Report from the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

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Power Point Available:

- usccb.priestly life and ministry
Clergy

• Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers
• Input on 2015 Annual Theme
• Document: “Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily”
• PPF 5
• CCLV Guidelines on the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions
• National Directory on the Permanent Diaconate
• LEAP Program
Input on 2015 Annual Theme

- Pope Francis’ *Evangelii Gaudium*
- Marriage and the Pastoral Care of the Family
- Renewal of the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*
LEAP Program

- LEAP:
  - www.purdue.edu/crcs/itemProjects/leap/leap.html

- Lilly Clergy Renewal Program:
  - http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal/apply
Consecrated Life

• 2015: Year of Consecrated Life
• Information on Asociacion de Religiosas Hispanas en Estados Unidos (ARHEU)
Asociacion de Religiosas Hispanas en Estados Unidos

www.arheu.org
religiosas.hispanas.eu@gmail.com
Vocations

- Hispanic Vocations
- Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry & Vocations
Future of Care and Ongoing Formation of Priests
U.S. Priests, Deacons, & Lay Ecclesial Ministers: 1992 & 2010

1992:
- Diocesan Priests: 32,729
- Permanent Deacons: 10,672
- Lay Ecclesial Ministers: 21,569

2010:
- Diocesan Priests: 37,929
- Permanent Deacons: 17,289
- Lay Ecclesial Ministers: 26,652
Figure 1: Priests and Deacons in the United States
Number of Active Diocesan Priests and Number of Parishes by Year

Source: Official Catholic Directory, corresponding years
Active Diocesan Priests, Number of Parishes, and Number of Priestless Parishes
1960 - 2040 (projected)
Retired Priests

- 1970: 3% of priests were retired
  10% of priests over 65
- 2009: 22% are retired or semi-retired
  Over 40% are over 65
Priests in the “Middle Years”

• “There is a clear dip in happiness” (Rossetti)

• Workload an issue
  o 42.3% of all priests agree or strongly agree that they feel overwhelmed by their workload
  o For those ordained 10-19 years: 54.9%
Younger Priests

• “In the first years of priesthood, rates of depression, anxiety, and burnout are higher”

• “The challenges facing the newly ordained today are not a lack of work or not feeling needed. Rather, it is too much work, too much responsibility too fast, and being at risk for burning out” (Rossetti)
Are we configured or structured at the national level in the most optimal way to provide the necessary level of ongoing care and formation for our priests?