



**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
and the National Religious Vocation Conference
*Survey of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life***



*This survey is part of a study to assist NRVC and CARA in understanding religious life and religious vocations in the United States today. Please respond for the **unit** (congregation, province, monastery) for which you are responsible. **If your unit is international, respond for the United States only.***

Type of Institute or Society

1. Gender of members: ₁ Men ₂ Women.

Yes No

- ₁ ₂ 2. Has your institute reconfigured since 2003?
₁ ₂ 3. Is your institute in the process of reconfiguring?
₁ ₂ 4. Since 2003, this unit has had no serious discerners.
₁ ₂ 5. This unit has stopped accepting new members.
₁ ₂ 6. This unit has stopped promoting vocations to religious life.

If Yes to #5 and #6 and you do not have a vocation director, please answer only questions 36-45, 52-59, and 83-105.

Demographic Data

Please indicate the number in each category in your unit who entered since January 1, 2003. If your religious institute has been reconfigured since 2003, please include the numbers for the religious institutes that are now part of your unit.

- _____ 7. Candidates/postulants (before novitiate)
 _____ 8. Novices
 _____ 9. Temporary/first vows/commitment
 _____ 10. Perpetual/final vows/commitment

Of those who entered your unit since 2003 and then departed, please indicate the number (including transfers) who departed at each stage.

- _____ 11. During candidacy/postulancy
 _____ 12. During novitiate
 _____ 13. During temporary vows/commitment
 _____ 14. After perpetual vows/commitment

Please indicate the number of candidates/postulants, novices, and temporary professed currently in your unit who were born in each decade:

	Candidates/ Postulants	Novices	Temporary Professed
Before 1950	15. _____	22. _____	29. _____
1950-1959	16. _____	23. _____	30. _____
1960-1969	17. _____	24. _____	31. _____
1970-1979	18. _____	25. _____	32. _____
1980-1989	19. _____	26. _____	33. _____
1990-1999	20. _____	27. _____	34. _____
2000 or later	21. _____	28. _____	35. _____

*Please indicate the number of **perpetually professed members** currently in your unit who were born in each decade:*

- _____ 36. Before 1929 _____ 40. 1960-1969
 _____ 37. 1930-1939 _____ 41. 1970-1979
 _____ 38. 1940-1949 _____ 42. 1980-1989
 _____ 39. 1950-1959 _____ 43. 1990 or later

_____ 44. Average age of **perpetually professed members**

_____ 45. Median age of **perpetually professed members**

*Please indicate the number of **candidates/postulants, novices, and temporary professed** currently in your unit in each racial or ethnic category.*

- _____ 46. African American/African/black
 _____ 47. Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian/
Middle Eastern
 _____ 48. Caucasian/European American/Anglo/white
 _____ 49. Hispanic/Latino(a)
 _____ 50. Native American/Alaskan Native
 _____ 51. Other/Don't know/Mixed races or ethnicities

*Please indicate the number of **perpetually professed members** currently in your unit in each racial or ethnic category.*

- _____ 52. African American/African/black
 _____ 53. Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian/
Middle Eastern
 _____ 54. Caucasian/European American/Anglo/white
 _____ 55. Hispanic/Latino(a)
 _____ 56. Native American/Alaskan Native
 _____ 57. Other/Don't know/Mixed races or ethnicities

58. What is the highest level of education among the majority of perpetually professed members in your unit? *(Check one)*

- ₁ Master's degree or beyond
₂ Bachelor's degree or equivalent
₃ High school diploma or equivalent

59. Where are the majority of perpetually professed members in your unit located? *(Check only one)*

- ₁ Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)
₂ South Atlantic (DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV)
₃ South Central (AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX)
₄ Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI)
₅ Mountain West (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY)
₆ Pacific West (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)
₇ Outside the United States (include PR and GU here)

Vocation Ministry

60. What is the structure of your vocation efforts? (*Check all that apply*)

- ₁ Full-time vocation director
- ₂ Part-time vocation director
- ₃ Co-vocation directors
- ₄ Vocation team
- ₅ Ad hoc or none of the above (skip to item #66)

61. Which best describes the **vocation director**? (*If more than one vocation director, please answer for the longest serving*)

- ₁ A perpetually professed member of your institute
- ₂ A temporary professed member of your institute
- ₃ A member of another institute or society
- ₄ An associate
- ₅ A lay person who is not a member or associate

_____ 62. Number of years this **vocation director** has served in vocation ministry.

63. If your unit has a **vocation team**, please indicate if it includes the following (*check all that apply*):

- ₁ Perpetually professed member(s)
- ₂ Temporary professed member(s)
- ₃ Associate(s)
- ₄ Leadership team/Council liaison
- ₅ Other lay person(s) who is/are not member(s) or associates (e.g., young adults, parents)

Yes No

- ₁ ₂ 64. Vocation director/team has clerical support.
- ₁ ₂ 65. Vocation director/team has job description(s).
- ₁ ₂ 66. Vocation director/team works with the communications director of your institute.

\$ _____ 67. Annual budget for the vocation director/team (excluding salaries).

68. How often does the vocation director meet with the institute leadership team?

- ₁ At least monthly
- ₂ At least quarterly, but less than monthly
- ₃ As needed, but at least annually
- ₄ Less than annually or never

69. How often is the topic of vocations on the agenda of the institute leadership team meetings?

- ₁ Nearly every meeting (at least 75% of all meetings)
- ₂ At least half of all meetings annually (50-74%)
- ₃ Occasionally (at least 25-49% of all meetings)
- ₄ Seldom or never

Vocation Promotion and Discernment Activities

70. Please indicate if your unit sponsors or co-sponsors the following discernment programs (*check all that apply*):

- ₁ Busy Persons Retreat, Nun Run, Open House, Theology on Tap, Cursillo, etc.
- ₂ Diocesan vocation program such as Quo Vadis, Fiat Days, dinner with the Bishop, etc.
- ₃ Regular meetings with a discernment group
- ₄ Online discernment group
- ₅ Discernment retreat
- ₆ "Come and See" experience
- ₇ Discernment house
- ₈ Live-in experience
- ₉ Volunteer service immersion experience with members of the institute
- ₁₀ *From Service to Sisterhood* volunteer program

71. Please indicate if your unit has used any of the following advertising strategies for vocation promotion in the last five years (*check all that apply*):

- ₁ Advertising in discernment magazines, diocesan papers, parish bulletins, etc.
- ₂ Vocation information on your website or a distinct website for vocations
- ₃ Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Chat)
- ₄ Online experiences (e.g., A Nun's Life, podcasts, blogs)
- ₅ Print materials (e.g., prayer cards, brochures, posters)
- ₆ VISION Vocation guide, online VISION Vocation Network, VocationMatch
- ₇ Broadcast media (e.g., EWTN, Salt and Light, diocesan)

72. Please indicate if your unit sponsors or co-sponsors vocation promotion or discernment programs specifically targeted toward these age groups (*check all that apply*):

- ₁ Elementary/middle school
- ₂ High school
- ₃ College campuses
- ₄ Young adults (20s and 30s)
- ₅ Mature adults (over age 40)

73. Please indicate the annual events in which your unit actively involves members to promote vocations to religious life (*check all that apply*):

- ₁ Congregational Founder's Day/Patron Saint Day
- ₂ Congregational festivals/fairs/public events
- ₃ National Catholic Sisters Week
- ₄ National Vocation Awareness Week
- ₅ Religious Brothers Day
- ₆ World Day for Consecrated Life
- ₇ World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Formation/Incorporation Ministry

Please indicate the age requirements for admission to candidacy/postulancy for your unit.

_____ 74. Minimum age (please write 0 if none)

_____ 75. Maximum age (please write 0 if none)

Do **candidates/postulants** in your unit interact with other candidates/postulants from:

Yes No

76. Other units of your institute, society, or federation

77. Other institutes or societies

Do **novices** in your unit interact with other novices in an Intercommunity Novitiate program from:

Yes No

78. Other units of your institute, society, or federation

79. Other institutes or societies

80. **If yes to #78 and/or #79**, please indicate the city and state of this program: _____

Do those in **temporary profession** in your unit interact with others who are temporary professed from:

Yes No

79. Other units of your institute, society, or federation

80. Other institutes or societies

81. Does your unit offer a formation experience for U.S. members in initial formation that takes place outside the United States? Yes No

82. **If yes**, please indicate the city and country of this program: _____

Community Life and Prayer

Please indicate the number of active members (not retired from active ministry) of your unit who live:

_____ 83. Singly (or with family members)

_____ 84. In community with 2-3 members of your unit

_____ 85. In community with 4-7 members of your unit

_____ 86. In community with 8 or more of your unit

_____ 87. In community with members of another religious institute

_____ 88. In community with non-vowed (e.g., volunteers, associates, refugees)

Please use these responses for items 89-100.

1=Not at all

3=Somewhat

2=Only a little

4=Very

How important are these aspects for healthy and holy community life in your unit?

1 2 3 4

89. Living with other members

90. Praying with other members

91. Praying with lay partners in ministry

92. Ministering/working with other members

93. Ministering wherever the need is greatest

94. Sharing meals with other members

95. Sharing meals with lay partners in ministry

96. Socializing/sharing leisure with members

97. Celebrating holidays/feast days together

98. Corporate stances on social justice issues

99. Valuing cultural diversity beyond tolerance

100. Ongoing formation and lifelong education

101. Please indicate which of the following characterize the regular prayer life of a majority of members of your unit who are in active ministry (check all that apply):

Personal private prayer

Journal writing, poetry, prayer blogs

Daily Eucharist

Liturgy of the Hours

Non-liturgical common prayer (i.e. rosary, devotions)

Common meditation/centering prayer

Faith sharing

Lectio Divina/spiritual reading and reflection

Ecumenical and interfaith prayer (e.g. Taizé)

Adoration/Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Prayer with an on-line community

Yes No

102. Does your religious institute have a post-final vow structure or program to aid retention?

103. Please describe your greatest concern/worry for the newest members of your unit.

104. Please describe the ways in which you (as a leader) and/or your unit support your newest members in their vocation.

105. Please describe any ways that NRVC can be of more value to your religious institute.

Please provide the information below for the person completing this survey so we may contact you for clarifications about your responses:

Name and Title: _____

Institute/Society and Province: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

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