



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

**The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University**

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**Contact: Mary Gautier**  
202-687-8086  
[gautierm@georgetown.edu](mailto:gautierm@georgetown.edu)

## **Seminary Enrollments up Slightly, Reports CARA** *Catholic Ministry Formation Directory 2009*

Graduate-level seminary enrollments in 2008-2009 increased slightly – by 2 percent – over last year, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The net increase of 71 seminarians is reported in the newly published *Catholic Ministry Formation Directory 2009*.

Similar to patterns reported in the past three years, just over half (52 percent) of this year's seminarians in theologates are under age 30, with another 18 percent in their early 30s, 12 percent between ages 35 and 39, and only 18 percent age 40 or older. This year a quarter of seminarians in theologates are from countries other than the United States, a proportion that has been stable for the past ten years.

This comprehensive directory of Catholic ministry formation programs in the United States also reports trends in formation for the permanent diaconate and lay ecclesial ministry. This year the number of deacon candidates continued to grow, a steady trend since the restoration of the diaconate after the Second Vatican Council. Most of the 2,319 candidates (96 percent) are married and almost two-thirds (63 percent) are college graduates.

Despite encouraging signs in priestly and diaconal formation, enrollments in lay ecclesial ministry formation programs declined, according to the new directory. Some 17,538 men and women are enrolled in lay formation programs sponsored by dioceses, seminaries, schools of theology, and Catholic colleges and universities in 44 states – a 6 percent decrease from last year.

The *Catholic Ministry Formation Directory 2009*, published biennially since 1997, provides current listings of contact information, leadership, degrees, certificates, tuition, and enrollments for more than 600 ministry formation programs, as well as a **statistical analysis of trends**. Invaluable to vocation directors, educators, heads of diocesan and religious orders and libraries, the directory can be ordered through the CARA website at <http://cara.georgetown.edu>, by calling 202-687-8080, or by writing CARA at 2300 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007. The cost is \$80 for a single copy plus \$6.95 shipping and handling. Discounts for multiple copies are available.



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The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate is an independent, national, non-profit, Georgetown University affiliated research institution. CARA was founded by Catholic leaders in 1964 to put social science research tools at the service of the Catholic Church in the United States.