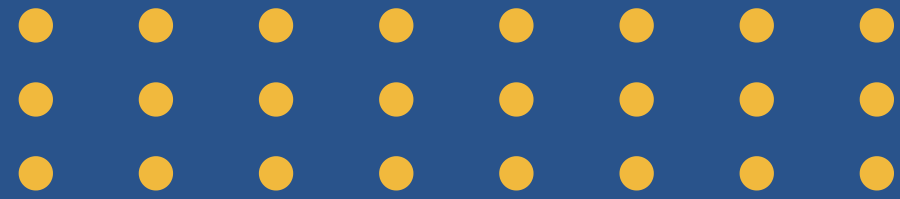
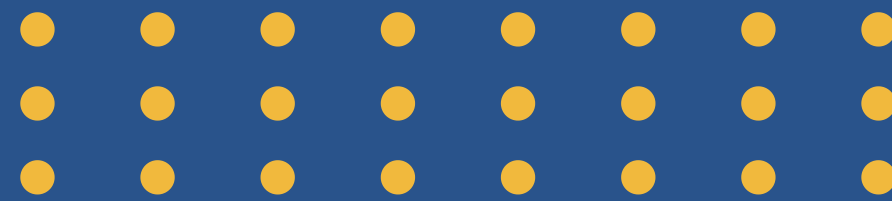


2025 CARA REPORT



**THE CENTER FOR
APPLIED RESEARCH IN
THE APOSTOLATE
SOUGHT SURVEY
RESPONSES FROM 309
SEMINARIANS TO BE
ORDAINED IN 2025.**

It received **309** responses, a response rate of **76%**.
Responses came from ordinands at **115 U.S. dioceses**
and **36 different religious institutions**.
405 men are set to be ordained priests this year.



Conclusion: **FAMILY** and
PARISH PRIESTS, alongside **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**, provide
optimal environments for a vocational call to growth.



66% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

SAID THEIR **PARISH PRIEST HAD
BEEN AN ENCOURAGING
INFLUENCE ON THEIR VOCATION**

followed by a fellow friend (52%),
a parishioner (42%), their mother (38%),
their father (29%), or a teacher/catechist (25%).

THE CALL

**60% FIRST CONSIDERED THE PRIESTHOOD
BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

High School (20%), Elementary (35%), Pre-School (5%)

**16- AVERAGE AGE WHEN ORDINANDS FIRST
HEARD CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

34- AVERAGE AGE AT ORDINATION

**42% OF ORDINANDS TO DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
ARE 30 OR YOUNGER**

BEFORE ENTERING SEMINARY

73% HAD SERVED AT THE ALTAR

**78% REGULARLY TOOK PART IN
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

BEFORE ENTERING SEMINARY

46% HAD ATTENDED A **CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** (K-8)

51% PARTICIPATED IN **RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION** AT THEIR PARISH

51% HAD PARTICIPATED IN THEIR
PARISH YOUTH GROUP

DISCOURAGING INFLUENCES

**43% WERE DISCOURAGED FROM
CONSIDERING THE PRIESTHOOD**

Other Family Member: 21%

Friend: 19%

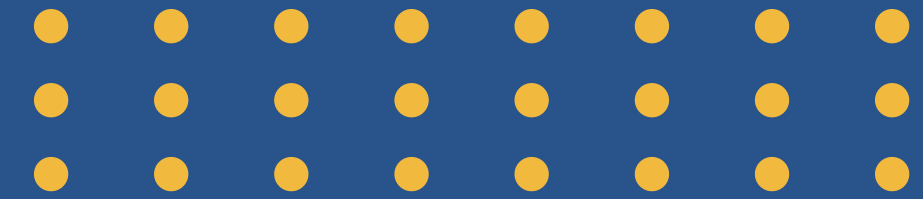
Mother: 12%

Father: 12%

Coworker: 8%

Teacher: 5%

FAMILY LIFE



**89% WERE RAISED BY PARENTS
WHO WERE MARRIED AND LIVING
TOGETHER.**

**85% HAD PARENTS WHO WERE
BOTH CATHOLIC**

71% HAD TWO OR MORE SIBLINGS

FULL-TIME WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE ENTERING SEMINARY

OTHER: 26%

EDUCATION: 19%

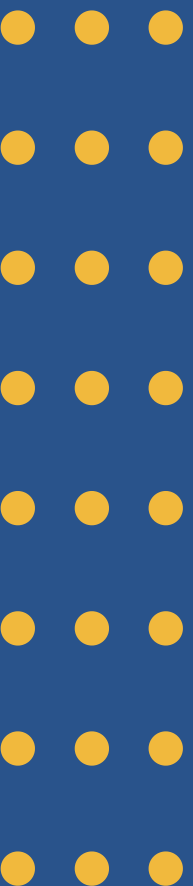
RESTAURANT: 17%

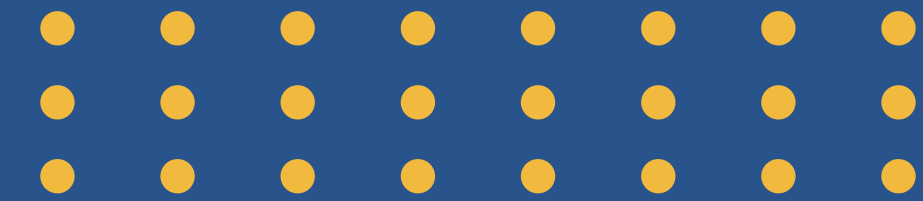
CHURCH MINISTRY: 16%

BUSINESS: 14%

CONSTRUCTION: 10%

MILITARY: 6%





HELP US BUILD A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS