

How is the Landscape of the Church Changing?

*Catholic Identity & Geography
Families & the “Fallen Away”*

CYPCLC – Savannah

February 27, 2017

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)



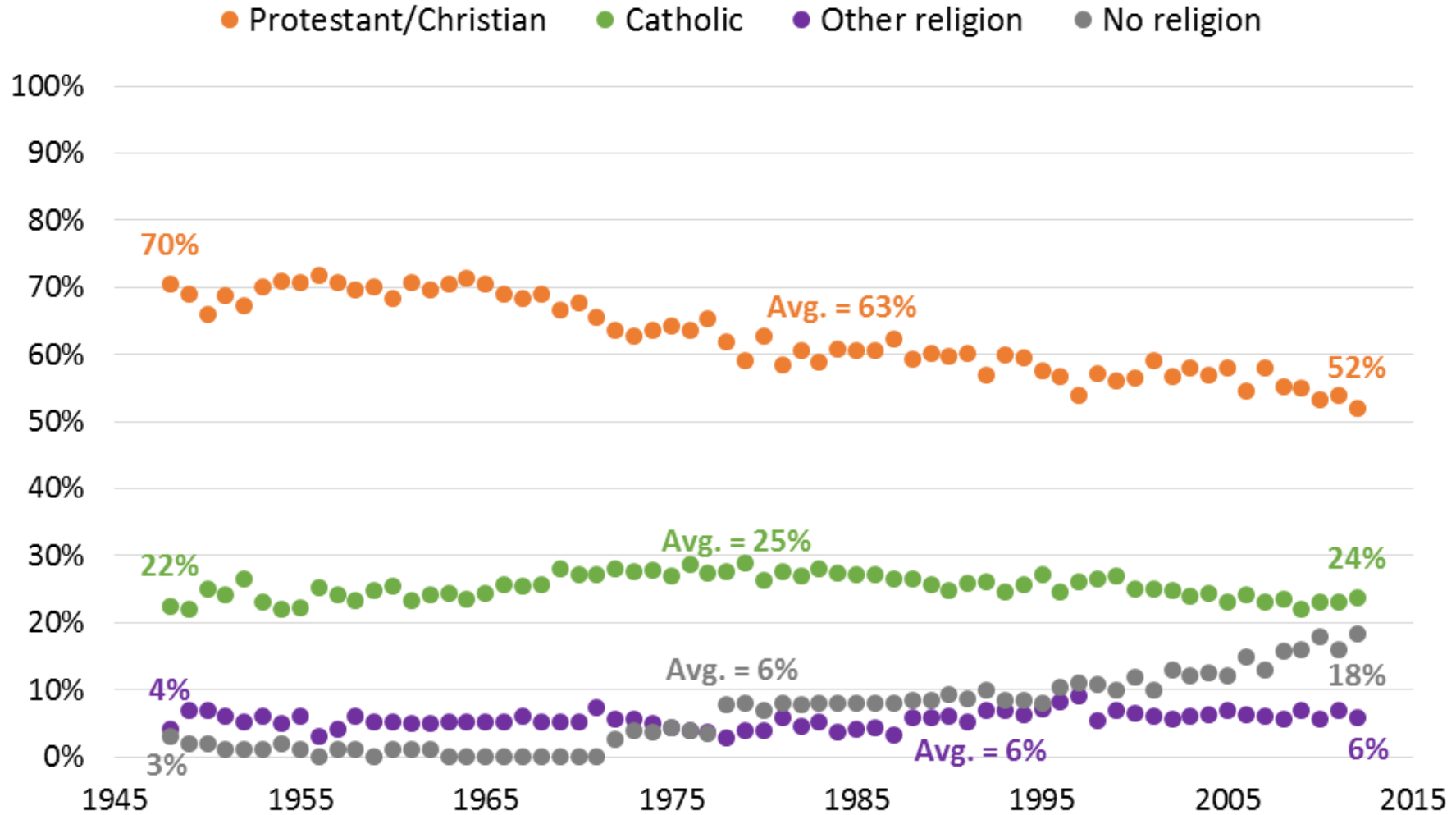
Religious Identification:



Who is Catholic?

Where are Catholics?

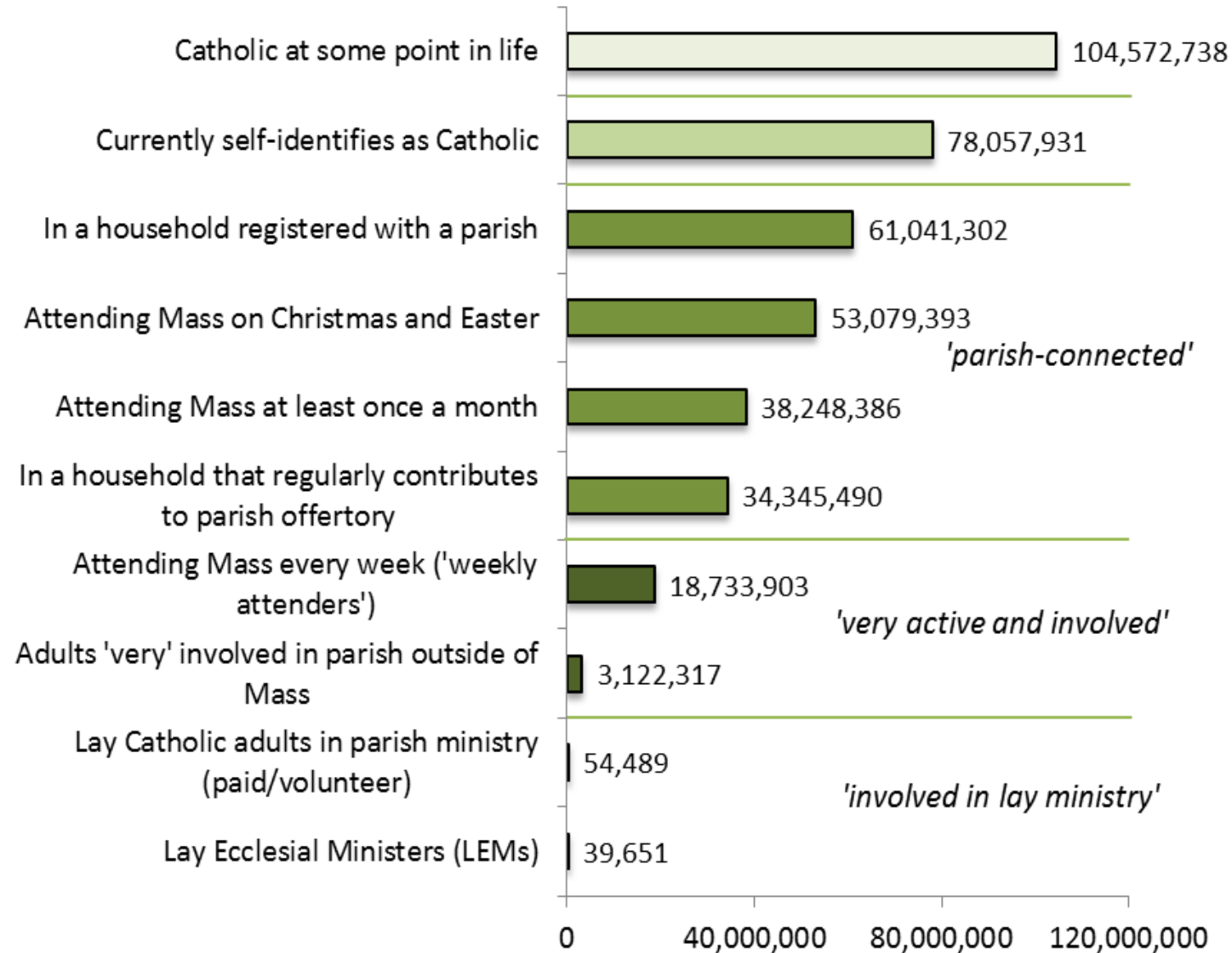
Religious Affiliation in the United States: 1948 to 2012



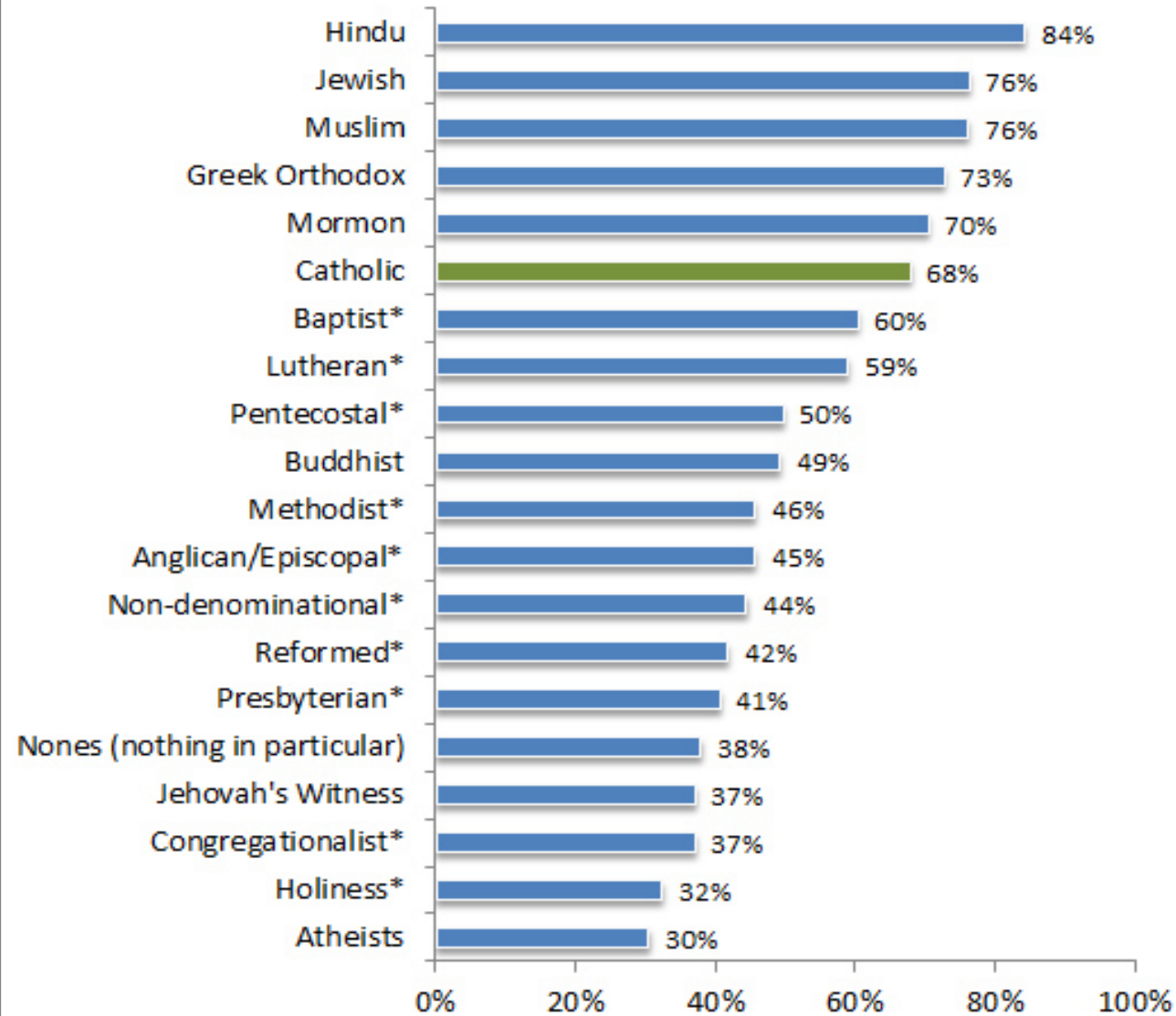
Sources: General Social Survey, Gallup

U.S. Catholic Populations and Parish Life, 2014

Generally, each group is a subset of those above it

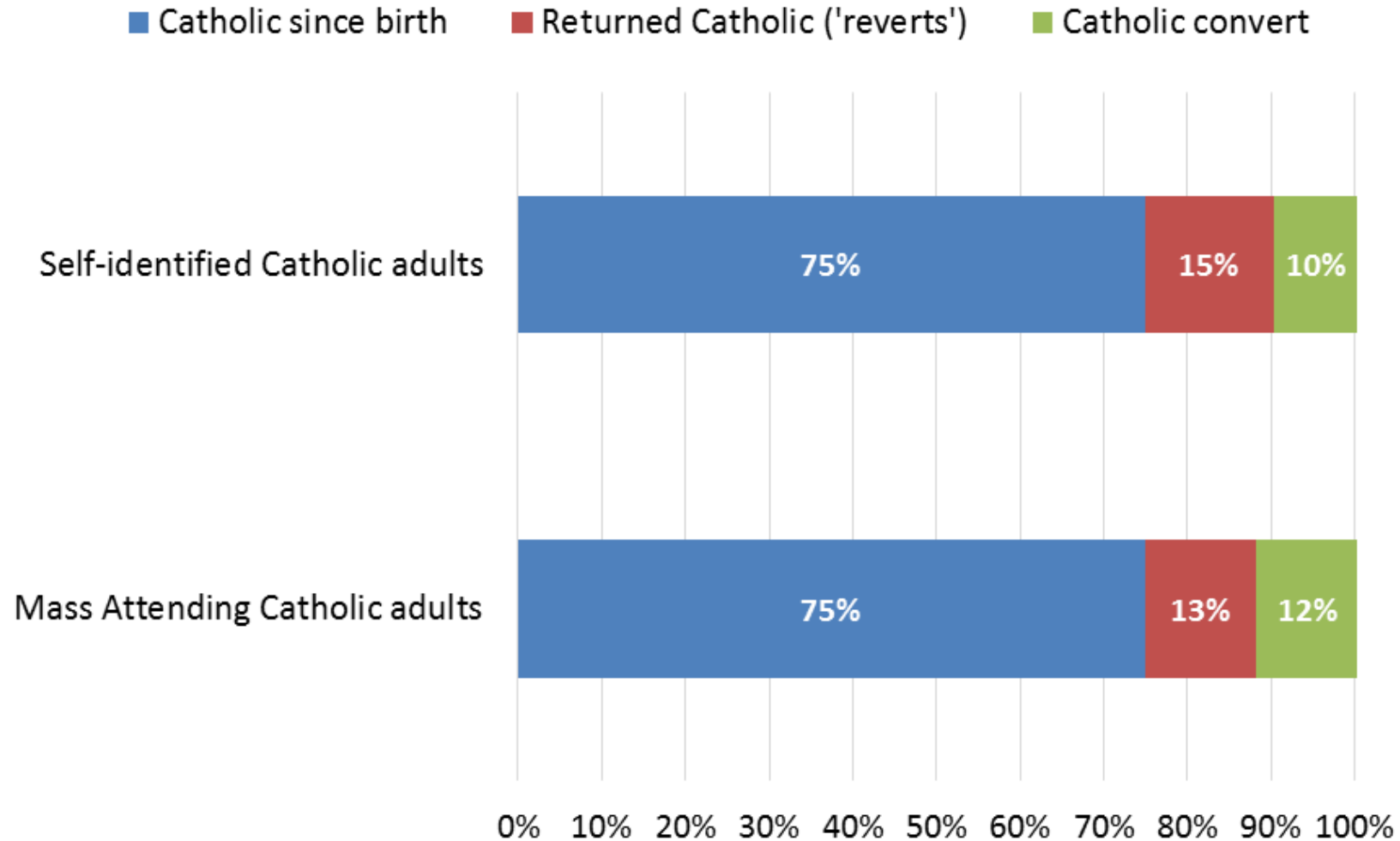


U.S. Religious Retention Rates: Percentage of those raised in a faith who remain affiliated with that faith as an adult



* are Protestant denominations. Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life (2008), U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, weighted data, including all respondents in continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii.

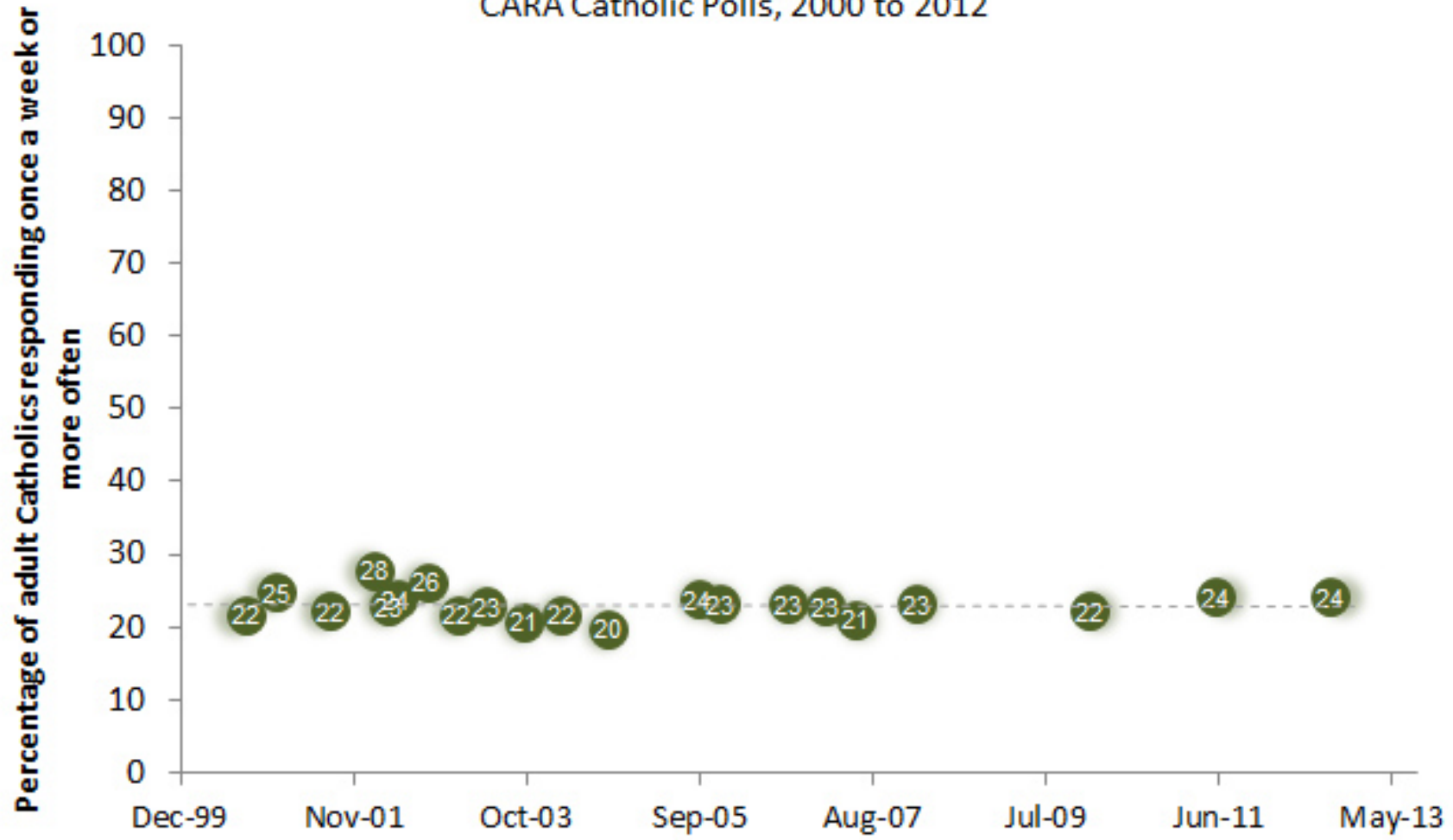
Cradle, Convert, and Revert Catholics



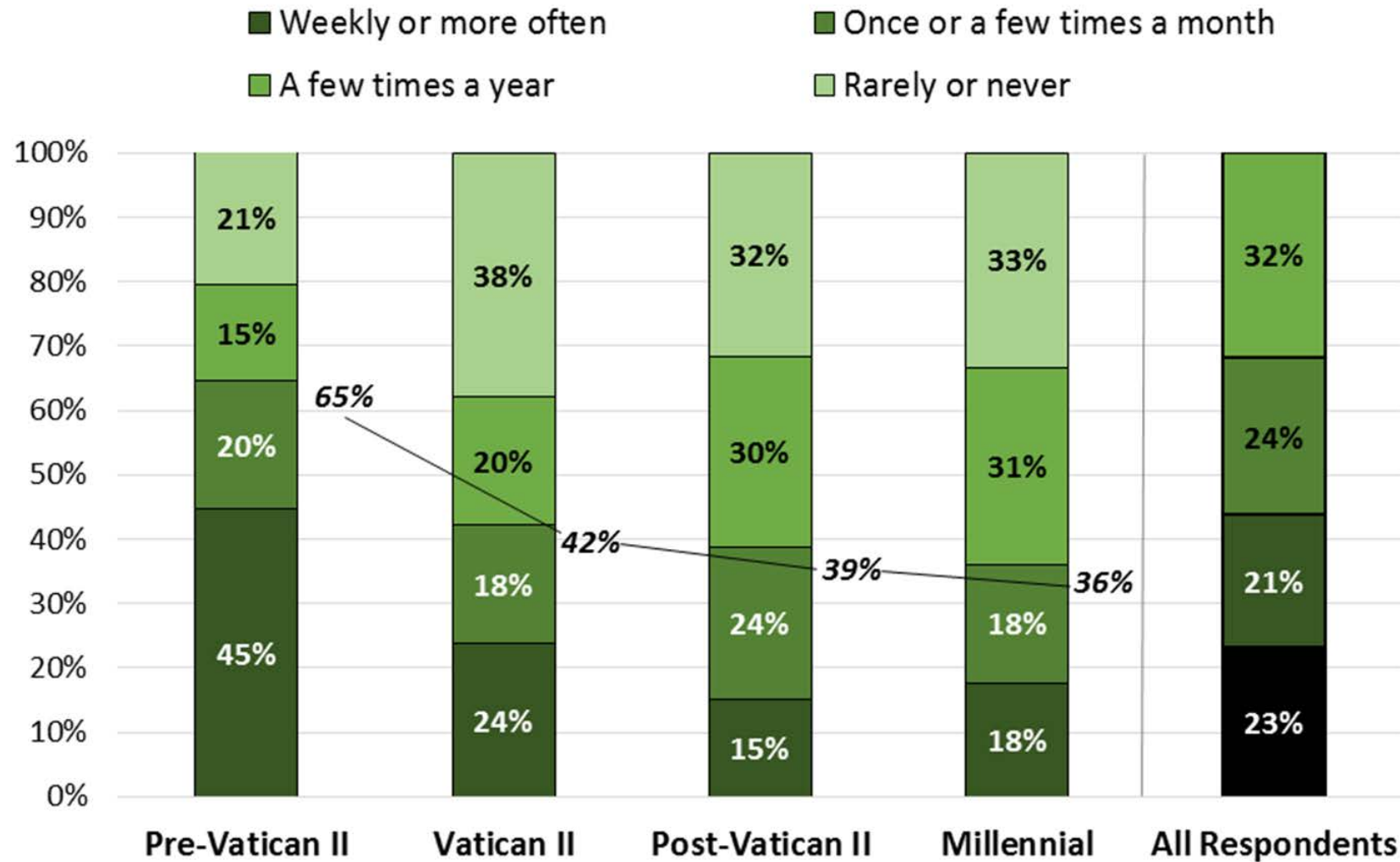
- Some of the Catholics who leave come back later in life. These are the "reverts"
- This most often occurs among former Catholics in their 30s and 40s as they marry, baptize children, or reflect on their place in life

***Aside from weddings and funerals,
about how often do you attend Mass?***

CARA Catholic Polls, 2000 to 2012



Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?

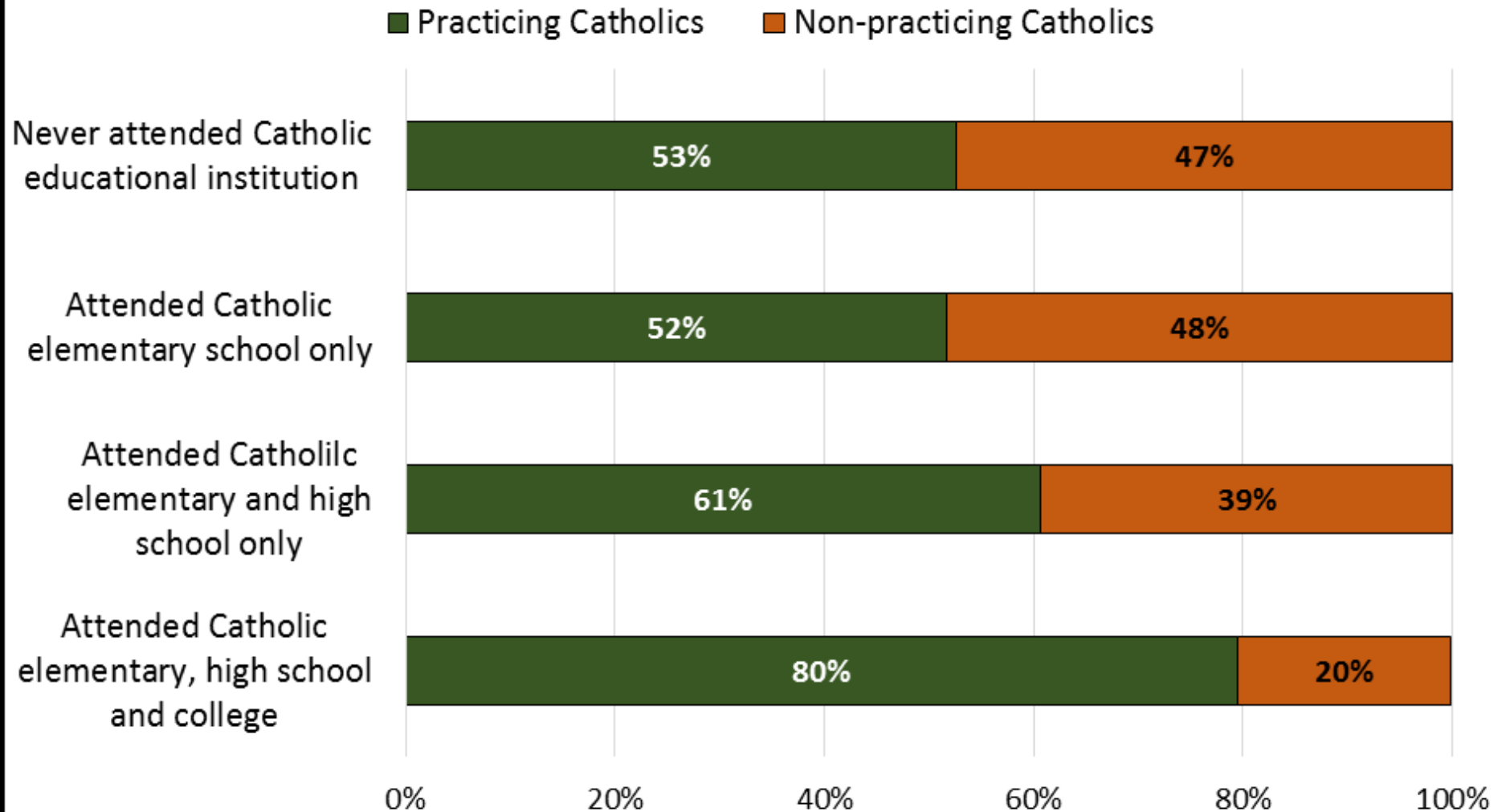


***How meaningful for you are each of the Catholic sacraments listed below?
This includes celebrating, receiving, or living the sacrament yourself or in
witnessing someone else close to you experience this sacrament.***

Percentage responding "Somewhat" or "Very" meaningful

	<u>By Mass Attendance</u>		
	Weekly or more	Less than weekly but at least once a month	A few times a year or less
Baptism	99%	96%	80%
Eucharist	98	97	73
Marriage	97	97	83
Confirmation	97	96	72
Anointing of the Sick	97	88	66
Holy Orders	93	84	57
Reconciliation	90	80	51

Agrees: "I think of myself as a practicing Catholic" by R's enrollment in Catholic education



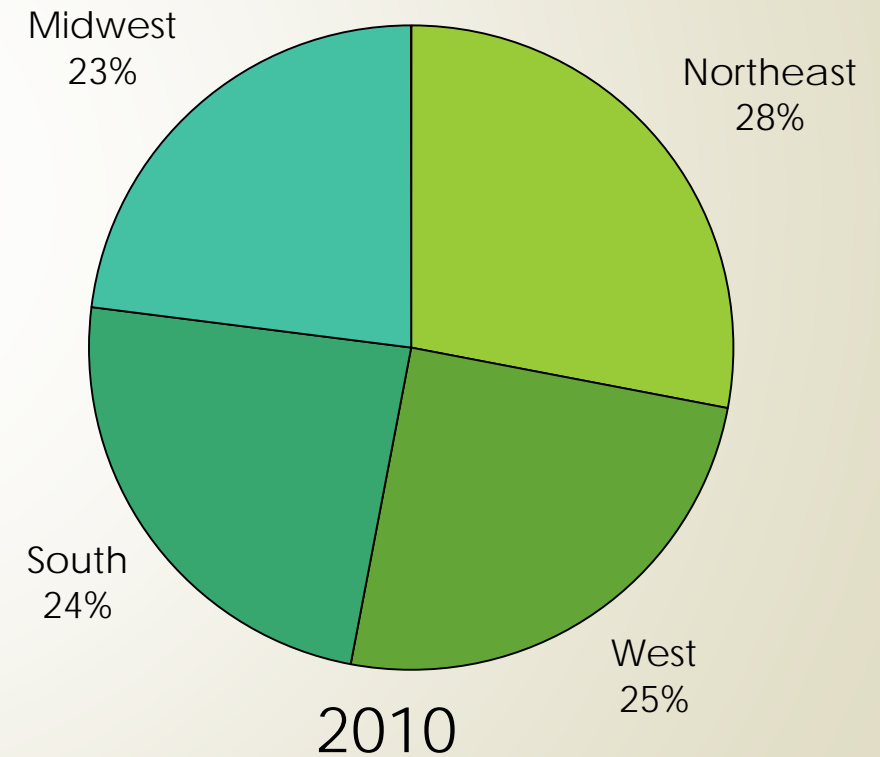
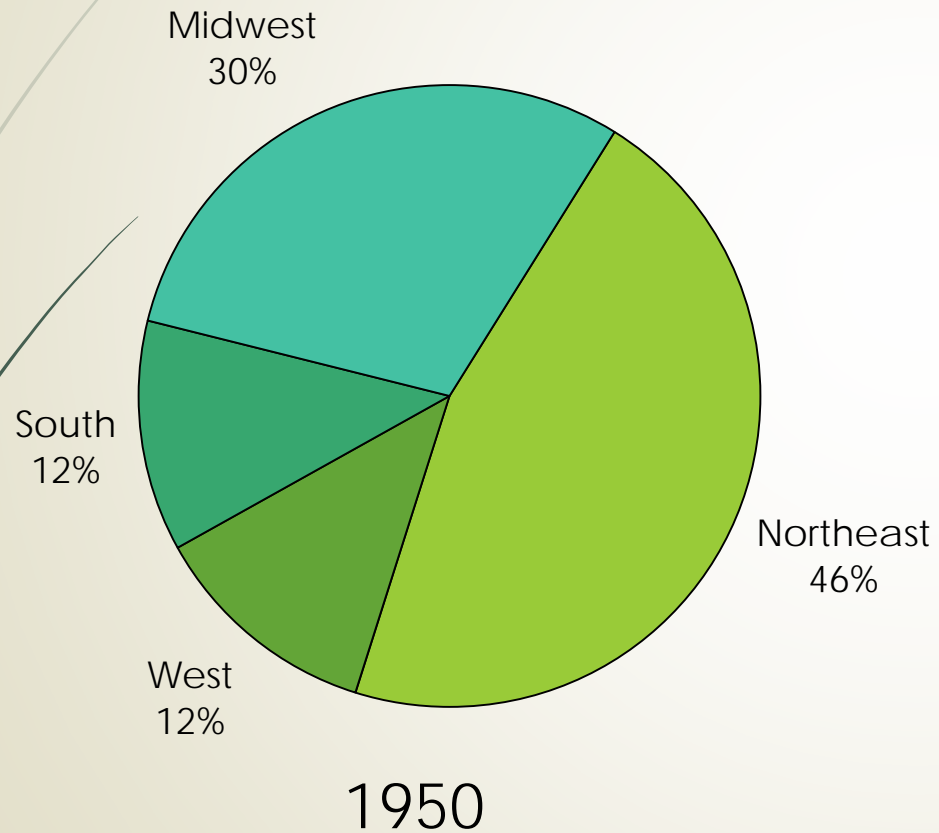
A solid green arrow pointing to the right, positioned to the left of the text "Who are the Catholics?".

Where are Catholics?

Who are the Catholics?

Catholic Population Distribution

Regional Distribution Since 1950



Change in Number of Parishes by State 2000-2010

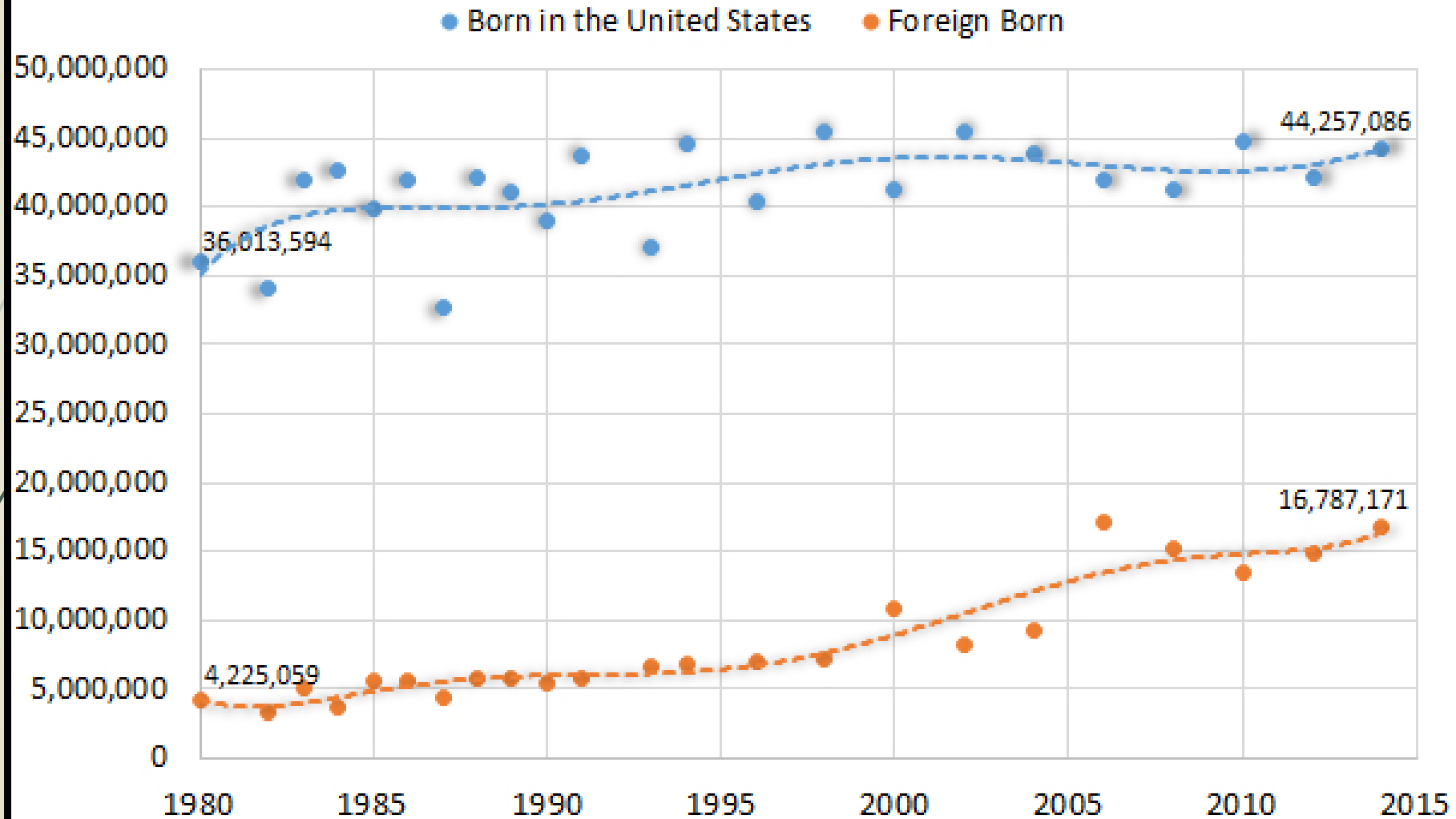


Source: Gray, Mark M, Mary L. Gautier, and Melissa A. Cidade. 2011.
 "The Changing Face of U.S. Catholic Parishes." *Emerging Models of Pastoral Leaders*. Washington, DC.
 Available: <http://www.emergingmodels.org>

Population and Parish Mismatch

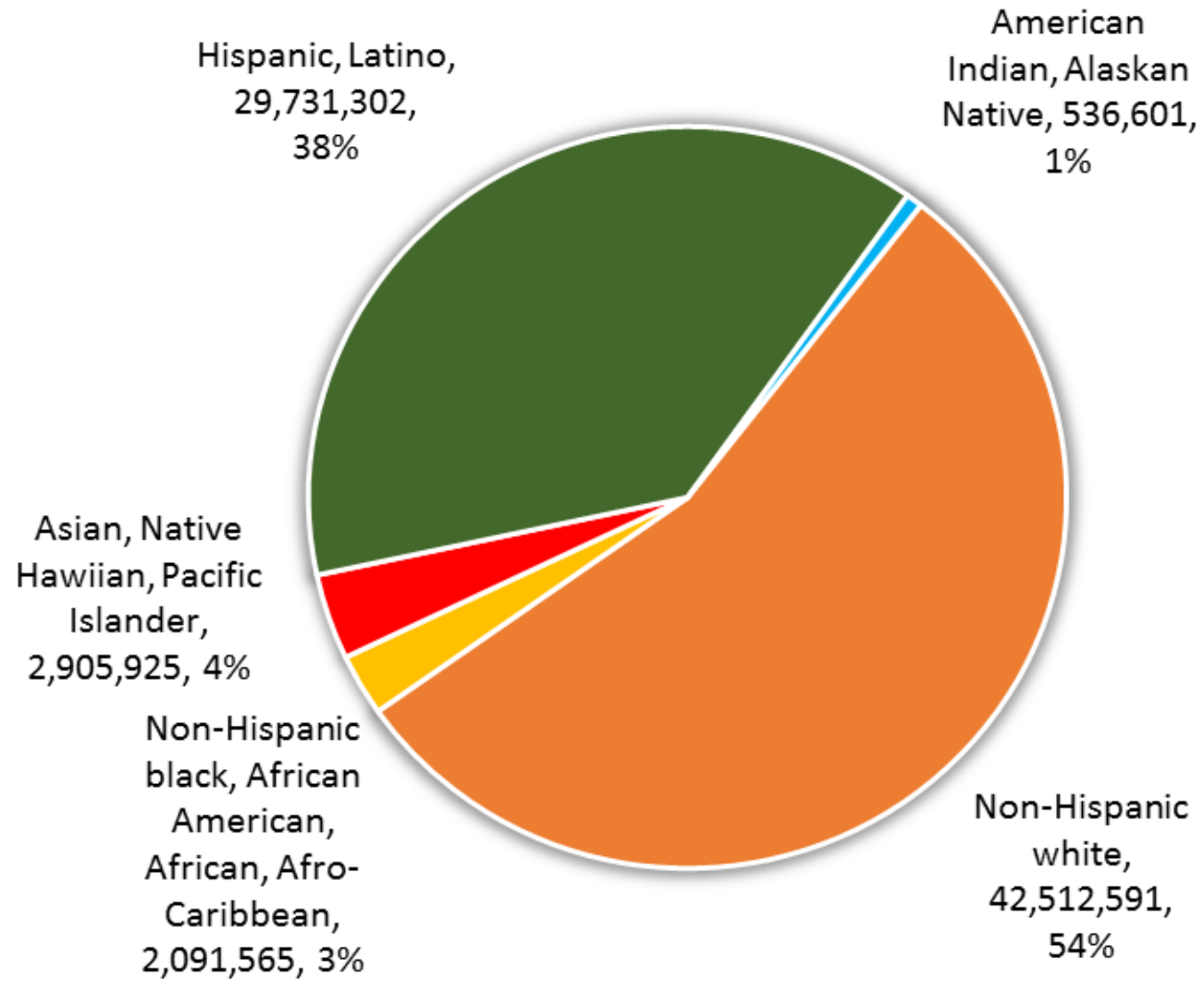
County	Number of Parishes	Rank	Number of Catholics	Rank
Cook, Illinois	371	1	1,947,223	2
Los Angeles, California	274	2	3,542,994	1
Allegheny, Pennsylvania	179	3	460,672	15
Wayne, Michigan	149	4	297,283	38
Worcester, Massachusetts	117	5	306,925	35
San Diego, California	115	6	801,850	4
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	114	7	378,561	22
Erie, New York	109	8	352,894	28
New York, New York	109	9	323,325	32
Harris, Texas	109	10	741,896	6

Adult Catholics in the United States, 1980-2014



Sources: General Social Survey (GSS), U.S. Census Bureau International Data Base (IDB)

U.S. Catholics by Race and Ethnicity, 2010



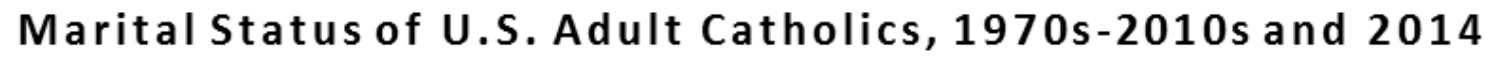
What are we learning about identity and geography?

1. A great number of people identify as Catholic, yet they don't all participate regularly. Catholic identity is deeply rooted.
2. Catholics move but buildings and infrastructure stay put - creating great challenges.
3. The Church is continuing to grow but with greater diversity in geography, culture, and understanding.



Catholic Families and the “Fallen Away”

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)



%2%

2%

2%

3%

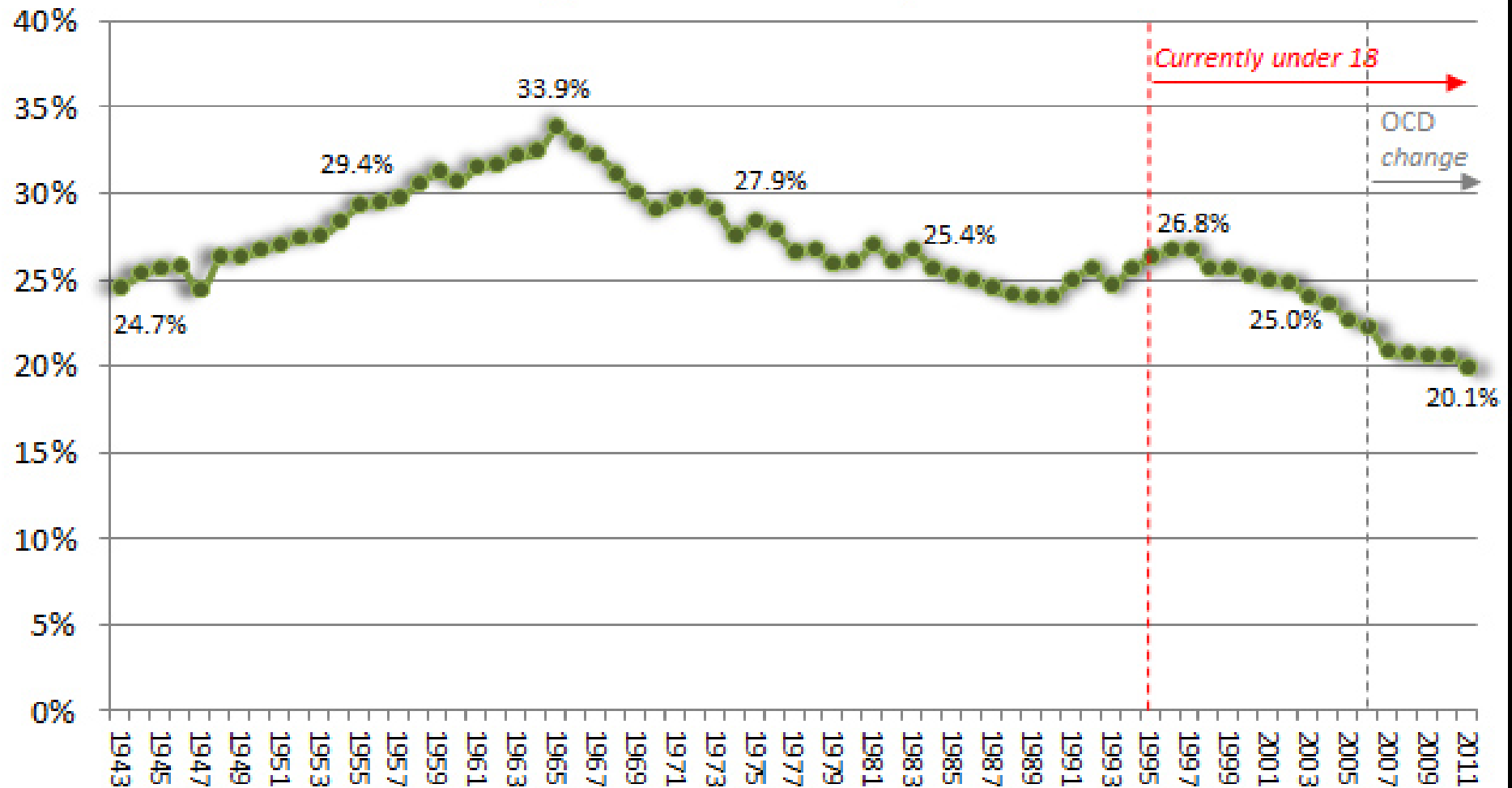
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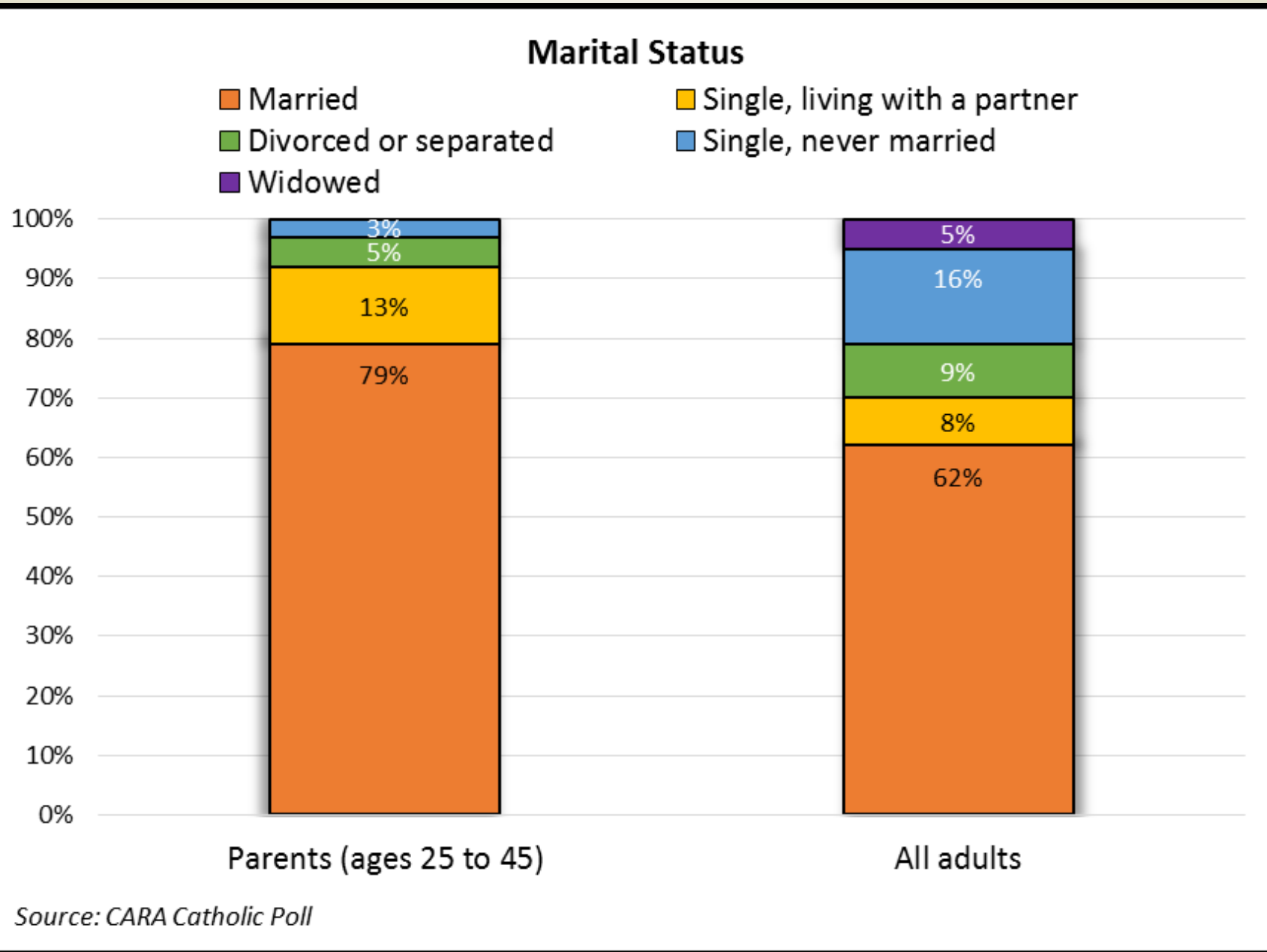
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Source: General Social Survey

Infant Baptisms in the U.S. Catholic Church as a Percentage of Total U.S. Births, 1943-2011



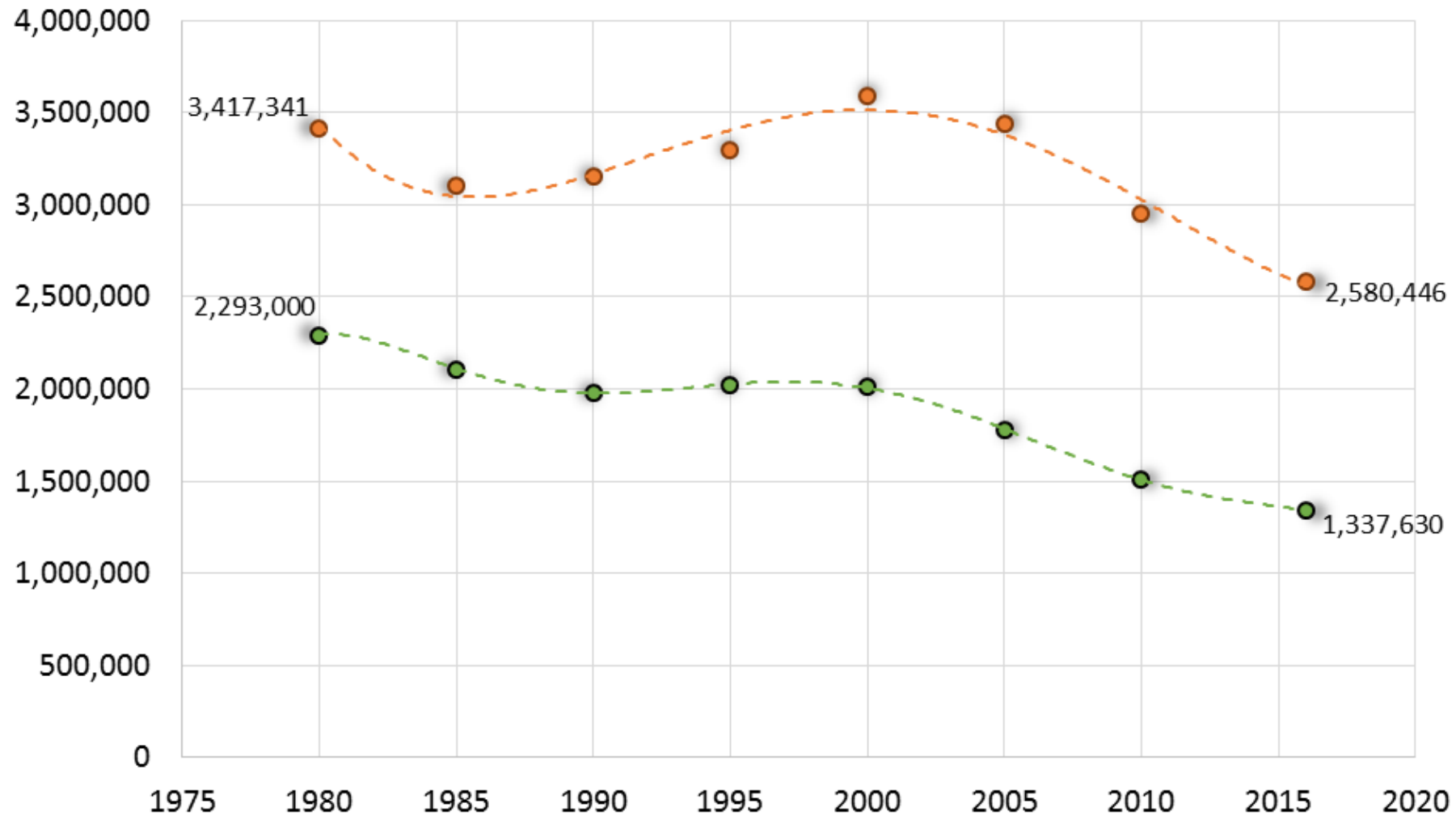
Sources: CARA, The Official Catholic Directory, Vital Statistics of the United States



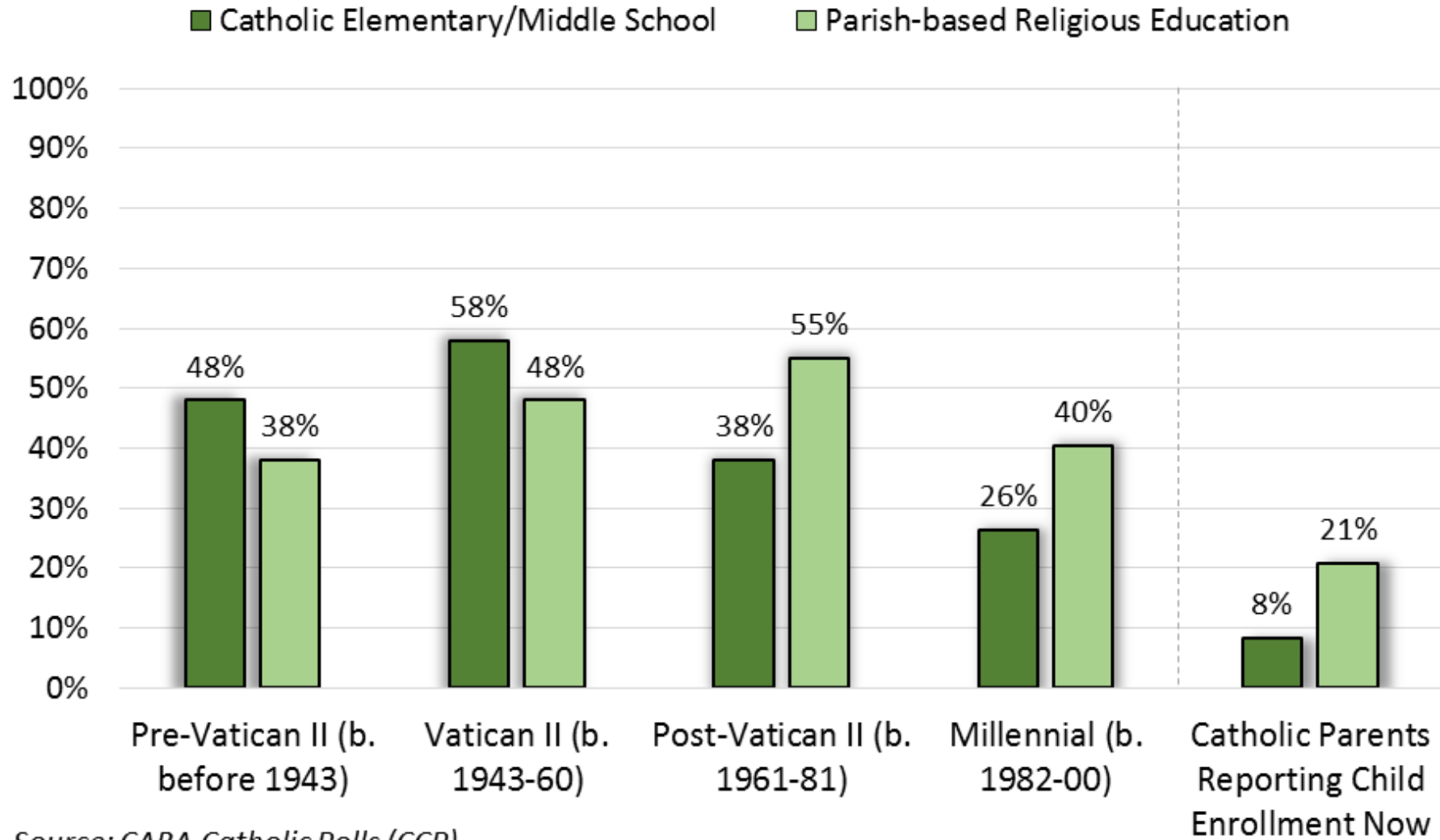
Total Enrollments in Primary School Religious Education, 1980-2016

● Primary school

● Parish-based religious education (primary school age)



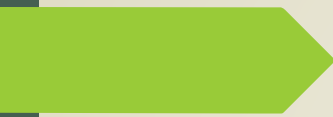

Generation and Enrollment in Catholic Education



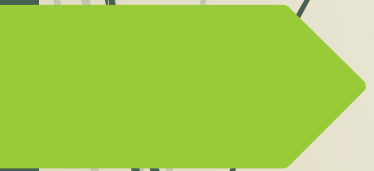
Do any of your children currently attend...?

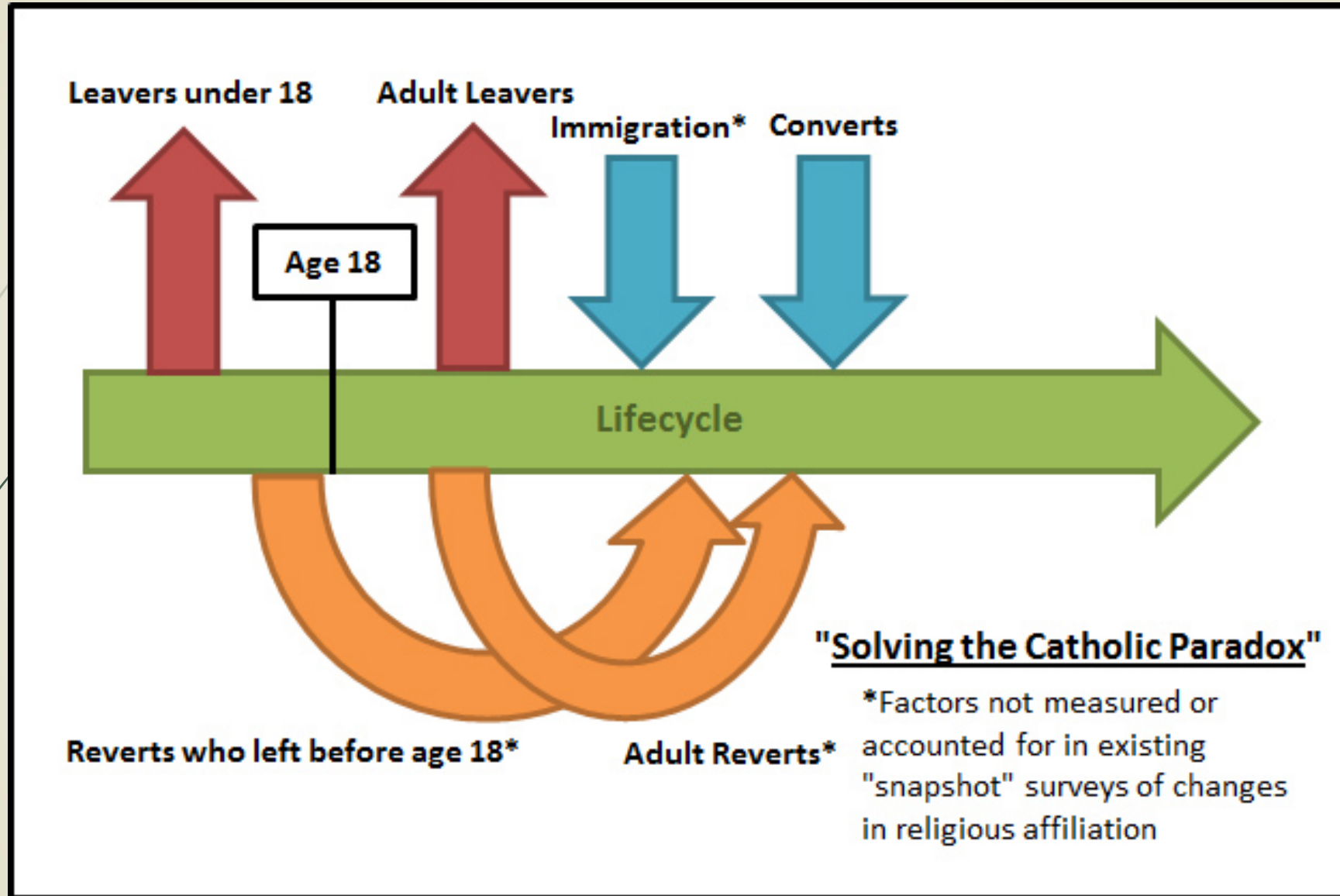
Percentage responding "Yes"

A Catholic elementary or middle school	8%
A Catholic high school	3
A parish-based Catholic religious education program	21
A youth ministry program	5
None of the above	68

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- Marriage and family is becoming less common in general
 - Catholic families are less likely to have their children in religious education or completing sacraments
 - Faith formation is less often occurring through Catholic institutions, like schools and parishes. So how is it happening?

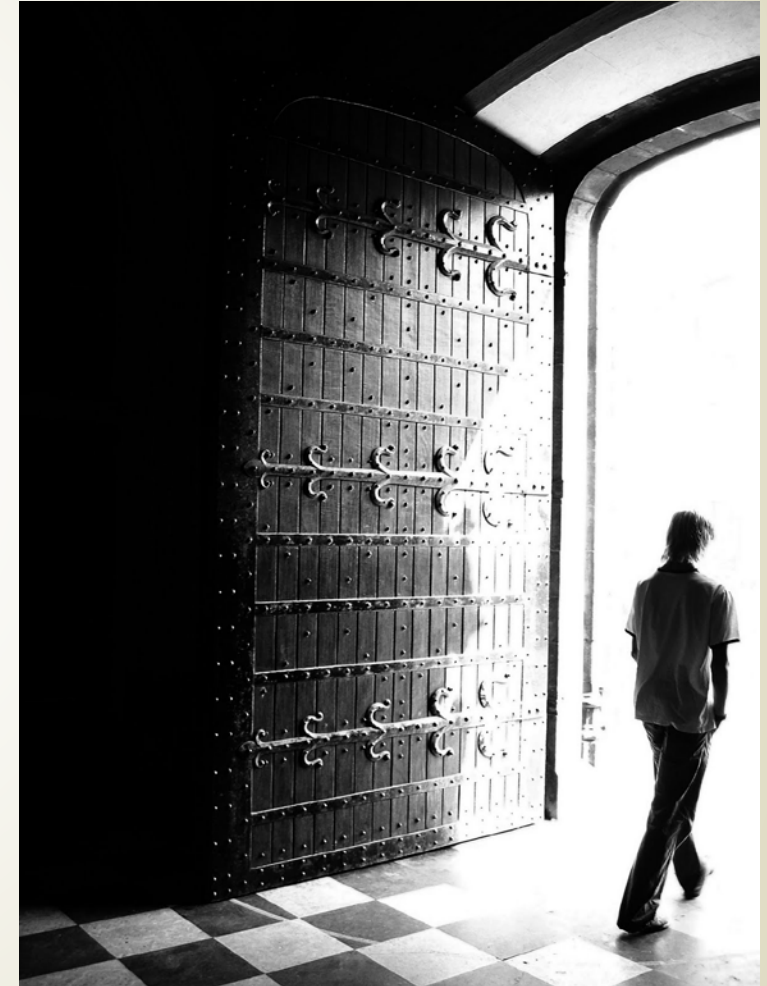
Why Do Young Catholics Leave?





Existing Research on Former Catholics:

- A majority leave before age 21. Many were not raised in practicing households. Disproportionately male. #1 reason: "Just gradually drifted away from religion"
- About ½ become unaffiliated "Nones" and the other ½ begin to identify with a Protestant denomination
- Of those who become Nones: 56% unhappy w/ Church teachings on homosexuality and abortion. 48% unhappy w/ teachings on birth control
- Of those who become Protestants: 70% found a religion they liked more. 43% were unhappy with Catholic teachings regarding the Bible.



Which of the following Catholic sacraments did you receive, if any?

Percentage responding as such:

First Communion/Eucharist	63%
Sacrament of Confirmation	33

Weakly Attached?: More than six in ten have celebrated First Communion but only a third have been Confirmed.

In the Pews Infrequently: A majority attended Mass a few times a year or less often when they were Catholic.

Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often did you attend Mass when you were Catholic?

Percentage responding as such:

Rarely or never	28%	
A few times a year	26	
Once or twice a month	12	} 46%
Almost every week	17	
Every week	13	
More than once a week	4	

Did you ever attend...?

Percentage responding as such:

A Catholic elementary or middle school	19%
A Catholic high school	8
A Catholic college or university	2
None of these	76

Many Lack Any Formal Religious Education: Two-thirds never in a Catholic religious institution

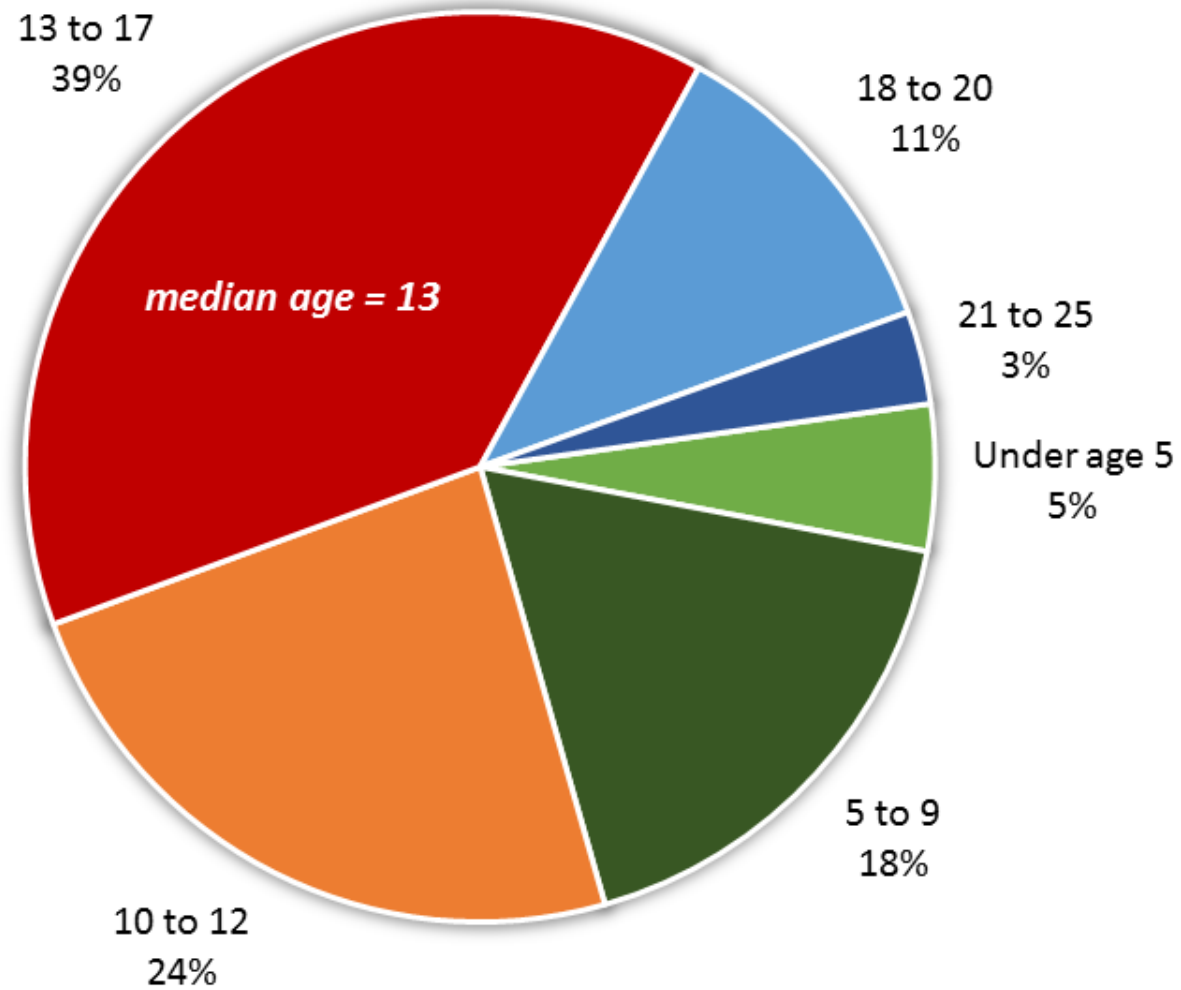
Other Options Not Filling the Role: Six in ten never in any parish or campus ministry program

Were you ever involved in...?

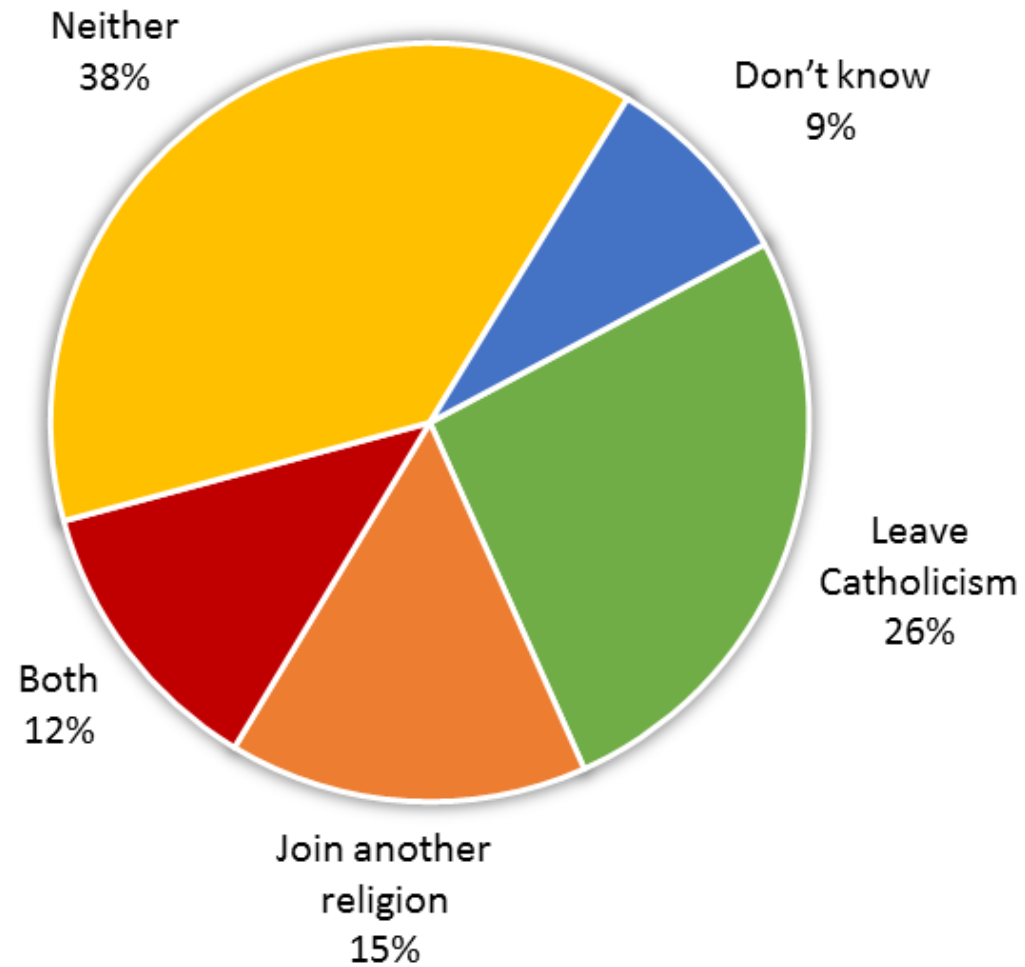
Percentage responding as such:

A parish-based Catholic religious education program	34%
A youth ministry program	12
A Catholic campus ministry on a college or university campus	1
None of these	58

At what age did you stop self-identifying as Catholic?



Would you say you stopped being Catholic more because you wanted to leave the religion or more because you wanted to join another religion?



What is your present religion, if any? Are you...

Percentage responding as such:

No religious affiliation	35%
Other Christian affiliation	29
Atheist or agnostic	14
Protestant	9
Other religious affiliation	8
Mormon	1
Eastern Orthodox Christian	1
Jewish	1
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Muslim	<1
Catholic	0

Would you currently describe yourself as a “born again” or evangelical Christian or not?

Percentage responding as such:

Yes	21%
No	79

Do any of the following people in your life currently self-identify as Catholic?

Percentage responding “yes”:

Mother	43%
Father	36
Any siblings	30
Any grandparents	61

*In your own words, what are the reasons
that explain why you are no longer Catholic?*

Comments referring to each:

	Percentage	Comments
Does not believe in God and/or religion	20%	47
Parents or family	16	38
Changed to another religion	15	37
Opposition to Catholic Church or religious institutions	11	27
Specific Church teachings or issues	8	19
Drifted away	8	19
Church, parish was not welcoming to me	3	7
Clergy sexual abuse crisis	2	4
Other	17	41

78%

Preliminary Survey Conclusions...

- There is a persistent and perhaps even growing culture of personal autonomy and “choice” among young families and children. Parents are more likely than those in the past to allow their children to choose their faith.
- New Atheism and Evangelical Christianity is attractive to people questioning their faith. If they seek to remain religious they will likely switch. If they have doubts they will likely embrace no religion and increasingly emphasize “science” as a guiding force.
- There does not appear to be any significant way for the Church to attract many who have left back into the faith. Some do return at some point as they age. This is the “life-cycle effect” that is more common to all religions.
- Church scandals, specific teachings, or personalities surprisingly seem to be less important than many assume.
- The concept of faith is becoming more and more challenging.

Questions, Discussion



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