



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Family Life Influences on Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

This survey asks about your family experience and religious practices from childhood to adolescence. Your responses are completely confidential. Results will only be presented in aggregate. If a survey question does not apply to you, please leave it blank.

Family Background

1. While you were growing up, was your mother Catholic?

- ₁ Yes ₂ No

2. **If no**, what was her religious preference?

3. How important was religion to your mother while you were growing up?

- ₁ Not at all ₂ A little
₃ Somewhat ₄ Very

4. While you were growing up, was your father Catholic?

- ₁ Yes ₂ No

5. **If no**, what was his religious preference?

6. How important was religion to your father while you were growing up?

- ₁ Not at all ₂ A little
₃ Somewhat ₄ Very

7. While you were growing up, who was your primary caregiver?

- ₁ Two parent family ₂ Single parent family
₃ Grandparent(s) ₄ Sibling or other relative
₅ Other: _____

_____ 8. When you were a teen, how old was your primary caregiver (e.g. 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s)?

Yes No

₁ ₂ 9. Were your parents married in the Catholic Church?

₁ ₂ 10. Were you raised Catholic? **If no**, what faith were you raised in? _____

11. How often did you attend Mass or religious services as a family?

- ₁ More than once a week ₂ Once a week
₃ Two-three times a month ₄ About once a month
₅ A few times a year ₆ Seldom or never

_____ 12. How many brothers and sisters do you have?

13. What is your birth order?

- ₁ Only child ₂ Eldest
₃ Youngest ₄ Somewhere in the middle

14. What was the primary language spoken in your home while you were growing up? **Check only one.**

- ₁ English
₂ Spanish
₃ Other: _____

Did you experience any of these in your family while you were growing up? **Check all that apply.**

- ₁₅ Parents' divorce
₁₆ Serious illness/death of a parent
₁₇ Serious illness/death of a sibling or other close relative

18. Do (did) you have a relative who is a priest or a religious brother or sister/nun? ₁ Yes ₂ No

19. Outside of family members, while you were growing up did you ever get to know a priest or a religious brother or sister/nun? ₁ Yes ₂ No

20. Which of these best describes your religious faith while you were growing up, relative to your family members?

- ₁ I was more religious than my other family members
₂ I was about the same as other family members
₃ I was less religious than my other family members

21. While you were growing up, which of these were important religious celebrations or customs in your family? **Check all that apply.**

- ₁ Mass, or other religious services
₂ Active participation in parish life
₃ Eucharistic adoration
₄ Faith sharing, Bible study, or prayer groups
₅ Participation in Catholic organizations (e.g. Knights of Columbus, Altar Society, Legion of Mary, Sodality)
₆ Volunteer or charitable service in the community
₇ Catholic advocacy (e.g. peace & justice, poverty, life)
₈ Rosary/novena (parents or as a family)
₉ Grace before or after meals
₁₀ Family prayers for special intentions
₁₁ Celebrations of particular saints (e.g. St. Joseph)
₁₂ Marian devotions (e.g. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Vietnam, Our Lady of Czestochowa)
₁₃ Home altars
₁₄ Religious art (e.g. crucifix, statues, pictures of saints)
₁₅ Sacramentals (e.g. cross, medal, prayer card, scapular)
₁₆ Quinceañeras
₁₇ Processions (e.g. Via Crucis, Stations of the Cross)
₁₈ Sacred scripture or other spiritual reading
₁₉ Catholic books, periodicals, movies, TV shows
₂₀ Other: _____

22. How often would your family typically pray at home together (outside of meal blessings)?

- ₁ Daily ₂ A few times a week
₃ A few times a month ₄ Less frequently
₅ Seldom or never

23. What in your family background was most influential in your discernment of your vocation?

24. What more from your family would have been helpful to you as you discerned your vocation?

Please indicate whether or not any of the following ever discouraged you in your vocational discernment:

- Yes No**
- ₁ ₂ 31. Mother
- ₁ ₂ 32. Father
- ₁ ₂ 33. Sibling
- ₁ ₂ 34. Aunt/Uncle
- ₁ ₂ 35. Cousin
- ₁ ₂ 36. Grandparent

37. Briefly describe how your family discouraged your vocational discernment.

Encouragement and Discouragement

Yes No

- ₁ ₂ 25. Did your mother ever speak to you about a vocation to priesthood or religious life?
- ₁ ₂ 26. Did your father ever speak to you about a vocation to priesthood or religious life?
- ₁ ₂ 27. Did another family member ever speak to you about a vocation to priesthood or religious life?
- ₁ ₂ 28. Overall, was starting a discussion with your family about your vocation easy for you?

29. How much encouragement did (do) you receive from these family members in regard to your religious vocation?

Encouragement when first considering your vocation to priesthood or religious life

Encouragement currently in your life and ministry as a priest or religious

Encouragement when first considering your vocation to priesthood or religious life				Encouragement currently in your life and ministry as a priest or religious				
None	Only a Little	Some	Very Much	None	Only a Little	Some	Very Much	
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Father	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Aunt/ Uncle	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Cousin	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	Grandparent	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

30. Briefly describe how your family supported your vocational discernment.

Background and Demographics

38. Please select the category that best describes your primary ethnicity/cultural background?

- ₁ Caucasian/European American/White
- ₂ African/African American/Black
- ₃ Hispanic/Latino(a)
- ₄ Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- ₅ Native American/Alaska Native
- ₆ Other: _____

Yes No

- ₁ ₂ 39. Were you born in the United States?
_____ 40. **If no**, when did you first move to the U.S.?
- ₁ ₂ 41. Were you baptized Catholic as an infant?
_____ 42. **If no**, year you became a Catholic.
- ₁ ₂ 43. Were you ever home-schooled?
- ₁ ₂ 44. Did you ever attend parish-based religious education (e.g. CCD or PSR)?
_____ 45. **If yes**, years of parish-based religious education.
- ₁ ₂ 46. Have you ever been married?
- ₁ ₂ 47. Do you have children?

48. Did you ever attend any of the following?

- ₁ Catholic primary school (preschool through grade 8)
- ₂ Catholic secondary school (grades 9 through 12)
- ₃ Catholic college or university
- ₄ Catholic seminary

49. What is the highest level of education you completed before entering your religious institute or seminary?

- ₁ High School diploma or less
- ₂ Trade or technical school
- ₃ Some college, but not a Bachelor's degree
- ₄ College or university undergraduate degree
- ₅ Graduate degree

- _____ 50. Year you were born.
- _____ 51. Year you first considered a vocation.
- _____ 52. Year you entered religious life (if applicable).
- _____ 53. Year you entered seminary (if applicable).
- _____ 54. Year of professed perpetual vows (if applicable).
- _____ 55. Year of ordination (if applicable).



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We would like to survey families, such as yours, who have produced a vocation. These family members will be asked questions similar to those asked of you in this survey, to help us better understand the influence of families on vocational discernment. Their responses will not be compared to yours, nor will any responses be reported in a way that could identify an individual.

PLEASE PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION OF A FAMILY MEMBER (PREFERABLY A PARENT OR SIBLING) WHO CAN RESPOND TO A BRIEF SURVEY ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON YOUR VOCATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Email: _____

Please let this person know to expect a survey from us in the next few weeks. Thank you!