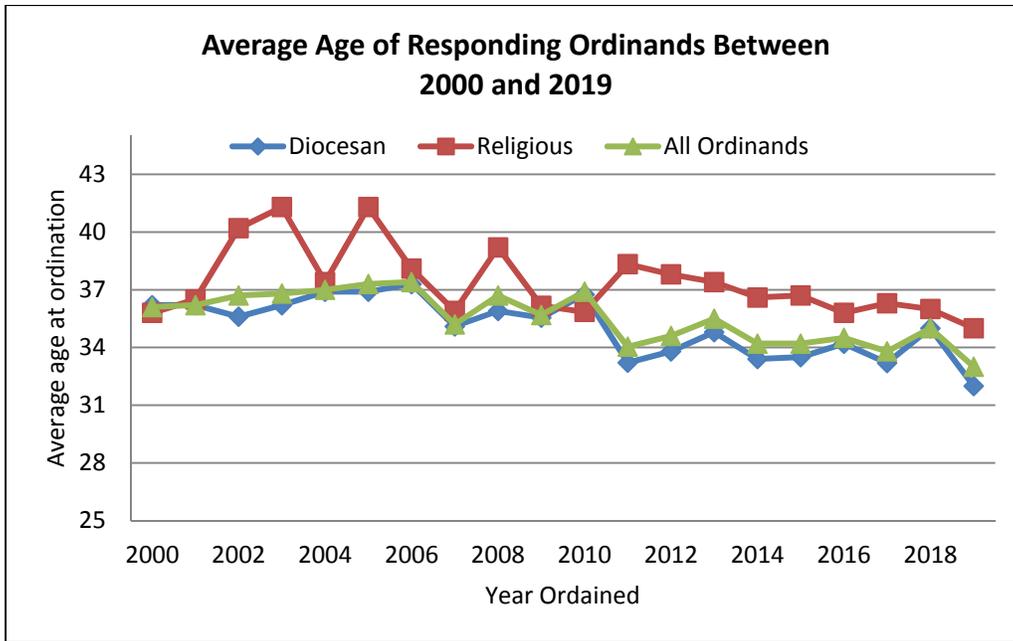
	<b>Age at Ordination</b>		
	Age in years		
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	33	35	32
Median	31	33	29
Range	24-69	26-58	24-69

The average age at the time of ordination among all responding ordinands is 33 years old (a median of 31 years old). The youngest will be 24 at ordination and the oldest will be 69.

## Ordinands by Year of Birth



Half of responding ordinands are 31 years old or younger at the time of the survey. One in ten responding ordinands (10 percent) is over 43 years old. Just seven responding ordinands are 60 years old or older.



The Class of 2019 follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties, trending slightly younger. The average age among all responding ordinands is 33 years old this year (Ordination Class of 2019). By comparison, responding ordinands were 35 years old on average in the previous year (Ordination Class of 2018), and 34 years old on average two years ago (Ordination Class of 2017).

Due to the small number of responding ordinands from religious institutes, their average age is relatively volatile from one year to another but has been decreasing slightly over the past few years to the mid-thirties, approximately the same average age as diocesan ordinands.

### Part III: Race/Ethnicity and Cultural Background

The third part of the report focuses on selected demographics about the responding ordinands, including information about race and ethnicity, information pertaining to immigration to the United States (for ordinands born abroad), and information regarding siblings.

The majority of responding ordinands is Caucasian (seven in ten) and three in four were born in the United States.

One in four responding ordinands (25 percent) reported being foreign-born. The share of responding ordinands who were foreign-born has fluctuated between 20 and 30 percent since 1998, the year these annual reports began.

This year, the four most common countries of birth among the foreign-born are Mexico, Nigeria, Colombia, and Vietnam. On average, foreign-born responding ordinands came to live in the United States 12 years ago and were, on average, age 22 at the time they came.

#### Race and Ethnicity

<b>Primary race or ethnicity (Please select only one)</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Caucasian/European American/white	70	66	72
Hispanic/Latino	14	13	15
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	8	13	6
African/African American/black	6	8	5
Other (mixed)	2	0	2

Seven in ten responding ordinands are Caucasian (70 percent). By comparison, Caucasians constituted 66 percent of all responding ordinands last year and 58 percent of all adult Catholics nationally (according to a recent CARA telephone poll of self-identified U.S. adult Catholics).

Among the other responding ordinands, their race or ethnicity is:

- Hispanic/Latino (14 percent)
- Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian (8 percent)
- African/African American/black (6 percent)
- Other or of mixed race (2 percent)

Comparing diocesan ordinands to religious ordinands:

- The proportion of Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian among religious ordinands is twice that among diocesan ordinands (13 percent compared to 6 percent).
- Diocesan ordinands are a little more likely than ordinands in religious institutes to identify as Caucasian/European American/white (72 percent compared to 66 percent).

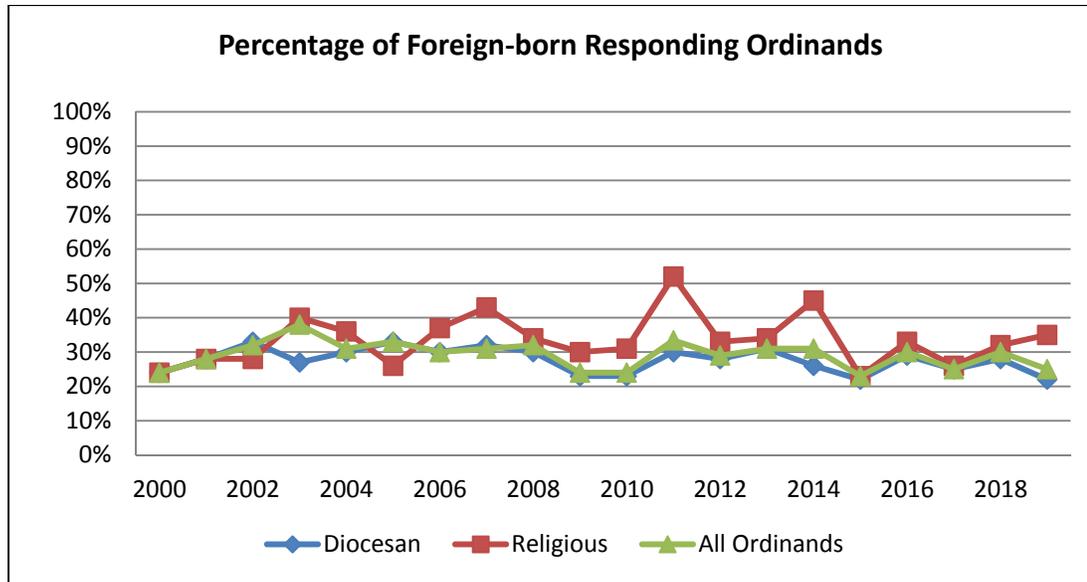
### Country of Birth and Year of Entrance into the United States

<b>Top Five Countries of Birth</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
USA	75	65	78
Mexico	5	4	5
Nigeria	3	3	3
Colombia	2	2	2
Vietnam	2	4	1
Other	13	22	11

The majority of responding ordinands was born in the United States (65 percent of responding ordinands from religious institutes, 78 percent of responding diocesan ordinands, and 75 percent overall).

Three in four responding ordinands were born in the United States (75 percent). The second most common country of origin was Mexico, with 5 percent of ordinands born in that country.

Other countries of birth reported include: Nigeria (3 percent), Colombia (2 percent), and Vietnam (2 percent). The remaining 13 percent of responding ordinands identified a total of 28 other countries of birth.



The percentage of responding ordinands who are foreign-born increased from 22 percent in 1999 to 38 percent in 2003, then declined to 23 percent in 2015. In 2019, one in four responding ordinands (25 percent) reported being foreign-born, compared to 30 percent in 2018 and 25 percent in 2017.

While the percentage of responding foreign-born ordinands from religious institutes has fluctuated somewhat due to the relatively smaller number, since 2000 the percentage of responding diocesan ordinands has remained relatively steady at approximately 20 to 30 percent.

***If born outside the United States,  
in what year did you come to live in the United States?***

Year of entry

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	2005	2003	2006
Median	2009	2009	2009
Range	1966-2015	1966-2015	1977-2015

On average, foreign-born responding ordinands came to live in the United States 14 years ago (a median of 10 years ago). The first foreign-born for the Ordination Class of 2019 entered the country 53 years ago.

- Responding diocesan ordinands came to live in the United States 13 years ago, on average (half first came to the United States 10 or more years ago). The first foreign-born diocesan ordinand for the Ordination Class of 2019 entered the country 42 years ago.

- Responding ordinands from religious institutes came to live in the United States on average 16 years ago (half first came to the United States 10 or more years ago). The first foreign-born religious ordinand for the Ordination Class of 2019 entered the country 53 years ago.

<b>Age at Entry to the United States of Foreign-born Responding Ordinands</b>			
Age in years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	22	23	21
Median	23	25	23
Range	0-38	2-36	0-38

On average, responding foreign-born ordinands came to live in the United States at the age of 22 (a median of 23). Responding ordinands from religious institutes were, on average, slightly older than responding diocesan ordinands when they first came to live in the United States.

## Part IV: Education

The fourth part of the report focuses on the education experience of responding ordinands. This includes information about the highest level of education completed before entering the seminary, their attained Catholic education, and information pertaining to educational debt.

About one in ten responding ordinands (11 percent) report being home schooled. Among those who were home schooled, the average length of their home schooling was eight years.

Between 38 and 47 percent of all responding ordinands attended a Catholic school on the K-12 and/or college level. Six in ten responding ordinands (61 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish, for six years on average.

More than half of responding ordinands (55 percent) report that they completed college or university before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands were slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to complete a college/university degree prior to entering the seminary (59 percent of religious ordinands compared to 54 percent of diocesan ordinands)

Half of responding ordinands (46 percent) entered a seminary program at the pre-theology level and a quarter (24 percent) carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary (or religious institute), which was \$29,996 on average.

Those who had educational debt at the time they entered the seminary have been able to reduce it by only \$3,000, on average, since entering the seminary. While the average amount of debt carried by responding ordinands from religious institutes decreased by 58 percent, the average amount of debt carried by responding diocesan ordinands increased by 2 percent since entering the seminary.

## Highest Level of Education before Seminary

More than half of responding ordinands report that they completed an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree before entering the seminary.

<b><i>What is the highest level of education you completed before entering the seminary?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Elementary school (K-8)	2	3	1
High school	24	22	25
Trade or technical school	1	2	1
Some college, but not a Bachelor's degree	17	14	18
College or university undergraduate degree	40	39	41
Graduate degree	15	20	13

Overall, two in five responding ordinands report that they completed a college or university undergraduate degree (but not more) before entering the seminary (40 percent).

Overall, less than a quarter of responding ordinands reported that they completed:

- Some college, but not a Bachelor's degree (17 percent)
- High school only (24 percent)
- Graduate degree (15 percent)
- Elementary school only (K-8) (2 percent)
- Trade or technical school (1 percent)

Responding ordinands from religious institutes tended to have slightly higher levels of education than responding diocesan ordinands prior to entering the seminary.

***If you attended undergraduate or graduate school before entering the seminary, what was your field of study?***

Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Theology or Philosophy	15	16	14
Liberal Arts	11	14	10
Social Science	8	6	8
Engineering	8	5	9
Business	7	6	7
Science or Math	6	6	6
Education	5	2	6
Fine Arts	3	4	2
Computers or Information Technology	2	4	1
Medicine	2	2	2
Law	1	1	1
Other	4	4	4

The responding ordinands who attended undergraduate or graduate school before entering the seminary were asked about their field of study.

- Studies focusing specifically on theology or philosophy were most popular, with 15 percent of all responding ordinands committing to this field of study in undergraduate or graduate school.
- About one in ten (11 percent) studied liberal arts (e.g., English, Spanish, romance languages, journalism, music). Nearly as many (8 percent) studied social science (e.g., history, social work, political science, psychology, sociology), engineering (8 percent), or business (7 percent).
- About one in twenty responding ordinands studied science or math (6 percent), or education (5 percent).
- Less than one in twenty studied fine arts, computers or information technology, medicine, or law.

***At what level did you first enter a seminary program?***  
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
High school	6	14	4
College	38	25	42
Pre-theology	46	48	46
Theology	9	13	8

Close to half of responding ordinands (46 percent) entered seminary at the pre-theology level. In comparison to responding ordinands from religious institutes, responding diocesan ordinands are 17 percentage points *more* likely to enter the seminary at the college level and 5 percentage points *less* likely to enter the seminary at the theology level.

Responding ordinands who entered a seminary program at the college level are more likely than those who entered seminary at the pre-theology or theology level to have attended a Catholic college before entering their seminary program. In other words, 44 percent of those who entered the seminary at the college level had attended a Catholic college before entering, compared to 32 percent of those who entered the seminary at the pre-theology or theology level.

## Attained Catholic Education

<b><i>Did you attend Catholic school at any of the following levels? (Please check all that apply)</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Elementary school (K-8)	47	53	46
High school	39	44	38
College	38	35	39

Responding ordinands are more likely than U.S. Catholics in general to have attended a Catholic school at some level (based on a 2017 national poll of U.S. adult Catholics conducted by CARA).

- Responding ordinands are 8 percentage points more likely than U.S. adult Catholics to have attended a Catholic elementary school (47 percent compared to 39 percent).
- Responding ordinands are 20 percentage points more likely than U.S. adult Catholics to have attended a Catholic high school (39 percent compared to 19 percent).
- Responding ordinands are 28 percentage points more likely than U.S. adult Catholics to have attended a Catholic college (38 percent compared to 10 percent).

Compared to U.S. born ordinands, those born outside the United States are less likely to have attended a Catholic school at any level.

- More than half of U.S. born ordinands attended a Catholic elementary school, compared to just over a third of ordinands born outside the United States (51 percent compared to 36 percent).
- U.S. born ordinands are 10 percentage points more likely than non-U.S. born ordinands to have attended a Catholic high school (42 percent compared to 32 percent).
- U.S. born ordinands are slightly more likely than non-U.S. born ordinands to have attended a Catholic college or university (40 percent compared to 32 percent).

Among ordinands who attended a Catholic college, the most frequently mentioned colleges they attended were Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio and the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (each mentioned by nine ordinands).

- Eight ordinands reported attending the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana and seven attended Marian University, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Five ordinands each reported attending the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, and The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.
- Four ordinands each reported attending St. John's University, Queens, New York, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, and Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa.
- Three ordinands each reported attending the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and Christendom College, Front Royal, Virginia.

## Participation in Catholic Religious Education

<b><i>Did you participate in the religious education program in your parish?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Yes	61	63	60
No	39	37	40

Whether or not they ever attended a Catholic elementary or high school, six in ten responding ordinands (61 percent) participated in a religious education program in their parish. Diocesan and religious ordinands are equally likely to have participated in the religious education program in their parish.

<b><i>If you participated in the religious education program in your parish, total number of years in parish religious education:</i></b>			
Years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	6	5	7
Median	6	4	7
Range	1-13	1-12	1-13

Those who participated in the religious education program in their parish spent on average six years (a median of six years) in those programs. Diocesan ordinands reported spending two more years in religious education than religious ordinands, on average.

## Home Schooling

<b><i>Were you ever home schooled?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Yes	11	9	11
No	89	91	89

One in ten responding ordinands (11 percent) report being home schooled. Responding diocesan ordinands are as likely as responding ordinands from religious institutes to have been home schooled.

<b><i>If you were home schooled, total number of years of home schooling:</i></b>			
Years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	8	6	9
Median	9	5	9
Range	2-18	2-12	2-18

Among those responding ordinands who were home schooled, the average length of time they were home-schooled was eight years (a median of nine years).

Responding diocesan ordinands report slightly more years of home schooling than do responding ordinands from religious institutes.

## Educational Debt

<b><i>Did you have educational debt at the time you entered the seminary (If religious: at the time you entered your institute/society)?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Yes	24	23	25
No	76	77	75

A quarter of responding ordinands (24 percent) carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary (or at the time they entered the religious institute, for those in religious orders). Responding ordinands from religious institutes were equally likely as diocesan ordinands to carry educational debt.

<b><i>What was the amount of your educational debt at the time you entered?</i></b>			
Dollars			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	\$29,996	\$27,211	\$30,940
Median	\$25,000	\$21,000	\$25,000
Range	\$2,000-119,000	\$5,000-100,000	\$2,000-119,000

Among those who had educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, the average amount of debt at the time they entered the seminary was \$29,996 (a median of \$25,000). The total amount of educational debt varied from \$2,000 to \$119,000. Ordinands from religious institutes averaged slightly less educational debt than diocesan ordinands.

<b><i>What is the amount of your educational debt now:</i></b>			
Dollars			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	\$27,662	\$11,202	\$32,707
Median	\$20,000	\$0	\$27,000
Range	\$0-120,000	\$0-90,000	\$0-120,000

Among those who had educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, the average amount of debt they currently owe is \$27,662, which is slightly less debt, on average, than when they entered. While the average amount of debt carried by responding ordinands from religious institutes decreased by 58 percent, the average amount of debt carried by responding diocesan ordinands increased by 2 percent since entering the seminary.

<b><i>How long were you delayed entrance by your educational debt:</i></b>			
Years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	0	0	0
Median	0	0	0
Range	0-5	0-2	0-5

On average, those who had educational debt were not delayed entrance by that debt. However, in some instances, respondents report that their entrance was delayed for up to five years.

***Did you receive assistance from any of these groups  
in paying down your debt? (Please check all that apply):***

Percentage of all responding ordinands

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Family members	24	5	30
Religious community	17	68	0
Knights of Columbus Fund for Vocations	12	0	16
Parish	7	5	7
Friends/co-workers	2	5	1
Mater Ecclesiae Fund for Vocations	2	9	0
Serra Fund for Vocations	3	0	4
The Labouré Society	0	0	0

Among those who had educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, about a quarter (24 percent) received assistance from family members in paying down the debt.

Responding diocesan ordinands were more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to receive assistance from family members, the Knights of Columbus, or the Serra Fund for Vocations.

Two-thirds (68 percent) of responding ordinands from religious institutes who had debt received assistance from their religious communities. These religious were more also likely than diocesan ordinands to report receiving assistance from friends/co-workers or from the Mater Ecclesiae Fund for Vocations.

## **Part V: Work**

The fifth part of the report focuses on the prior work experience of ordinands, including full-time employment and military experience, of responding ordinands prior to entering the seminary.

Two in three responding ordinands (68 percent) report some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. One in ten worked in education. Responding ordinands from religious institutes are equally likely as responding diocesan ordinands to have prior work experience (69 percent as compared to 67 percent).

Around one in twenty responding ordinands served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The percentage of those with experience in different branches of the military changes considerably from year to year. About one in six responding ordinands (17 percent) report that one or both parents had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces.

## Employment Background

<b><i>What was your main full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary, if any?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Education	11	14	10
Business	5	4	5
Management/administration	5	6	5
Sales, customer service	4	3	5
Restaurant/food services	4	2	4
Construction, labor, farming	3	1	3
Computers, IT	3	4	3
Engineering, architecture	3	5	2
Medical/health care	3	2	3
Law enforcement/military	2	2	2
Church ministry, parish life	2	1	3
Clerical	1	2	<1
Social work/counseling	1	0	1
Legal professions	1	0	1
Research/science	1	2	1
Journalism	1	1	1
Other	9	8	10

Two in three responding ordinands (68 percent) reported some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. Responding ordinands from religious institutes are equally likely as responding diocesan ordinands to have prior work experience (69 percent as compared to 67 percent).

The most common category of full-time work experience among all responding ordinands (11 percent) is education.

Responding ordinands from religious institutes who have prior full-time work experience are 4 percentage points more likely than responding diocesan ordinands to have worked in education.

## Military Background

<b><i>Have you ever served in the Armed Forces of the United States?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Yes	5	3	6
No	95	97	94

Five percent of responding ordinands report having served in the U.S. Armed Forces. All but three of these are diocesan ordinands.

<b><i>If you have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, which branch(es)?</i></b>			
<b><i>(Please check all that apply):</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Air Force	26	67	18
Reserves	16	0	19
Navy	11	33	6
National Guard	0	0	0
Army	32	0	38
Marines	26	0	31
Coast Guard	0	0	0

Among those with military experience, about a third (32 percent) served in the Army. A quarter each served in the Air Force (26 percent) or in the Marines (26 percent).

Since the number of responding ordinands with military experience is relatively small (5 percent of all responding ordinands), the percentage of those with experience in different branches of the military varies considerably from year to year.

<b><i>Did either of your parents have a military career in the U. S. Armed Forces?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	17	13	19
No	83	87	81

Responding ordinands were asked whether either of their parents had a career in the military. About one in six responding ordinands (17 percent) report that one or both parents had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces. Responding diocesan ordinands were more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to report having a parent with a military career (19 percent compared to 13 percent).

## Part VI: Vocational Discernment

The sixth part of the report focuses on various factors that might have influenced the process of vocational discernment.

Almost all responding ordinands report being baptized Catholic as an infant (89 percent). Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of conversion was 18. Three in four responding ordinands (77 percent) report that both their parents were Catholic when they were children. One in three (34 percent) has/had a relative who is a priest or religious.

Three in four responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic adoration (75 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary, a similar proportion (73 percent) prayed the rosary, half (47 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, and two in five (38 percent) participated in high school retreats. About three in ten attended Lectio Divina (36 percent) and/or participated in college retreats (30 percent). Responding diocesan ordinands were 10 percentage points more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to participate in high school retreats before entering the seminary.

In regard to participation in various activities before entering the seminary, more than half of all responding ordinands participated in a parish youth group (53 percent). About three in ten responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (30 percent).

In regard to participation in parish ministries, more than three-fourths of responding ordinands (78 percent) served as altar servers before entering the seminary. More than half (53 percent) served as lectors and about four in ten served as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (44 percent) or as catechists (38 percent). About a third served in campus ministry or youth ministry (33 percent) or as a confirmation sponsor/godfather (30 percent).

In regard to participation in vocation programs before entering the seminary, half of responding ordinands (52 percent) report participating in “Come and See” weekends at the seminary or the religious institute/society. During their seminary years, eight in ten ordinands who participated in available programs reported that a Spiritual Year, a Pastoral Year internship, or a Thirty Day Retreat contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation.

Nine in ten responding ordinands (92 percent) report being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently, the parish priest, a friend, or another parishioner). Responding ordinands indicate that, on average, four individuals encouraged their vocation.

More than half of responding ordinands (55 percent) indicate that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a friend/classmate or a family member (other than parents).

## Family Religious Background

<b><i>How long have you been a Catholic?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Baptized Catholic as an infant	89	90	89
Became a Catholic later in life	11	10	11

Almost all responding ordinands report being baptized Catholic as an infant (89 percent). There is no difference between responding diocesan ordinands and responding ordinands from religious institutes in their likelihood to be baptized Catholic as an infant.

Among the 11 percent of all responding ordinands who became Catholic later in life (40 responding ordinands), the majority belonged formerly to a Protestant tradition (e.g., Anglican, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian). Five responding ordinands were raised without a faith tradition.

<b><i>How old were you when you became a Catholic?</i></b>			
Age in years			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	18	22	17
Median	19	22	16
Range	4-39	10-39	4-39

Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of conversion was 18 years old (a median of 19) and varied from 4 to 39 years old. Responding religious ordinands were on average five years older than responding diocesan ordinands when they became Catholic.

**What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child?**

Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Both parents Catholic	77	79	77
Mother Catholic, father non-Catholic	10	10	10
Neither parent was Catholic	7	7	7
Father Catholic, mother non-Catholic	6	4	6

More than four in five responding ordinands (77 percent) report that both of their parents were Catholic when they were children.

**Do (did) you have a relative who is a priest or a religious?**

Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	34	40	33
No	66	60	67

One in three responding ordinands (34 percent) has (had) a relative who is a priest or religious. Responding ordinands from religious institutes were 7 percentage points more likely than diocesan ordinands to have (had) a relative who is a priest or a religious.

## Siblings and Birth Order

<b>How many brothers and sisters do you have?</b>			
Reported number of siblings			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
Mean	3	4	3
Median	3	3	3
Range	0-20	0-12	0-20

Almost all responding ordinands (97 percent) have at least one sibling. More than half (54 percent) have three siblings or more. On average, responding ordinands have three siblings (a median of two).

<b>What is your birth order?</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Eldest	38	42	37
Somewhere in the middle	34	33	34
Youngest	22	17	24
Only child	6	8	5

The responding ordinands who have siblings were asked to identify their birth order.

- Overall, “eldest” were the most frequent response (provided by 38 percent of all responding ordinands). Responding ordinands from religious institutes were a little more likely than diocesan ordinands to be “eldest” (42 percent compared to 37 percent).
- About a fifth of responding ordinands (22 percent) is the “youngest” child.
- About one in twenty responding ordinands (6 percent) is the “only child.”

## Prayer Practices

***Did you participate in any of these prayer practices or groups on a regular basis before entering the seminary? (Please check all that apply):***  
 Percentage of all responding ordinands

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Eucharistic adoration	75	71	77
Rosary	73	71	74
Prayer group/Bible study	47	50	46
High school retreats	38	31	41
Lectio Divina	36	39	35
College retreats	30	28	31

Three in four responding ordinands participated in Eucharistic adoration (75 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary. More than seven in ten responding ordinands (73 percent) prayed the rosary, almost half (47 percent) attended prayer group/Bible study, two in five (38 percent) participated in high school retreats or in Lectio Divina (36 percent), and three in ten participated in college retreats (30 percent).

Responding diocesan ordinands were 10 percentage points more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to have participated in high school retreats before entering the seminary.

## Participation in Faith-Related Activities

<b><i>Did you participate in any of these programs or activities before entering the seminary? (Please check all that apply):</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Parish youth group	53	45	56
Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center	30	32	30
Boy Scouts	28	28	27
Parish young adult group	25	33	22
Right to Life	21	19	21
Knights of Columbus/Knights of Peter Claver	21	13	24
Charismatic Renewal	10	13	9
Cursillo	6	6	5
St. Vincent de Paul Society	6	3	6
Volunteer program associated with CVN	4	8	3
Serra Club	1	1	1

More than half of responding ordinands participated in a parish youth group (53 percent) before entering the seminary.

- A about a quarter to a third of responding ordinands participated in Catholic campus ministry/Newman Center (30 percent), Boy Scouts (28 percent), or a parish young adult group (25 percent).
- Responding ordinands from religious institutes were less likely than diocesan ordinands to participate in the Knights of Columbus or Knights of Peter Claver before entering the seminary (13 percent compared to 24 percent).
- One in five or less participated in Right to Life (21 percent), Charismatic Renewal (10 percent), Cursillo (6 percent), St. Vincent de Paul Society (6 percent), Volunteer program associated with the Catholic Volunteer Network (4 percent), or in Serra Club (1 percent).

***Did you participate in any of these events before entering the seminary?  
(Please check all that apply):***

Percentage of all responding ordinands

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
World Youth Day	16	17	15
Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference	14	5	16
National Catholic Youth Conference	5	6	5
FOCUS	6	3	6
Marian Days	5	7	4

One in six responding ordinands (16 percent) participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary. Nearly as many (14 percent) participated in a Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference before entering. Responding religious ordinands were 11 percentage points *less* likely than responding diocesan ordinands to participate in a Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference before entering the seminary.

Responding diocesan ordinands were slightly *less* likely than ordinands from religious institutes to participate in Marian Days and slightly *more* likely to participate in FOCUS.

## Participation in Parish Ministries

More than three-fourths of responding ordinands (78 percent) served as altar servers before entering the seminary. More than half (53 percent) served as lectors. More than four in ten served as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (44 percent).

<b><i>Did you serve in any of these parish ministries before entering the seminary? (Please check all that apply):</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All %</b>	<b>Religious %</b>	<b>Diocesan %</b>
Altar server	78	76	79
Lector	53	60	51
Extraordinary minister of Holy Communion	44	46	44
Catechist	38	32	40
Campus ministry/Youth ministry	33	30	34
Confirmation sponsor/godfather	30	25	32
Cantor or music ministry	25	23	25
Usher/minister of hospitality	16	13	17
Parish pastoral council member	14	10	15
RCIA team member/sponsor	11	11	11
Liturgy committee member	9	5	11
Full-time parish/diocesan employee	5	3	6

- At least one in three responding ordinands served as catechists (38 percent), or in campus ministry/youth ministry (33 percent).
- Three in ten served as Confirmation sponsors/godfathers (30 percent) and a quarter served as cantor or music ministry (25 percent).
- Less than a quarter of responding ordinands served as ushers/ministers of hospitality (16 percent), parish pastoral council members (14 percent), RCIA team member or sponsor (11 percent), liturgy committee members (9 percent), or as full-time parish/diocesan employees (5 percent).
- Responding diocesan ordinands were 7-8 percentage points more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to serve as catechists or as a confirmation sponsor/godfather.
- Responding ordinands from religious institutes were 9 percentage points more likely than responding diocesan ordinands to serve as lectors.

## Influence of Others

Nine in ten responding ordinands (92 percent) report being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life. Responding ordinands indicate that, on average, four individuals encouraged their vocation.

<b>Were you encouraged to consider the priesthood by any of these people? (Please check all that apply):</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
Parish Priest	69	58	72
Friend	43	37	46
Parishioner	39	31	42
Mother	38	37	39
Father	33	30	34
Teacher/Catechist	25	22	26
Grandparent(s)	22	23	22
Campus Minister/School Chaplain	19	23	17
Other relative	17	19	16
Youth Minister	16	14	17
Religious Sister	14	15	14
Bishop	14	10	15
Religious Brother	11	22	8
Deacon	10	6	12
Military Chaplain	3	2	4

- Around seven in ten responding ordinands reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a parish priest (69 percent).
- About four in ten responding ordinands reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a friend (43 percent), or by a parishioner (39 percent).
- Almost four in ten reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by their mother (38 percent), while a third were encouraged by their father (33 percent), and about a fifth by a grandparent (22 percent) or by some other relative (17 percent).
- About a quarter reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a teacher/ catechist (25 percent), while about a fifth were encouraged by a campus minister or a school chaplain (19 percent), or by a youth minister (16 percent).

- Less than a fifth of responding ordinands reported being encouraged to consider priesthood by a religious sister (14 percent), a bishop (14 percent), a religious brother (11 percent), a deacon (10 percent), or a military chaplain (3 percent).
- Responding diocesan ordinands were 14 percentage points more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to be encouraged to consider priesthood by a parish priest.
- Responding ordinands from religious institutes were 16 percentage points more likely than responding diocesan ordinands to be encouraged to consider priesthood by religious brother, and 6 percentage points more likely to be encouraged to consider priesthood by campus minister/school chaplain.

<b><i>Did anyone discourage you from considering priesthood as a vocation?</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
No	55	55	54
Yes	45	45	46

Less than half of responding ordinands (45 percent) indicate that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. On average, responding ordinands report that one person discouraged their vocation.

**Who discouraged you**  
**(Please check all that apply):**  
Percentage of all responding ordinands

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Other family member	23	23	23
Friend or school classmate	21	20	21
Mother	12	16	10
Father	10	8	11
Colleague or coworker	10	8	10
Priest or other clergy	6	4	6
Teacher	5	4	5
Someone else	5	2	5
Religious sister or brother	<1	1	<1
Youth/campus minister	0	0	0

- One fifth or more of the responding ordinands report being discouraged to consider the priesthood by a friend or school classmate (21 percent) or by a family member other than their mother or father (23 percent).
- About one in ten responding ordinands reported being discouraged to consider the priesthood by their mother (12 percent) or their father (10 percent), or by a colleague or coworker (10 percent).
- Responding ordinands were least likely to report being discouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest or other clergy (6 percent), by a teacher (5 percent), by “someone else” (5 percent), or by a religious sister or brother (less than 1 percent).

## Participation in Vocation Activities

More than two in three responding ordinands (68 percent) reported participating in at least one of the vocation programs listed below. On average, they participated in one vocation program before they entered the seminary

<b><i>Did you participate in any of these vocation programs before entering the seminary? (Please check all that apply):</i></b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	%	%	%
“Come and See” weekend	52	72	46
Quo Vadis retreat/Discernment retreat	15	12	16
High school vocation program	11	15	9
College vocation program	11	14	10
Elementary school or CCD vocation program	9	10	8
Other parish vocation program	8	14	6
Traveling Chalice/Cross/Statue for vocations	5	3	6
Operation Andrew	4	0	5

- More than half of responding ordinands (52 percent) reported participating in a “Come and See” weekend at the seminary or the religious institute/society.
- One in seven responding ordinands reported participating in a Quo Vadis retreat/discernment retreat (15 percent).
- Around one in ten or fewer responding ordinands reported participating in a high school vocation program (11 percent), in a college vocation program (11 percent), in an elementary school or CCD vocation program (9 percent), in some other parish vocation program (8 percent), in a traveling chalice/cross/statue for vocations (5 percent), or in an Operation Andrew program (4 percent).
- Responding ordinands from religious institutes were 26 percentage points more likely than responding diocesan ordinands to participate in a “Come and See” weekend at the seminary or the religious institute/society and 6 percentage points more likely to participate in a high school vocation program.

***Did you see the DVD “Fishers of Men,” published by the USCCB,  
before entering the seminary or religious life?***

Percentage of all responding ordinands in each category

	<b>All</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	66	55	69
No	34	45	31

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. Responding diocesan ordinands are more likely than responding ordinands from religious institutes to have seen the DVD (69 percent compared to 55 percent).

## Formation Activities during Seminary

In addition to the many programs and activities that can promote or encourage a priestly vocation before one enters the seminary, several activities that take place during the seminary years can also contribute to a vocation. While not every seminary offers these activities (between 29 and 66 percent of respondents reported that a particular program was not available to them), those who did participate in them were asked to report how much each of the formation activities contributed to their vocation.

<b>Contribution of Formation Activities During Seminary</b>		
Percentage of all responding ordinands		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
	%	%
Spirituality Year	83	73
Pastoral Year internship	83	68
Thirty Day Retreat	81	63
English as a Second Language (ESL)	70	51
Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF)	70	45
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)	68	41
Priestly fraternity group (e.g. Jesus Caritas)	63	34
Pastoral Language Immersion (e.g. Central America)	53	28

- Among ordinands who had access to the programs, more than eight in ten found the Spirituality Year, the Pastoral Year internship, and the Thirty Day Retreat contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation. Nearly three in four reported that the Spirituality Year contributed “very much” to their vocation and about two-thirds found the Pastoral Year internship and the Thirty Day Retreat as helpful.
- Two-thirds or more of those who had access to the programs reported that English as a Second Language, the Institute for Priestly Formation, and Clinical Pastoral Education contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation. About half reported that these programs contributed “very much” to their vocation.
- Six in ten ordinands who had access to the programs reported that a priestly fraternity group (e.g. Jesus Caritas) contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation, with about a third indicating that it contributed “very much.”
- Just over half of those who had access to the program reported that a pastoral language immersion program contributed to their vocation at least “somewhat.”