

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University  
Washington, D.C.

*The Class of 2007:  
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*

**A Report to the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**



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**Executive Summary**

In December 2005, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) engaged 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 for the past three years. CARA assumed responsibility for the project in 2006, using the online survey developed by the Secretariat. CARA worked with the Secretariat during 2006 to improve the online survey and to incorporate it into the annual data collection process CARA conducts for its annual survey of priestly formation programs. This report presents results of the survey of ordinands of the Class of 2007.

In Fall 2006, CARA contacted all theologates and houses of formation as part of the annual data collection for its Catholic ministry formation database and requested each site to provide names and contact information for each seminarian who was scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2007. CARA then contacted each ordinand by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete the online survey. After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 282 ordinands responded by mid-March. This represents a response rate of approximately 60 percent of the 475 potential ordinands reported by theologates and houses of formation. These 282 ordinands include 221 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 60 to the religious priesthood.

**Major Findings**

- The average age of ordinands for the Class of 2007 is 35. This is approximately the same as it was in 1998, the first year for which data are available.
- On average, diocesan ordinands lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 17 years before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of six years before they entered the seminary.

- Seven in ten responding ordinands report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian, European American, or white. Compared to the U.S. adult Catholic population in general, ordinands are more likely to be Asian, but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino. Religious ordinands are less likely than diocesan ordinands or the U.S. adult Catholic population to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white.
- One in three ordinands was born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Vietnam, Mexico, Poland, or the Philippines. Religious are more likely than diocesan ordinands to be foreign-born. The percentage that is foreign-born (31 percent) is nearly the same as it was in 2006 (30 percent), but has increased from the 24 percent reported in 1998. On average, responding ordinands who were born outside the United States have lived here ten years.
- Nearly all ordinands have been Catholic since birth, although 6 percent became Catholic later in life. More than four in five report that both their parents are Catholic and two in five have a relative who is a priest or a religious.
- More than six in ten ordinands completed college, and one in five had a graduate degree, before entering the seminary. Compared to ordinands of the Class of 1999, ordinands of the Class of 2007 are equally likely to have completed a graduate degree.
- Half of responding ordinands attended a Catholic elementary school, as have almost half of all U.S. Catholic adults. Ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school. They are much more likely than other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic college.
- About two-thirds of ordinands report having full-time work experience before entering the seminary, most often in education. Slightly less than one in ten has served in the U.S. Armed Forces. One in ten reports either one or both parents were career military.
- On average, the responding ordinands report that they were about 17 and a half when they first considered priesthood as a vocation. Eight in ten were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest. Close to half report that friends, parishioners, and mothers also encouraged them to consider priesthood. Four in ten ordinands participated in a “Come and See” weekend.
- Relatively few ordinands say that TV, radio, billboards, or other vocational advertising was instrumental in their discernment. About one in five says that websites influenced their discernment. Nearly three in four report that they have seen the “Fishers of Men” DVD, published by the USCCB.
- One in five ordinands participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary. Ordinands have also been active in parish ministries, with between about half and three-quarters indicating they served as an altar server, lector, or Eucharistic minister in their parish.

## **Introduction**

In December 2005, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) engaged 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 for the past three years. CARA assumed responsibility for the project in 2006, using the online survey developed by the Secretariat. CARA worked with the Secretariat during 2006 to improve the online survey and to incorporate it into the annual data collection process CARA conducts for its annual survey of priestly formation programs. This report presents results of the survey of ordinands of the Class of 2007.

In Fall 2006, CARA contacted all theologates and houses of formation as part of the annual data collection for its Catholic ministry formation database and requested each site to provide names and contact information for each seminarian who was scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2007. CARA then contacted each ordinand by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete the online survey. After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 282 ordinands responded by mid-March. This represents a response rate of approximately 60 percent of the 475 potential ordinands reported by theologates and houses of formation. These 282 ordinands include 221 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 60 to the religious priesthood.

The questionnaire asked ordinands about their age, race or ethnic background, education, academic recognition, religious education and religious background, work experience, invitation to consider the priesthood, and experience with a number of 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 compares this year's responses on selected items to those from 1998, the first year for which comparable data are available.

## Diocese or Religious Institute

Responding ordinands represent 98 archdioceses, dioceses, and eparchies as well as 33 religious congregations, provinces, or monasteries. The Archdiocese of Chicago had the largest number of responding ordinands – eight in all – followed by the Archdiocese of Boston and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Phoenix (six ordinands each), and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Baton Rouge (five ordinands each). The largest numbers of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood were from the Divine Word Missionaries and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (five ordinands each).<sup>1</sup>

*On average, responding diocesan ordinands report they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 17 years before they entered the seminary.*

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

	<b>Years</b>
Mean	17
Median	18
Range	0-67

About one in seven diocesan ordinands (13 percent) report that they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained only a year or less before they entered the seminary. By contrast, 6 percent say they lived there “all my life.”

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

***How long did you know the members of this religious institute before entering the seminary?***

	<b>Years</b>
Mean	6
Median	4
Range	<1-31

One in six ordinands from religious institutes (15 percent) report that they knew the members of their religious institute only a year or less before they entered the seminary.

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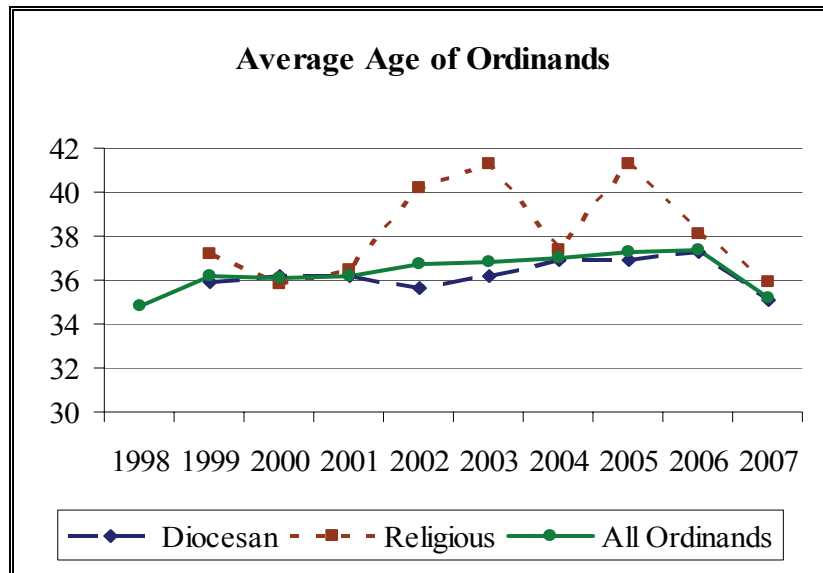
<sup>1</sup> These numbers refer only to ordinands who responded to the survey and do not necessarily mean that these dioceses or religious institutes will ordain the largest numbers of priests in 2007.

## Age of Ordinands

The average age of responding ordinands of the Class of 2007 is 35. Half are age 32 or older.

<b>Age of Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Age 25-29	31%	36%	11%
Age 30-34	27	22	46
Age 35-39	15	14	19
Age 40-49	17	17	16
Age 50-59	7	7	7
Age 60 and older	3	3	2
Average age	35	35	36

The youngest ordinand in the Class of 2007 is 25 and the oldest is 68 years of age. There is little age difference between diocesan and religious ordinands. The median age of diocesan ordinands is 32, while the median age of religious ordinands is 33. This is a slight reversal of a trend toward older average age at ordination that has been occurring over the last ten years, as shown in the graph below.



After increasing a total of 2.5 years between 1998 and 2006, the average age of ordinands in 2007 is approximately the same as it was in 1998. Ordinands of the Class of 2007 average 35.2 years of age, compared to 34.8 years among ordinands of the Class of 1998. On average, ordinands from religious institutes are just slightly older than diocesan ordinands.

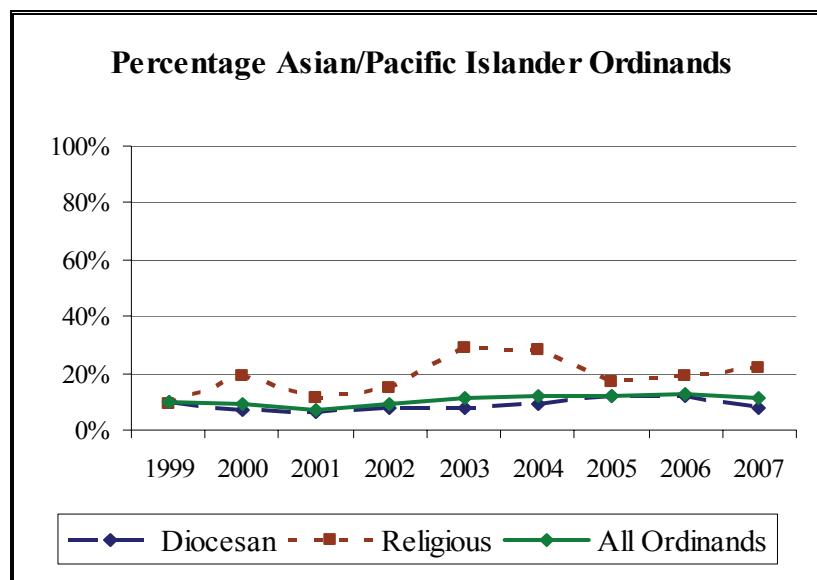
## Race and Ethnic Background

*Seven in ten responding ordinands report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian, European American, or white.*

<b>Race and Ethnic Background of Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Caucasian/European American/white	72%	77%	51%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	11	8	22
Hispanic/Latino	11	9	19
African/African American/black	5	5	7
Native American	0	0	0
Other	1	1	2

Ordinands to the diocesan priesthood approximately reflect the race and ethnic diversity of the U.S. adult Catholic population overall. Ordinands to the religious priesthood are more likely than the U.S. adult Catholic population to be Asian/Pacific Islander or Hispanic/Latino.

Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian ordinands are over-represented among survey respondents, relative to their proportion of the U.S. adult Catholic population, while Hispanic/Latinos are under-represented. Asians/Pacific Islanders constitute 3 percent of U.S. Catholics overall but are 11 percent of responding ordinands. By contrast, Hispanics/Latinos constitute approximately 36 percent of U.S. adult Catholics (CARA Catholic Poll, 2005) but only 11 percent of responding ordinands.





## Country of Birth and Age at Entry to United States

*Seven in ten responding ordinands were born in the United States.*

<b>Country of Birth of Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
United States	69%	77%	42%
Vietnam	6	4	15
Mexico	6	5	10
Poland	3	2	5
Philippines	2	2	0
Kenya	2	2	0
Other countries	12	8	28

Ordinands from religious institutes are more likely than diocesan ordinands to have been born outside the United States. While more than three-quarters of diocesan ordinands were born *in* the United States, more than half of responding ordinands from religious institutes were born *outside* the United States.

Vietnam and Mexico are the two most frequently mentioned countries of birth among responding ordinands that were born outside the United States. The ordinands identified a total of 30 different countries of origin.

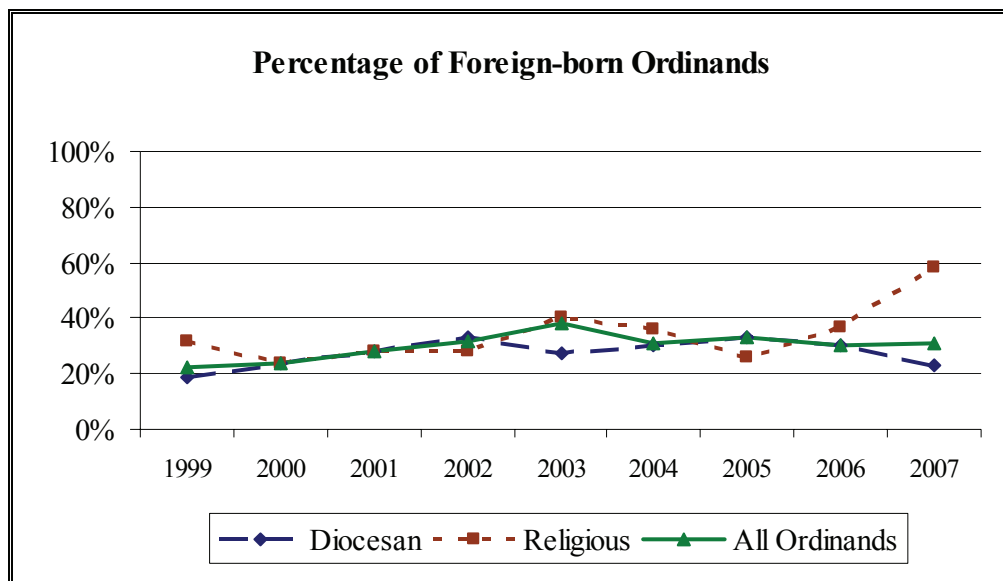
*On average, responding ordinands who were born outside the United States have lived in the United States ten years. Half of them first came to live in the United States in 1999 or before.*

<b>Year of Entry of Foreign-born Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Mean	1996	1996	1997
Median	1999	1998	2000
Range	1971-2005	1971-2005	1977-2005

*On average, responding foreign-born ordinands came to live in the United States at age 24. There is little difference between diocesan or religious ordinands in their average age when they came to live in the United States.*

<b>Age at Entry to the United States of Foreign-born Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Mean	24	23	24
Median	25	25	26
Range	3-40	3-39	3-40

*The percentage of ordinands who are foreign-born has increased from 24 percent in 1998 to 31 percent in 2007.*



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

## Catholic Background

*Nearly all responding ordinands have been Catholic since birth. Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of their conversion was 26.*

<b>Catholic Background</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Catholic since birth	94%	94%	93%
Converted	6	6	7
Average age at conversion	26	27	25

Ordinands who converted from another faith tradition or denomination are about evenly divided between those who came from a mainline Protestant tradition (Episcopalian, Methodist, Anglican) and those who came from an evangelical or conservative Protestant tradition (Evangelical, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Southern Baptist). One ordinand converted to Catholicism from Buddhism.

*Nearly all ordinands had at least one Catholic parent when they were children and more than eight in ten reported that both parents were Catholic.*

<b><i>What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child?</i></b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Both parents Catholic	83%	83%	82%
Mother Catholic, father not	9	9	9
Father Catholic, mother not	3	3	4
Neither parent was Catholic	5	5	5

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 2007, 40 percent of responding ordinands report that they have a relative who is a priest or a religious (not shown in the table above).

## Education

*The ordinands are highly educated. More than six in ten responding ordinands completed college before entering the seminary.*

<b>Highest Education Completed before the Seminary</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Elementary	2%	1%	4%
High school	19	18	22
Trade or technical school	3	3	4
Some college, no degree	14	14	17
Undergraduate degree	43	45	35
Graduate degree	19	19	18

A very small number of these ordinands (2 percent) report that they only completed elementary school before entering the seminary. About one in five ordinands of the Class of 2007 completed high school before entering the seminary and most of the responding ordinands (62 percent) completed college before entering the seminary. Although religious ordinands are less likely to have completed college before entering the seminary, they are equally as likely as diocesan ordinands to have completed a graduate degree.

The education level prior to entering the seminary for responding ordinands of the Class of 2007 is somewhat lower than the education level reported in recent years. In 1999, 25 percent of responding ordinands had less than a college degree before entering seminary, compared to 38 percent of ordinands in 2007.

A number of ordinands report that they received recognition for academic achievement. The recognition they received includes:

- Dean's List – 52 percent
- Honor Society (other than Phi Beta Kappa) – 37 percent
- Magna cum laude – 19 percent
- Summa cum laude – 16 percent
- Phi Beta Kappa – 5 percent
- Salutatorian – 4 percent
- Valedictorian – 3 percent

Some of the other state or national awards or recognitions achieved by ordinands include National Merit Scholarship, Rotary Scholarship, various state awards, Who's Who, Boys' State, and Eagle Scout.

## Catholic Education

*Half of responding ordinands attended a Catholic elementary school. More than a third attended a Catholic high school and two in five attended a Catholic college.*

<b>Attendance at Catholic School*</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Elementary	50%	51%	50%
High School	36	33	46
College	42	44	32

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

Ordinands are *not* significantly more likely than other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic elementary school. In a 2007 national telephone poll conducted by CARA, 49 percent of U.S. adult Catholics report having attended a Catholic elementary school, compared to 50 percent of ordinands who have done so. By contrast, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other Catholics to have attended a Catholic high school (36 percent of ordinands, compared to 23 percent of U.S. adult Catholics) and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (42 percent of ordinands, compared to just 8 percent of U.S. adult Catholics). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are more likely to have attended a Catholic high school but less likely to have attended a Catholic college.

Whether or not they ever attended a Catholic elementary or high school, 66 percent (65 percent of diocesan ordinands and 68 percent of religious ordinands) participated in a religious education program in their parish. On average, they completed eight years of parish religious education.

Only 2 percent of ordinands (four diocesan and two religious ordinands) report being home schooled at some time in their educational background. Among those who were home schooled, the average length of time they were home-schooled was nine and a half years.

## Work Experience

*Approximately two-thirds of ordinands report full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary.*

<b>Prior Full-time Work Experience</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Educator, teacher, professor	10%	11%	8%
Skilled labor, farming, fishing	8	9	15
Manager, supervisor	6	7	7
Sales	6	6	5
Computers	6	6	3
Church ministry	5	5	5
Engineer	4	5	3
Banking, accounting, finance	4	5	3
Physician, health care	4	3	5
Artist, musician, designer	3	3	3
Clerk, bank teller, bookkeeper	2	2	3
Restaurant work	2	2	2
Student	2	2	2
Social worker	1	1	2
Government, police	1	1	2
Military	1	1	2
Attorney	1	1	0
Scientist	1	1	0
No prior work reported	33	32	37

Ordinands that mentioned prior work experience were most likely to report that they were educators. Among religious ordinands the most common category of prior full-time work experience was in the areas of skilled labor, farming, or fishing.

## Military Experience

*Almost one in ten ordinands reports having served in the U.S. Armed Forces (9 percent of responding diocesan ordinands and only one religious ordinand). Among those who have served, more than a third served in the Air Force.*

<b>Service in the U.S. Armed Forces*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Air Force	35%	37%	0%
Army	30	32	0
Marines	20	21	0
Navy	15	11	100
Reserve	10	11	0
National Guard	5	5	0

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

The table above shows the branch of service among those who reported military service. More than a third reported service in the Air Force and one in three served in the Army.

Ordinands were also asked whether either of their parents was a career military person. Ten percent indicated that one or both of their parents was a career military person – 11 percent of diocesan ordinands and 4 percent of religious ordinands.

<b>Career Military Service of Parents</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Father	8%	9%	2%
Mother	0	0	0
Both	2	2	2
Neither	90	89	96

## Encouragement to Consider Priesthood

*Responding ordinands report that they were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a variety of people. They were most likely to say they were encouraged by a priest.*

<b>Encouragement to Consider Priesthood*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Priest	80%	82%	72%
Friend	47	48	43
Parishioner	44	44	43
Mother	42	41	48
Father	28	29	26
Grandparent	27	27	28
Teacher	23	22	28
Religious Sister	22	22	24
Other relative	19	19	20
Bishop	17	19	11
Religious Brother	12	9	20
Youth Minister	11	12	7
Campus Minister	10	9	11
Deacon	7	8	6
Military Chaplain	2	3	0

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

Many responding ordinands were encouraged by a friend or family member. Close to half received encouragement from a friend, a parishioner, or their mother.

Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to say they were encouraged by religious brothers, while diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have been encouraged by a priest or bishop.

- Although four in ten received encouragement from their mother to consider the priesthood, ordinands are more likely to report that they received encouragement from parish contacts than from other family members. About a quarter received encouragement from their father or grandparent and about one in five were encouraged to consider the priesthood by another relative.
- One in five diocesan ordinands was encouraged to consider the priesthood by a bishop, compared to just over one in ten religious ordinands. Religious ordinands, in contrast,



are more likely to have been encouraged by a religious brother. About one in four ordinands received encouragement from religious sisters and from teachers. One in ten or fewer were encouraged by a youth minister, a campus minister, a deacon, or a military chaplain.

On average, ordinands report that they were 17 and a half when they first considered the priesthood as a vocation (not shown in the table above). Responding diocesan ordinands were, on average, a little over 17 and a half and responding religious ordinands were about 16 and a half when they first considered the priesthood.

Nearly half of responding ordinands (44 percent of diocesan ordinands and 57 percent of religious ordinands) also said that they were *discouraged* from considering the priesthood as a vocation by one or more persons.

*Among those who reported being discouraged from considering priesthood as a vocation, ordinands are more likely to report that they were discouraged by friends or classmates or by a parent or other family member.*

<b>Discouragement from Considering Priesthood*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Friend or classmate	28%	25%	41%
Parent or family member	22	20	30
Priest or other clergy	7	7	7
Teacher	3	3	4
Religious sister or brother	1	1	4
Youth minister	0	0	0
Someone else	7	7	6

\*Respondents could select more than one category.

Very few responding ordinands said they had been discouraged from considering a priestly vocation by clergy, teachers, or religious sisters or brothers. None reported being discouraged by a youth minister. A few mentioned someone else who had discouraged them from pursuing their vocation, including a girlfriend or former girlfriend, a co-worker, or a more distant relative.

## Participation in Parish Programs, Activities, or Ministries

*Ordinands have also been active in parish life. Retreats, devotions, and parish youth ministry are among the parish programs or activities that many ordinands were involved in before entering the seminary.*

<b>Participation in Parish Programs or Activities*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Retreats	61%	65%	46%
Devotions	45	50	28
Parish youth ministry	42	42	43
Boy Scouts	32	35	20
Knights of Columbus	25	28	13
Catholic campus ministry	24	26	17
Right to Life	22	26	6
Rosary Society	8	7	15
St. Vincent de Paul	7	7	7
Men's Club	7	8	4
Eagle Scouts	5	6	0
Serra Club	1	1	2

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

More than six in ten ordinands were involved in retreats before entering the seminary. About a third were involved in Boy Scouts and a quarter were involved in the Knights of Columbus or Catholic campus ministry before entering the seminary. One in five responding ordinands (26 percent of diocesan ordinands and 6 percent of religious ordinands) were involved in Right to Life before entering the seminary.

Among the activities or programs about which they were asked, ordinands were least likely to have been involved in the Serra Club, Eagle Scouts, a Men's Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, or a Rosary Society.

*Most ordinands participated in one or more liturgical ministries in the parish before entering the seminary. More than three-quarters were altar servers.*

<b>Participation in Parish Ministries*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Altar server	76%	76%	76%
Lector	59	60	54
Eucharistic minister	47	51	33
Youth minister	27	26	35
Cantor or music minister	24	26	19
Parish council member	15	16	11
RCIA team member	14	14	13
RCIA sponsor	13	14	9
Liturgy committee	12	12	13
Campus minister	6	6	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, Eucharistic minister, or cantor or music minister before entering the seminary.

- About one in four served as a parish youth minister.
- Ordinands were less likely to have served on a parish committee. About one in six served as a parish council member and about one in ten served on a parish liturgy committee.
- About one in seven ordinands ministered in their parish as an RCIA team member or as an RCIA sponsor.

One in five responding ordinands participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary (not shown in the table above). Diocesan ordinands were more likely than religious ordinands to report participating in a World Youth Day (23 percent compared to 12 percent).

## 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.*

<b>Vocation Programs*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
“Come and See” weekends	43%	40%	51%
Parish vocation programs	14	13	20
High school vocation programs	12	11	16
Operation Andrew	6	7	0
Elementary school/CCD voc. programs	6	5	8
Traveling Cup/Cross programs	1	2	0

\*Respondents could select more than one category.

A little more than one in ten responding ordinands participated in a parish or high school vocation program before entering the seminary. Less than one in ten participated in Operation Andrew or the Traveling Cup/Cross programs.

In addition to the vocation programs listed above, nearly three-quarters of responding ordinands have seen the vocational promotion DVD “Fishers of Men,” published by the USCCB. Diocesan ordinands are more than twice as likely as religious ordinands to have seen the DVD (76 percent of diocesan ordinands compared to 30 percent of religious ordinands).

Ordinands were also asked to indicate if various forms of vocational advertising may have influenced their discernment. Relatively few ordinands report that any of these influenced their discernment. Websites were the most influential, with close to one in five responding ordinands reporting that websites influenced their discernment.

<b><i>Did any of these influence your discernment?*</i></b>			
<b>(Percentage checking each response)</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Websites	18%	17%	13%
Pamphlets	16	16	8
Magazine advertisements	15	12	17
Posters	12	12	8
Newsletters	12	11	10
Videos	11	9	17
E-mails	4	5	2
Billboards	3	2	3
TV advertisements	2	3	0
Radio advertisements	1	1	0
Interactive CD-ROM	1	1	0
Other	23	23	15

\*Respondents could select more than one category.

About a quarter of responding ordinands mentioned some “other” influence on their discernment. Examples include:

- EWTN
- Personal contact with priests, brothers, and other seminarians
- Holy men and women
- Books, magazines, Catholic radio, and diocesan newspapers
- Prayer and Eucharist
- Homilies and Church announcements
- Parish Masses, missions, and retreats
- Vocation director
- Vocation talks, vocation nights, vocation retreats, and vocation programs
- John Paul II at World Youth Day
- Diocesan discernment programs
- Encouragement from friends and family
- The example of good priests

## Organized Sports in High School or College

*Soccer is the most popular organized sport played by ordinands in high school or college.*

<b>Organized Sports Played in High School or College*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Soccer	24%	18%	50%
Basketball	18	20	9
Track and Field	19	18	22
Football	13	14	9
Baseball	10	10	9
Swimming	10	9	13
Tennis	6	5	11
Golf	6	7	4
Wrestling	5	5	4
Lacrosse	1	1	2

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

Nearly a quarter of ordinands who played organized sports in high school or college played soccer. One in five played basketball or participated in track and field and one in seven participated in football. One in ten participated in organized baseball or swimming.

## Hobbies and Extra-curricular Activities

*Reading is the most frequently mentioned hobby or extra-curricular activity, mentioned by seven in ten responding ordinands.*

<b>Hobbies and Extra-curricular Activities*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Reading	70%	72%	63%
Movies	60	60	57
Music	57	58	50
Exercise	47	50	37
Sports	46	44	52
Hiking	33	34	28
Cooking	29	28	35
Musical instrument	27	30	15
Camping	25	23	30
Running	24	23	24
Fishing	21	21	19
Cycling	20	19	28
Writing	19	19	20
Theatre	18	20	9
Acting	11	13	6
Painting	10	11	6
Hunting	9	9	7
Woodworking	8	8	11
Opera	6	7	4
Sailing	5	5	6

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

Movies and music are also popular hobbies, enjoyed by more than half of ordinands. Nearly half mention exercise or sports. Between a quarter and a third mention hiking, cooking, playing a musical instrument, camping, or running among their hobbies or extra-curricular activities.