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***Frequently Asked Questions about U.S. Numbers***

*There are still significant numbers of women and men who are responding*

*to a call to religious life and are hopeful about its future.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many religious institutes are there in the United States/world?
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many religious sisters, brothers and priests are in the United States today?
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many people entered religious life last year in the U.S.?
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many women became consecrated virgins last year in the U.S.?
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many religious institutes had at least one perpetual profession last year?
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ On average, what age does a person first consider a vocation to religious life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What is the average age of entrance in the United States?

 **BONUS**: Has it increased or decreased in the past twenty years? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What is the average age of perpetual profession in the United States?

 **BONUS:** Has it increased or decreased since 2010? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What is the average age of a man at his ordination in the United States?
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Of those entering religious life, what percentage were “very much” influenced in

their decision to enter their religious institute by the ages of members?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Of those entering religious life, what percentage were “very much” influenced

in their decision making to enter their religious institute by the size of the religious institute?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do you typically see the glass as half empty or half full? Why?

**Sources**: CARA Annual Entrance Class Reports; CARA Frequently Requested Church Statistics;

2020 NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life; USACV Annual Report; USCCB/CARA Annual Ordination Class Reports; and USCCB/CARA Annual Profession Class Reports.

**Ponder:** In our North American culture of accumulation and consumption, how can we counter a narrative that equates numbers with success, fidelity and reward/punishment?

***Always have a reason for the hope you have but do this with gentleness and respect* (1 Peter 3:15).**

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