

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

*The Class of 2008:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*

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



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Executive Summary

This report presents findings from a national survey of ordinands to the priesthood in 2008. To obtain the names and contact information for these ordinands, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) contacted all theologates and houses of formation in fall 2007 as part of the annual data collection for its Catholic ministry formation database and requested each site to provide names and contact information for every seminarian who was scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in 2008. CARA then contacted the identified ordinands by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete a brief online survey. At the same time, CARA also e-mailed or faxed a similar request to the seminary rector or president at all theologates in its Catholic ministry formation database as well as all major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to contact the ordinands for CARA and invite them to participate in the online survey.

After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 335 ordinands responded to the survey by March 1, 2008. This represents a response rate of approximately 84 percent of the 401 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, and religious institutes. These 335 ordinands include 242 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 77 ordinands to the religious priesthood. Another 16 ordinands did not specify whether they were being ordained to diocesan or religious priesthood.

Major Findings

- The average age of ordinands for the Class of 2008 is 37. This is approximately the same as it was in 2007 and consistent with an overall trend of increasingly older ordination classes.
- On average, diocesan ordinands lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 14 years before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of seven years before they entered the seminary.

Background and Country of Origin

- Seven in ten responding ordinands (68 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian, European American, or white. Compared to the adult Catholic population of the United States in general, ordinands are more likely to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background, but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino. Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are *less* likely 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 Mexico, Vietnam, Poland, and the Philippines. Religious ordinands are slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to be foreign-born. The percentage foreign-born is nearly the same in 2008 as in 2007 (32 percent compared to 31 percent), but has increased from the 24 percent reported in 1999. On average, responding ordinands who were born in another country have lived in the United States for 13 years.
- Most ordinands have been Catholic since birth, although close to one in ten (9 percent) became Catholic later in life. More than four in five (84 percent) report that both of their parents are Catholic and two in five (37 percent) have a relative who is a priest or a religious.

Education, Ministry, and Work Experience

- More than six in ten ordinands completed college (61 percent), and more than one in five had a graduate degree (22 percent), before entering the seminary. Compared to the Class of 1999, ordinands of the Class of 2008 were less likely to have a college degree before entering the seminary.
- Half of responding ordinands (51 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, as have almost half (49 percent) of all Catholic adults in the United States. However, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college.
- Ordinands have been active in parish ministries, with between about half and three-quarters indicating they served as an altar server, lector, and/or Eucharistic minister in their parish. One in five ordinands (20 percent) participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary.
- About two-thirds of ordinands report having full-time work experience before entering the seminary, most often in education. One in ten has served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the same percentage reports that either one or both parents were career military.

Vocational Discernment

- On average, the responding ordinands report that they were about 18 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. Eight in ten (80 percent) were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest. Close to half report that friends, parishioners, and their mother also encouraged them to consider priesthood.
- Relatively few ordinands say that TV, radio, billboards, or other vocational advertising were instrumental in their discernment. Four in ten ordinands (42 percent) participated in a “Come and See” weekend before entering the seminary. Three in four (76 percent) report that they have seen the “Fishers of Men” DVD, published by the USCCB. Diocesan ordinands are twice as likely as religious to have seen the DVD.

Introduction

In December 2005, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation (now the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of ordinands to the priesthood. The survey was initially developed by the Secretariat in 1998 and has been administered online for the past four years. 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 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 2008.

In Fall 2007, 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 2008. CARA then contacted all identified ordinands by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete a brief online survey.

At the same time, CARA also e-mailed or faxed a similar request to the seminary rector or president at all theologates in its Catholic ministry formation database as well as all major superiors of men's clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to contact the ordinands for CARA and invite them to participate in the online survey. After repeated follow-ups by telephone, fax, and e-mail, a total of 335 ordinands responded to the survey by the first of March. This represents a response rate of approximately 84 percent of the 401 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates and houses of formation. These 335 ordinands include 242 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 77 ordinands 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 1999, the first year for which comparable data on both diocesan and religious ordinands are available.

Ordination to Diocesan or Religious Priesthood

Responding ordinands represent 119 archdioceses, dioceses, and eparchies as well as 39 religious congregations, provinces, or monasteries. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles had the largest number of respondents (nine ordinands), followed by the Archdioceses of Chicago and St. Louis (eight ordinands each) the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Rockville Centre (seven ordinands each), the Archdioceses of Boston, Newark, and Saint Paul and Minneapolis (six ordinands each), and the Archdioceses of Atlanta and Philadelphia as well as the Dioceses of Cleveland and Rockford (five ordinands each). The largest numbers of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood (five ordinands each) were from the Divine Word Missionaries (SVDs) and the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists).¹

On average, responding diocesan ordinands report they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 14 years before they entered the seminary.

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

	Years
Mean	14
Median	12
Range	0-50

About one in six diocesan ordinands (15 percent) report that they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained less than a year before they entered the seminary. In fact, 13 percent reported they did not live in the diocese or eparchy at all before they entered the seminary. By contrast, 5 percent say they lived there “all my life.” Another 15 ordinands (4 percent) did not answer the question about how long they lived in the diocese or eparchy before entering the seminary.

¹ These numbers refer only to ordinands who responded to the survey and do not necessarily mean that these dioceses or religious institutes will ordain the largest numbers of priests in 2008.

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

<i>How long did you know the members of this religious institute before entering the seminary?</i>	
	Years
Mean	7
Median	4
Range	0-40

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.

Age of Ordinands

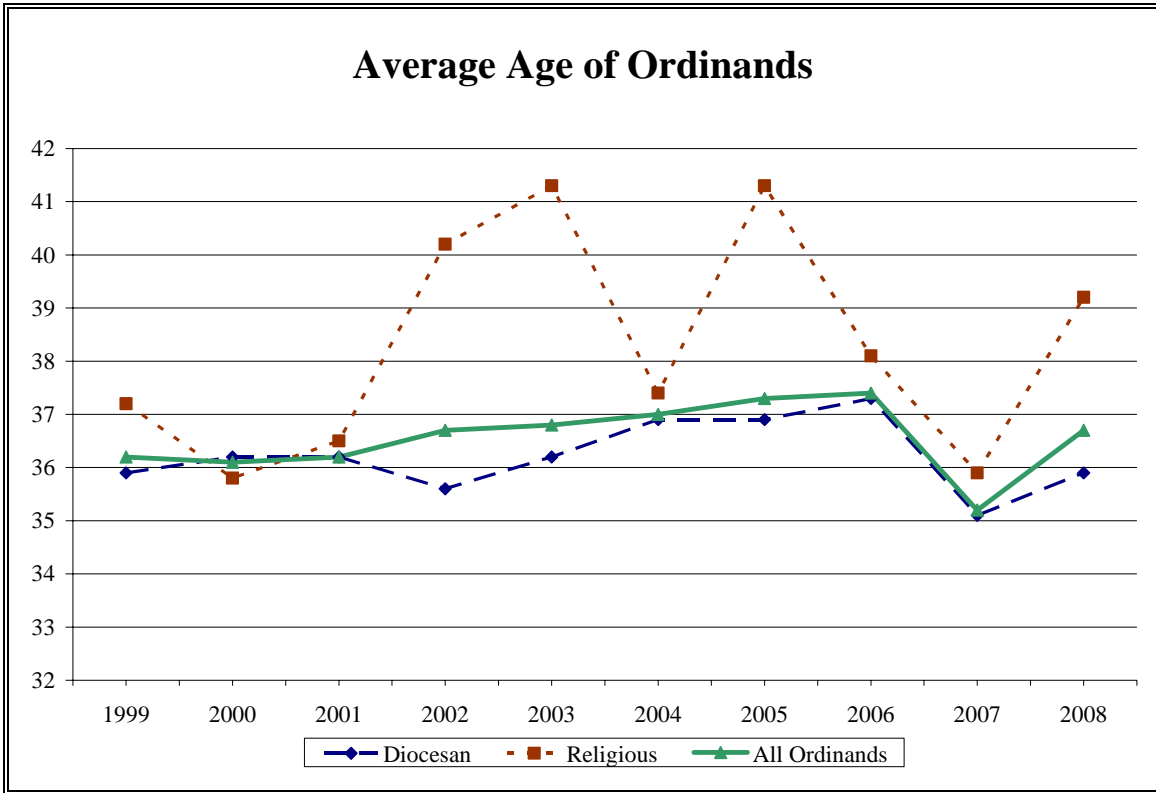
The average age of responding ordinands of the Class of 2008 is 37. Half are age 34 or older.

Age of Ordinands			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each age category			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Age 25-29	30%	38%	5%
Age 30-34	23	17	34
Age 35-39	16	16	17
Age 40-49	22	19	32
Age 50-59	7	7	9
Age 60 and older	3	3	3
Average age	37	36	39
Median age	34	32	37
Range in years	25-76	25-76	27-61

The youngest ordinand in the Class of 2008 is 25 and the oldest is 76 years of age. Five ordinands who responded to the survey are being ordained to the priesthood at age 65 or older.

On average, religious ordinands tend to be slightly older than diocesan ordinands. The median age of diocesan ordinands is 32, while the median age of religious ordinands is 37.

Ordinands of the Class of 2008 average 36.7 years of age, almost identical to the average age of 36.2 years among ordinands of the Class of 1999. On average, ordinands from religious institutes are somewhat older than diocesan ordinands.²



After a slight dip in average age reported in 2007, the trend toward older average age at ordination that has been occurring over the last ten years continues with the Class of 2008.

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

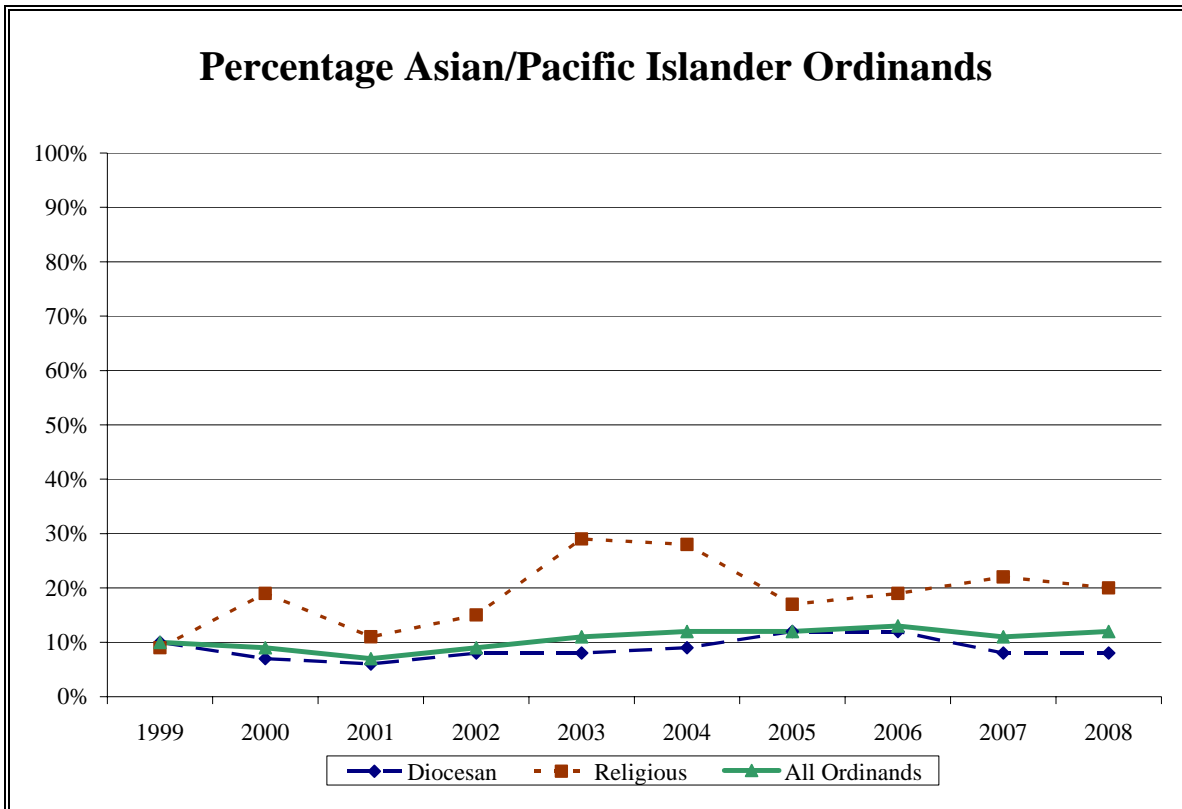
Race and Ethnic Background

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

Race and Ethnic Background of Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Caucasian/European American/White	68%	71%	58%
Hispanic/Latino	16	16	16
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	12	8	20
African/African American/Black	3	11	3
Native American	0	0	0
Other	1	<1	3

Compared to all U.S. adult Catholics, ordinands to the diocesan priesthood are somewhat more likely than the U.S. adult Catholic population overall to be African/African American/Black. Ordinands to the religious priesthood are more likely than the U.S. adult Catholic population to be Asian/Pacific Islander.

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 somewhat under-represented. Asians/Pacific Islanders constitute 3 percent of U.S. Catholics overall but are 12 percent of responding ordinands. By contrast, Hispanics/Latinos constitute approximately 35 percent of U.S. adult Catholics (CARA poll of U.S. adult Catholics, 2006) but only 16 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.

Country of Birth of Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
United States	68%	70%	66%
Mexico	7	7	7
Vietnam	6	4	13
Poland	4	5	0
Philippines	3	3	3
Colombia	2	2	3
Other countries	10	9	8

Ordinands from religious institutes are slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to have been born outside the United States. Seven in ten diocesan ordinands were born in the United States, compared to two-thirds of responding ordinands from religious institutes.

Vietnam and Mexico are the two most frequently mentioned countries of birth among responding ordinands who were born outside the United States. The ordinands identified a total of 31 different countries of origin.

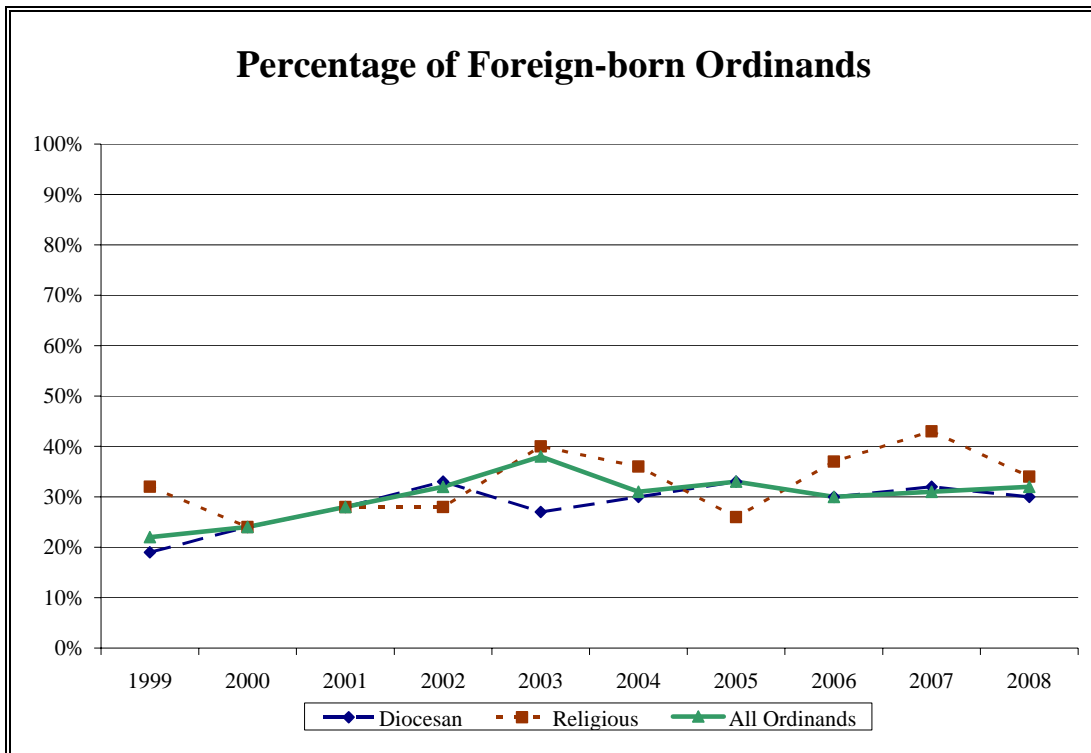
On average, responding ordinands who were born outside the United States have lived in the United States for 13 years. Half of them first came to live in the United States in 1998 or earlier.

Year of Entry to the U.S. of Foreign-born Ordinands			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Mean	1995	1996	1993
Median	1998	1998	1994
Range	1959-2008	1962-2005	1959-2008

On average, responding foreign-born ordinands came to live in the United States at age 23. There is little difference between diocesan or religious ordinands in their average age when they came to live in the United States.

Age at Entry to the United States of Foreign-born Ordinands				
	All	Diocesan	Religious	
Mean	23	22	22	
Median	23	22	25	
Range	1-59	2-44	1-38	

The percentage of ordinands who are foreign-born has increased from 22 percent in 1999 to 32 percent in 2008.



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

Catholic Background

Nine in ten responding ordinands have been Catholic since birth. Among those who became Catholic later in life, the average age of their conversion was 20.

Catholic Background			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Catholic since birth	91%	93%	83%
Converted	9	7	17
Average age at conversion	20	21	17

Ordinands who converted from another faith tradition or denomination are about evenly divided among those who came from a mainline Protestant tradition (Episcopalian, Lutheran, Anglican, United Church of Christ), those who came from an evangelical or conservative Protestant tradition (Church of Christ, Baptist, non-denominational Christian), and those who were raised without a faith tradition. Three ordinands converted to Catholicism from Judaism.

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

<i>What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child?</i>			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Both parents Catholic	84%	85%	79%
Mother Catholic, father not	7	7	7
Father Catholic, mother not	3	3	4
Neither parent was Catholic	6	5	11

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 2008, 37 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 responding ordinands are highly educated. More than six in ten completed college before entering the seminary³.

Highest Education Completed before the Seminary			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Elementary	2%	2%	4%
High school	16	18	11
Trade or technical school	2	3	1
Some college, no degree	19	21	13
Undergraduate degree	39	40	41
Graduate degree	22	17	30

A very small number of these ordinands (2 percent) report that they only completed elementary school before entering the seminary. About one in six ordinands of the Class of 2008 completed high school before entering the seminary and most of the responding ordinands (61 percent) completed college before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands are just as likely as diocesan ordinands to have an undergraduate degree before entering the seminary and they are more likely to have completed a graduate degree.

The education level prior to entering the seminary for responding ordinands of the Class of 2008 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 39 percent of ordinands in 2008.

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

- Dean’s List – 49 percent
- Honor Society (other than Phi Beta Kappa) – 33 percent
- Magna cum laude – 16 percent
- Summa cum laude – 14 percent
- Phi Beta Kappa – 6 percent
- Valedictorian – 5 percent
- Salutatorian – 3 percent

³ Some respondents may have entered the seminary at the high school or college level.

Catholic Education

Half of responding ordinands attended a Catholic elementary school. Two in five attended a Catholic high school and close to half attended a Catholic college.

Attendance at Catholic School*			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Elementary	51%	51%	51%
High School	41	42	36
College	45	45	47

*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 51 percent of ordinands who have done so. By contrast, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other Catholics to have attended a Catholic high school (41 percent of ordinands, compared to 23 percent of U.S. adult Catholics) and much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (45 percent of ordinands, compared to just 8 percent of U.S. adult Catholics). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are less likely to have attended a Catholic high school but equally likely to have attended a Catholic college.

Whether or not they ever attended a Catholic elementary or high school, 62 percent (65 percent of diocesan ordinands and 52 percent of religious ordinands) participated in a religious education program in their parish. On average, they completed seven years of parish religious education.

Only 2 percent of ordinands (two 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 four years.

Work Experience

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

Prior Full-time Work Experience*			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Educator, teacher, professor	14%	12%	16%
Skilled labor, farming	11	10	16
Sales, marketing	9	11	3
Computers, IT	8	8	8
Manager, supervisor	7	7	6
Accounting, finance, insurance	7	7	6
Restaurant, hotel work	5	6	3
Engineer	4	6	2
Church ministry	4	4	5
Physician, health care	4	4	6
Government, police	2	3	2
Clerk, bank teller, bookkeeper	2	2	0
Military	2	2	5
Attorney	2	2	2
Social worker	2	1	6
Artist, musician, designer	1	1	2
Scientist	1	1	3
No prior work experience	9	11	3
Student	7	6	8

*Among the 77 percent of ordinands that responded to the question.

Ordinands that mentioned prior work experience were most likely to report that they were educators. Among religious ordinands skilled labor or farming was also a common category of prior full-time work experience. One in ten ordinands reported that they had no full-time work experience and another 7 percent reported that their only experience prior to entering the seminary had been as students.

Military Experience

One in ten responding ordinands reports having served in the U.S. Armed Forces (13 percent of diocesan ordinands and 7 percent of religious ordinands). Among those who have served, a third served in the Army and one in three served in the Navy.

Service in the U.S. Armed Forces*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Army	33%	40%	0%
Navy	31	27	40
Air Force	11	13	0
Marines	11	10	20
Reserve	6	7	0
National Guard	8	7	20
Coast Guard	3	0	20

*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. Diocesan ordinands were most likely to report having served in the Army or the Navy, while religious ordinands were most likely to report having served in the Navy.

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 – 7 percent of diocesan ordinands and 17 percent of religious ordinands reported their father served in the military.

Career Military Service of Parents			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Father	9%	7%	17%
Mother	0	0	0
Both	1	2	0
Neither	90	91	83

Consideration of Priesthood

On average, ordinands report that they were 18 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. Responding diocesan ordinands were about 18 and responding religious ordinands were about 20 when they first considered the priesthood.

Age When Ordinands First Considered Priesthood			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Mean	18	18	20
Median	17	16	19
Range	3-68	3-68	5-50

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.

Encouragement to Consider Priesthood*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Priest	80%	83%	71%
Friend	50	51	50
Mother	41	40	41
Parishioner	38	42	33
Father	31	31	29
Teacher	25	26	21
Religious Sister	24	22	33
Other relative	22	23	20
Grandparent	19	20	13
Bishop	12	13	9
Religious Brother	11	9	15
Campus Minister	11	12	8
Youth Minister	9	11	7
Deacon	7	7	7
Military Chaplain	2	2	3

*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, their mother, or a parishioner.

Religious ordinands are more likely than diocesan ordinands to say they were encouraged by religious sisters or 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 friends and parish contacts than from other family members. About three in ten received encouragement from their father and about one in five were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a grandparent or another relative.
- Two in five diocesan ordinands were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a parishioner, compared to a third of religious ordinands. Religious ordinands, in contrast, are more likely to have been encouraged by a religious sister or brother. About one in four ordinands received encouragement from a teacher. One in ten or fewer were encouraged by a youth minister, a campus minister, a deacon, or a military chaplain.

Discouragement from Considering Priesthood

Nearly half of responding ordinands (45 percent of diocesan ordinands and 53 percent of religious ordinands) also said that they were *discouraged* from considering the priesthood by one or more persons.

Discouragement from Considering Priesthood*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Friend or classmate	60%	64%	53%
Parent or family member	48	45	61
Priest or other clergy	15	17	11
Teacher	8	10	5
Religious sister or brother	6	6	8
Youth minister	4	4	3
Someone else	11	12	8

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

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

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, a more distant relative, or non-Catholic friends.

Participation in Parish Programs, Activities, or Ministries

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

Participation in Parish Programs or Activities*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Retreats	57%	58%	53%
Parish youth ministry	44	47	34
Devotions	36	39	30
Boy Scouts	33	32	34
Catholic campus ministry	23	24	22
Knights of Columbus	22	24	15
Right to Life	19	19	18
Rosary Society	6	6	3
St. Vincent de Paul	6	7	3
Men's Club	4	4	4
Eagle Scouts	6	6	7
Serra Club	1	2	0

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

Close to six in ten ordinands were involved in retreats before entering the seminary. About a third were involved in Boy Scouts and more than a fifth were involved in Catholic campus ministry or the Knights of Columbus before entering the seminary. One in five responding 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. About three-quarters were altar servers.

Participation in Parish Ministries*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Altar server	73%	75%	62%
Lector	63	63	63
Eucharistic minister	47	48	43
Youth minister	30	32	28
Cantor or music minister	28	29	25
Liturgy committee	16	16	16
RCIA team member	14	12	20
RCIA sponsor	13	15	12
Parish council member	12	13	11
Campus minister	5	5	7

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

One in five ordinands has experienced World Youth Day. About a quarter of diocesan ordinands (23 percent), but fewer than one in ten religious ordinands, report that they participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary (not shown in the table above).

Vocation Programs and Vocational Advertising

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

Vocation Programs*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
“Come and See” weekends	42%	40%	49%
Parish vocation programs	9	8	12
High school vocation programs	10	12	4
Operation Andrew	8	11	3
Elementary school/CCD voc. programs	4	5	3
Traveling Cup/Cross programs	1	2	0

*Respondents could select more than one category.

About 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, three-quarters of responding ordinands (76 percent) 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 (87 percent of diocesan ordinands compared to 38 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 about one in seven responding ordinands reporting that websites influenced their discernment.

<i>Did any of these influence your discernment?*</i>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Websites	14%	14%	16%
Pamphlets	13	13	17
Magazine advertisements	10	8	19
Posters	11	11	8
Newsletters	10	8	16
Videos	9	9	7
E-mails	5	5	7
Billboards	3	3	4
TV advertisements	3	3	3
Radio advertisements	2	2	1
Interactive CD-ROM	2	2	1
Other	19	15	28

*Respondents could select more than one category.

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

- Personal witness of priests, brothers, and other seminarians
- Holy men and women
- Books, magazines, Catholic radio, and diocesan newspapers
- Prayer and Eucharist
- Church announcements and vocation prayer at Sunday Masses
- Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement and conferences
- Vocation director
- Vocation talks, vocation nights, vocation retreats, and vocation programs
- John Paul II, Benedict XVI, Paul VI
- Diocesan discernment programs
- Encouragement from friends and family
- The example of good and happy priests and seminarians
- World Youth Day

Organized Sports in High School or College

Soccer, basketball, football, and track and field are the most popular organized sports played by ordinands in high school or college.

Organized Sports Played in High School or College*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Soccer	25%	24%	20%
Basketball	22	24	13
Track and Field	20	20	20
Football	18	20	13
Tennis	12	14	4
Baseball	12	11	15
Wrestling	9	10	4
Swimming	8	7	11
Golf	5	5	5
Lacrosse	2	3	3

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

A quarter of ordinands who played organized sports in high school or college played soccer. One in five played basketball, football, or participated in track and field. One in ten participated in organized baseball, tennis, wrestling, or swimming.

Hobbies and Extra-curricular Activities

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

Hobbies and Extra-curricular Activities*			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	All	Diocesan	Religious
Reading	62%	62%	58%
Music	56	59	45
Movies	51	54	43
Exercise	46	49	42
Sports	42	44	36
Hiking	33	34	33
Cooking	29	32	24
Camping	27	27	26
Musical instrument	26	27	22
Running	26	26	26
Fishing	24	26	18
Writing	24	21	30
Theatre	21	23	18
Cycling	17	16	16
Acting	12	14	8
Opera	11	11	9
Painting	9	8	12
Hunting	9	10	7
Woodworking	6	6	8
Sailing	5	6	4

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

Music and movies 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, camping, playing a musical instrument, or running among their hobbies or extra-curricular activities.