

April 2023

***The Class of 2023:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood***

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

*The Class of 2023:
Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*

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

April 2023



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The scholarly citation information:

Michal J. Kramarek, Thomas P. Gaunt, and Maria Andronicou. 2023. "The Class of 2023: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood." Washington, DC: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

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Introduction

In December 2005, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation (now the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct an annual survey of responding ordinands to the priesthood. The survey was initially developed by the Secretariat in 1998 and has been administered online since 2005. CARA assumed responsibility for the project in 2006, using the online survey developed by the Secretariat. CARA worked with the Secretariat to improve the online survey and to incorporate it into the data collection process for CARA's annual survey of priestly formation programs.

This year, CARA conducted the survey between January 13 and March 31. The survey invitation was sent by email to men scheduled for ordination to priesthood in the United States, in 2023. Follow-up emails were regularly sent to the ordinands who delayed their response. Out of 458 ordinands invited to participate, 334 ordinands responded to the survey. The response rate is 73%. The Margin of Error at 95% CL is $\pm 2.79\%$.

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

The report is organized into eight parts:

- Part I of the report provides a description of what type of priesthood ordinands are preparing for and where they study.
- Part II focuses on the age of ordinands when they first considered priesthood and their current age (in the year when they are scheduled for ordination).
- Part III describes selected demographics about the responding ordinands, including information about race and ethnicity, and information pertaining to immigration to the United States (for ordinands born abroad).
- Part IV explores the educational experience of responding ordinands. This includes information about the highest level of education completed before entering the seminary, attained Catholic education, and information pertaining to educational debt.
- Part V focuses on the prior work experience of ordinands, including full-time employment and military experience, of responding ordinands prior to entering the seminary.
- Part VI provides information about ordinands' family background.
- Part VII describes various factors that might have influenced the process of vocational discernment.
- Part VIII provides an assessment of formation activities.

Notes about interpreting the results:

- Tests for difference in proportions are only reported, if significance level is 0.05 or less.
- For the purpose of forecasting, confidence intervals are estimated using confidence level of 0.95. Forecasts are only included, if confidence interval is equal to or smaller than 5% of the forecasted amount.

Part I: Type of Priesthood

Type of Priesthood - Part 1

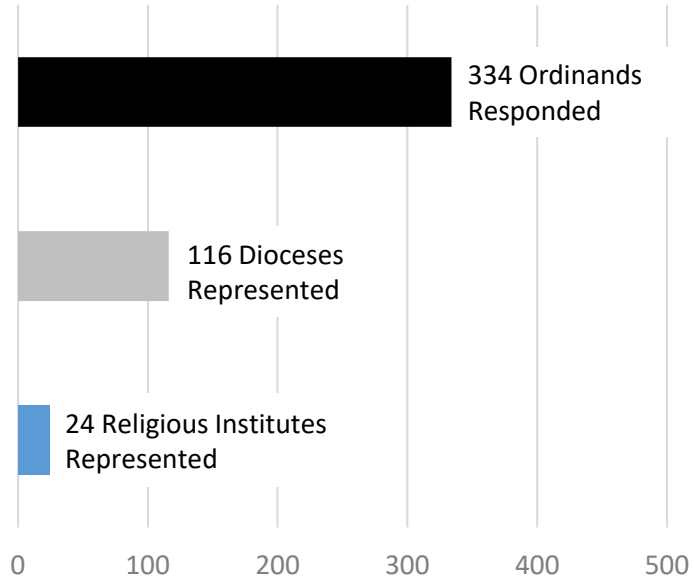
Overall, 334 ordinands completed the Ordination Class of 2023 Survey. Those ordinands represent 116 U.S. dioceses and eparchies and 24 distinct religious institutes.

Four in five respondents (81%) were diocesan ordinands, in 2023 (and 75% a year before). Since 2006, the percentage of those ordinands averaged 78% and ranged between 70% and 88%. In 2023, the greatest number of responses from diocesan ordinands came from the Arch/Dioceses of Arlington (8 ordinands), Miami (7 ordinands), Dallas (7 ordinands), and Cincinnati (7 ordinands).

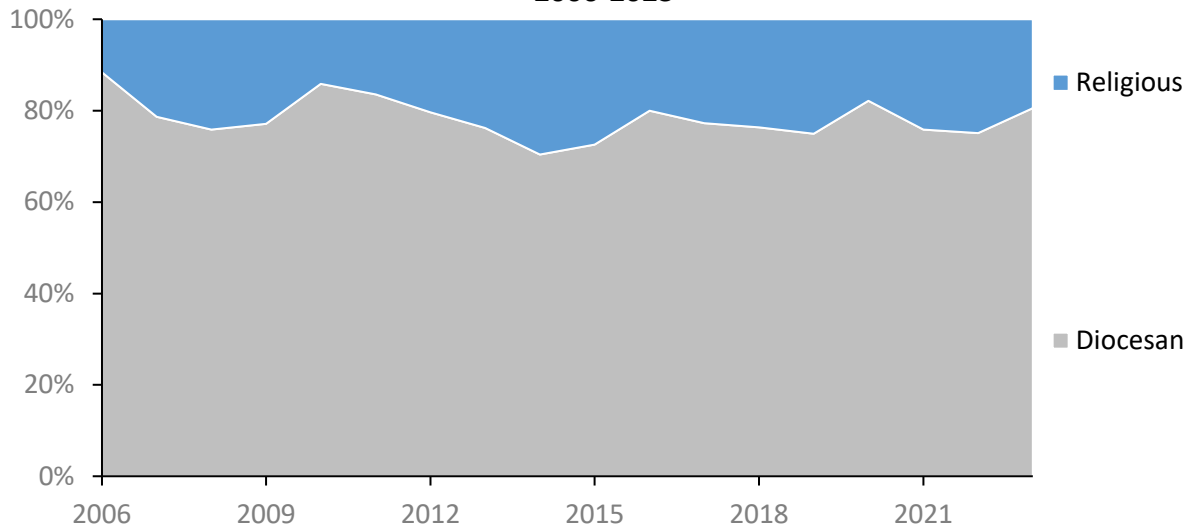
One in five respondents (19%) were religious ordinands, in 2023 (and 25% a year before). Since 2006, the percentage of those ordinands averaged 22% and ranged between 12% and 30%. In 2023, the greatest number of responses from ordinands to the religious priesthood came from the Order of Saint Benedict (6 ordinands) and the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (4 ordinands).

Notably, these numbers refer only to responding ordinands and do not necessarily mean that these dioceses and religious institutes will ordain the largest number of priests in 2023.

**Survey Respondents
Ordination Class of 2023**



**Percentage of Respondents Ordained to Priesthood
2006-2023**

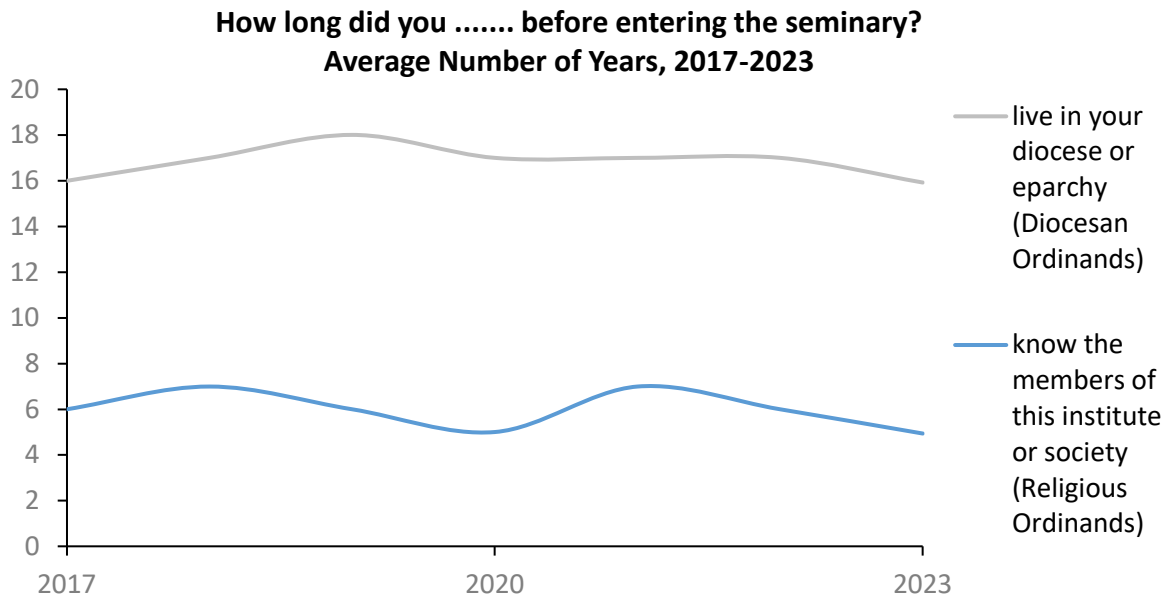


Type of Priesthood - Part 2

On average, 2023 responding diocesan ordinands lived in their dioceses for 16 years before entering seminary (a median of 18 years). Since 2017, this number averaged 17 years (a range between 16 and 18 years).

On average, 2023 responding religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute for 5 years before entering seminary (a median of 3 years). Since 2017, this number averaged 6 years (a range between 5 and 7 years).

How long did you before entering the seminary? Ordination Class of 2023		
	know the members of this institute or society (Religious Ordinands) [years]	live in your diocese or eparchy (Diocesan Ordinands) [years]
Average	5	16
Median	3	18
Range	0 - 33	0 - 61



Seminary Location

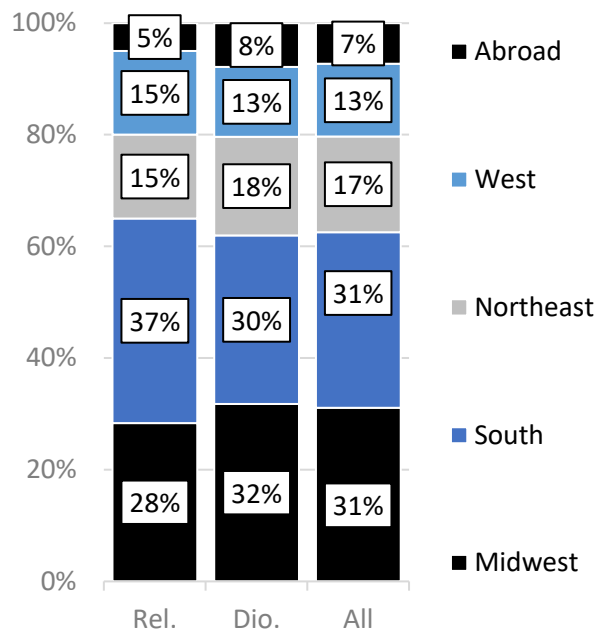
Ordinands who received formation at a seminary in the South constituted 31% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 37% of ordinands in religious institutes and 30% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 24% and ranged between 18% and 31%.

Ordinands who received formation at a seminary in the Midwest constituted 31% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 28% of ordinands in religious institutes and 32% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 33% and ranged between 24% and 38%.

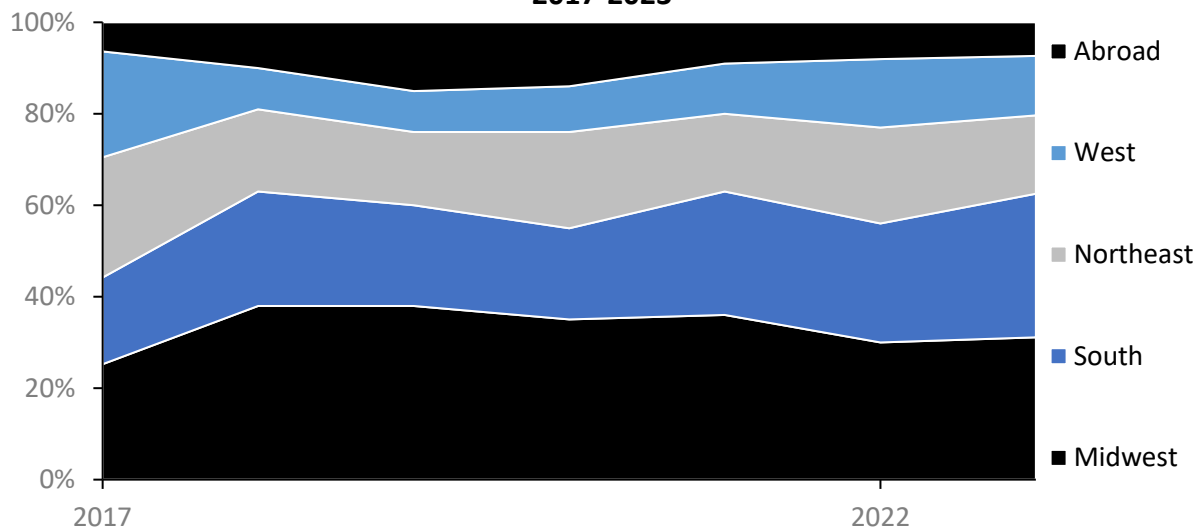
Ordinands who received formation at a seminary in the Northeast constituted 17% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 15% of ordinands in religious institutes and 18% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 19% and ranged between 16% and 25%.

Ordinands who received formation at a seminary in the West constituted 13% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 15% of ordinands in religious institutes and 13% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 13% and ranged between 9% and 22%.

Distribution of Ordinands by the Location of Their Seminary in 2023



Distribution of Ordinands by the Location of Their Seminary, 2017-2023



Part II: Age

Age When First Considered Priesthood - Part 1

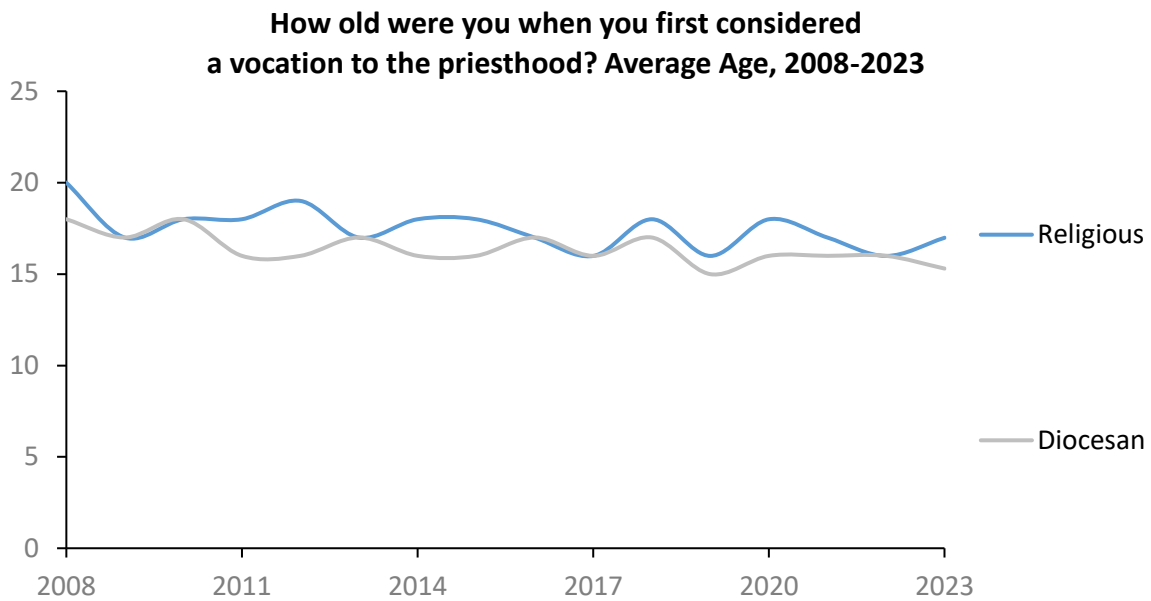
Altogether, responding ordinands in 2023 were, on average, 16 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood (half was between 3 and 15 years old and the other half between 15 and 56 years old). Since 2008, the average age was 17 and ranged between 16 and 18.

In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes were 2 years older than responding diocesan ordinands when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood:

How old were you when you first considered a vocation to the priesthood? Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious	Diocesan	All
	[years]	[years]	[years]
Average	17	15	16
Median	16	15	15
Range	4 - 56	3 - 41	3 - 56

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 were, on average, 17 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood (half was between 4 and 16 years old and the other half between 16 and 56 years old). Since 2008, the average age was 17 and ranged between 16 and 20.

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 were, on average, 15 years old when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood (half was between 3 and 15 years old and the other half between 15 and 41 years old). Since 2008, the average age was 16 and ranged between 15 and 18.



Age When First Considered Priesthood - Part 2

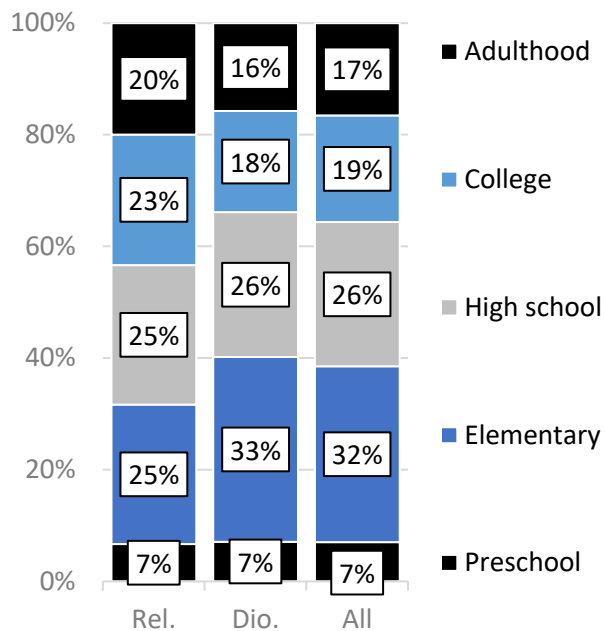
Ordinands who first considered priesthood in elementary school (ages 6 through 13) constituted 32% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 25% of ordinands in religious institutes and 33% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2014 and 2023, their share averaged 28% and ranged between 19% and 38%.

Ordinands who first considered priesthood in high school (ages 14 through 17) constituted 26% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 25% of ordinands in religious institutes and 26% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2014 and 2023, their share averaged 23% and ranged between 18% and 34%.

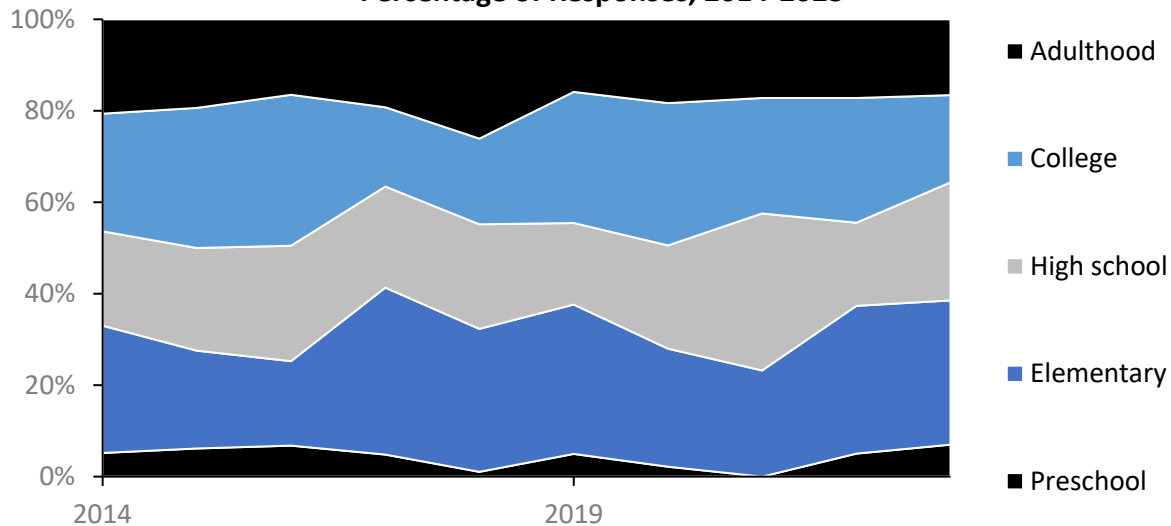
Ordinands who first considered priesthood in college (ages 18 through 21) constituted 19% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 23% of ordinands in religious institutes and 18% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Since 2014, their share averaged 25% and ranged between 18% and 34%.

Ordinands who first considered priesthood in adulthood (ages 22 or older) constituted 17% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 20% of ordinands in religious institutes and 16% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2014 and 2023, their share averaged 18% and ranged between 16% and 25%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 15% \pm 5% of ordinands, in 2028.

Distribution of Ordinands by Age When First Considered Priesthood, Percentage of Responses, 2023



Distribution of All Ordinands by Age When First Considered Priesthood, Percentage of Responses, 2014-2023



Age When Scheduled for Ordination - Part 1

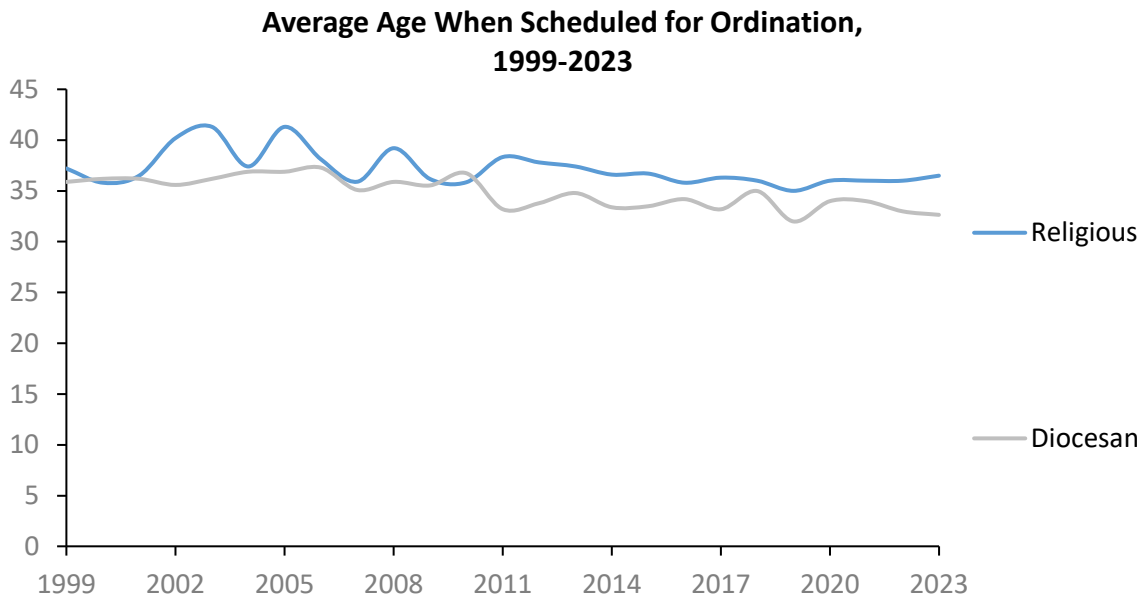
Altogether, responding ordinands in 2023 were, on average, 33 years old at the time of ordination (half was between 25 and 31 years old and the other half between 31 and 67 years old). Since 1999, the average age was 35 and ranged between 33 and 37.

In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes were 4 years older than responding diocesan ordinands at the time of ordination:

Age When Scheduled for Ordination			
Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious	Diocesan	All
	[years]	[years]	[years]
Average	36	33	33
Median	34	30	31
Range	27 - 65	25 - 67	25 - 67

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 were, on average, 36 years old when they were scheduled for ordination to the priesthood (half was between 27 and 34 years old and the other half between 34 and 65 years old). Since 1999, the average age was 37 and ranged between 35 and 41.

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 were, on average, 33 years old when they were scheduled for ordination to the priesthood (half was between 25 and 30 years old and the other half between 30 and 67 years old). Since 1999, the average age was 35 and ranged between 32 and 37.



Age When Scheduled for Ordination - Part 2

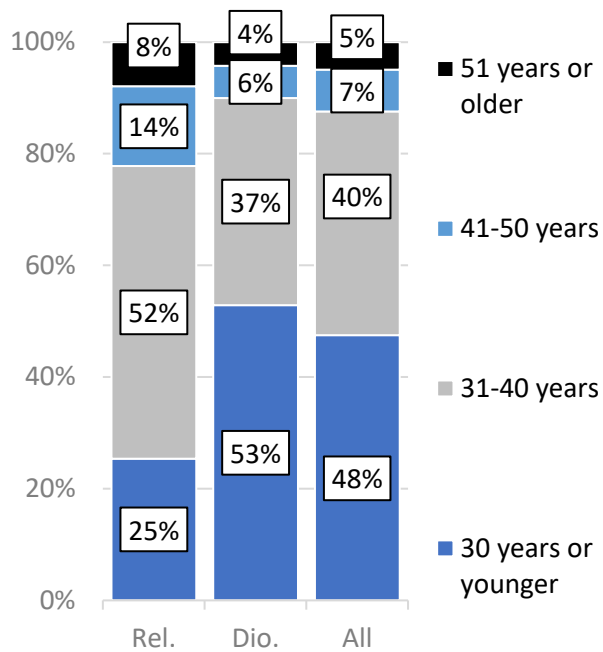
Ordinands 30 years or younger constituted 48% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 25% of ordinands in religious institutes and 53% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 37% and ranged between 22% and 50%.

Ordinands 31-40 years old constituted 40% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 52% of ordinands in religious institutes and 37% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 42% and ranged between 36% and 46%.

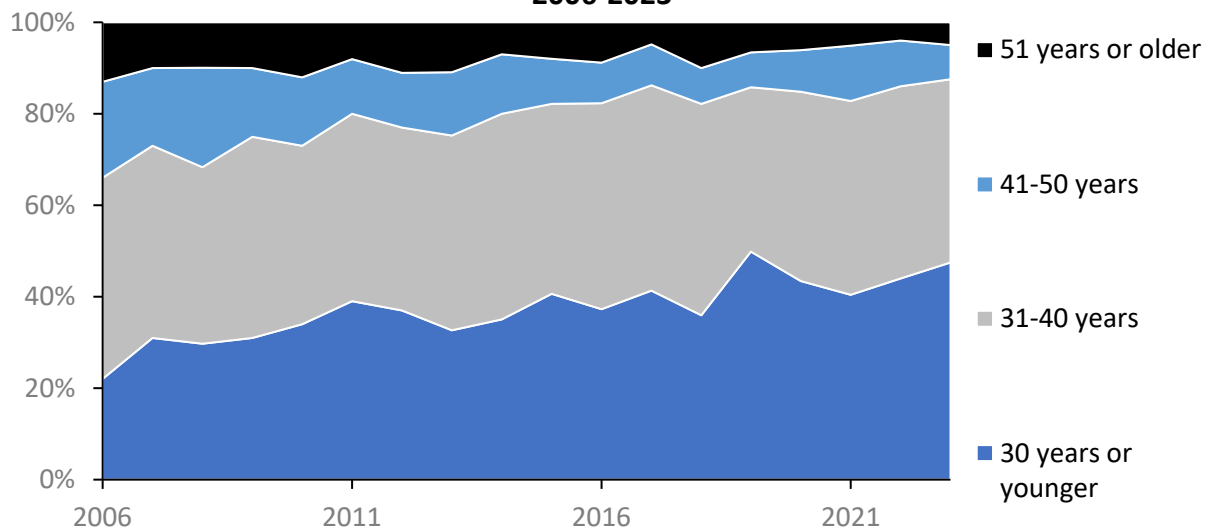
Ordinands 41-50 years old constituted 7% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 14% of ordinands in religious institutes and 6% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 12% and ranged between 7% and 22%.

Ordinands 51 years or older constituted 5% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 8% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 8% and ranged between 4% and 13%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% ±3% of ordinands, in 2028.

Distribution of Respondents by Age When Scheduled for Ordination in 2023



Distribution of All Respondents by Age When Scheduled for Ordination, 2006-2023



Part III: Race/Ethnicity and Cultural Background

Race and Ethnicity

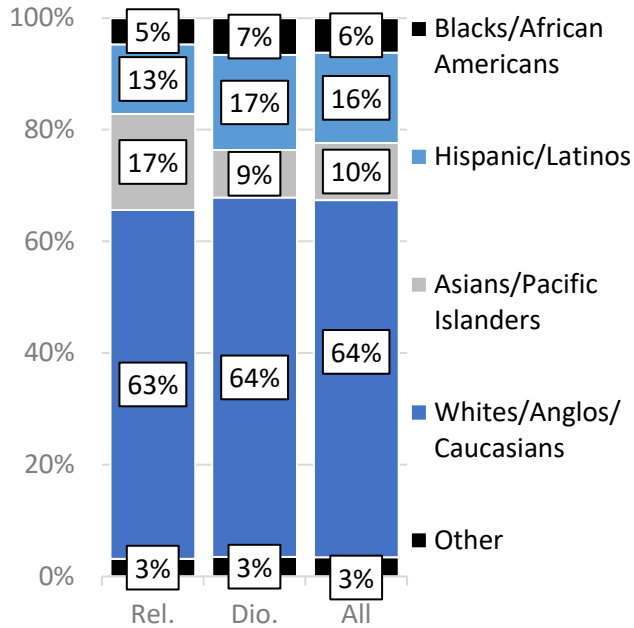
Caucasians constituted 64% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 63% of ordinands in religious institutes and 64% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 68% and ranged between 60% and 72%.

Hispanic/Latinos constituted 16% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 13% of ordinands in religious institutes and 17% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 15% and ranged between 11% and 22%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 20% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

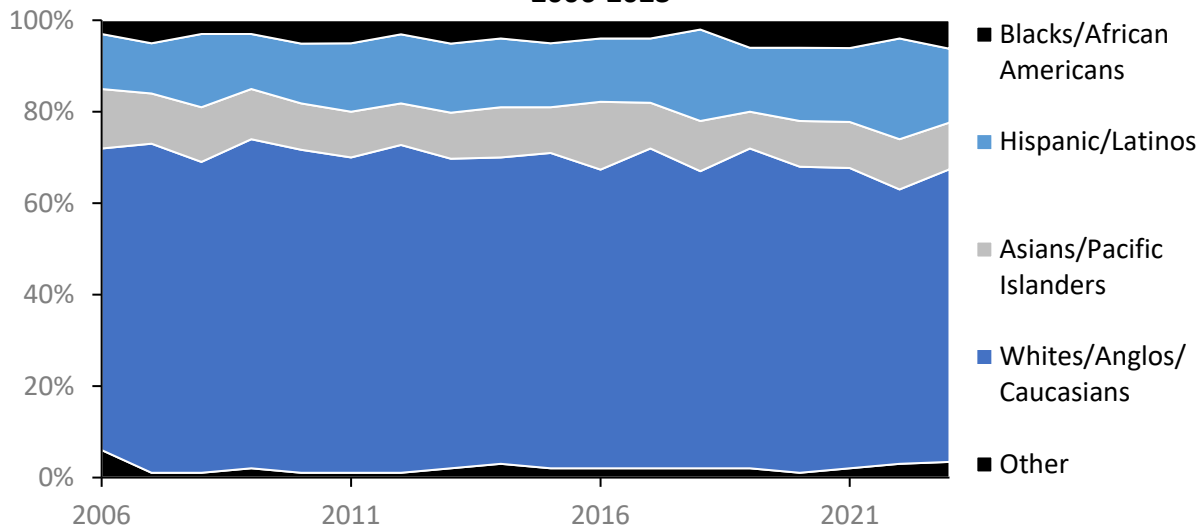
Asians/Pacific Islanders constituted 10% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 17% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 11% and ranged between 8% and 15%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 10% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

Blacks/African Americans constituted 6% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 5% of ordinands in religious institutes and 7% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 4% and ranged between 2% and 6%.

Distribution of Ordinands by Primary Race and Ethnic Background in 2023



Distribution of Ordinands by Primary Race and Ethnic Background, 2006-2023



Country of Birth

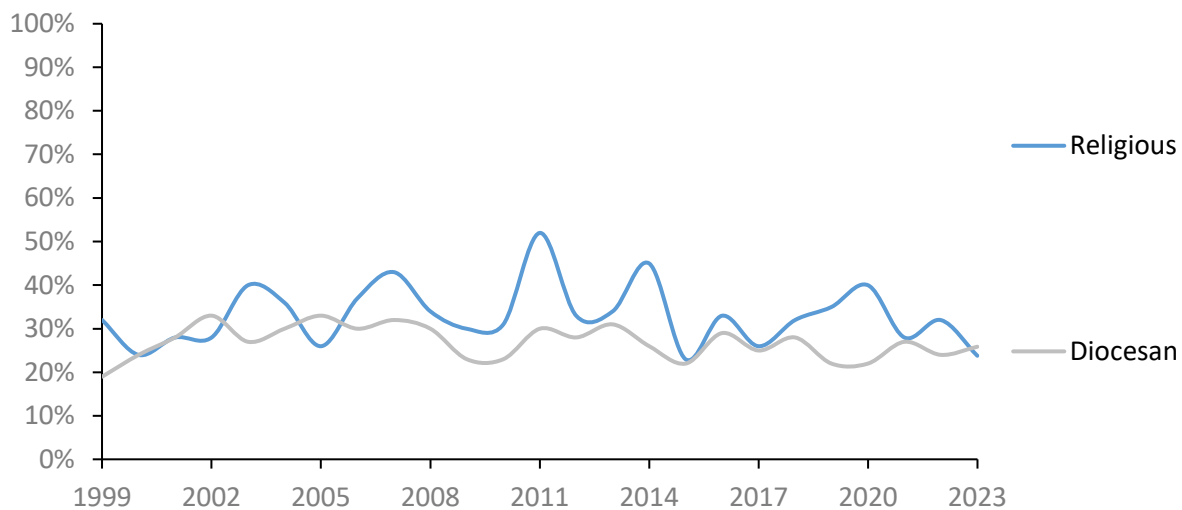
Responding ordinands who were born abroad constituted 25% of all respondents, in 2023 (and 26% in 2022). They represented 24% of ordinands in religious institutes and 26% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 1999 and 2023, their share averaged 28% and ranged between 22% and 38%.

After United States, the most common countries of birth included: Mexico (5% of all responding ordinands), Vietnam (3%), Nigeria (3%), and Colombia (2%).

	Religious [%]	Diocesan [%]	All [%]
United States	76	74	75
Mexico	2	6	5
Vietnam	3	3	3
Nigeria	3	3	3
Colombia	0	3	2

Overall, ordinands in 2023 came from 28 different countries.

**Percentage of Foreign-born Responding Ordinands,
1999-2023**



Age When Entered United States - Part 1

Responding ordinands who were born abroad came to live in the United States, on average, 14 years ago (half came between 2 and 11 years ago and the other half between 11 and 50 years ago). Since 2007, the average number of years was 13 and ranged between 11 and 14.

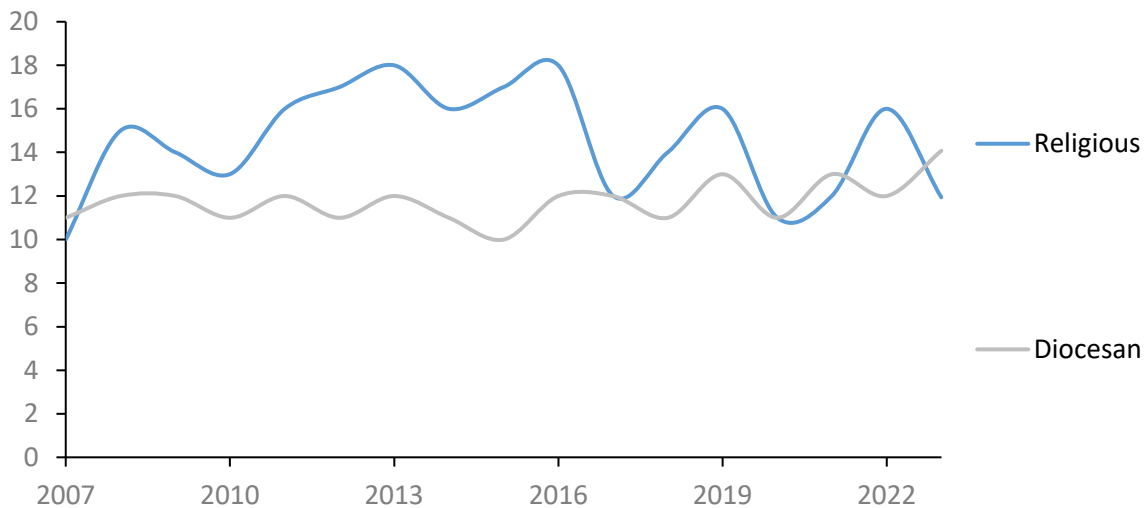
In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes came to live in the United States 2 years after responding diocesan ordinands:

If born abroad, how many years ago did you come to live in the United States? Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [years]	Diocesan [years]	All [years]
Average	12	14	14
Median	9	11	11
Range	2 - 30	3 - 50	2 - 50

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 came to live in the United States, on average, 14 years ago (half came between 3 and 11 years ago and the other half between 11 and 50 years ago). Since 2007, the average number of years was 12 and ranged between 10 and 14.

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 came to live in the United States, on average, 12 years ago (half came between 2 and 9 years ago and the other half between 9 and 30 years ago). Since 2007, the average number of years was 15 and ranged between 10 and 18.

If born abroad, how many years ago did you come to live in the United States? Average Number of Years, 2007-2023



Age When Entered United States - Part 2

Responding ordinands who were born abroad were, on average, 22 years old when they came to live in the United States (half was between 2 and 21 years old and the other half between 21 and 43 years old). Since 2007, the average age was 23 and ranged between 22 and 27.

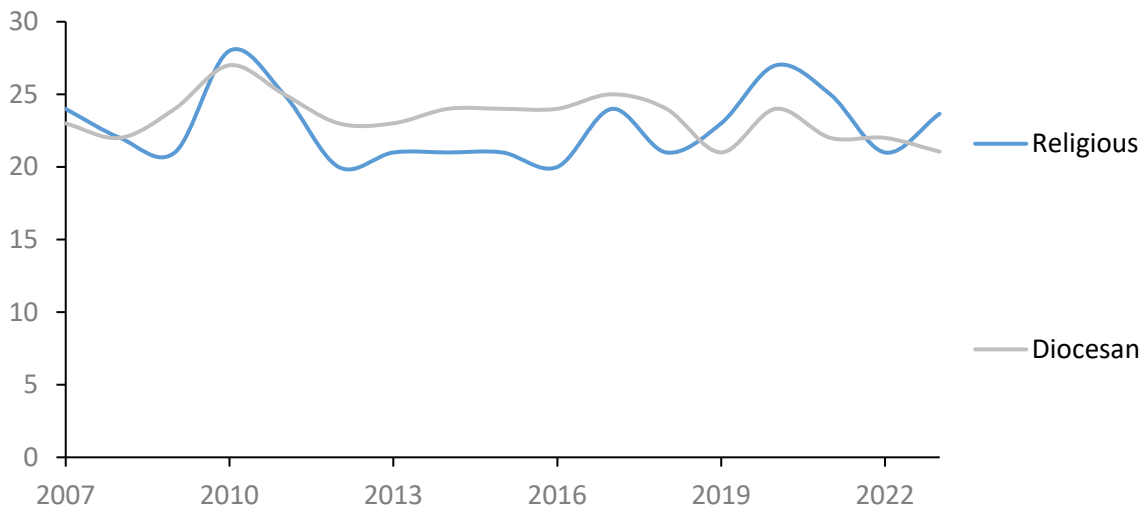
If born abroad, how old were you when you came to live in the United States? Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [years]	Diocesan [years]	All [years]
Average	24	21	22
Median	25	19	21
Range	7 - 40	2 - 43	2 - 43

In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes were 3 years older than responding diocesan ordinands when they came to live in the United States:

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 were, on average, 24 years old when they came to live in the United States (half was between 7 and 25 years old and the other half between 25 and 40 years old). Since 2007, the average age was 23 and ranged between 20 and 28.

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 were, on average, 21 years old when they came to live in the United States (half was between 2 and 19 years old and the other half between 19 and 43 years old). Since 2007, the average age was 23 and ranged between 21 and 27.

Average Age When Came to Live in the United States, 2007-2023

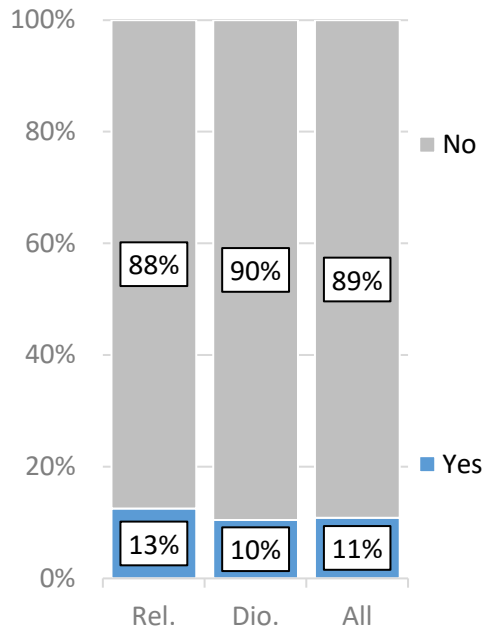


Part IV: Education

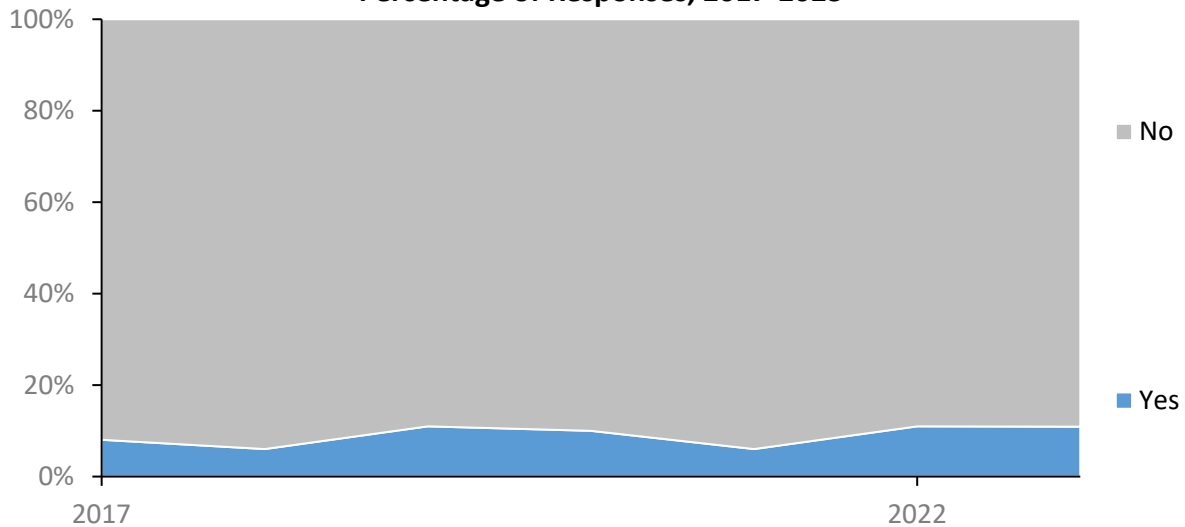
Home Schooling - Part 1

Responding ordinands who were home schooled constituted 11% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 11% in 2022). They represented 13% of ordinands in religious institutes and 10% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 9% and ranged between 6% and 11%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 13% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

**Were you ever home schooled?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**Were you ever home schooled?
Percentage of Responses, 2017-2023**



Home Schooling - Part 2

Altogether, responding ordinands were home schooled, on average, for 8 years (half was home schooled between 1 and 9 years and the other half between 9 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 8 and ranged between 7 and 9.

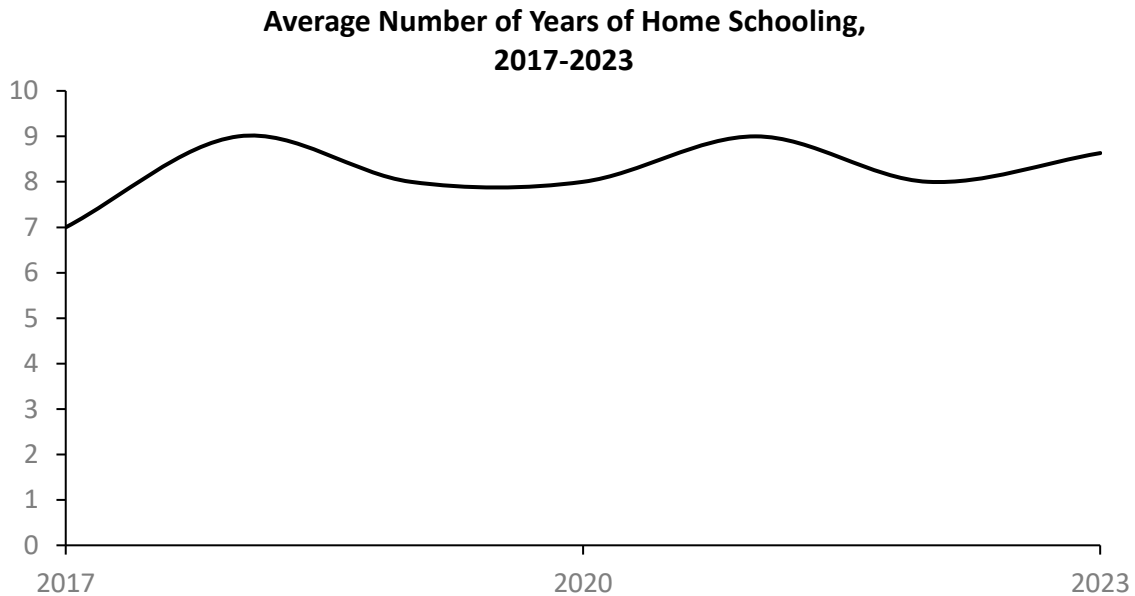
In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes spent about the same number of years as responding diocesan ordinands in home school:

If you were home schooled, how many years of this education did you receive?			
Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [years]	Diocesan [years]	All [years]
Average	9	8	8
Median	10	9	9
Range	5 - 12	1 - 12	1 - 12

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 were home schooled, on average, for 9 years (half was home schooled between 5 and 10 years and the other half between 10 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 8 and ranged between 6 and 12.

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 were home schooled, on average, for 8 years (half was home schooled between 1 and 9 years and the other half between 9 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 9 and ranged between 8 and 10.

Notably, responses over 12 years were recoded to 12.



Highest Level of Education before Seminary - Part 1

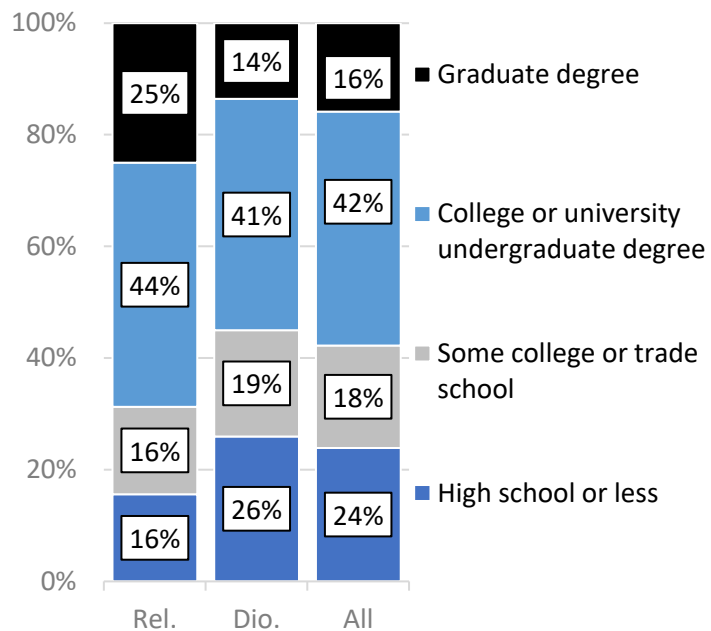
Ordinands who earned college or university undergraduate degrees constituted 42% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 44% of ordinands in religious institutes and 41% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 42% and ranged between 38% and 47%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 39% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

Ordinands who completed high school or less constituted 24%. They represented 16% of ordinands in religious institutes and 26% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 22% and ranged between 17% and 26%.

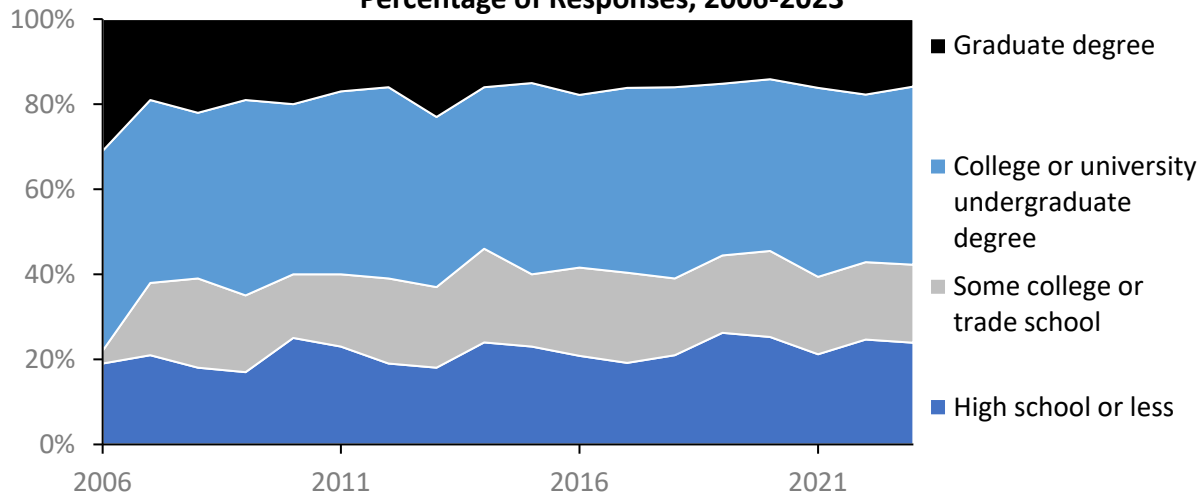
Ordinands who finished some college or trade school constituted 18% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 16% of ordinands in religious institutes and 19% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 18% and ranged between 3% and 22%.

Ordinands who earned graduate degrees constituted 16% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 25% of ordinands in religious institutes and 14% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 18% and ranged between 14% and 31%.

**What is the highest level of education you completed before entering the seminary?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**What is the highest level of education you completed before entering the seminary?
Percentage of Responses, 2006-2023**

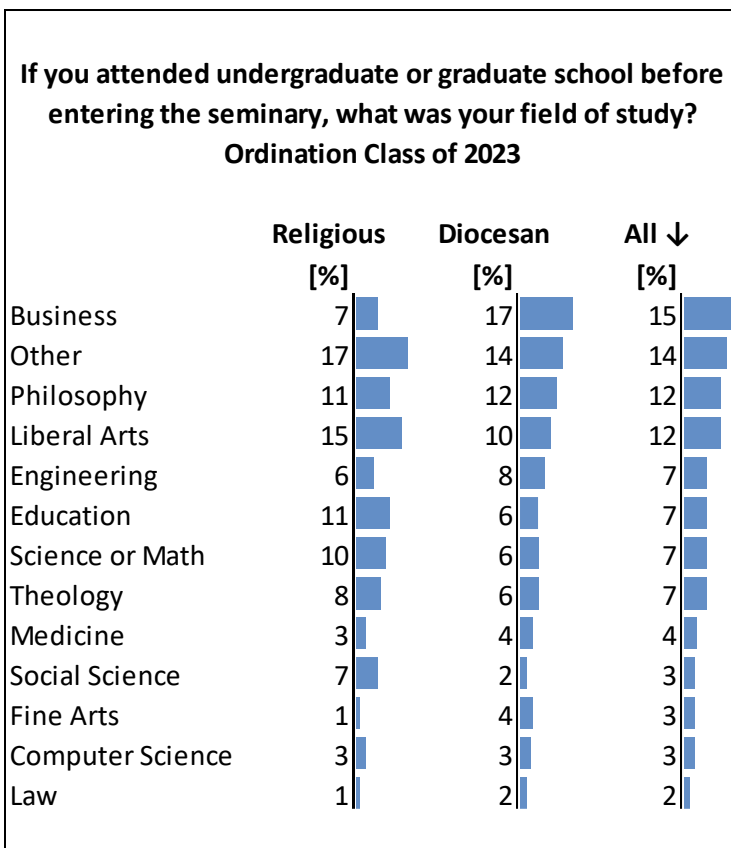


Highest Level of Education before Seminary - Part 2

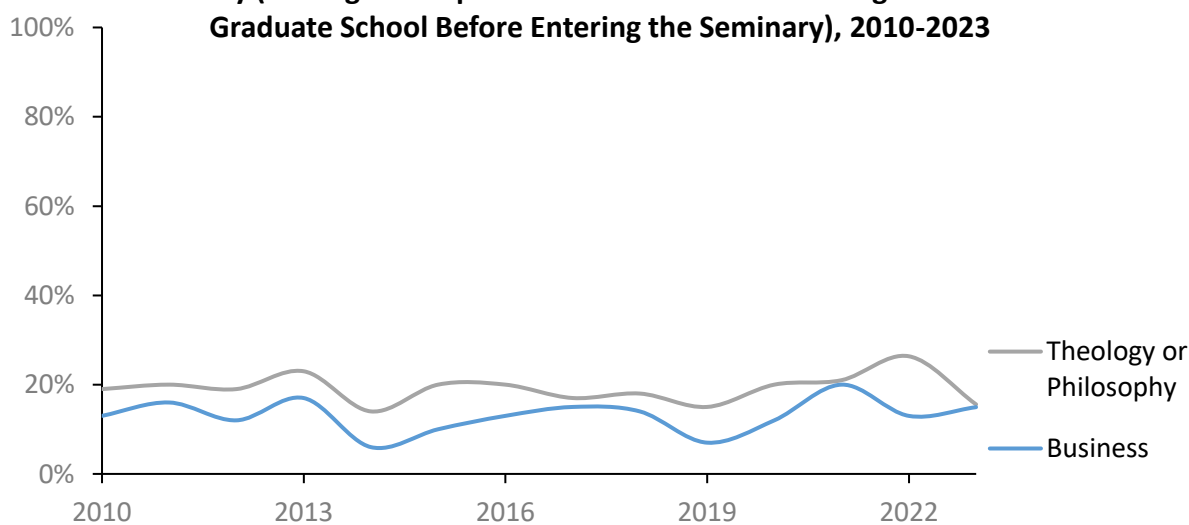
Ordinands who studied theology or philosophy constituted 16% of ordinands who attended undergraduate or graduate school before entering the seminary. They represented 17% of ordinands in religious institutes and 15% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 19% and ranged between 14% and 26%.

Ordinands who studied business constituted 15% of ordinands. They represented 7% of ordinands in religious institutes and 17% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 13% and ranged between 6% and 20%.

Ordinands who studied liberal arts constituted 12% of ordinands. They represented 15% of ordinands in religious institutes and 10% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 15% and ranged between 7% and 25%.



Percentage of Ordinands who Received Education in Selected Fields of Study (Among All Respondents Who Attended Undergraduate or Graduate School Before Entering the Seminary), 2010-2023



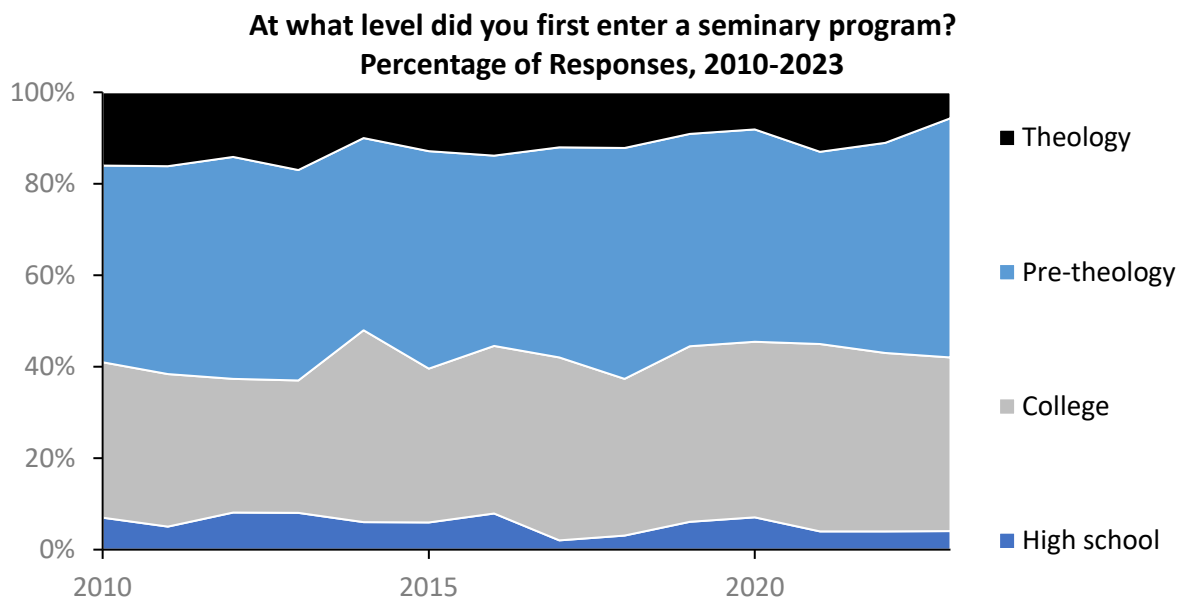
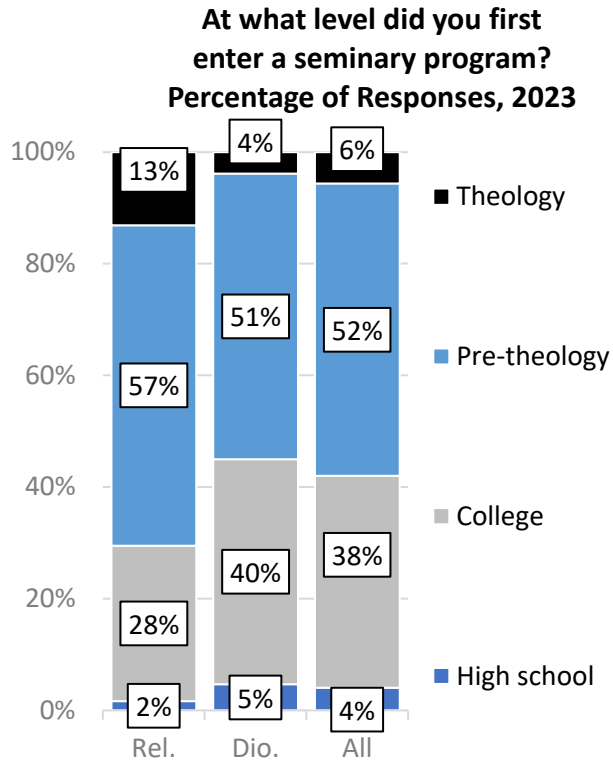
Level When First Entered Seminary Program

Ordinands who first enter a seminary program at a pre-theology level constituted 52% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 57% of ordinands in religious institutes and 51% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 46% and ranged between 42% and 52%.

Ordinands who first enter a seminary program at a college level constituted 38% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 28% of ordinands in religious institutes and 40% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 36% and ranged between 29% and 42%.

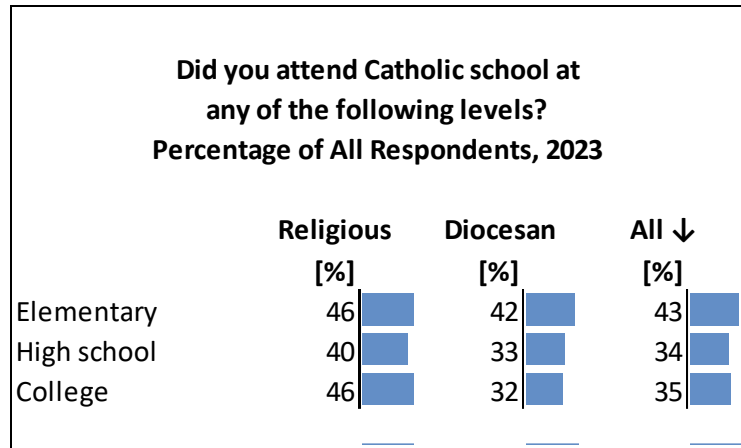
Ordinands who first enter a seminary program at a theology level constituted 6% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 13% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 12% and ranged between 6% and 17%.

Ordinands who first enter a seminary program at a high school level constituted 4% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 5% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 6% and ranged between 2% and 8%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 4% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.



Catholic Education

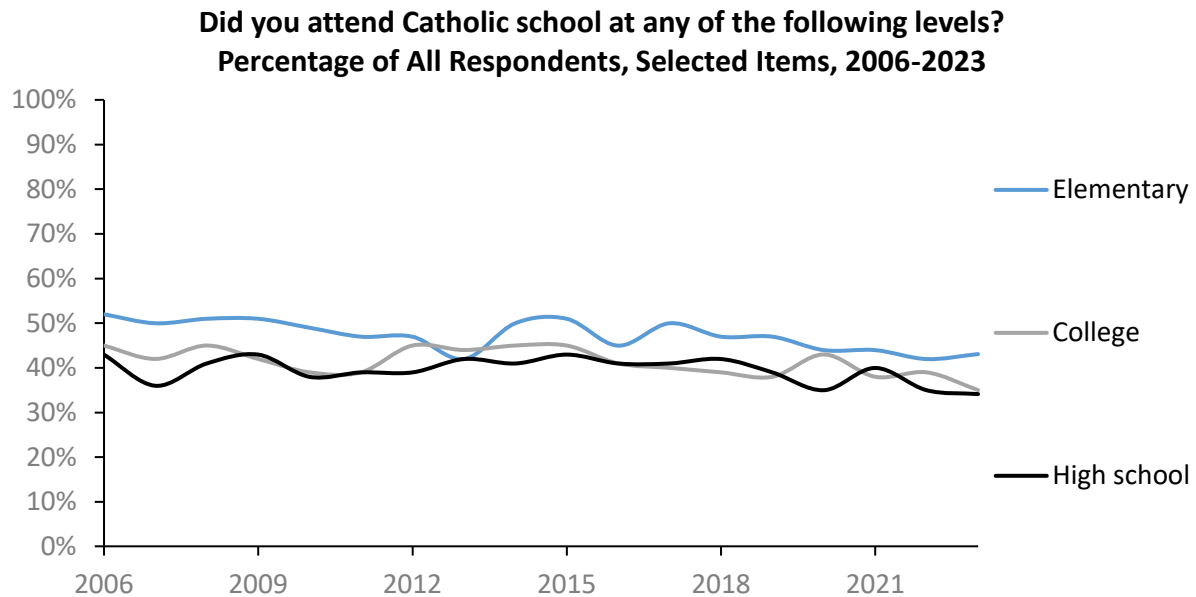
Ordinands who attended Catholic elementary school (K-8) constituted 43% of all respondents. They represented 46% of ordinands in religious institutes and 42% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 47% and ranged between 42% and 52%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 41% ±5% of all respondents, in 2028.



Ordinands who attended Catholic high school constituted 34% of all respondents. They represented 40% of ordinands in religious institutes and 33% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 40% and ranged between 34% and 43%.

Ordinands who attended Catholic college constituted 35% of all respondents. They represented 46% of ordinands in religious institutes and 32% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 41% and ranged between 35% and 45%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 37% ±5% of all respondents, in 2028.

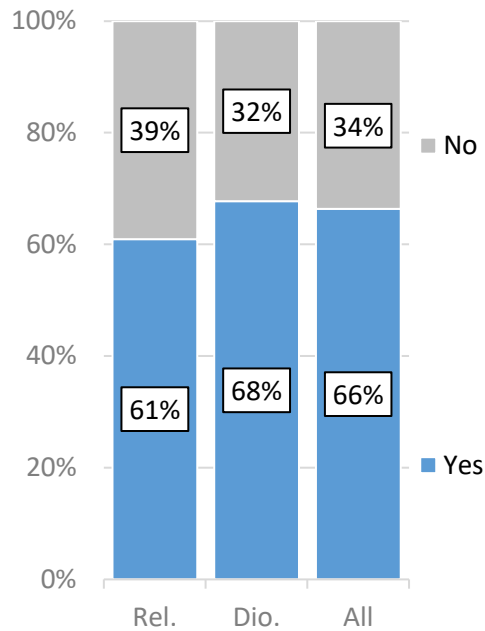
Colleges attended by ordinands included, for example: Boston College, Saint Anselm College, University of Notre Dame, Corpus Christi College in Vancouver, Franciscan University of Steubenville, St. Xavier University, Catholic University of America, Gonzaga University, and Catholic University of Eastern Africa.



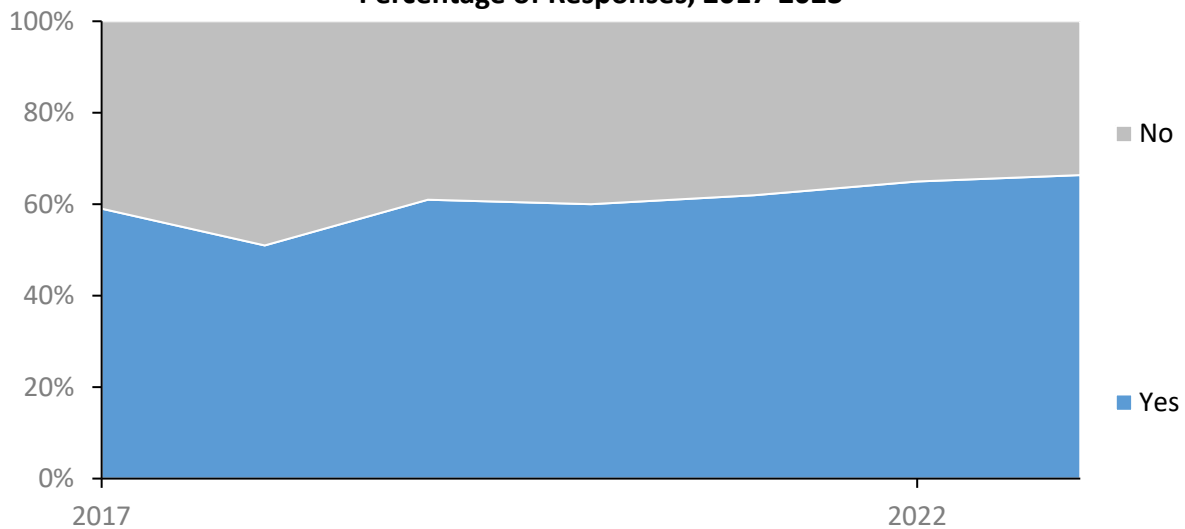
Catholic Religious Education - Part 1

Responding ordinands who participated in religious education in their parish constituted 66% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 65% in 2022). They represented 61% of ordinands in religious institutes and 68% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 61% and ranged between 51% and 66%.

**Did you participate in the religious education program in your parish?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**Did you participate in the religious education program in your parish?
Percentage of Responses, 2017-2023**



Catholic Religious Education - Part 2

Responding ordinands who participated in religious education programs in their parishes spent, on average, 6 years in religious education programs in their parishes (half spent between 1 and 6 years and the other half between 6 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 7 and ranged between 6 and 7.

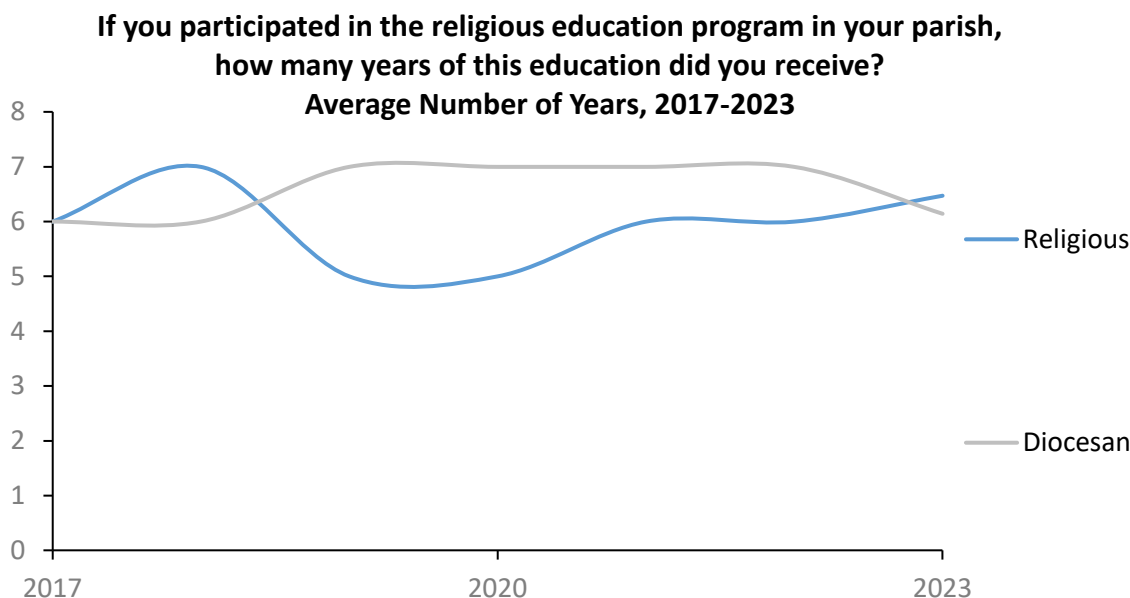
In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes spent about the same number of years as responding diocesan ordinands in religious education programs in their parishes:

If you participated in the religious education program in your parish, how many years of this education did you receive?			
Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [years]	Diocesan [years]	All [years]
Average	6	6	6
Median	7	5	6
Range	1 - 12	1 - 12	1 - 12

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 spent, on average, 6 years in religious education programs in their parishes (half spent between 1 and 7 years and the other half between 7 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 6 and ranged between 5 and 7.

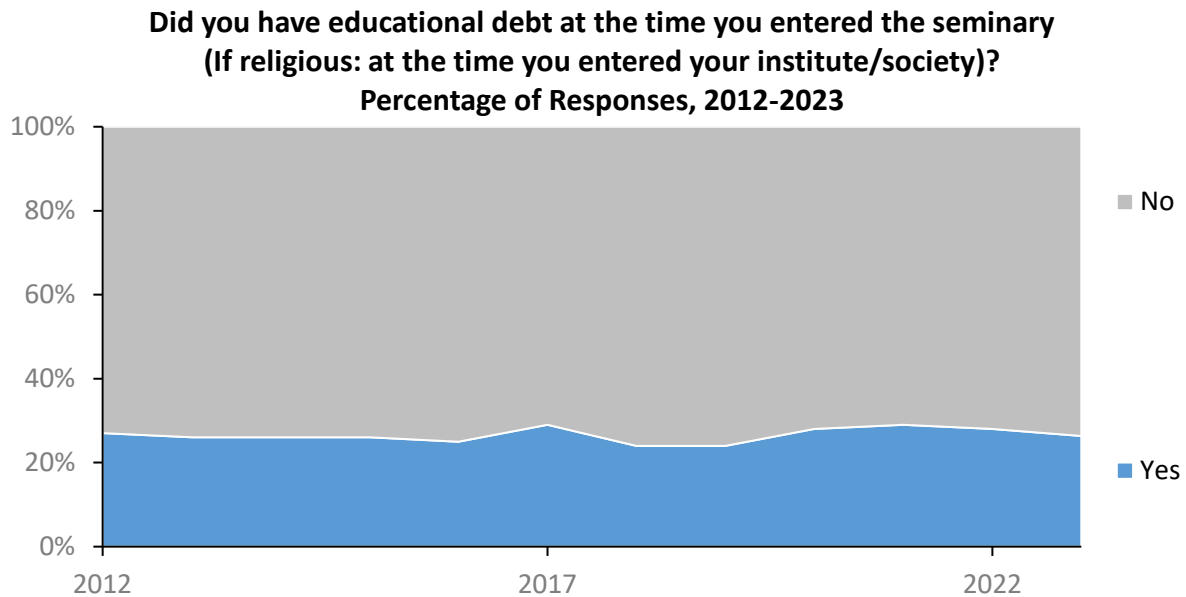
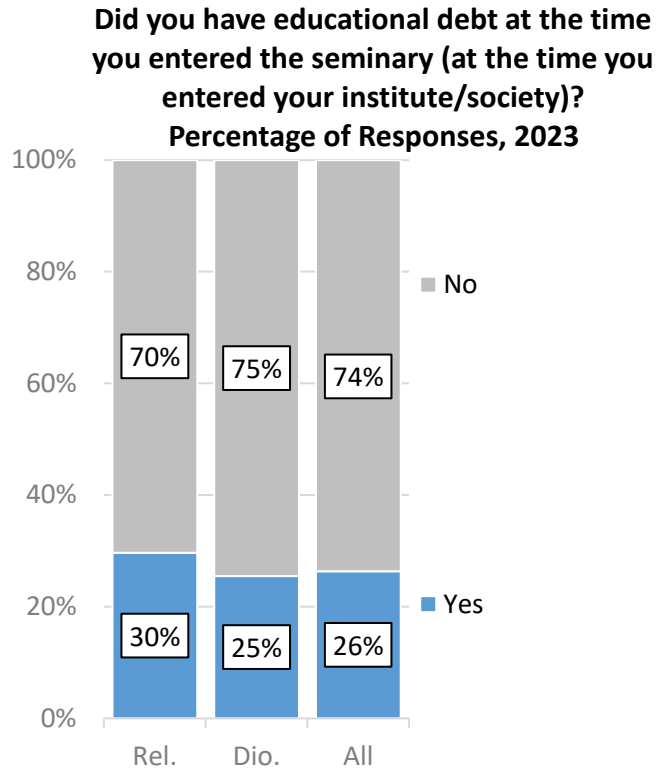
Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 spent, on average, 6 years in religious education programs in their parishes (half spent between 1 and 5 years and the other half between 5 and 12 years). Since 2017, the average number of years was 7 and ranged between 6 and 7.

Notably, responses over 12 years were recoded to 12.



Educational Debt - Part 1

Responding ordinands who had educational debt at the time they entered the seminary constituted 26% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 28% in 2022). They represented 30% of ordinands in religious institutes and 25% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2012 and 2023, their share averaged 27% and ranged between 24% and 29%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 28% \pm 5% of ordinands, in 2028.



Educational Debt - Part 2

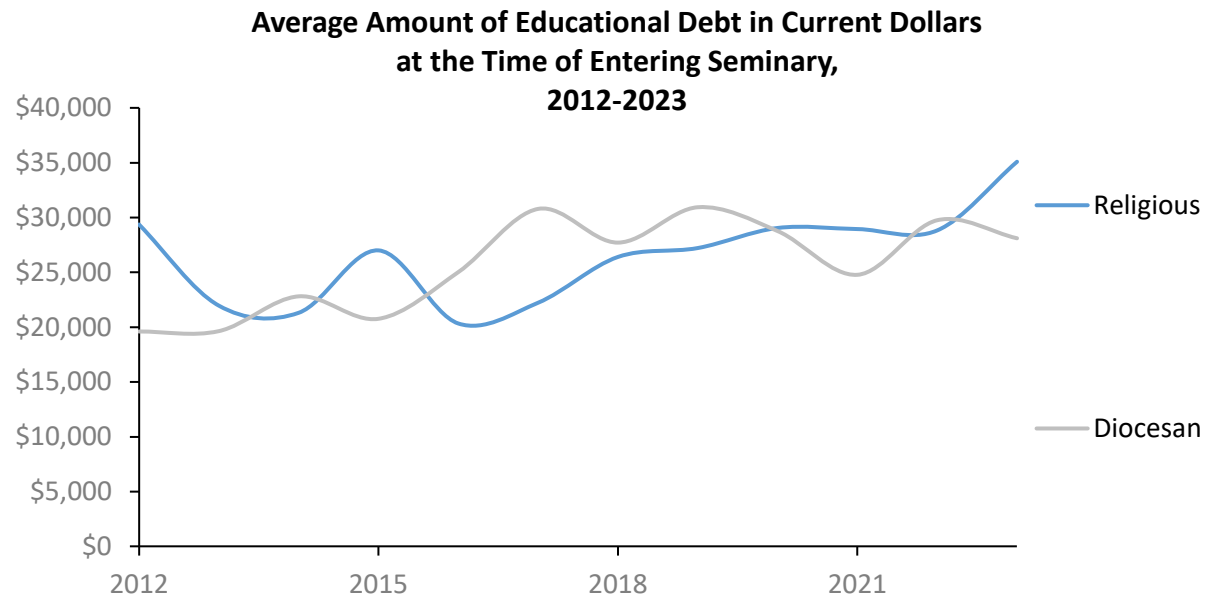
Those responding ordinands who had educational debt had, on average, \$29,579 of educational debt at the time of entering seminary (half had between \$1,500 and \$21,000 and the other half between \$21,000 and \$126,000). Since 2012, the average amount of debt was \$25,842 and ranged between \$20,250 and \$29,996.

In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes who had education debt had \$6,978 more debt than responding diocesan ordinands at the time of entering seminary:

What was the amount of your educational debt at the time you entered seminary (if any)?			
Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious	Diocesan	All
	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]
Average	35,088	28,110	29,579
Median	29,750	20,000	21,000
Range	5,913 - 119,000	1,500 - 126,000	1,500 - 126,000

Those responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 had, on average, \$35,088 of educational debt at the time of entering seminary (half had between \$5,913 and \$29,750 and the other half between \$29,750 and \$119,000). Since 2012, the average amount of debt was \$26,472 and ranged between \$20,325 and \$35,088.

Those responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 had, on average, \$28,110 of educational debt at the time of entering seminary (half had between \$1,500 and \$20,000 and the other half between \$20,000 and \$126,000). Since 2012, the average amount of debt was \$25,728 and ranged between \$19,614 and \$30,940.



Educational Debt - Part 3

Responding ordinands who had education debt had, on average, \$23,314 of educational debt at the time of ordination (half had between \$0 and \$12,000 and the other half between \$12,000 and \$162,000). Since 2012, the average amount of this debt was \$22,153 and ranged between \$16,031 and \$28,530.

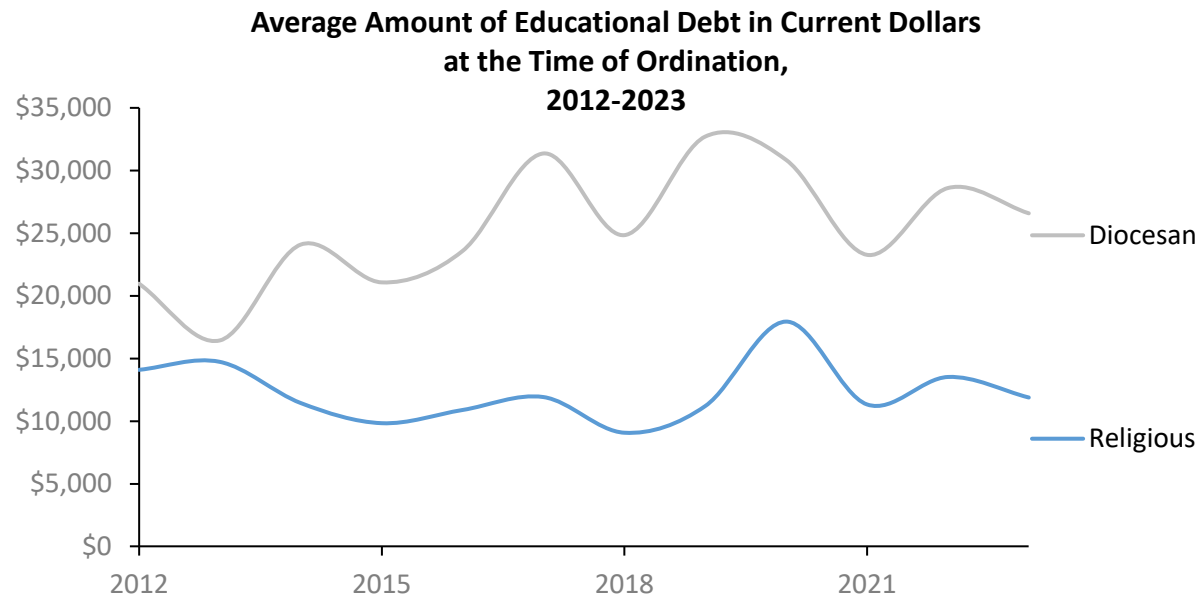
What was the amount of your educational debt at the time of ordination?			
Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious	Diocesan	All
	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]
Average	11,887	26,579	23,314
Median	0	19,500	12,000
Range	0 - 80,184	0 - 162,000	0 - 162,000

In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes who had educational debt had \$14,693 less debt than responding diocesan ordinands at the time of ordination:

Those responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood had, on average, \$26,579 of educational debt at the time of ordination (half had between \$0 and \$19,500 and the other half between \$19,500 and \$162,000). Since 2012, the average amount of this debt \$25,360 and ranged between \$16,434 and \$32,707.

Those responding ordinands in religious institutes had, on average, \$11,887 of educational debt at the time of ordination (half had between \$0 and \$0 and the other half between \$0 and \$80,184). Since 2012, the average amount of this debt \$12,325 and ranged between \$9,070 and \$17,957.

Those responding ordinands who had educational debt in 2023 were delayed entrance, on average, by less than 1 year.



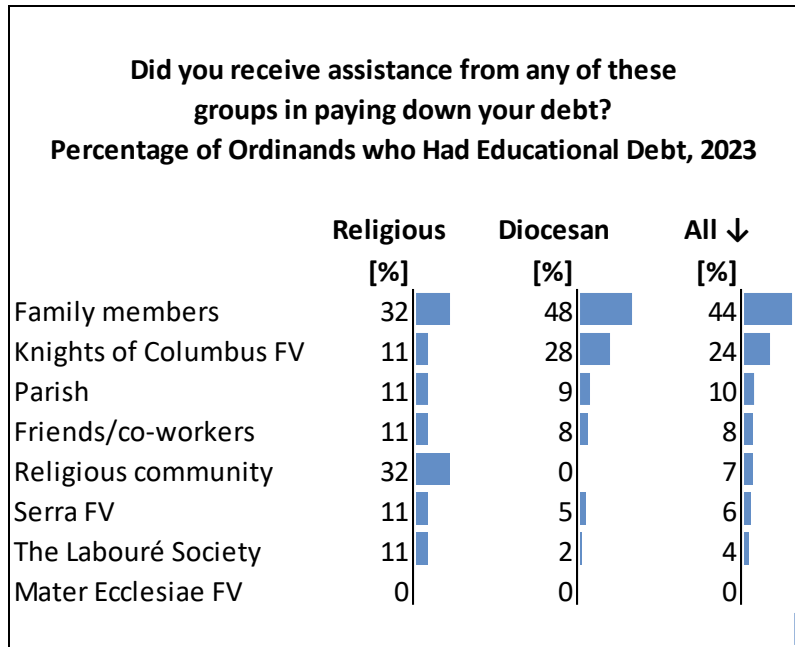
Educational Debt - Part 4

Ordinands who received financial assistance from their family members constituted 44% of ordinands who had educational debt at the time of entering seminary. They represented 32% of ordinands in religious institutes and 48% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 31% and ranged between 24% and 44%.

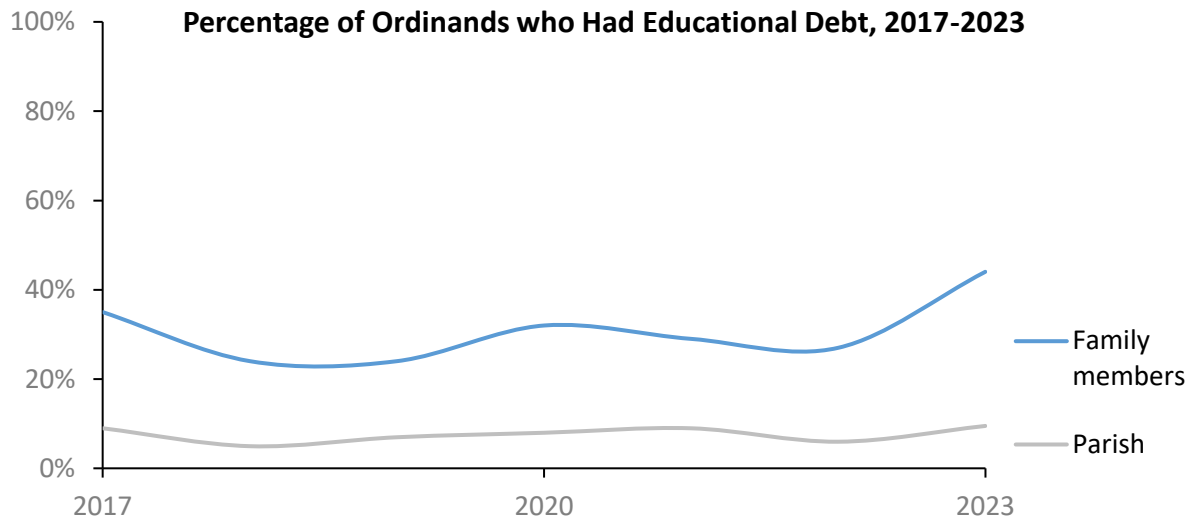
Ordinands who received assistance from Knights of Columbus Fund for Vocations constituted 24% of ordinands. They represented 11% of ordinands in religious institutes and 28% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 13% and ranged between 9% and 24%.

Ordinands who received assistance from their parish constituted 10% of ordinands. They represented 11% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 8% and ranged between 5% and 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 10% ±4% of ordinands, in 2028.

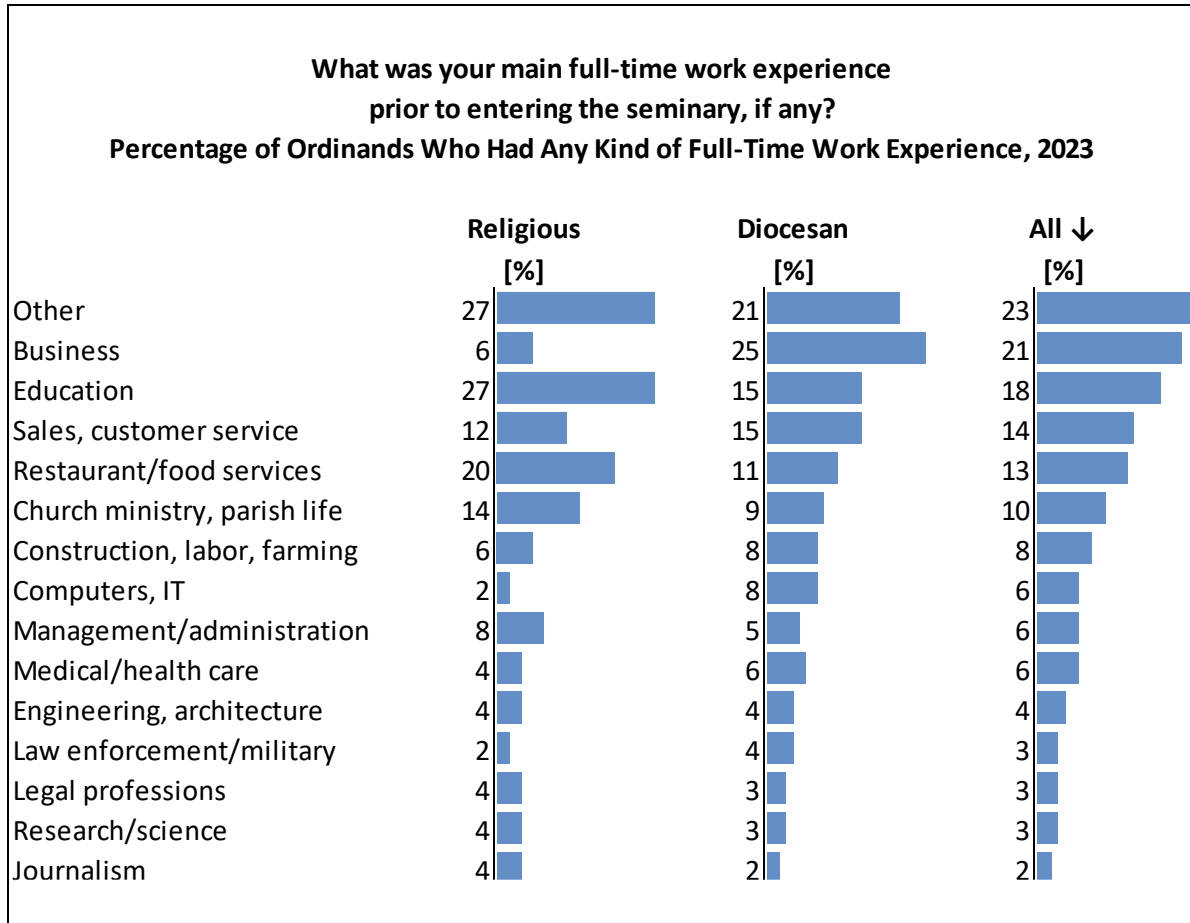
Ordinands who received assistance from friends/co-workers constituted 8% of ordinands. They represented 11% of ordinands in religious institutes and 8% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 5% and ranged between 2% and 8%.



Did you receive assistance from any of these groups in paying down your debt?
Percentage of Ordinands who Had Educational Debt, 2017-2023



Employment Background



Ordinands who worked in business constituted 21% of ordinands who had any kind of full-time work experience prior to entering seminary. They represented 6% of ordinands in religious institutes and 25% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference).

Ordinands who worked in education constituted 18% of ordinands. They represented 27% of ordinands in religious institutes and 15% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 15% and ranged between 7% and 21%.

Ordinands who worked in sales, customer service constituted 14% of ordinands. They represented 12% of ordinands in religious institutes and 15% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 8% and ranged between 2% and 14%.

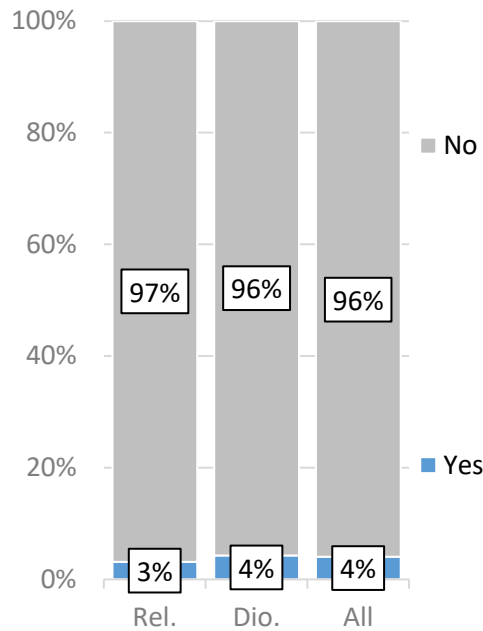
Ordinands who worked in engineering, architecture constituted 4% of ordinands. They represented 4% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 4% and ranged between 2% and 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 4% ±5% of ordinands, in 2028.

Military Background - Part 1

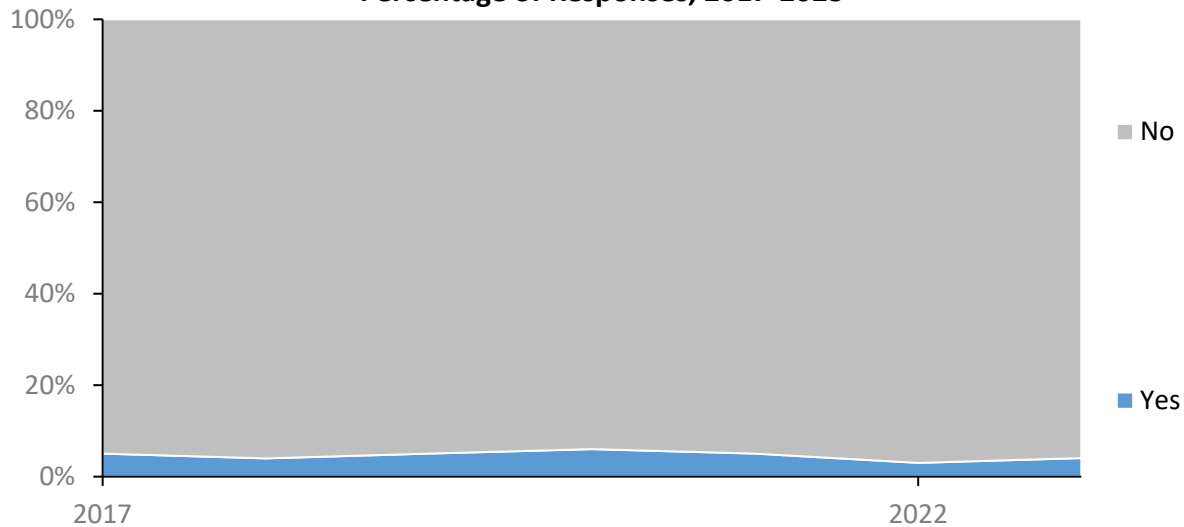
Responding ordinands who served in the U.S. Armed Forces constituted 4% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 3% in 2022). They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 5% and ranged between 3% and 6%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% ±2% of ordinands, in 2028.

Among ordinands who served in the U.S. Armed Forces: 7 served in the Army (as compared to 3 a year before), 3 in the Air Force (as compared to 0 a year before), 2 in the Marines (as compared to 0 a year before), 1 in the Reserves (as compared to 1 a year before), 1 in the Navy (as compared to 4 a year before), 1 in the National Guard (as compared to 1 a year before), and 0 in the Coast Guard (as compared to 0 a year before).

**Have you ever served in the Armed Forces of the United States?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



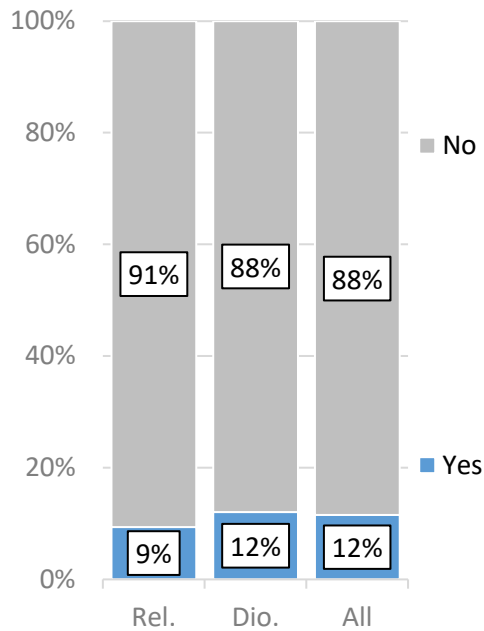
**Have you ever served in the Armed Forces of the United States?
Percentage of Responses, 2017-2023**



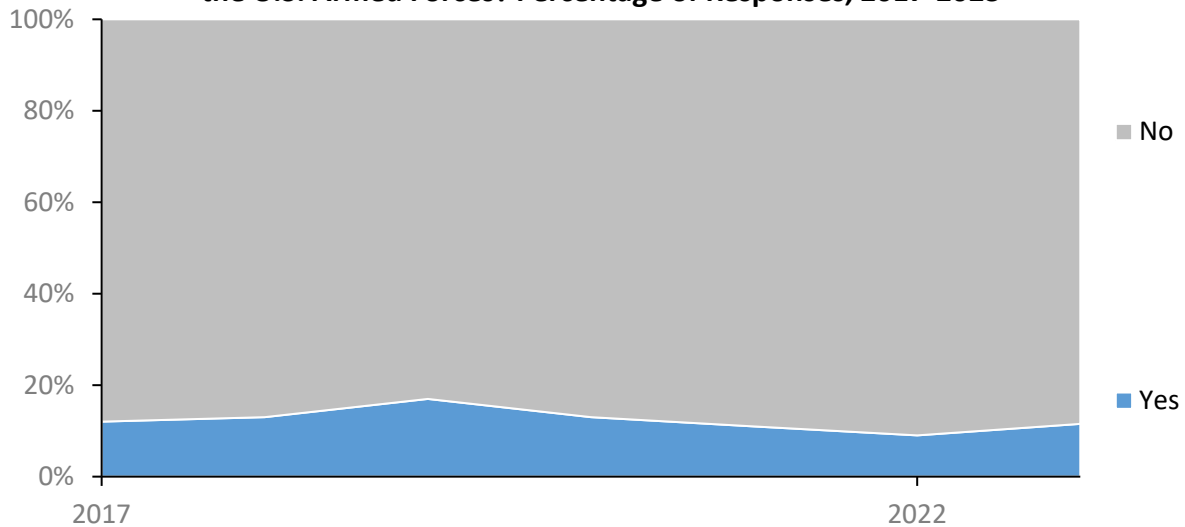
Military Background - Part 2

Responding ordinands whose parents served in the U.S. Armed Forces constituted 12% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 9% in 2022). They represented 9% of ordinands in religious institutes and 12% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 13% and ranged between 9% and 17%.

**Did either of your parents have a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



Did either of your parents have a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces? Percentage of Responses, 2017-2023



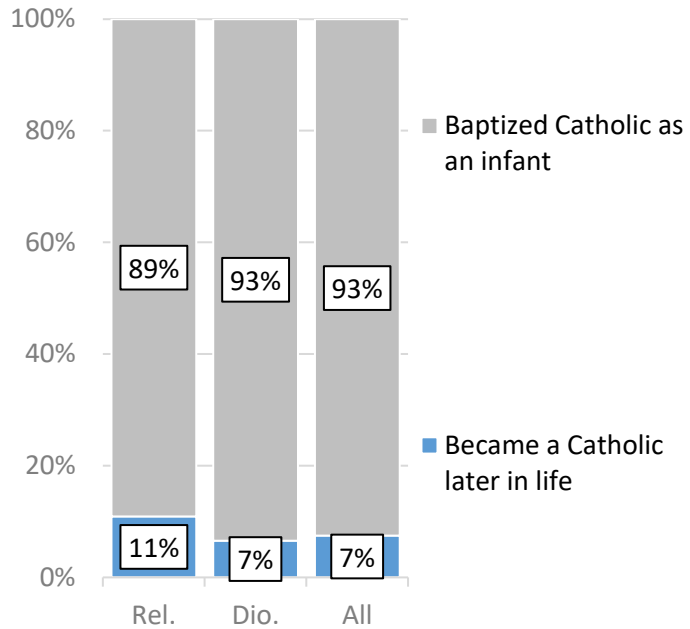
Part VI: Family Background

Family Religious Background - Part 1

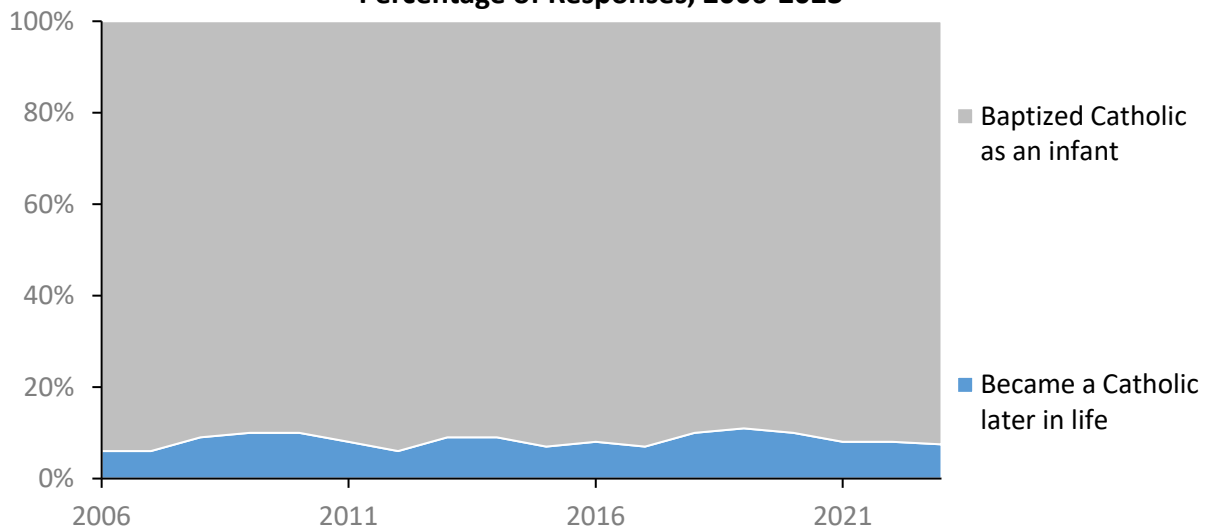
Responding ordinands who became Catholic later in life constituted 7% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 8% in 2022). They represented 11% of ordinands in religious institutes and 7% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 8% and ranged between 6% and 11%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 8% \pm 5% of ordinands, in 2028.

Previous religious affiliations included, for example: Buddhist, Evangelical Protestant, Episcopalian, Non-denominational, Presbyterian, Occult, United Methodist, Lutheran (ELCA), and Baptist.

**How long have you been a Catholic?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**How long have you been a Catholic?
Percentage of Responses, 2006-2023**



Family Religious Background - Part 2

Responding ordinands who converted to Catholicism later in life were, on average, 22 years old when they become Catholic (half was between 5 and 21 years old and the other half between 21 and 51 years old). Since 2006, the average age of conversion was 22 and ranged between 18 and 31.

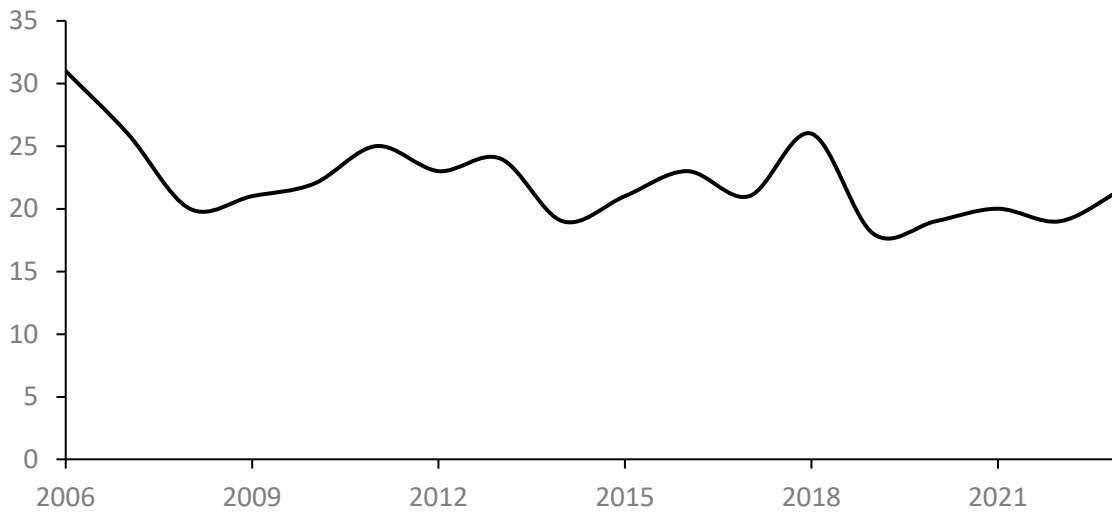
In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes were 6 years younger than responding diocesan ordinands when they become Catholic:

How old were you when you became a Catholic? Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [years]	Diocesan [years]	All [years]
Average	17	23	22
Median	21	22	21
Range	5 - 24	11 - 51	5 - 51

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood-converts in 2023 were, on average, 23 years old when they become Catholic (half was between 11 and 22 years old and the other half between 22 and 51 years old). Since 2006, the average age of conversion was 23 and ranged between 17 and 31.

Responding ordinands in religious institutes-converts in 2023 were, on average, 17 years old when they become Catholic (half was between 5 and 21 years old and the other half between 21 and 24 years old). Since 2006, the average age of conversion was 21 and ranged between 15 and 31.

**Average Age When Became a Catholic,
2006-2023**



Family Religious Background - Part 3

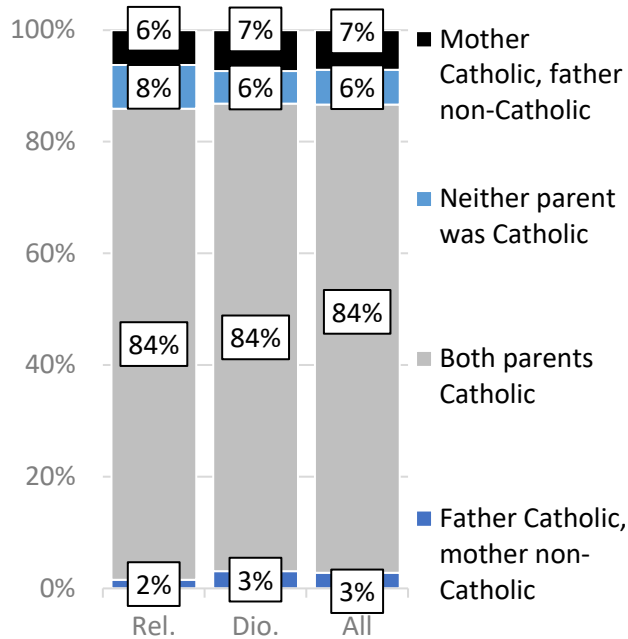
Ordinands whose both parents were Catholic constituted 84% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 84% of ordinands in religious institutes and 84% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2007 and 2023, their share averaged 82% and ranged between 77% and 86%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 83% \pm 5% of ordinands, in 2028.

Ordinands whose mother was Catholic and father was not constituted 7% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 6% of ordinands in religious institutes and 7% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2007 and 2023, their share averaged 7% and ranged between 3% and 12%.

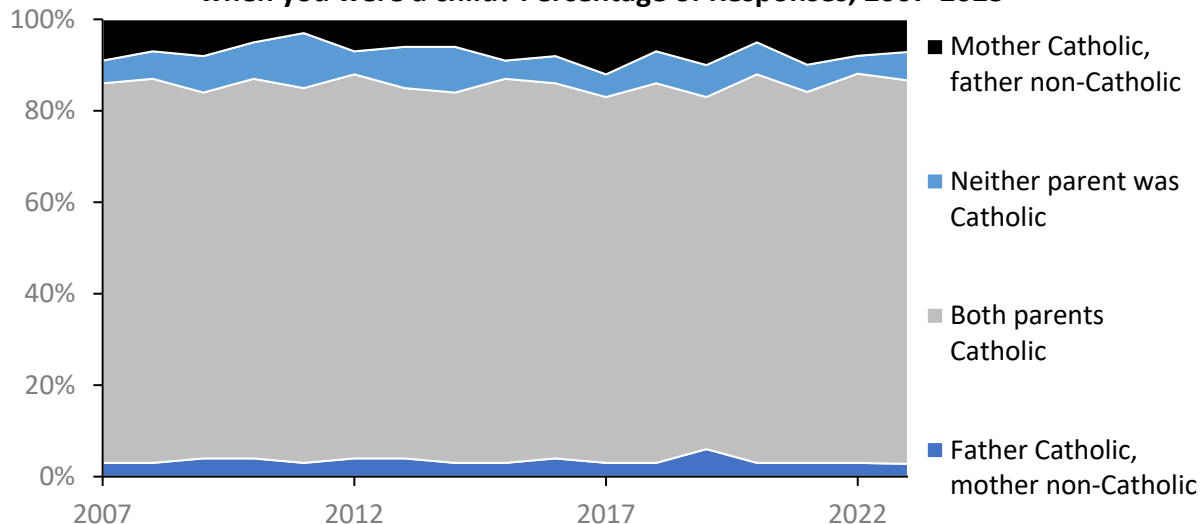
Ordinands whose both parents were not Catholic constituted 6% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 8% of ordinands in religious institutes and 6% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2007 and 2023, their share averaged 7% and ranged between 4% and 12%.

Ordinands whose father was Catholic and mother was not constituted 3% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 3% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2007 and 2023, their share averaged 3% and ranged between 3% and 6%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 4% \pm 3% of ordinands, in 2028.

**What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



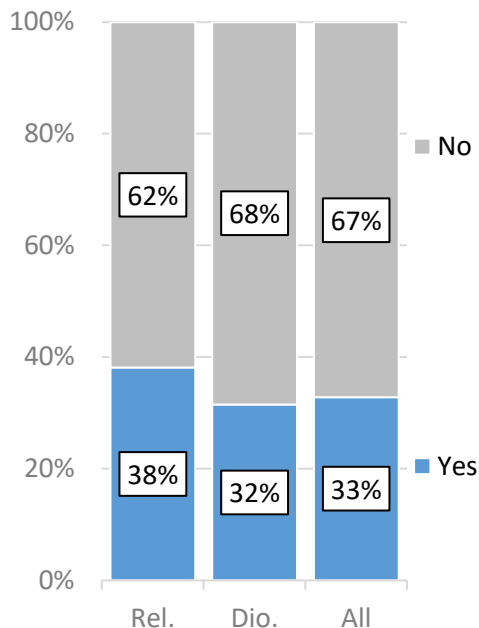
What was the religious background of your parents when you were a child? Percentage of Responses, 2007-2023



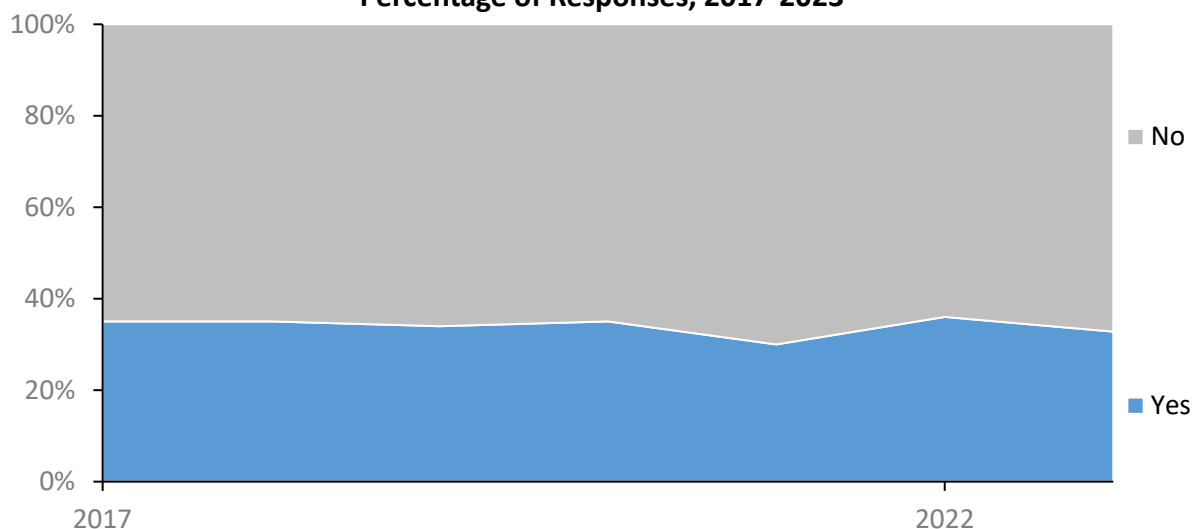
Family Religious Background - Part 4

Responding ordinands who have/had a relative who is a priest or a religious constituted 33% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 36% in 2022). They represented 38% of ordinands in religious institutes and 32% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 34% and ranged between 30% and 36%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 33% \pm 3% of ordinands, in 2028.

**Do (did) you have a relative who is a priest or a religious?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**Do (did) you have a relative who is a priest or a religious?
Percentage of Responses, 2017-2023**



Parents - Part 1

Ordinands who were raised by biological parent(s) constituted 96% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 97% in 2022). They represented 95% of ordinands in religious institutes and 96% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

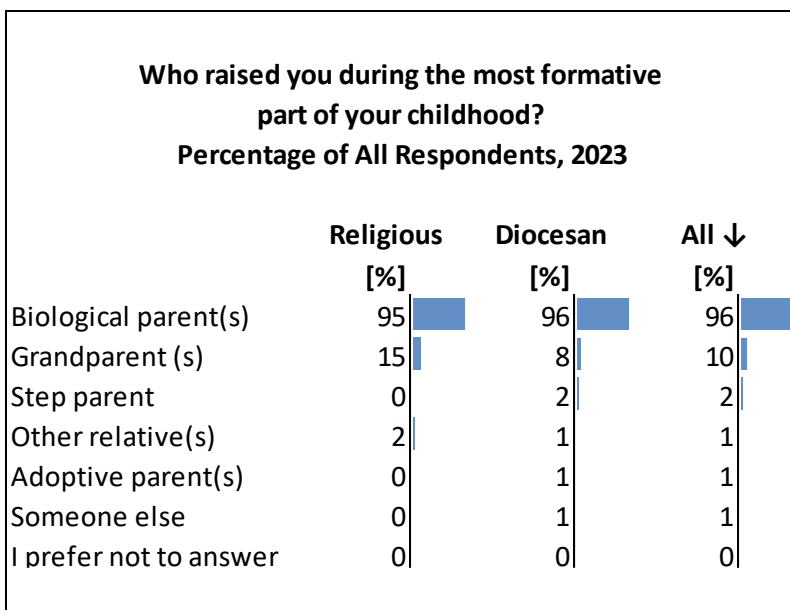
Ordinands who were raised by grandparent (s) constituted 10% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 9% in 2022). They represented 15% of ordinands in religious institutes and 8% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by step parent constituted 2% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 2% in 2022). They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and 2% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by other relative(s) constituted 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 3% in 2022). They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by adoptive parent(s) constituted 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 1% in 2022). They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by someone else constituted 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 1% in 2022). They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.



Parents - Part 2

Ordinands who were raised by married couple, living together constituted 92% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 88% in 2022). They represented 90% of ordinands in religious institutes and 92% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by one parent, separated/divorced constituted 4% of all respondents in 2023

(as compared to 5% in 2022). They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by one parent, widowed constituted 2% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 2% in 2022). They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by married couple, living separately constituted 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 1% in 2022). They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and 2% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by unmarried couple, living together constituted 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 2% in 2022). They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

Ordinands who were raised by something else constituted less than 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 1% in 2022). They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 0% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference)

Ordinands who were raised by one parent, single/unmarried constituted less than 1% of all respondents in 2023 (as compared to 1% in 2022). They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and less than 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.

During the most formative part of your childhood, were you raised by:			
Percentage of Responses, 2023			
	Religious	Diocesan	All ↓
	[%]	[%]	[%]
Married couple, living together	90	92	92
One parent, separated/divorced	3	4	4
One parent, widowed	3	1	2
Married couple, living separately	0	2	1
Unmarried couple, living together	2	1	1
Something else	2	0	<1
One parent, single/unmarried	0	<1	<1

Siblings and Birth Order - Part 1

Altogether, responding ordinands had, on average, 3 brothers and sisters (half had between 0 and 2 siblings and the other half between 2 and 13 siblings). Since 2018, the average number of siblings was 3. If the trend continues, the Ordination Class of 2028 ordinands will report having 3 ± 0 siblings.

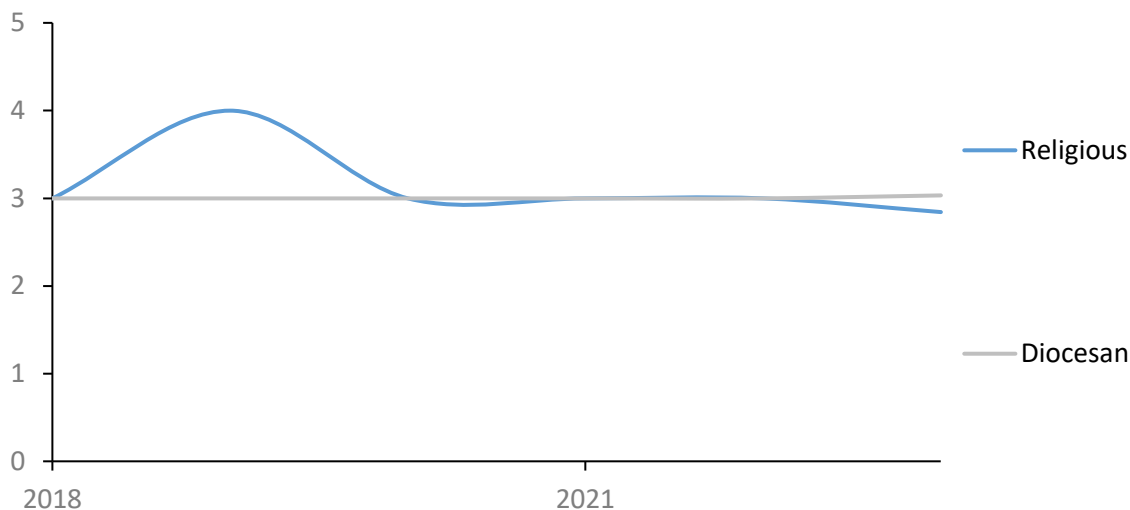
In 2023, on average, responding ordinands in religious institutes had about the same number of siblings as responding diocesan ordinands:

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Ordination Class of 2023			
	Religious [#]	Diocesan [#]	All [#]
Average	3	3	3
Median	3	2	2
Range	0 - 12	0 - 13	0 - 13

Responding ordinands to diocesan priesthood in 2023 had, on average, 3 brothers and sisters (half had between 0 and 2 siblings and the other half between 2 and 13 siblings). Since 2018, the average number of siblings was 3. If the trend continues, the Ordination Class of 2028 ordinands will report having 3 ± 0 siblings.

Responding ordinands in religious institutes in 2023 had, on average, 3 brothers and sisters (half had between 0 and 3 siblings and the other half between 3 and 12 siblings). Since 2018, the average number of siblings was 3 and ranged between 3 and 4.

Average Number of Siblings, 2018-2023

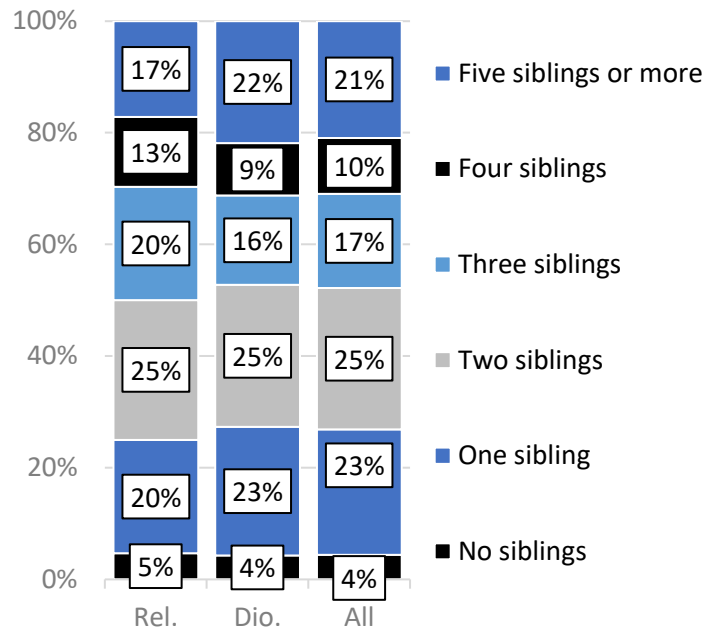


Siblings and Birth Order - Part 2

Ordinands who have two siblings constituted 25% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 25% of ordinands in religious institutes and 25% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 25% and ranged between 20% and 30%.

Ordinands who have one sibling constituted 23% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 20% of ordinands in religious institutes and 23% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 20% and ranged between 16% and 23%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 22% \pm 3% of ordinands, in 2028.

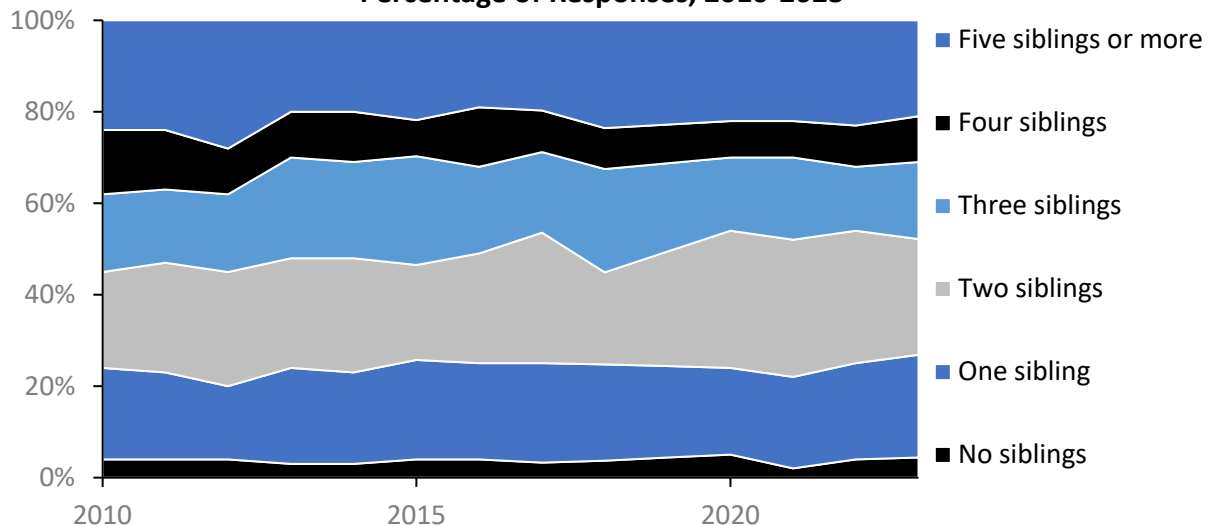
How many brothers and sisters do you have?
Percentage of Responses, 2023



Ordinands who have five siblings or more constituted 21% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 17% of ordinands in religious institutes and 22% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 22% and ranged between 19% and 28%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 21% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

Ordinands who have three siblings constituted 17% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 20% of ordinands in religious institutes and 16% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 19% and ranged between 14% and 24%.

How many brothers and sisters do you have?
Percentage of Responses, 2010-2023



* Data for Ordination Class of 2019 is interpolated.

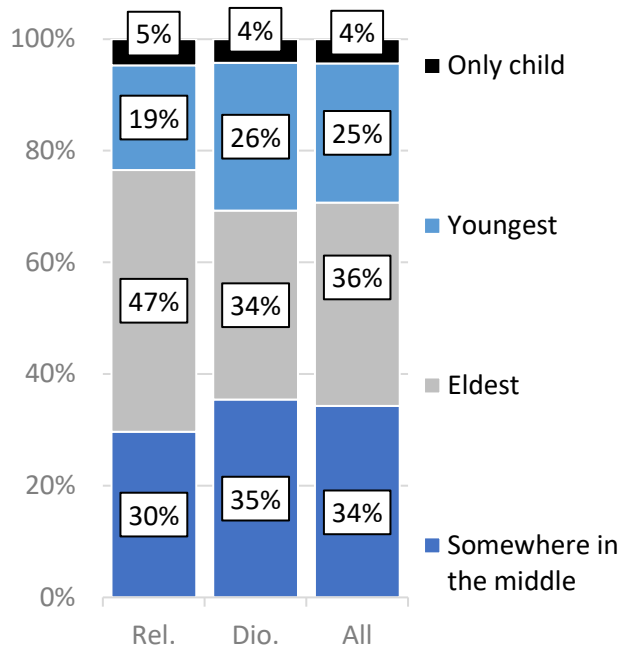
Siblings and Birth Order - Part 3

Ordinands who were the oldest among siblings constituted 36% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 47% of ordinands in religious institutes and 34% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 35% and ranged between 28% and 40%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 37% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.

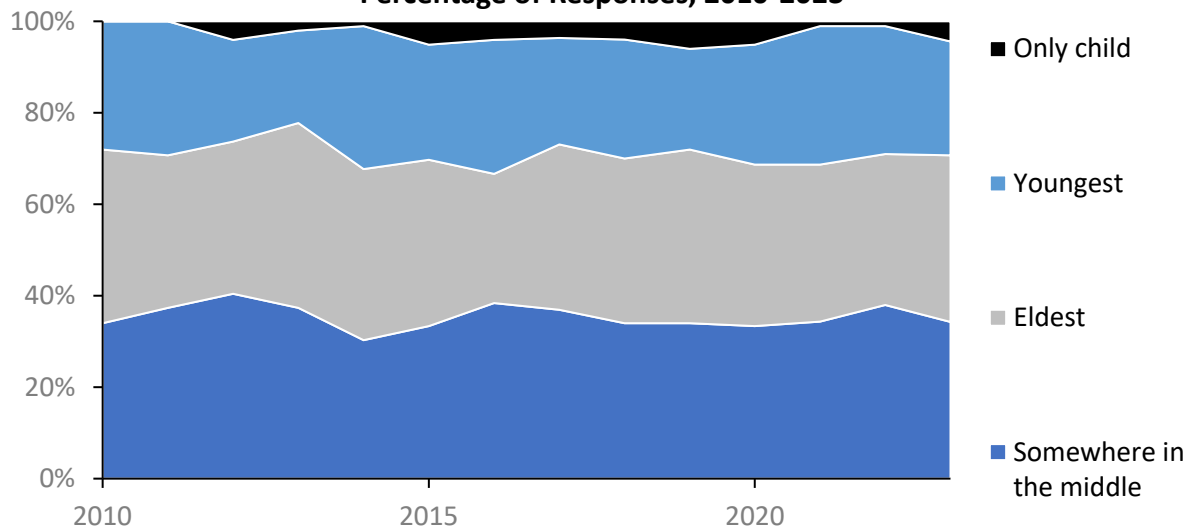
Ordinands who were born somewhere in the middle constituted 34% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 30% of ordinands in religious institutes and 35% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 35% and ranged between 30% and 40%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 35% \pm 3% of ordinands, in 2028.

Ordinands who were the youngest among siblings constituted 25% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023. They represented 19% of ordinands in religious institutes and 26% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 26% and ranged between 20% and 31%.

**What is your birth order?
Percentage of Responses, 2023**



**What is your birth order?
Percentage of Responses, 2010-2023**



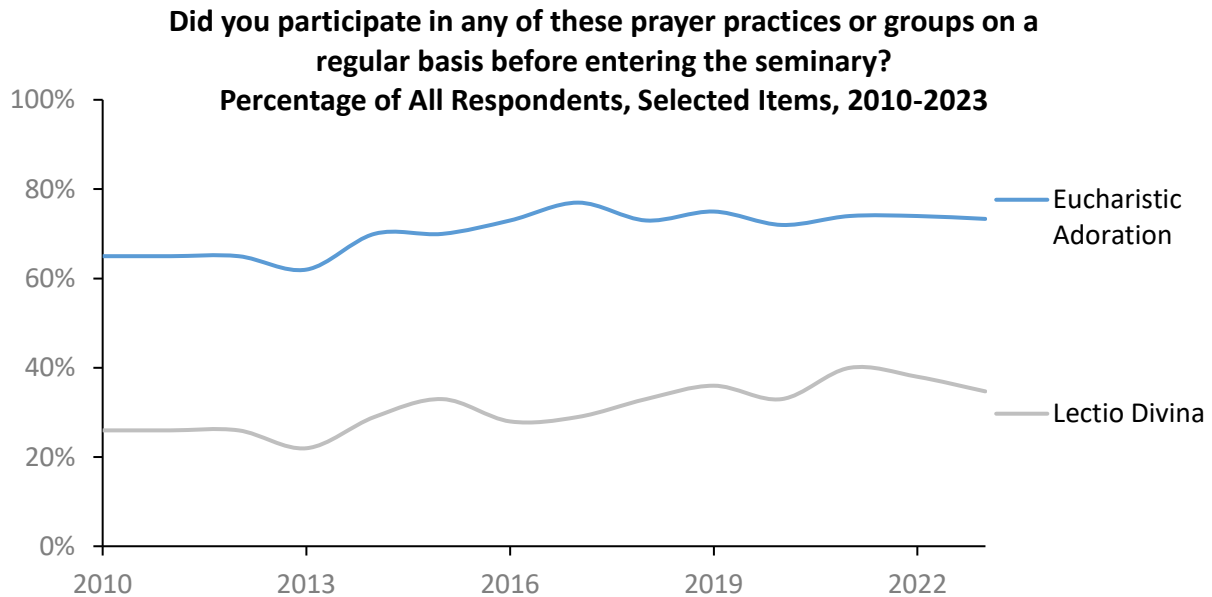
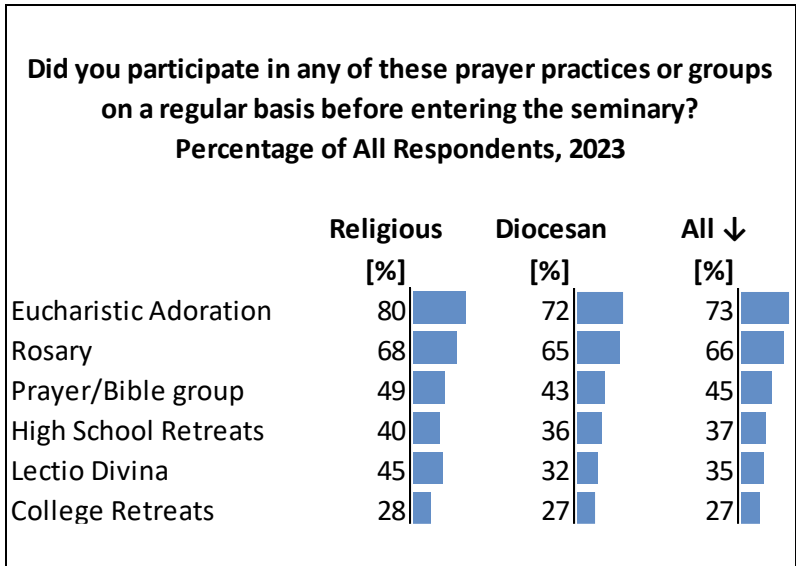
Prayer Practices

Ordinands who regularly participated in Eucharistic Adoration constituted 73% of all respondents. They represented 80% of ordinands in religious institutes and 72% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 71% and ranged between 62% and 77%.

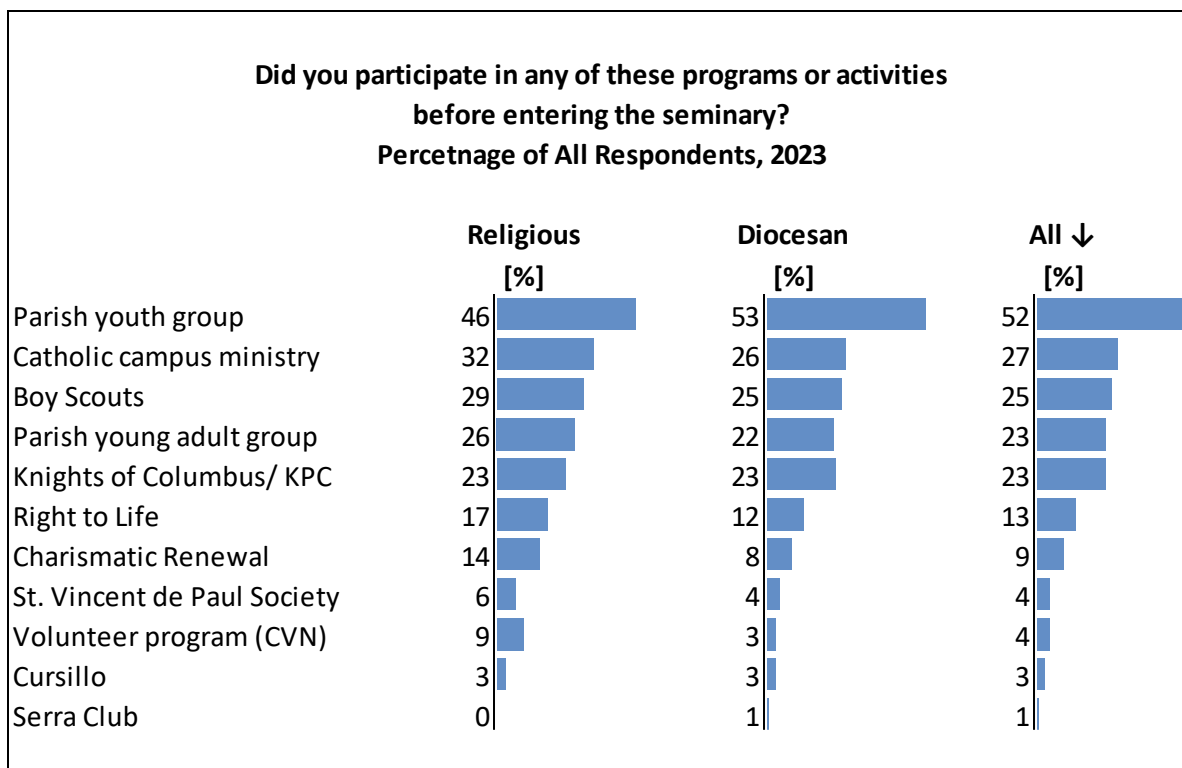
Ordinands who regularly prayed Rosary constituted 66% of all respondents. They represented 68% of ordinands in religious institutes and 65% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 70% and ranged between 66% and 74%.

Ordinands who regularly participated in prayer group/Bible study constituted 45% of all respondents. They represented 49% of ordinands in religious institutes and 43% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 47% and ranged between 41% and 53%.

Ordinands who regularly practiced Lectio Divina constituted 35% of all respondents. They represented 45% of ordinands in religious institutes and 32% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 31% and ranged between 22% and 40%.



Programs and Activities



Ordinands who belonged to Boy Scouts constituted 25% of all respondents. They represented 29% of ordinands in religious institutes and 25% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 30% and ranged between 21% and 46%.

Ordinands who belonged to Knights of Columbus/ Knights of Peter Claver constituted 23% of all respondents. They represented 23% of ordinands in religious institutes and 23% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 24% and ranged between 17% and 45%.

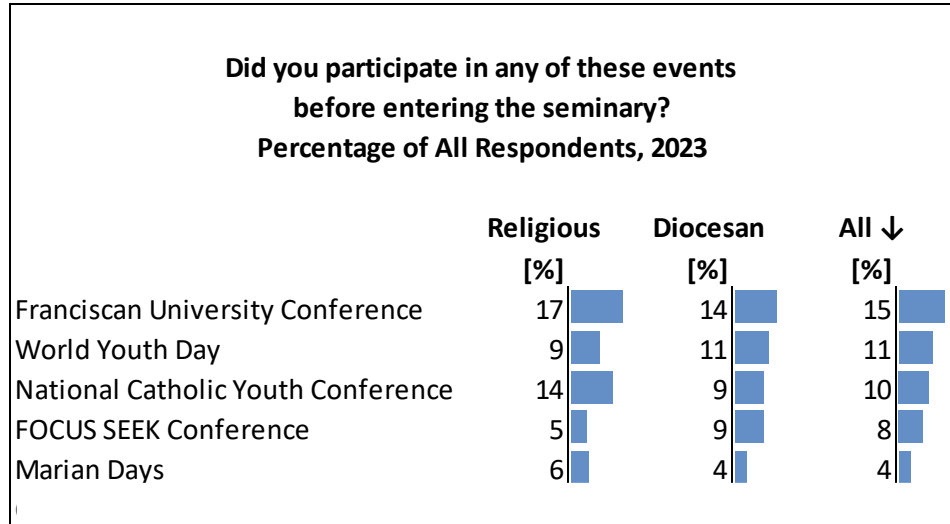
Ordinands who were involved with Right to Life constituted 13% of all respondents. They represented 17% of ordinands in religious institutes and 12% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 17% and ranged between 13% and 22%.

Ordinands who belonged to St. Vincent de Paul Society constituted 4% of all respondents. They represented 6% of ordinands in religious institutes and 4% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 5% and ranged between 2% and 9%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% ±4% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands who participated in the Serra Club constituted 1% of all respondents. They represented 0% of ordinands in religious institutes and 1% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 1% and ranged between 1% and 6%.

Events

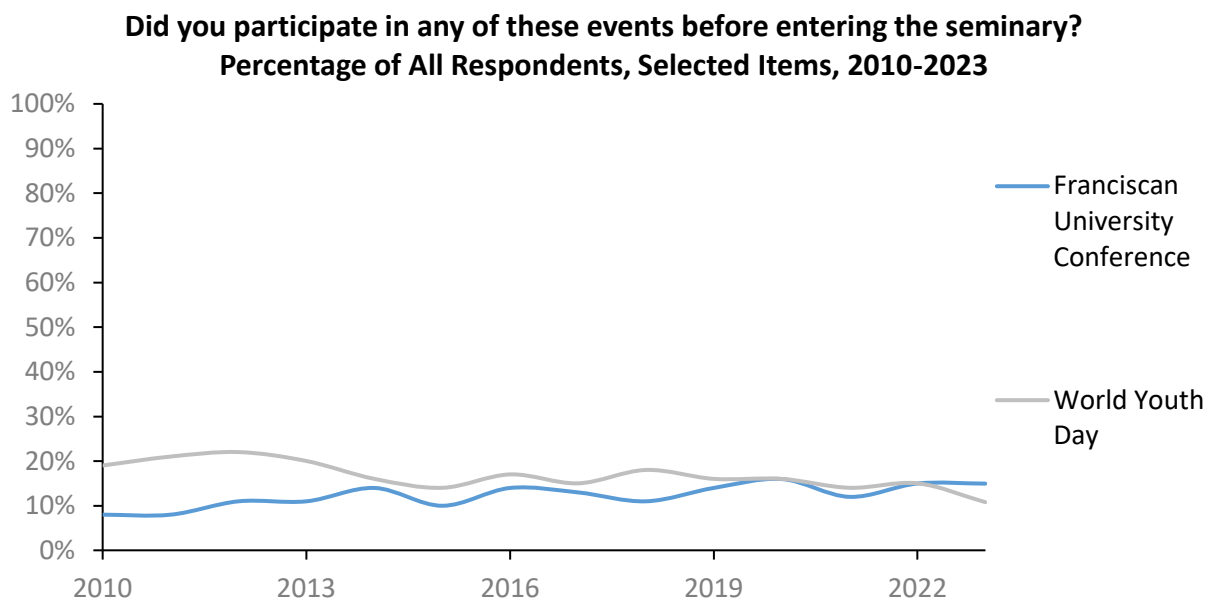
Ordinands who participated in the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) SEEK Conference constituted 8% of all respondents. They represented 5% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood.



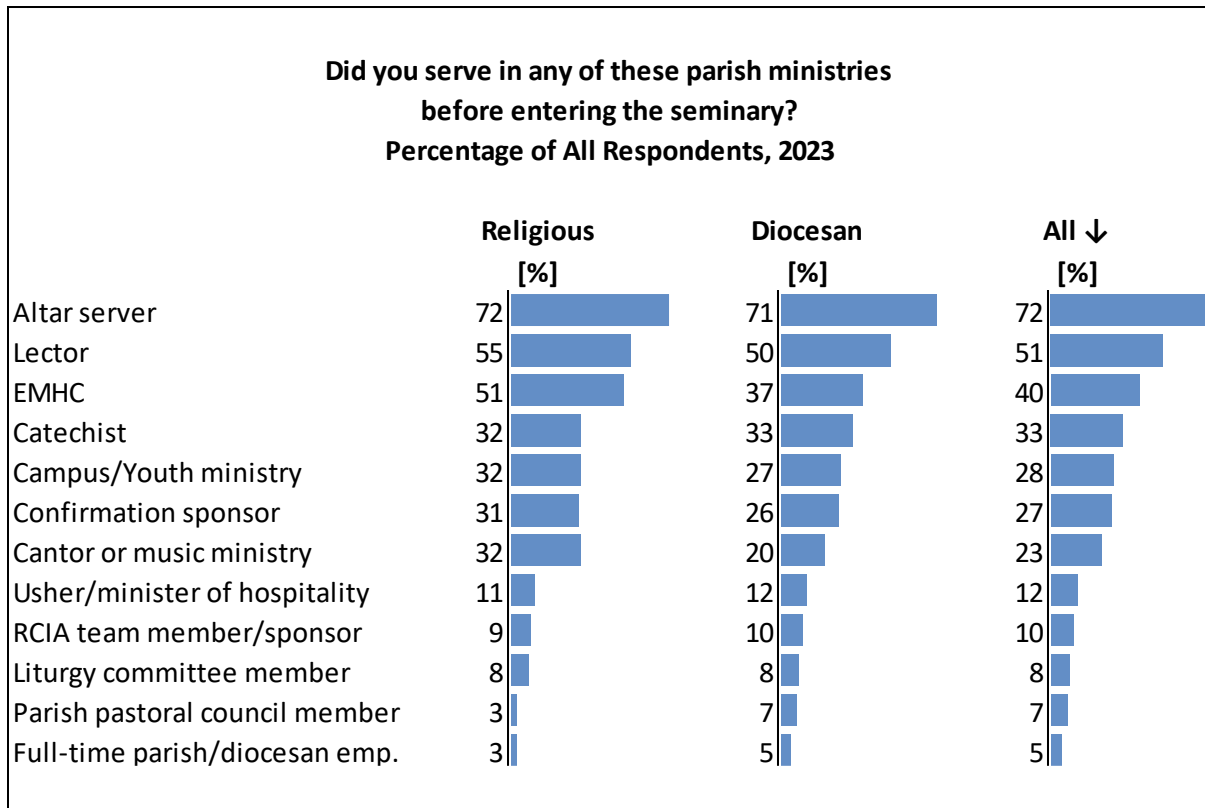
Ordinands who participated in Franciscan University of Steubenville High School Youth Conference constituted 15% of all respondents. They represented 17% of ordinands in religious institutes and 14% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 12% and ranged between 8% and 16%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 18% ±4% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands who participated in the World Youth Day constituted 11% of all respondents. They represented 9% of ordinands in religious institutes and 11% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 17% and ranged between 11% and 22%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 10% ±5% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands who participated in the National Catholic Youth Conference constituted 10% of all respondents. They represented 14% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2010 and 2023, their share averaged 7% and ranged between 4% and 10%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 9% ±3% of all respondents, in 2028.



Parish Ministries



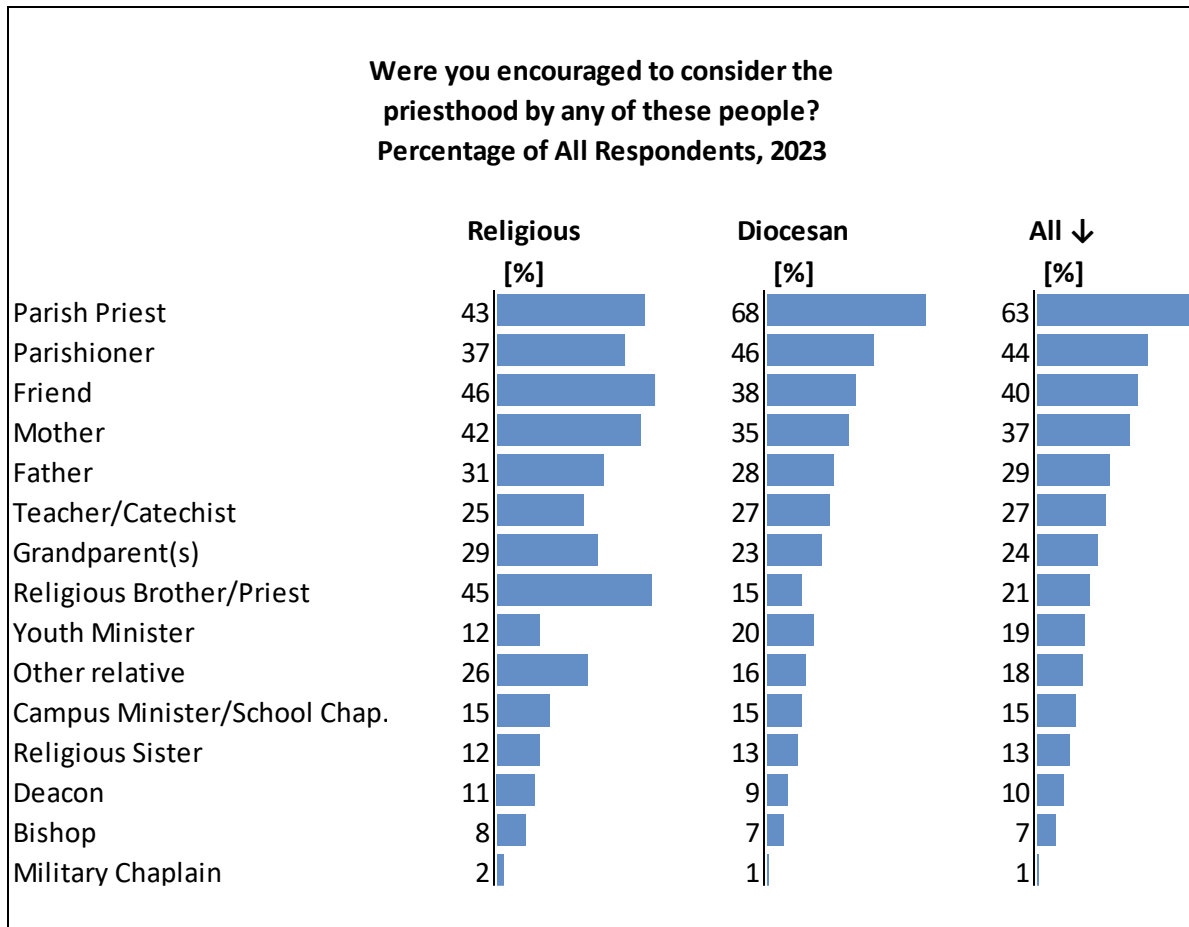
Ordinands who served as an altar server constituted 72% of all respondents. They represented 72% of ordinands in religious institutes and 71% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 73% and ranged between 67% and 80%.

Ordinands who served as a lector constituted 51% of all respondents. They represented 55% of ordinands in religious institutes and 50% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 55% and ranged between 48% and 65%.

Ordinands who served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion constituted 40% of all respondents. They represented 51% of ordinands in religious institutes and 37% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 44% and ranged between 37% and 61%.

Ordinands who served as a parish pastoral council member constituted 7% of all respondents. They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 7% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 11% and ranged between 7% and 20%.

Encouraging Influences



Ordinands encouraged by their mother constituted 37% of all respondents. They represented 42% of ordinands in religious institutes and 35% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 37% and ranged between 15% and 42%.

Ordinands encouraged by their parish priest constituted 63% of all respondents. They represented 43% of ordinands in religious institutes and 68% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 71% and ranged between 63% and 85%.

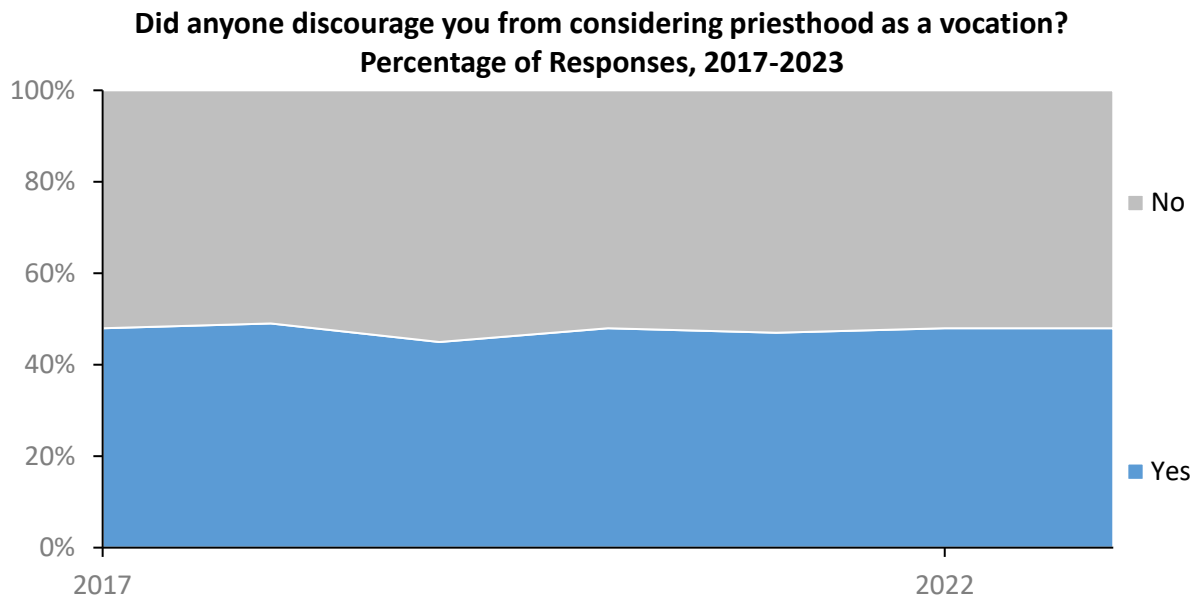
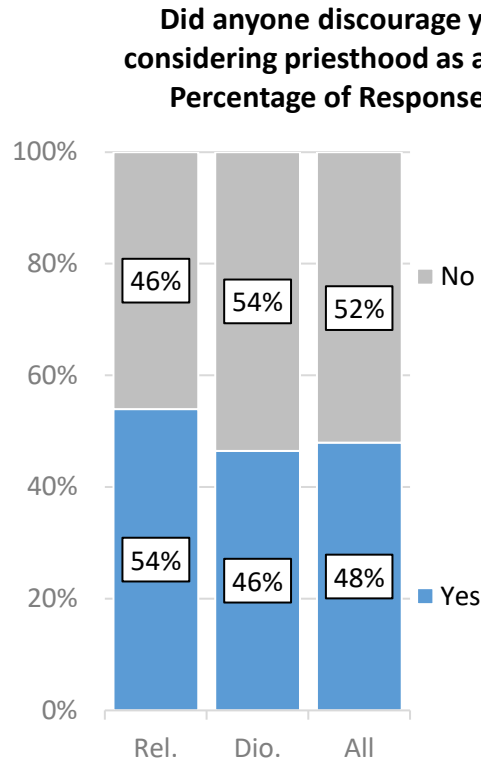
Ordinands encouraged by a parishioner constituted 44% of all respondents. They represented 37% of ordinands in religious institutes and 46% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 41% and ranged between 9% and 47%.

Ordinands encouraged by their friend constituted 40% of all respondents. They represented 46% of ordinands in religious institutes and 38% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 45% and ranged between 24% and 53%.

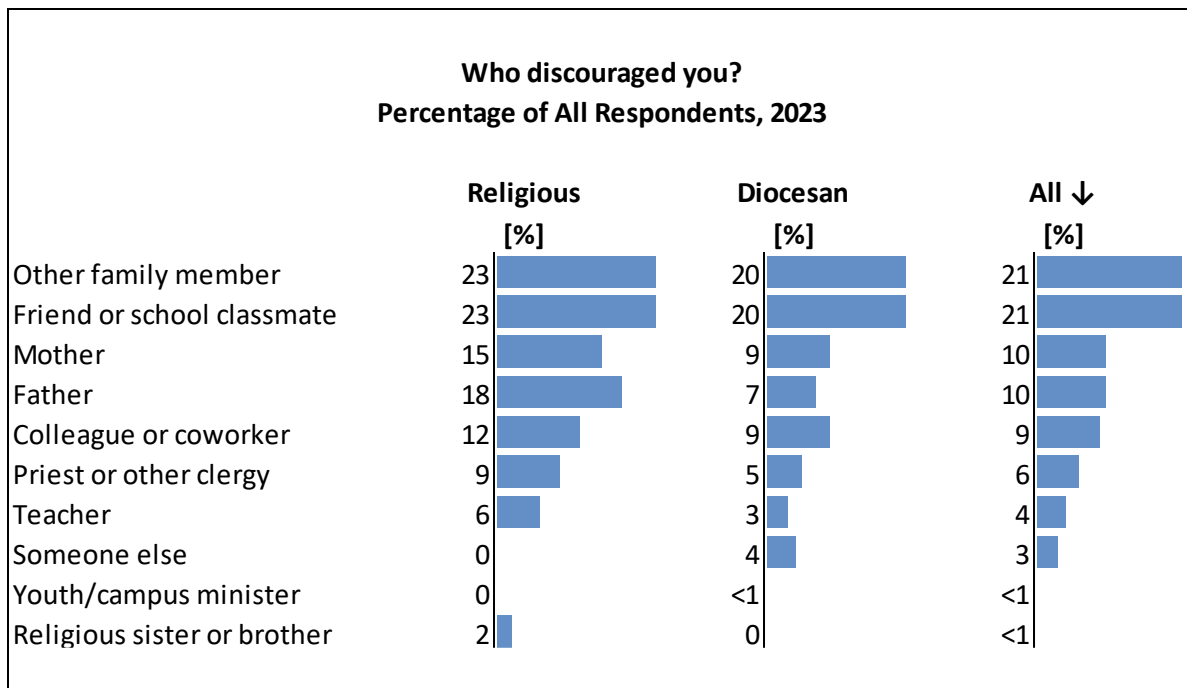
Ordinands encouraged by their father constituted 29% of all respondents. They represented 31% of ordinands in religious institutes and 28% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 28% and ranged between 12% and 33%.

Discouraging Influences - Part 1

Responding ordinands who were discouraged from considering priesthood as a vocation constituted 48% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 48% in 2022). They represented 54% of ordinands in religious institutes and 46% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 48% and ranged between 45% and 49%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 49% \pm 4% of ordinands, in 2028.



Discouraging Influences - Part 2



Ordinands discouraged by another family member constituted 21% of all respondents. They represented 23% of ordinands in religious institutes and 20% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 22% and ranged between 21% and 25%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 21% \pm 3% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands discouraged by their friend or school classmate constituted 21% of all respondents. They represented 23% of ordinands in religious institutes and 20% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 26% and ranged between 21% and 31%.

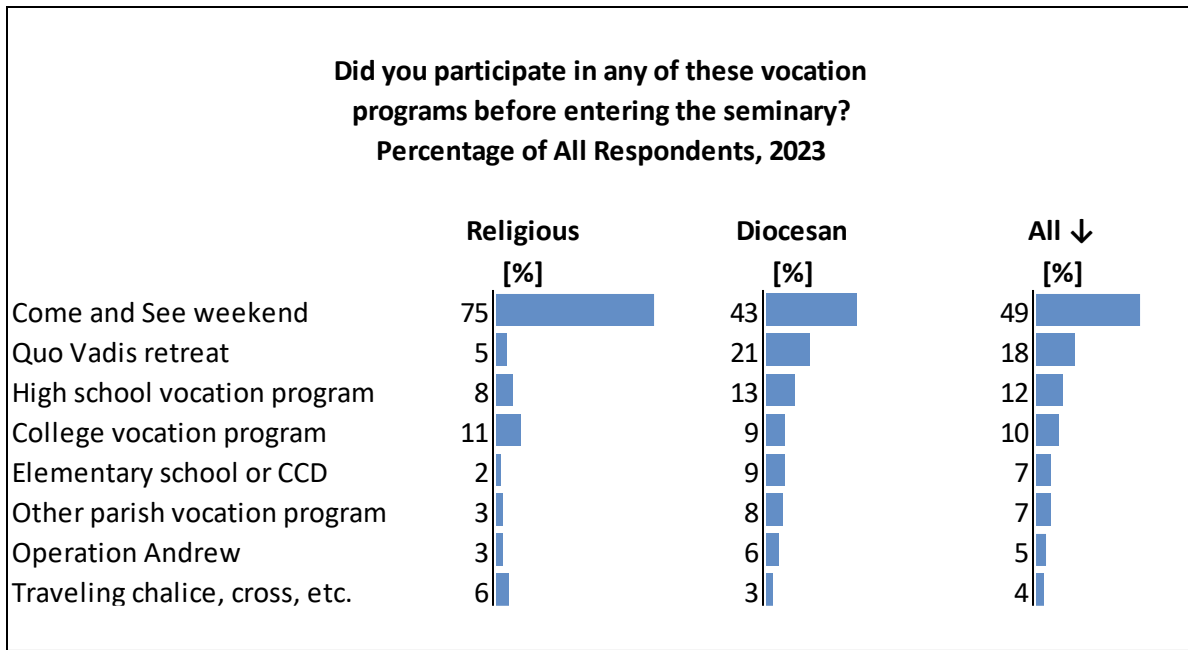
Ordinands discouraged by their mother constituted 10% of all respondents. They represented 15% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 13% and ranged between 10% and 16%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 11% \pm 3% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands discouraged by their father constituted 10% of all respondents. They represented 18% of ordinands in religious institutes and 7% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 12% and ranged between 10% and 15%.

Ordinands discouraged by a priest or other clergy constituted 6% of all respondents. They represented 9% of ordinands in religious institutes and 5% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 5% and ranged between 2% and 7%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% \pm 4% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands discouraged by their teacher constituted 4% of all respondents. They represented 6% of ordinands in religious institutes and 3% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 5% and ranged between 4% and 6%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% \pm 1% of all respondents, in 2028.

Vocation Programs



Ordinands who participated in Come and See weekend at the seminary or the religious institute/society constituted 49% of all respondents. They represented 75% of ordinands in religious institutes and 43% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 45% and ranged between 37% and 52%.

Ordinands who participated in a high school vocation program constituted 12% of all respondents. They represented 8% of ordinands in religious institutes and 13% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 12% and ranged between 10% and 15%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 11% \pm 4% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands who participated in an elementary school or CCD vocation program constituted 7% of all respondents. They represented 2% of ordinands in religious institutes and 9% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood (a statistically significant difference). Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 8% and ranged between 4% and 13%.

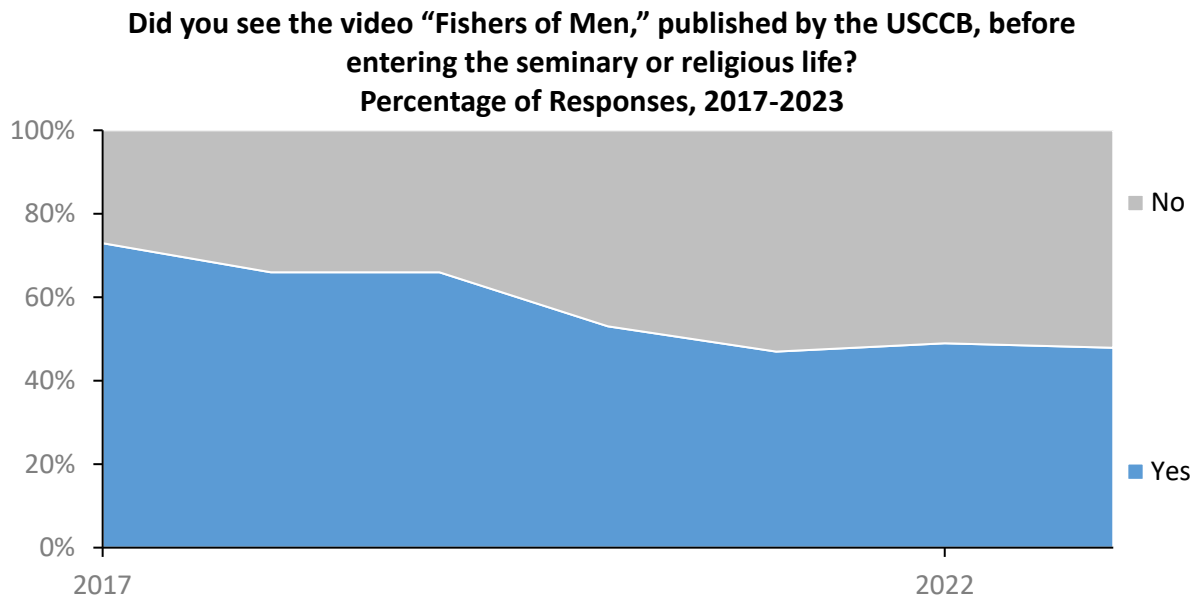
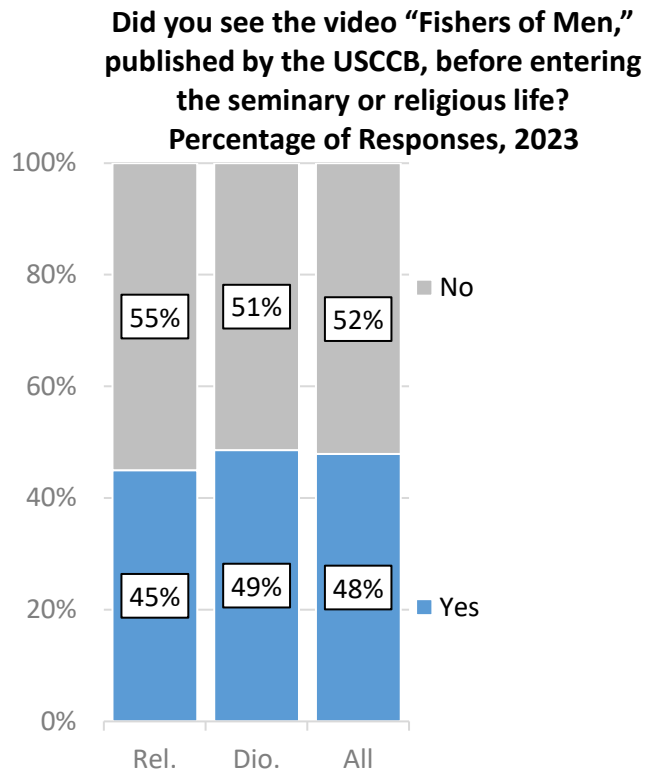
Ordinands who participated in some other parish vocation program constituted 7% of all respondents. They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 8% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 10% and ranged between 7% and 14%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 7% \pm 3% of all respondents, in 2028.

Ordinands who participated in Operation Andrew constituted 5% of all respondents. They represented 3% of ordinands in religious institutes and 6% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 6% and ranged between 4% and 9%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 3% \pm 5% of all respondents, in 2028.

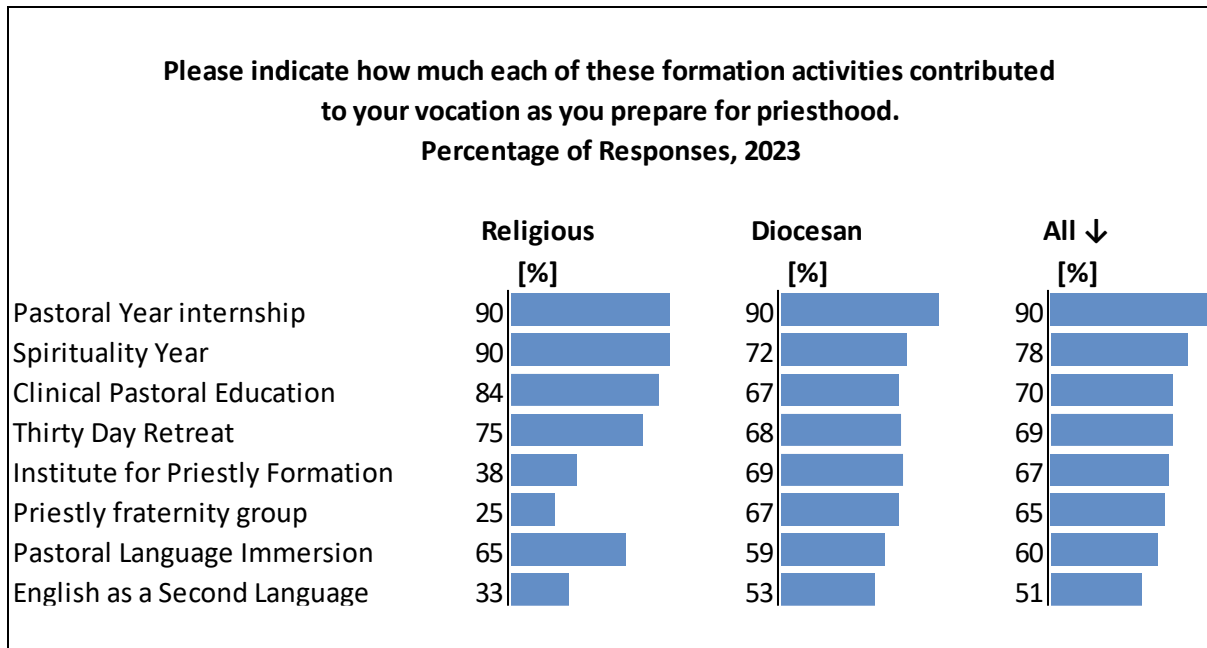
Ordinands who visited a traveling chalice/cross/statue for vocations constituted 4% of all respondents. They represented 6% of ordinands in religious institutes and 3% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2006 and 2023, their share averaged 3% and ranged between 1% and 5%. If the trend continues, they will constitute 5% \pm 3% of all respondents, in 2028.

Video “Fishers of Men”

Responding ordinands who saw the video “Fishers of Men” before entering the seminary or religious life constituted 48% of ordinands who responded to this question, in 2023 (and 49% in 2022). They represented 45% of ordinands in religious institutes and 49% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2017 and 2023, their share averaged 57% and ranged between 47% and 73%.



Formation Activities



Ordinands who indicated that pastoral year internship contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation constituted 90% of ordinands who responded to this question. They represented 90% of ordinands in religious institutes and 90% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2019 and 2023, their share averaged 87% and ranged between 83% and 90%.

Ordinands who indicated that a spirituality year contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation constituted 78% of ordinands. They represented 90% of ordinands in religious institutes and 72% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2019 and 2023, their share averaged 78% and ranged between 74% and 83%.

Ordinands who indicated that Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation constituted 70% of ordinands. They represented 84% of ordinands in religious institutes and 67% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2019 and 2023, their share averaged 71% and ranged between 67% and 78%.

Ordinands who indicated that a thirty-day retreat contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation constituted 69% of ordinands. They represented 75% of ordinands in religious institutes and 68% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2019 and 2023, their share averaged 73% and ranged between 69% and 81%.

Ordinands who indicated that the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) contributed at least “somewhat” to their vocation constituted 67% of ordinands. They represented 38% of ordinands in religious institutes and 69% of ordinands to diocesan priesthood. Between 2019 and 2023, their share averaged 67% and ranged between 62% and 70%.