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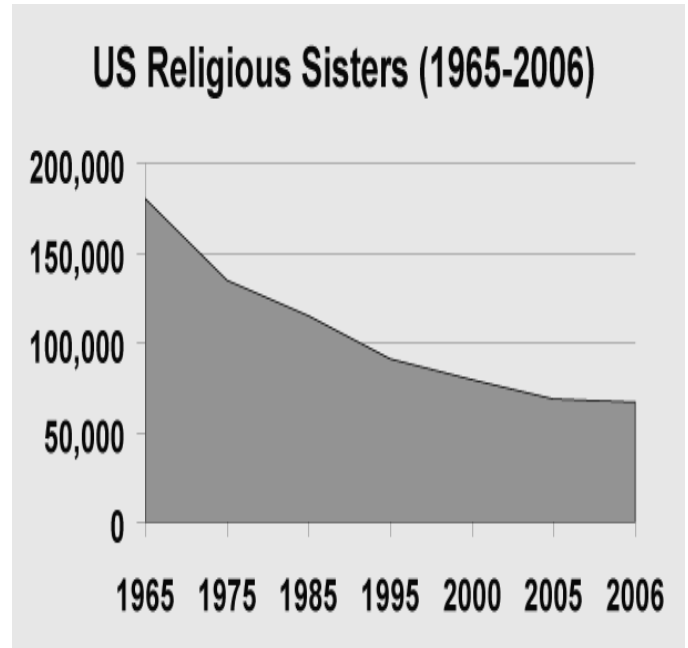
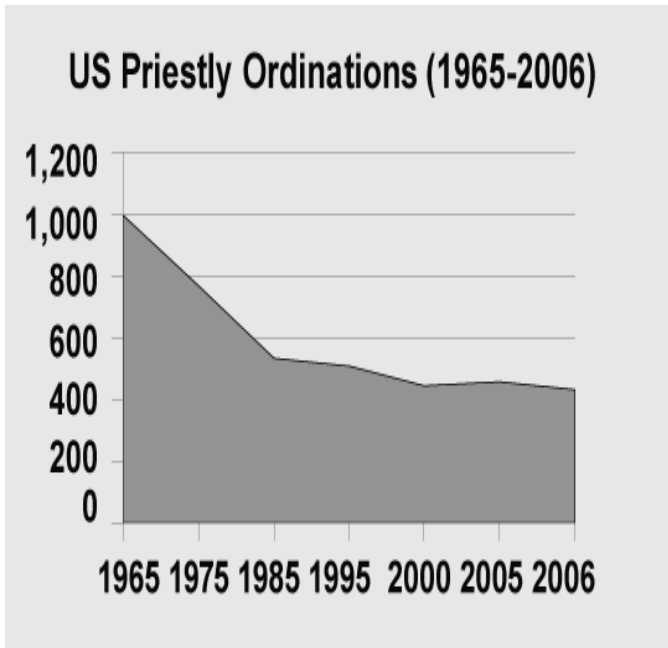
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INTRODUCTION

Ever since the Church has openly embraced alternative forms of spirituality, she has been in a constant state of decline. According to Father Matthias Gaudron, “Thousands of priests have abandoned their office, and thousands of monks and religious have returned to secular life. There are very few vocations in Europe and not many in North America either; countless seminaries, convents, and religious houses have closed their doors.”¹



The fact that the Church is in a constant state of decline is undisputed. The question is why?

According to a statement by Pope Paul VI in 1968, “The Church today finds herself in a state of disquiet, self-criticism, one might even say of self-destruction”² In 1972, after experiencing a further decline in the priesthood, Pope Paul VI offered more insight into the crisis by saying, “Through some crack, the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God.”³

This crack can only be explained in one way—the warnings start in the book of Deuteronomy, and continue throughout the book of Revelation:

Do not bring an abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You must utterly detest and abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction. —Deuteronomy 7:26

Cursed be anyone who makes an idol or casts an image, anything abhorrent to the Lord, the work of an artisan, and sets it up in secret. —Deuteronomy 27:15

All these curses shall come upon you, pursuing and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the Lord your God, by observing the commandments and the decrees that he commanded you. —Deuteronomy 28:45

Because the sin of idolatry involves a very subtle and deceptive interaction with demonic spirits, the following document has been prepared to help the faithful discern the difference between healthy and unhealthy devotions.