**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vocation Ministry Releases State of Priestly Vocations Report – 2025 Update**

*Analysis Highlights Trends and Offers Insights into the Future of the Catholic Priesthood in the United States*

**Houston, TX — January 20, 2025** — Vocation Ministry is pleased to announce the release of the *State of Priestly Vocations Report- 2025 Update*, a thorough examination of current trends affecting priestly vocations across the United States. This report provides valuable data and insights aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the Catholic Church's vocational landscape.

The report delves into several critical areas, including:

* **10-Year Averages of Ordinations**: Analyzing trends for ordinations and seminarians from 2014-2023 to identify patterns and inform future strategies.
* **Priestly Availability Index**: Introducing a new metric designed to measure the accessibility of priests to parishioners and potential vocations.
* **Total Active Priests:** A breakdown of the number of priests actively serving across dioceses, along with an analysis of the benefits and challenges of relying on extern and religious priests.
* **Seminarian Discern-Out Rate**: Offering insights into seminary formation processes and providing revised statistics on the percentage of seminarians who discern out before ordination,
* **Catholic Marriage Trends**: Exploring the relationship between marriage trends and vocations, highlighting the importance of family life in nurturing future priests.

"Our goal with this report is to offer a vocational snapshot of the Church in America, identifying emerging trends that significantly impact vocation promotion," said Rhonda Gruenewald, President and Founder of Vocation Ministry. "By addressing these challenges and leveraging available insights, we can cultivate vibrant communities rich in holy priests and flourishing vocations."

The *State of Priestly Vocations Report – 2025 Update* serves as a resource for bishops, vocation directors, educators, and laity who are committed to cultivating a Church rich in holy priests and vibrant vocations. By understanding the current state of priestly vocations, stakeholders can develop informed strategies to address the unique needs of their dioceses and communities.

To access the full report and explore individual diocesan data, please visit [VocationMinistry.com](https://www.vocationministry.com/state-of-priestly-vocations-report/).

**About Vocation Ministry**

Vocation Ministry is a non-profit organization dedicated to igniting a culture of vocations in parishes, schools, and families. Through training, resources, and support, Vocation Ministry empowers communities to promote and nurture vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and sacramental marriage. For more information, visit [VocationMinistry.com](https://www.vocationministry.com/).

**Suggested Interview Questions**

1. Can you share the origin story of Vocation Ministry and how you, as a layperson, came to start this mission?
2. What inspired Vocation Ministry to produce the *State of Priestly Vocations in the U.S.* report?
3. In your opinion, what are some of the most startling or unique findings from the 2025 report?
4. How does the Priestly Availability Index (PAI) shed light on the accessibility of priests to their communities, and what does this mean for parish life?
5. How do you hope this report will help dioceses?
6. How does Vocation Ministry partner with dioceses to promote vocations? Any notable successes or outcomes from Vocation Ministry’s work over the past 10 years?
7. Where can our audience go to learn more about Vocation Ministry and access the complete report?