



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Last weekend, it was fitting to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday on Mothers' Day Weekend. After all, from our conception onwards, our moms have served as unique shepherds: caring, growing and loving us in their tender way. It was fitting too to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday in May as this is month of Priesthood Ordinations. This week, I celebrate my 22nd Anniversary of Priesthood. Fr. McCabe marks his 51st and Fr. Sharrett his 57th! That's a total of 130 years of priestly ministry and we are all still at it! Praised be the Lord!

Each year, the US Bishops release an annual study on the Ordination Class. It's conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. And I share with you a few of the major findings found in this year's report. To view the entire report, visit the Bishops' website. Let us continue to pray for holy vocations to the priesthood. This year's Philadelphia Ordination will be streamed online from the Cathedral this Saturday: Andrew Auletta and Ryan Nguyen will be two of the men ordained. Here are some of the findings of this year's ordination class across the country:

- On average, responding ordinands first considered priesthood when they were 16 years old and were scheduled for ordination on average 18 years later (at the age of 33).
- Three in five responding ordinands (60%) are Caucasian. One in five (22%) are Hispanic/Latino. One in ten (11%) are Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian. Relatively few (4%) are African/African American/black
- A quarter (26%) are foreign-born. The most common countries of birth are Mexico, Vietnam, Colombia, Brazil, and India.
- One in ten (9%) report being homeschooled. Between 39-42% of respondents attended a Catholic school on the K-12 and/or college level.
- Before entering seminary, 74% regularly participated in Eucharistic Adoration and 72% prayed the rosary.
- Half of responding ordinands (50%) participated in parish youth group, three in ten (28%) participated in Catholic Campus Ministry/Newman Center and 25% were involved in Boy Scouts.
- Seven in ten (74%) served as altar servers before entering the seminary. Other commonly cited parish ministries include lector (51%), extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (37%) and catechists (37%).
- Nine in ten (90%) were encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life (most frequently, the parish priest, friend, or another parishioner).

Sadly, half of responding ordinands (48%) were discouraged from considering the priesthood by one or more persons. Most often, this person was a family member (other than parents) or a friend/classmate.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

WELCOME ABOARD: OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



It is with great joy that I announce the hire of our new Director of Religious Education: Maria Miller. A native of Kennett Square and an active member of our parish community, Maria may be a familiar face to many of us. She is an accomplished educator who has taught in the classroom for many years and she brings to the work a zeal for sharing the faith which she herself lives each day.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to welcoming Maria onto our parish staff and formally introducing her to our parish community. Thank you for your prayers throughout this process. Our Lord has indeed provided.