



Mission Statement: ***The Saint John Vianney Center Suicide Prevention and Awareness Collaboration works to end the stigma and improve community understanding surrounding mental illness and suicide prevention through outreach, education, and advocacy.***

### **Introduction:**

In the Fall of 2022, Saint John Vianney Center initiated an online survey inviting the leadership of every Arch/Diocese and Women and Men's religious community in the United States to provide insight into their familiarity with and experiences related to suicide, particularly concerning the Clergy and Men and Women Religious they serve. A total of 270 individuals in leadership responded to the survey, representing a significant and diverse sample. The findings shed light on the prevalence of suicide and suicidal ideations among Diocesan Clergy and Men's and Women's Religious communities. We learned that 41% of the Arch/Dioceses, 10% of the Women's Religious Communities, and 23% of the Men's Religious Communities reported experiencing the suicide of a member of the Clergy or a Man or Woman Religious. In addition, 26% of the participants indicated that they were aware of a member of the Clergy and/or Religious currently struggling with suicidal thoughts. 52% of the respondents expressed feeling unprepared to assist someone who is experiencing suicidal tendencies. Fortunately, 74% desire to acquire personal intervention skills to address this issue. The results of this survey have led SJVC to begin the creation of a National Suicide Awareness and Education program for Clergy and Men and Women Religious.