

# How to encourage young man who could be a future pastor

written by OSV News |

According to a new survey, nine in 10 men who will be ordained to the priesthood this year were encouraged to consider this vocation by someone in their life.

Three-quarters of them regularly participated in eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary. "Encourage a young man to consider the priesthood or to attend eucharistic adoration; he could be your future pastor," said Bishop Earl Boyea, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "We express our deepest gratitude to the many priests, family members, mentors, formators, and laity who have encouraged and supported these men in their discernment of their call to the priesthood."

In conjunction with the World Day of Prayer for Vocations May 11, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations released the Ordination Class of 2025 Study, conducted annually by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.

"We pray for the continued fidelity of the newly ordained to the voice of God and for the faithful to whom they will minister," Bishop Boyea said.

Out of the 405 men who are to be ordained this year, 309 completed CARA's Ordination Class of 2025 survey, for an overall response rate of 76 percent.

These ordinands represent 115 dioceses and eparchies in the United States and 36 distinct religious institutes.

A few of the major findings in the report:

- Nine in 10 responding ordinands (89 percent) reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life, most frequently by a parish priest (60 percent), friend (52 percent) or fellow parishioner (42 percent).
- Regarding prayer practices, three-quarters of responding ordinands participated in eucharistic adoration (78 percent) on a regular basis before entering the seminary.
- Most of the ordinands received formation at a seminary in the Midwest (37 percent), followed by the South (29 percent), Northeast (16 percent), West (13 percent) and abroad (5 percent).
- Responding ordinands indicate they first considered the priesthood during elementary school (35 percent), followed by high school (20 percent).
- Hispanics/Latinos constituted 12 percent of the responding ordinands. Between 2006 and 2025, the share of Hispanics/Latinos averaged 15 percent and ranged between 11 percent and 22 percent.
- Ordinands who attended Catholic elementary school constituted 46 percent of all respondents, and 36 percent attended a Catholic high school.
- Most respondents (92 percent) were baptized Catholic as an infant and raised primarily by their biological parents (95 percent) and a married couple living together (89

percent).