

REPORT ON SURVEY OF 2001 PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

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Life Cycle Institute, Catholic University, May 10, 2001

In February Father Edward J. Burns of the U.S. Bishops' Office on Vocations asked if the Life Cycle Institute could assist the Committee on Vocations on a survey of men ordained to the priesthood in 2001. I met with Father Burns to design a questionnaire. In February Father Burns sent a short questionnaire to each diocese and religious community asking if one of its staff could list the names of the men ordained in 2001, and either complete a two-page questionnaire on each or ask the men themselves to do so.

After some days of phoning and reminding, Father Burns achieved 343 completions by the March 31 deadline (281 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 62 to the religious priesthood). A graduate student, Patrick Lynch, and I computerized the data under Father Burns's direction.

The questionnaire asked eighteen questions about the ordinand's age, background, education, work experience, activities, hobbies, recognitions, and experience with vocation efforts. We continued using the codes we constructed in 1999 and 2000, for sake of continuity.

One question asked for "principal full-time work

experience," and since many questionnaires listed more than one, we coded up to two per person. Similarly we coded up to two hobbies. Below is a summary of the questionnaires. All numbers are percentages unless noted.

TABLE 1: AGE

<u>Diocesan</u>	<u>Religious</u>	<u>All</u>	
30	15	27	Percent 25-29
20	39	23	Percent 30-34
23	19	22	Percent 35-39
16	21	17	Percent 40-49
9	3	8	Percent 50-59
3	3	3	Percent 60 or older
36.2	36.5	36.2	Mean age

TABLE 2: RACE

<u>Diocesan</u>	<u>Religious</u>	<u>All</u>	
72	71	72	European American
13	13	13	Hispanic or Latino
6	11	7	Asian or Pacific Islander
1	2	1	African-American
4	0	3	European
*	0	*	African
*	2	1	Mixed
3	2	3	Other

* Less than ½ percent.

Table 2 shows that 13 percent of the ordinands are Hispanics (Latinos), a figure higher than in recent years. For example, a 1984 nationwide survey of Catholic seminarians (Hemrick and Hoge, 1987) found that 7 percent were Hispanic. Still the figure is

