




KEY FINDINGS ABOUT NEW MEMBERS (ENTERING FROM 2003-2018)

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- 1 **ENDLESS CALL:** Men and women continue to respond to the call to religious life
 - 2 **APPEAL:** Drawn by prayer, spirituality, charism, community life, and mission
 - 3 **ATTRIBUTES:** Culturally diverse; embrace intercultural, intergenerational living
 - 4 **LIFESTYLE:** Committed to living simply and in solidarity with the poor
 - 5 **OUTLOOK:** Filled with abundant hope for religious life amid changing demographics

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW MEMBERS

3,500+ NEW MEMBERS
PAST 15 YEARS; 200+ PROFESSED MEMBERS PER YEAR

28 AVERAGE AGE AT ENTRANCE

81% WERE EMPLOYED BEFORE ENTRANCE

73% ATTENDED A CATHOLIC SCHOOL
FOR AT LEAST PART OF THEIR EDUCATION

73% GREW UP IN "MIDDLE-CLASS"
HOUSEHOLDS

71% OBTAINED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
OR MORE BEFORE ENTERING RELIGIOUS LIFE

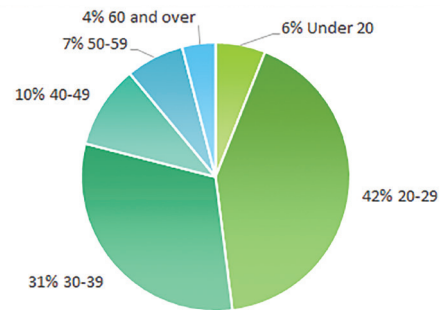
35% DISCERNED FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS

34% HAVE A RELATIVE IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

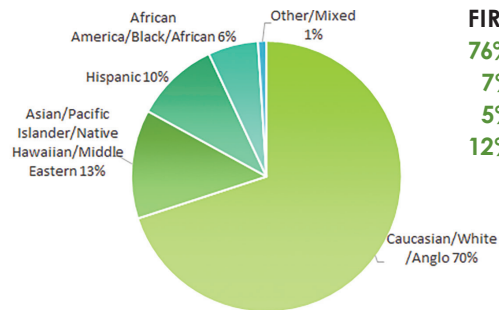
33% HAVE A PARENT BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S.



AGE OF THOSE IN INITIAL FORMATION



RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND*



FIRST LANGUAGE

- 76%** English
- 7%** Spanish
- 5%** Vietnamese
- 12%** Other (59 different languages)

*New members as reported by Major Superiors of Religious Institutes.

VOCATION AWARENESS

70% of new entrants considered religious life before age 21. Most:

- Accessed a wide array of print and online resources as they discerned;
- Talked to their pastors; attended vocation-related events; and
- Received encouragement from religious institutes, family, friends, parish members, and campus ministers.

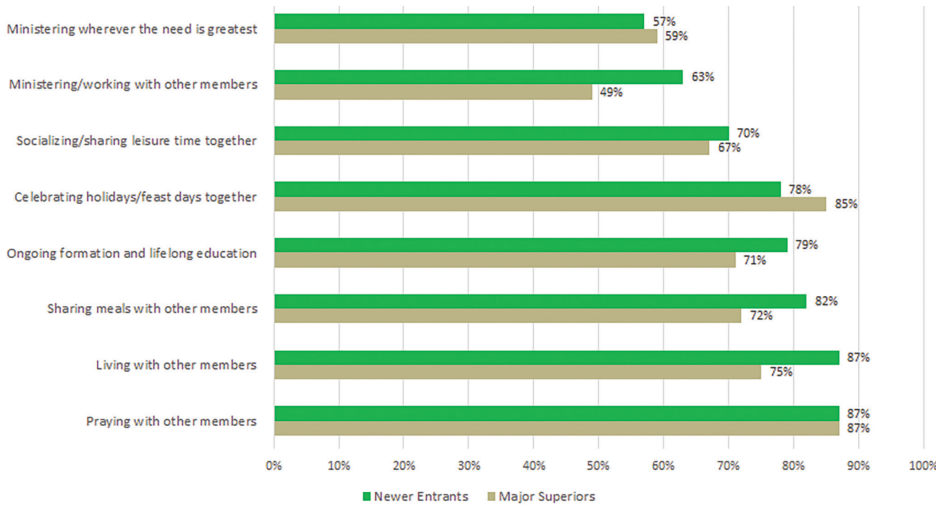
95% Found meeting with a member of the institute most helpful

74% Participated in a "Come and See" experience

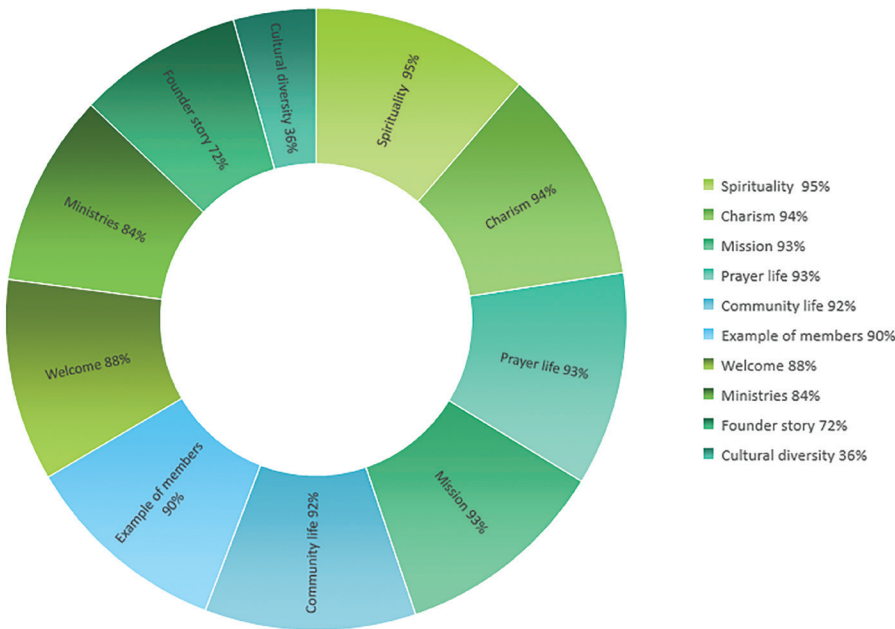
66% Were invited to consider a religious vocation

COMMUNITY LIFE

Newer members see community life as what is distinctive and attractive about religious life. The majority of newer members desire to live in a community of four or more and find the following aspects of community "Very Important." (Their ratings correspond fairly closely to the ratings of Major Superiors of religious institutes.)



ATTRACTION TO CHOSEN COMMUNITY



Note: Respondents of culturally diverse ethnicities are more likely than Anglos to be "very much" attracted to their institute by the life and works of the founder/ess, the ministries of the institute, the cultural diversity of members, and the welcome and encouragement by members.



Go to NRVC.net for the complete **NRVC/CARA 2020 Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life.**

This study was made possible in part through a grant from the GHR Foundation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

752 U.S. INSTITUTES

ADMISSION AGE REQUIREMENT

20 YEARS MIN-43 YEARS MAX

AVERAGE VOCATION DIRECTOR TERM

7 YEARS

\$34,039 AVERAGE BUDGET

\$14,600 MEDIAN BUDGET



47% HAVE OFFICE/ADMIN SUPPORT

94% HAVE LEADERSHIP & VOCATION DIRECTORS/TEAMS MEET AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY

88% ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS



84% HAVE AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS DISCERNER SINCE 2003

78% PROMOTE VOCATIONS ONLINE

75% HAVE A VOCATION DIRECTOR/VOCATION TEAM

60% HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERSON IN INITIAL FORMATION



60% SPONSOR "COME AND SEE" EXPERIENCES

50%+ PROMOTE TO COLLEGE AGE & YOUNG ADULTS (46% TO HIGH SCHOOLS; 26% TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS)

Peer support and the need for mutual accompaniment is a common concern among institutes and new members.



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