

2020-21 Roman Catholic Ministry Formation Research in the US

Taken from a 41 page research from Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) on Priestly and Lay formation in 2020-2021

In 2020-2021, 3,110 Pre theology & Theology religious and diocesans men were preparing or studying for the priesthood in the United States

13,631 in the Laity, mostly professional white women were in some sort of theological, ministry formation in 2020-2021 in 36 states, 80 dioceses, and 130 programs.

White Anglo/Caucasian were 44% of the lay ecclesial ministry program participants, but comprised 61% of degree candidates and 37% of certificate candidates.

Hispanic/Latino 44%, but 16% in degree programs and 57% of students enrolled in certificate programs.

Black/ African American laity in formation 3%

Asian/ Pacific Islander laity in formation 5%; other 4%

Blacks/African Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders and other racial/ethnic groups comprise 12% of students in degree and certificate programs.

Beginning in 2003-2004, CARA collaborated with the USCCB to improve the data collection.

Writer's Comments

I think the numbers of Blacks, Asians and others are so small that they combined them and didn't say what percentage is in degree and what percentage is in certificate. Only the percentage in formation is mentioned. I am not focusing on Asian because the majority of Asian countries are not Christian. There is also a strong secular leadership in those communities whereas Haitians depend on the clergy to guide them in this western culture. However, this is not happening. Hence my focus in theological, ministerial formation is in the Black community, in my case Haitian/Black women. The priests are not preparing Haitian/Black women to worship in the truth and intellectually compete in the mainline American Catholic churches. It's important to have a formed Black and/or Haitian laity for many reasons. In addition to possessing the knowledge to pass on the faith, many Haitians and most Black Catholic faithful worship in Anglo parishes and should be prepared to intellectually interact with them. The Boston diocese had had conferences on Co-Workers in the Vineyard addressing how priests and laity can work together. I don't recall seeing any Black priests in those seminars I have attended, let alone Haitians.

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