

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

*The Class of 2009:  
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 2009. 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 2008 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 2009. CARA then contacted the ordinands by e-mail, phone, or fax to explain the project and ask them to complete a brief online survey. At the same time, CARA also e-mailed or faxed a similar request to the seminary rector or president at all theologates in its Catholic ministry formation database as well as all major superiors of clerical and mixed religious institutes, asking them to contact 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 310 ordinands responded to the survey by March 5, 2009. This represents a response rate of approximately 70 percent of the 465 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, and religious institutes. These 310 ordinands include 239 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 71 ordinands to the religious priesthood. Another 15 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 2009 is 36. More than half (57 percent) are between the ages of 25 and 34. This is approximately the same as it was in 2008 and consistent with the average age of ordination classes for the last five years.
- 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.

### ***Background and Country of Origin***

- Seven in ten responding ordinands (72 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian, European American, or white. Compared to the adult Catholic population of the United States, ordinands are more likely to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background (11 percent of responding ordinands), but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (12 percent of responding ordinands). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are *less* likely to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white.
- One-quarter of ordinands were 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. 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 one in ten (10 percent) became Catholic later in life. Four in five (80 percent) report that both of their parents are Catholic and one-third (36 percent) have a relative who is a priest or a religious.

### ***Education, Ministry, and Work Experience***

- Before entering the seminary, two in three ordinands completed college (65 percent), and one in five of those had a graduate degree (19 percent). Compared to the Class of 1999, ordinands of the Class of 2009 were less likely to have a college degree before entering the seminary (35 percent in 2009 did not complete college before entering the seminary, compared to 25 percent in 1999). This is consistent with the trend in slightly higher enrollments in college seminaries in recent years.
- Half of responding ordinands (51 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, which is a rate slightly higher than that for all Catholic adults in the United States (42 percent). In addition, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college.
- 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-quarter of ordinands (24 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. Less than 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 17 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. About eight in ten (78 percent) were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a priest. Between a quarter and a half report that friends, parishioners, or parents also encouraged them to consider priesthood.
- Relatively few ordinands say that TV, radio, billboards, or other vocational advertising were instrumental in their discernment. Half (47 percent) participated in a “Come and See” weekend before entering the seminary. Three in four (77 percent) report that they have seen the “Fishers of Men” DVD published by the USCCB.

## **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 five 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 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 2009.

To obtain the names and contact information for these ordinands, CARA contacted all theologates and houses of formation in fall 2008 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 2009. CARA then contacted 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 310 ordinands responded to the survey by March 5, 2009. This represents a response rate of approximately 67 percent of the 465 potential ordinands reported to CARA by theologates, houses of formation, dioceses, and religious institutes. These 310 ordinands include 239 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 71 ordinands to the religious priesthood. Another 15 ordinands did not specify whether they were being ordained to diocesan or 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 112 dioceses or and eparchies and 46 religious congregations, provinces, or monasteries. The Archdiocese of Chicago had the largest number of respondents (eight ordinands), followed by the Diocese of Cincinnati (seven ordinands), the Archdioceses of Washington, Portland, Milwaukee and the Diocese of Cleveland (six ordinands each), the Archdioceses of Seattle, Los Angeles, San Antonio and the Diocese of San Jose (five ordinands each). The largest numbers of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood were from the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, California (5 ordinands) and the Society of Jesus, Oregon Province (four ordinands).<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	0-56

About one in six diocesan ordinands (17 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, 8 percent reported they did not live in the diocese or eparchy at all before they entered the seminary. Another 84 ordinands (27 percent) did not answer the question about how long they lived in the diocese or eparchy before entering 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 number of priests in 2009.

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

<b><i>How long did you know the members of this religious institute before entering the seminary?</i></b>	
	<b>Years</b>
Mean	6
Median	4
Range	0-24

One in five ordinands from religious institutes (21 percent) report that they knew the members of their religious institute only a year or less before they entered the seminary.

## Age of Ordinands

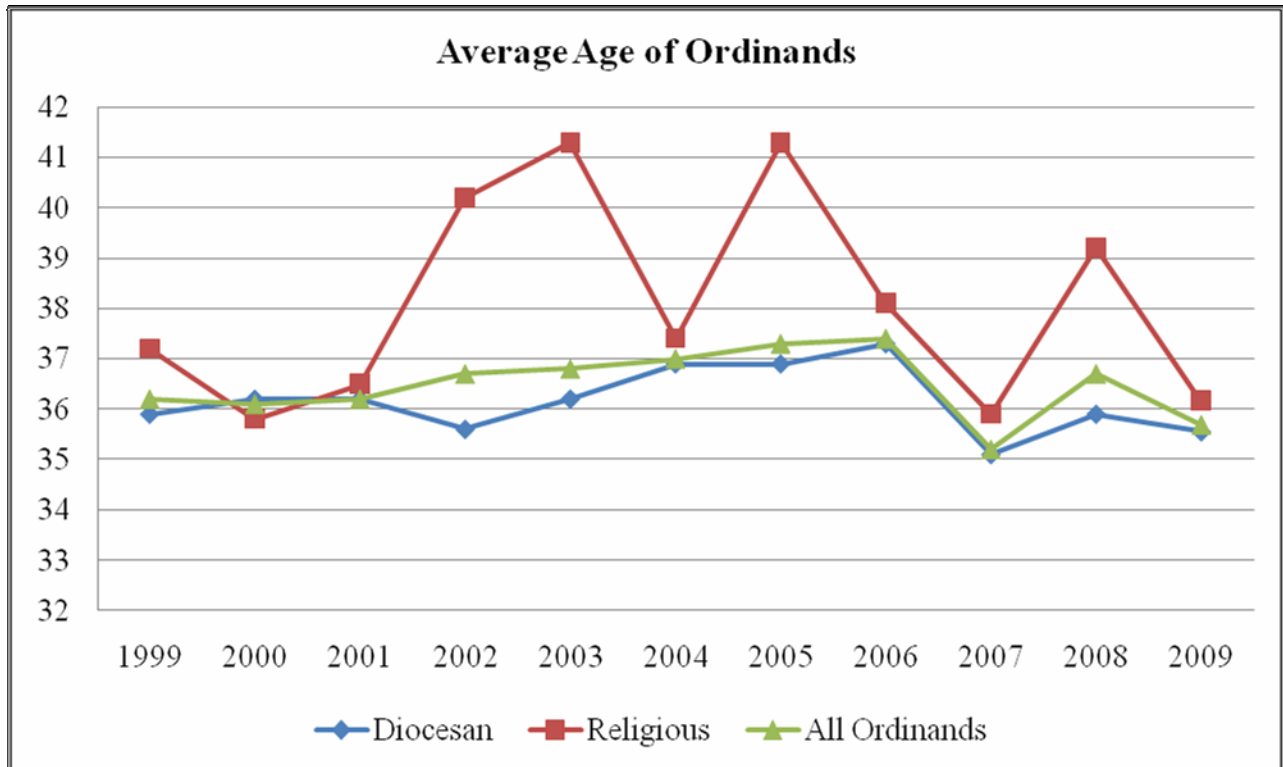
*The average age of responding ordinands of the Class of 2009 is 36. More than half (57 percent) are between 25 and 34.*

<b>Age of Ordinands</b>			
Percentage of all responding ordinands in each age category			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Age 25-29	31%	37%	12%
Age 30-34	26	24	35
Age 35-39	18	14	33
Age 40-49	15	14	17
Age 50-59	7	7	3
Age 60 and older	3	4	0
Average age	36	36	36
Median age	33	32	35
Range in years	25-66	25-66	28-58

The youngest ordinand in the Class of 2009 is 25 and the oldest is 66 years of age. Two 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 35.

Ordinands of the Class of 2009 average 35.7 years of age, just slightly lower 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.<sup>2</sup>



The Class of 2009 follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

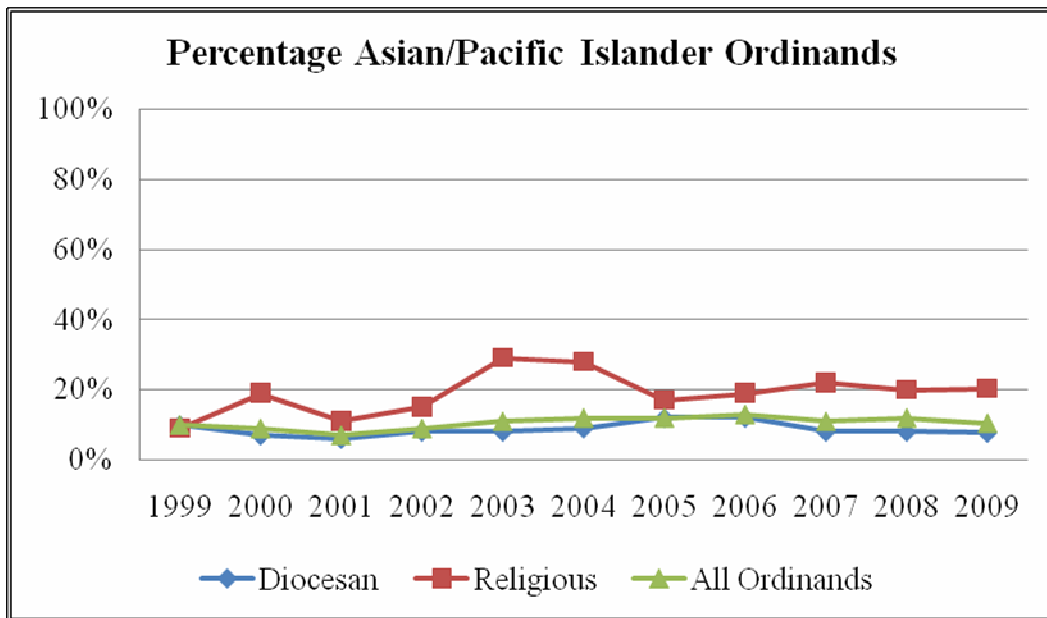
## Race and Ethnic Background

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

<b>Race and Ethnic Background of Ordinands and Adult Catholics</b>				
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Adult Catholics Nationally</b>
Caucasian/European American/White	72%	74%	68%	58%
Hispanic/Latino	12	13	9	34
Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	11	8	21	4
African/African American/Black	3	3	1	3
Native American	0	0	0	1
Other	2	2	1	----*

\*Data unavailable.

Using data from a recent CARA telephone poll, Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian ordinands are over-represented among survey respondents, relative to their proportion of the U.S. adult Catholic population, while Hispanics/Latinos are somewhat 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 34 percent of U.S. adult Catholics but only 12 percent of responding ordinands.



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

*Three in four 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	76%	77%	70%
Vietnam	6	3	15
Mexico	5	6	1
Poland	3	3	1
Philippines	2	2	1
Colombia	1	2	0
Other countries	7	7	12

Ordinands from religious institutes are slightly more likely than diocesan ordinands to have been born outside the United States. More than three-fourths (77 percent) of diocesan ordinands were born in the United States, compared to seven in ten (70 percent) 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 responding ordinands identified a total of 24 different countries of origin.

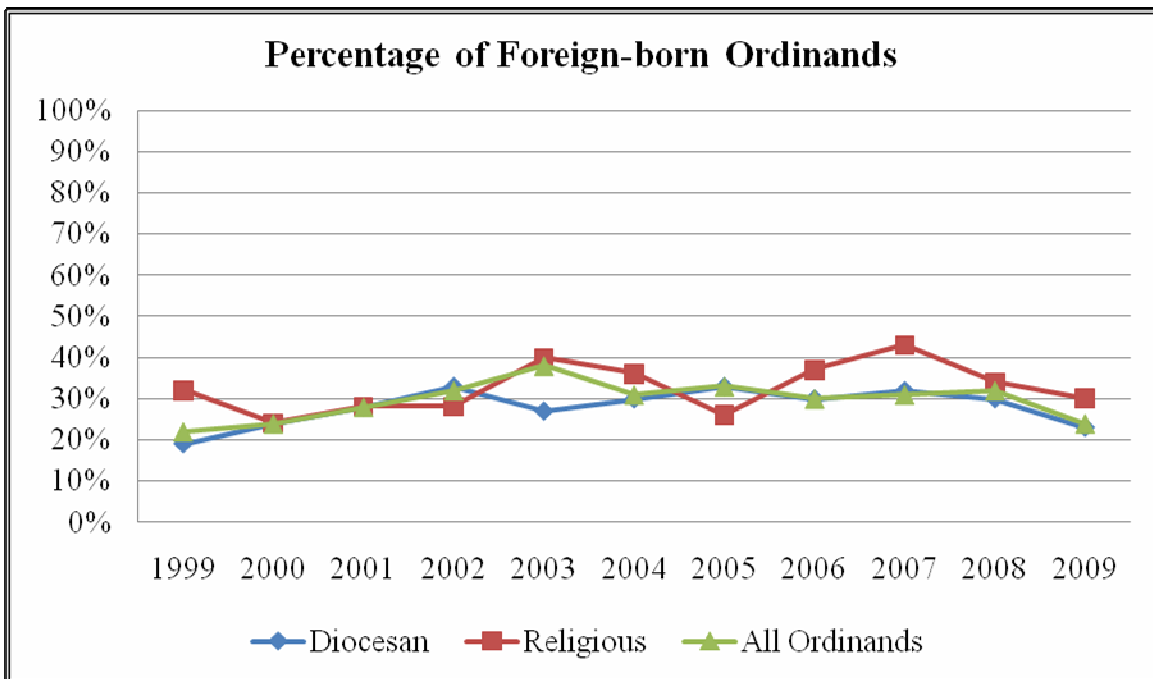
*On average, responding ordinands who were born outside the United States have lived in the United States for 13 years. Half first came to live in the United States in 1999 or earlier.*

<b>Year of Entry to the U.S. of Foreign-born Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Mean	1996	1997	1995
Median	1999	2000	1996
Range	1969-2007	1969-2007	1971-2006

*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.*

<b>Age at Entry to the United States of Foreign-born Ordinands</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Mean	23	24	21
Median	25	25	21
Range	2-38	2-38	5-32

*The percentage of ordinands who are foreign-born increased from 22 percent in 1999 to 38 percent in 2003, but has declined since that point and is now at 24 percent in 2009.*



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 21.*

<b>Catholic Background</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Catholic since birth	90%	90%	90%
Converted	10	10	10
Average age at conversion	21	21	20

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

*Nearly all ordinands report that when they were children they had at least one parent who was Catholic and 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	80%	78%	85%
Mother Catholic, father not	8	8	8
Father Catholic, mother not	4	4	2
Neither parent was Catholic	8	10	6

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 2009, 36 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 seminary.<sup>3</sup>*

<b>Highest Education Completed before the Seminary</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Elementary	2%	3%	2%
High school	15	17	7
Trade or technical school	2	3	0
Some college, no degree	16	17	12
Undergraduate degree	46	44	50
Graduate degree	19	16	29

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 2009 completed high school before entering the seminary and most of the responding ordinands (65 percent) completed college before entering the seminary. Religious ordinands are slightly more likely than 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 2009 is somewhat lower than the education level reported a decade ago. In 1999, 25 percent of responding ordinands had less than a college degree before entering seminary, compared to 35 percent of ordinands in 2009. This could be due in part to a larger number of ordinands entering the seminary at the college level, rather than after completing undergraduate studies.

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

- Dean’s List – 55 percent
- Honor Society (other than Phi Beta Kappa) – 38 percent
- Magna cum laude – 16 percent
- Summa cum laude – 16 percent
- Phi Beta Kappa – 7 percent
- Salutatorian – 6 percent
- Valedictorian – 5 percent

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<sup>3</sup> 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, while an additional two in five attended a Catholic college.*

<b>Attendance at Catholic School*</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Elementary	51%	54%	38%
High School	43	45	32
College	42	42	41

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

Ordinands are more likely than other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic elementary school. In a 2008 national poll conducted by CARA,<sup>4</sup> 42 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 (43 percent of ordinands, compared to 22 percent of U.S. adult Catholics) and much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (42 percent of ordinands, compared to just 7 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, 57 percent (65 percent of diocesan ordinands and 54 percent of religious ordinands) participated in a religious education program in their parish. On average, they completed seven years of parish religious education.

Only 5 percent of ordinands (5 percent of diocesan and 3 percent of 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 six years.

Among those ordinands who reported at least some college before entering the seminary, 75 percent say they attended a Catholic college or university, and 25 percent did not. This is significantly higher than the adult U.S. Catholic population, which has about 7 percent attending a Catholic college or university.

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

## Work Experience

*Approximately two-thirds of ordinands report some type of 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	16%	11%	30%
Sales, marketing	10	11	6
Accounting, finance, insurance	10	10	9
Computers, IT	8	6	6
Skilled labor, farming	7	9	4
Manager, supervisor	7	7	6
Engineer	6	5	9
Government, police	5	6	2
Student	5	5	6
Church ministry	3	3	2
Physician, health care	3	3	0
Restaurant, hotel work	3	3	2
Attorney	3	3	0
Social worker	3	3	4
Clerk, bank teller, bookkeeper	2	3	0
Artist, musician, designer	2	2	0
Scientist	2	1	6
Military	1	1	0
Unclassifiable	8	9	6
No prior work experience listed	36	36	34

Ordinands that mentioned prior work experience were most likely to report that they were educators. About one-third reported that they had no full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary. About one in thirteen (8 percent) reported other prior full-time work experience that was not classifiable using this scheme.

## Military Experience

*Fewer than one in ten responding ordinands reports having served in the U.S. Armed Forces (3 percent of diocesan ordinands and 7 percent of religious ordinands). Among those with military experience, more than a third served in the Air Force and more than a quarter served in the Army.*

<b>Service in the U.S. Armed Forces*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Air Force	36%	44%	0%
Army	27	31	50
Navy	18	19	0
Marines	9	13	0
Reserve	5	0	50
National Guard	5	0	0
Coast Guard	0	0	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. Diocesan ordinands were most likely to report having served in the Air Force, while religious ordinands are split between the Navy and the Reserves.

Ordinands were also asked whether either of their parents was a career military person. About 9 percent indicated that one or both of their parents had a career in the military – 7 percent of diocesan ordinands and 13 percent of religious ordinands reported their father, mother, or both parents served as a career serviceman.

<b>Career Military Service of Parents</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Father	7%	5%	13%
Mother	<1	1	0
Both	1	1	2
Neither	92	94	85

## Consideration of Priesthood

*On average, ordinands report that they were 17 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood. There are no differences between diocesan and religious ordinands in the age they first considered a vocation to the priesthood.*

<b>Age When Ordinands First Considered Priesthood</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Mean	17	17	17
Median	16	16	16
Range	4-59	4-59	5-49

### *Encouragement to Consider Priesthood*

Of those responding ordinands who reported that they were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a variety of people, most (85 percent) 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	85%	88%	76%
Friend	53	54	50
Parishioner	42	42	41
Mother	37	34	44
Father	29	26	39
Teacher	22	23	20
Other relative	22	18	35
Grandparent	22	19	29
Religious Sister	21	21	20
Religious Brother	13	10	24
Campus Minister	13	13	15
Bishop	12	13	9
Deacon	9	10	6
Youth Minister	8	9	6
Military Chaplain	1	1	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. Three in four (75 percent) received encouragement from a friend, a parent, 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 more than a third 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 one in five were encouraged to consider the priesthood by a grandparent or another relative.
- About one in five ordinands received encouragement from a teacher. One in ten was encouraged by a campus minister, while less than ten percent were encouraged by a youth minister, a deacon, or a military chaplain.
- One in ten ordinands to the class of 2009 report that no one encouraged a vocation to the priesthood (not shown in table). This figure is slightly higher for diocesan ordinands (11 percent) than for religious ordinands (7 percent).

***Discouragement from Considering Priesthood***

Nearly half of responding ordinands (44 percent of diocesan ordinands and 42 percent of religious ordinands) responded that they were *discouraged* from considering the priesthood by one or more persons (not shown in the table below).

<b>Discouragement from Considering Priesthood*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Parent or family member	59%	59%	57%
Friend or classmate	51	47	63
Priest or other clergy	15	16	13
Teacher	9	9	10
Religious sister or brother	6	8	0
Youth minister	1	1	0
Someone else	12	11	13

\*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. Almost 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

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

<b>Participation in Parish Programs or Activities*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Retreats	57%	58%	55%
Devotions	38	40	32
Parish youth ministry	36	38	28
Boy Scouts	30	31	25
Catholic campus ministry	23	23	25
Right to Life	19	19	19
Knights of Columbus	17	20	9
Eagle Scouts	7	7	7
St. Vincent de Paul	5	6	3
Rosary Society	4	5	3
Men's Club	4	5	3
Serra Club	1	1	1

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

Close to six in ten ordinands participated in retreats before entering the seminary. Three in ten were involved in Boy Scouts and more than a fifth were involved in Catholic campus ministry. About 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, a Men's Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, a Rosary Society, or Eagle Scouts.



*Most ordinands participated in one or more liturgical ministries in the parish before entering the seminary. Seven in ten were altar servers.*

<b>Participation in Parish Ministries*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Altar server	70%	74%	59%
Lector	56	58	51
Eucharistic minister	45	49	30
Cantor or music minister	25	26	22
Youth minister	21	23	15
RCIA team member	14	12	17
Liturgy committee	11	13	3
RCIA sponsor	11	13	6
Parish council member	10	11	4
Campus minister	6	4	15

\*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 five served as a parish youth minister and a few served as campus ministers.
- About one in seven ordinands ministered in their parish as an RCIA team member. One in ten has served as an RCIA sponsor.

Almost a quarter of ordinands (24 percent) have experienced World Youth Day. There is no difference between the percentage of diocesan ordinands (23 percent) and religious ordinands (27 percent) who participated in 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.*

<b>Vocation Programs*</b>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
“Come and See” weekends	47%	40%	70%
High school vocation programs	10	11	9
Parish vocation programs	9	9	8
Operation Andrew	5	6	2
Elementary school/CCD voc. programs	5	4	9
Traveling Cup/Cross programs	1	<1	2

\*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, elementary school/CCD vocational programs, or the Traveling Cup/Cross programs.
- Religious ordinands were much more likely than diocesan ordinands to report having attended a “Come and See” weekend. Seven in ten religious ordinands attended such a program, compared to two-fifths of diocesan ordinands.

In addition to the vocation programs listed above, three-quarters of responding ordinands (77 percent) have seen the vocational promotion DVD “Fishers of Men,” published by the USCCB. Diocesan ordinands are more likely than religious ordinands to have seen the DVD (85 percent of diocesan ordinands compared to 50 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 and pamphlets were the most influential, with about one in seven responding ordinands reporting that websites or pamphlets influenced their discernment.

<i>Did any of these influence your discernment?*</i>			
(Percentage checking each response)			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Websites	17%	17%	18%
Pamphlets	17	17	16
Magazine advertisements	13	11	22
Posters	12	12	10
Newsletters	10	8	13
Videos	9	10	8
E-mails	8	7	10
Billboards	3	3	3
TV advertisements	3	4	0
Radio advertisements	2	2	3
Interactive CD-ROM	2	2	2
Other	21	21	22

\*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
- 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

*Track and field, soccer, basketball, and football are the most popular organized sports played in high school or college.*

### Organized Sports Played in High School or College\*

(Percentage checking each response)

	<b>All</b>	<b>Diocesan</b>	<b>Religious</b>
Track and Field	21%	22%	19%
Soccer	20	16	32
Basketball	16	15	19
Football	14	14	12
Baseball	13	12	16
Swimming	10	8	16
Tennis	9	8	12
Wrestling	6	6	6
Golf	5	5	3
Lacrosse	2	1	3

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

One-fifth of ordinands who played organized sports in high school or college played track and field or soccer. About one in six played basketball or football. 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 about 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	69%	70%	65%	
Music	56	59	45	
Movies	51	54	43	
Exercise	46	44	54	
Sports	42	42	45	
Hiking	38	39	36	
Cooking	31	31	29	
Camping	30	31	26	
Running	28	27	30	
Writing	27	28	23	
Musical instrument	26	27	22	
Cycling	22	23	20	
Fishing	19	20	17	
Theatre	17	16	20	
Acting	13	13	10	
Opera	11	11	9	
Hunting	8	10	3	
Painting	7	5	13	
Woodworking	7	7	6	
Sailing	7	7	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. Two-fifths mentioned exercise, sports, or hiking. Between a quarter and a third mention cooking, camping, running, writing, or playing a musical instrument among their hobbies or extra-curricular activities.