

Cultivating Vocations

Trends in the Catholic Church and the call to priesthood

U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH STATISTICS

	NUMBER OF PARISHES	NUMBER OF PRIESTS	U.S. CATHOLIC POPULATION	ENROLLED IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2000-05	+1.79%	+9.43%	+3.27%	+0.15%
2005-10	-4.94%	-3.4%	+0.81%	-6.24%
2010-14	-2.65%	-4.3%	+2.82%	-4.24%



True or False?

Has Catholicism experienced the greatest net losses as a result of affiliation changes? It may seem that way because it is the single largest faith in the U.S. and proportions make a difference.

Percentage of the U.S. Population that is Catholic



3rd Highest Retention Rate
Among faith groups with an estimated 3 million or more adult members, 68% of U.S. adult Catholics stay with the religion they were raised in.



Born and Raised Catholic

81%

Most of those ordained have been Catholic since birth (9% converted). 81% come from families where both parents are Catholic.

EDUCATION



Families have **less money** to send their children to Catholic school.



More than 50% of those considering religious orders attended a Catholic elementary school. Men who attended a Catholic secondary school are more than six times as likely as those who did not to consider a vocation.

70%

Of ordinands have a bachelors degree and most have more than **\$20k** STUDENT LOAN DEBT

ORDINATES

17 AVERAGE AGE when considering priesthood.

AVERAGE ENTRY AGE **34** of ordinands in 2014.

53% UNDER **30**

MILLENNIALS

(born after 1982) are even more likely than the previous generation to consider a vocation.



CHURCH

7
10



Communities have turned away some inquirers (about vocation pursuit) within the last 10 years because of educational debt.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



1 INCREASE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



2 INCREASE SUPPORT FROM FAMILIES



3 MORE SUPPORT TO AND FROM THE CHURCH

Provide more education and structures of support for parents and families in their role of vocation promotion. Only 30% of newer entrants to religious life indicate their parents

encouraged them in their desire to pursue a vocation. The Church needs to support more structured outreach to younger people to ensure their integration into a Catholic culture.

Sources

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