

Youth Culture and the Catholic Church:

Survey of Student Attitudes Towards Religious Vocations in NYC



In the Spring of 2007, St. John's University and the Diocese of Brooklyn conducted a confidential study that explores the views of young New Yorkers towards the Catholic Church today. The study focused on the personal thoughts and ideas of those surveyed about vocations to priesthood and consecrated religious life.

Below are some "highlights" of the survey results. To view the complete survey and other information, log on to our website at www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations/SJUSurvey.pdf

**Total Number
Surveyed**
1,170

Demographics
Male: 48.4 %
Female: 51.6%

**Schools
Currently Attending**
High School: 26.3 %
College/University: 73.7%

I have received promotional materials encouraging me to consider joining a religious vocation?

Never: 59.7 %
Once in a While: 34.2%
Frequently: 6.1%

A priest/sister/brother has personally spoken to me about the possibility of becoming a priest/sister/brother?

Never: 72.4 %
Once or twice: 9.0%
More than a few times: 6.0%
Frequently: 2.5%

Do you currently attend a Catholic College or HS?

Yes: 93.2 %
No: 6.8%

What is your religious denomination?

Catholic 67.5%
Protestant 6.6%
Jewish 1.6%
Muslim 2.2%
Other or no answer 22.9%

Do you belong to a Church, Mosque, Synagogue or other religious community?

Yes: 75.6%
No: 24.4%

In general, how important is religion in your life?

Not at all important 8.6%
Moderately important 42.6%
Not too important 13.0%
Very important 35.8%

How often do you attend religious services?

Never 10.6%
Sometimes 26.4%
Always 16.8%
Rarely 24.4%
Often 21.7%

How often do you pray?

Never 9.9%
Once a day 33.5%
Rarely 20.7%
More than once a day 19.7%
Once a week 16.2%

I believe being a priest, brother, sister brings structure and a sense of purpose to one's life.

Not at all true 14.4%
Somewhat true 52.5%
Very true 33.1%