

March 2016

Parish Life Survey

**Corpus Christi Parish
Tucson, Arizona**

**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC**

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Tucson, Arizona**

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey **Corpus Christi Parish** **Tucson, Arizona**

Executive Summary

The Corpus Christi Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in January 2016. In all, there were 759 valid responses, with seven respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Respondent Demographics

- The average age of Corpus Christi respondents overall is 60 years old. The median age is slightly higher, with half of all respondents age 63 or younger.
- CARA divides Catholics into four generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other social scientists. The most common generation at Corpus Christi Parish is the Vatican II Generation, ages 56 to 73 in 2016. That generation makes up nearly half (48 percent) of all parish respondents.
- Just over eight in ten identify as white or Anglo and a little more than one in ten as Hispanic/Latino(a). One in 20 identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander. One percent identifies as black, African, African American, or Afro-Caribbean and 3 percent identify as more than one racial or ethnic identity.
- Nearly six in ten are female and just over four in ten are male. Almost eight in ten respondents to the survey say they are currently married or remarried. Less than one in ten has never married, about one in 20 is divorced or separated, and one in 20 is widowed. Nearly two in ten report having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- On average, respondents have attended the parish for eight years, with half having attended seven years or less.

- Eight in ten identify the parish as their primary place of worship *and* say they are registered there. One in six says she or he regularly attends the parish but is *not* registered and more than another one in ten identifies as a visitor.
- Seven in ten say they have been active Catholics since birth. Just over one in ten each is either a convert to Catholicism or a returned Catholic. Two percent each say they are inactive Catholics or non-Catholics.
- Among those whose spouse is not Catholic, eight in ten report that their spouse feels welcome at the parish.

Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

- Nearly all (99 percent) give Corpus Christi Parish overall a positive evaluation (“good” and “excellent” combined). Two in three rate it as “excellent.”
- Nearly nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that participation in this faith community has deepened their faith. Almost half agree “strongly” that it has.
- Between six- to eight-tenths report being attracted to the parish “very much” by the following: its open and welcoming spirit, the quality of the preaching, the sense of belonging they feel at the parish, and the quality of the music. Those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) are particularly likely to cite their strong attraction to the quality of the music.
- Children’s religious education/formation, developing a parish sense of community, youth ministry, and providing opportunities to help the needy are especially likely to receive high priority from respondents. At least two-thirds give each need “very much” priority.
- Efforts to invite you to participate in parish life receive an “excellent” rating from almost six in ten.
- Nearly six in ten “strongly” agree that they are likely to attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass.

Leadership

- Almost nine in ten give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders, with a little more than four in ten rating it as “excellent.”
- More than six in ten “strongly” agree they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- Four in ten “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.

Worship

- More than nine in ten give a positive evaluation to the music ministry at the parish. Two-thirds give it an “excellent” rating.
- Nearly all (97 percent) say that attending Mass is at least “somewhat” important to them. Eight in ten “strongly” agree that it is.
- Half of Corpus Christi respondents say they attend Mass at least once a week. Another four in ten report that they attend almost every week. Two-thirds of members of the oldest generation (ages 74 and older) attend Mass weekly, compared to about four in ten of those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (ages 35 to 55).
- Three-quarters report that personal prayer is “very” important to them. A third give “very much” priority to the parish providing more small group prayer opportunities.
- When asked how much emphasis the parish should place on the topic of personal prayer and spirituality for religious education programs, nearly two in three say it should receive “very much” emphasis. Eight in ten of those of the youngest generation say it should receive “very much” emphasis.

Sense of Community

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive rating from more than nine in ten respondents. Six in ten give it an “excellent” rating.
- Social activities receive an “excellent” rating from six in ten respondents.
- Two in three “strongly” agree that they attend Mass because of the sense of belonging they feel when there.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from three in four respondents. Half say the parish should give “very much” priority to providing opportunities to meet new people.

Formation

- Parish efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from about nine in ten respondents. Almost half give these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Efforts to foster spiritual growth receive an “excellent” rating from a little more than half of respondents.
- Three in ten rate as “excellent” efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues.

- Efforts to nurture one's relationship with Jesus Christ receive an "excellent" rating from six in ten respondents.
- Children's religious education programs receive an "excellent" rating from just over half of respondents, with nearly six in ten giving as high a rating to youth ministry.
- Sacramental preparation programs in general receive an "excellent" rating from more than half of respondents, with half rating the RCIA process (for adults entering the Church) as "excellent."
- Two in ten say they have attended adult faith formation classes at the parish. Faith formation for adults receives an "excellent" rating from four in ten.
- A little more than half place "very much" priority on adult faith formation.
- When asked how much emphasis the parish should place on various topics for religious education programs, respondents were particularly likely to cite these topics: the significance of Jesus for humanity, basic teachings of the Catholic Church, the sense of community among parishioners, conscience formation and values, personal prayer and spirituality, and marriage and family issues. Between six-tenths and three-quarters of respondents say the parish should give these topics "very much" emphasis.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize receive a positive rating from more than eight in ten respondents. Nearly four in ten give these efforts an "excellent" rating.
- When asked to evaluate parish outreach to 14 groups, respondents are most likely to give an "excellent" rating to outreach to children, families, and teens; about half give outreach to these groups an "excellent" evaluation. They are least likely to give the same rating to outreach to young adults, college-age youth, those divorced or separated, single parents, and families in crisis; three-tenths or fewer rate outreach to these groups as "excellent."
- More than four in ten give an "excellent" rating to the parish's outreach to new parishioners.
- Parish efforts to strengthen family life receive an "excellent" evaluation from more than four in ten respondents.
- Eight in ten responding parishioners say the Sunday bulletin is a "very" effective way of communicating parish news to them. Seven in ten say the announcements read at Mass are "very" effective, with half saying the parish website is as effective.

Social Justice

- Outreach to and advocacy for those in need receive a positive rating from more than nine in ten respondents. Six in ten rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- More than four in ten rate parish outreach to those sick or homebound as “excellent.” Visitation of the sick and homebound receives “very much” priority from more than six in ten respondents.
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receives “very much” priority from two in three respondents.
- Concerning parish contributions to social justice efforts, respondents were asked to choose their top priority from among five options. Nearly six in ten list charities such as homeless shelters and food banks as their top priority. A quarter identify empowerment of the poor, such as job training programs. One in ten identifies adopting a parish in a disadvantaged area as the top priority.

Stewardship

- Efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish receive a positive evaluation from nine in ten. Just over half rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to invite participation in ministries receive an “excellent” evaluation from almost six in ten respondents.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Corpus Christi Parish Tucson, Arizona

Introduction

The Corpus Christi Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending the parish liturgies over one weekend in January 2016. In all, there were 759 valid responses, with seven respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 759 provides a margin of error of approximately ± 3.5 percentage points.¹

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four point response scales (“not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow half of the responses to be interpreted as relatively more “negative” (“poor” and “fair,” for example) and half as relatively more “positive” (“good” and “excellent,” for example). In parts of the analysis in this report, these responses are combined to allow for clearer comparisons. However, sometimes examining the most positive response distinguishes important contrasts in level of support.

In addition, readers may also wish to compare the difference between the two extreme responses, say “poor” and “excellent,” to compare the level of intensity with which opposing opinions are held. These comparisons and others may be drawn by referring to the actual percentage responses given in the Appendix. That appendix shows the percentage responses for each item, calculated out of 100 percent, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to each question, separately calculated out of 100 percent for clarity of comparison.

In addition to summarizing the responses to most questions for respondents as a whole, the report also compares the responses of those from selected subgroups. The first section of the

¹Strictly speaking, it is necessary to know the total population (in this case, the total number of adult parishioners) to calculate margin of error. CARA's standard assumption for its in-pew parish surveys is that about half of parishioners are represented. For obvious reasons, those who are represented in a given in-pew survey are disproportionately more frequent Mass attenders.

report describes the characteristics of the respondents as well as the subgroups that are used in the analyses that follow. Throughout the report, the tables and charts that compare differences between and among these various subgroups are presented following the responses for parishioners as a whole in each section.

The margin of error for *differences between subgroups*, such as the differences among those of different generations or those with different levels of involvement, depends on the size of the subgroups being compared. Unless otherwise noted, all subgroup differences described in the graphs of this report are statistically significant: that is, they pass standard tests of statistical inference and can be considered to be “real” differences. In some instances, differences between or among subgroups that are not statistically significant are also noted. These differences should be treated as merely suggestive of real differences that may exist between the subgroups under consideration.

CARA regularly conducts parish surveys through its Parish Life Surveys. Parish Life Surveys are a series of dynamic survey instruments for pastoral planning, including survey data collection, analyses of key stakeholders and demographic groups, and user-friendly reports and products. From the aggregate data collected through the Parish Life Survey services over the past 15 years, CARA has a database of characteristics of parish life gathered from more than 900 parishes nationwide. While this database is not a random sample of parishes, and therefore not necessarily representative of all parishes nationwide, it is the most comprehensive source of data of its kind and covers a broad range of topics important to vibrant parish life.

In this report, where possible, results from the current Parish Life Survey are compared to the aggregate responses from the Parish Life Survey National Database of Parish Life to put the parish results into a larger national context. Additionally, where available, comparisons are made to findings from a 2012 study of Catholics in-pew at 23 parishes across the country. Finally, comparisons are made to findings from CARA’s nationally representative surveys of adult self-identified Catholics conducted since 2013. Only differences of 10 percentage points or more between Corpus Christi’s findings and national findings are treated as meaningful.

In addition to the quantitative data analyzed in this report, one open-ended question on the survey collected qualitative data. For these data, respondents were prompted with a question (*What is the greatest need of the parish?*) and given an open box for written comments, rather than select from a set of response options. The parish opted to transcribe and analyze these comments, so they do not appear in this report.

The results of this survey fairly represent the characteristics and attitudes of people ages 16 and older who attend Mass at Corpus Christi Parish. It cannot be used to make inferences about populations outside of Mass attendees at the parish; it is not representative of those who do not attend Mass or those who are only involved in parish functions excluding Mass.

Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the report includes demographic and other descriptive data for respondents to this survey. These data may be helpful in considering who responded to the survey, which populations are represented in the data, and characteristics of a typical weekend at the parish.

Age and Generation

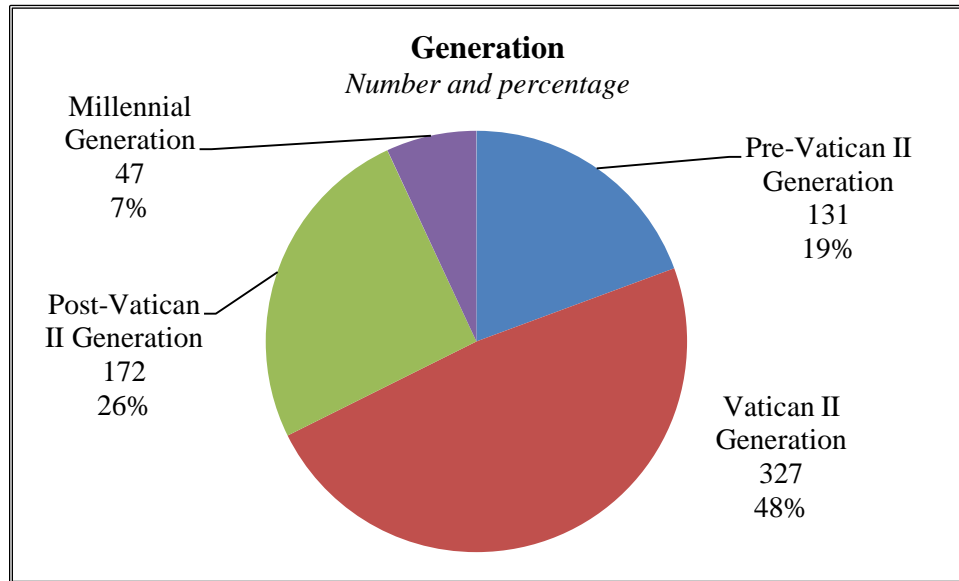
Valid respondents at Corpus Christi Parish surveyed in 2016 were born between 1923 and 2000. On average, respondents report an average age of 60, with half saying they are 63 or younger. Although not directly comparable as the national data comes from 2012, this is higher than the median age of 49 among all self-identified Catholics nationally.¹ The most common age range reported is 65 to 74.

Age in 2016			
Age Range	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
16-24	4%	4%	9%
25-34	5	9	17
35-44	8	20	20
45-54	14	23	19
55-64	23	19	20
65-74	31	15	10
75 or older	15	10	5

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
 **Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study

¹ Source: Mark M. Gray, and Mary L. Gautier. 2012. *Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012.*

Important differences between groups in parishes are typically found among those who belong to different generations. CARA divides Catholics into four generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other Catholic researchers. The most common generation among Corpus Christi respondents is the Vatican II Generation, followed by the Post-Vatican II Generation.



- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 74 and over in 2016.* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members came of age before the Second Vatican Council. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 19 percent of the respondents at Corpus Christi Parish. This is similar to the percentage in pew at parishes nationally (18 percent), but almost double that of self-identified Catholics nationally (10 percent).
- *The “Vatican II Generation,” ages 56-73 in 2016.* These are the “Baby Boomers” who were born between 1943 and 1960, a time of great demographic and economic growth. They came of age during the time of the Second Vatican Council and their formative years likely spanned that time of profound changes in the Church. Members of the Vatican II Generation at Corpus Christi Parish represent 48 percent of respondents. This is higher than the percentage responding at parishes nationally (35 percent) and among Catholics nationally (32 percent).
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation,” ages 35-55 in 2016.* Born between 1961 and 1981, this generation, sometimes called “Generation X” or “Baby Busters” by demographers, has no lived experience of the pre-Vatican II Church. Some 25 percent of those at Corpus Christi Parish are members of this generation. This is higher than the percentage in pew at parishes nationally (39 percent) and among Catholics nationally (38 percent).

- *The “Millennial Generation,” ages 18-34 in 2016.* This generation, born in 1982 or later (up to 1998 among adults), has come of age primarily under the papacies of St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Because some still live with their parents, their religious practice is often closely related to that of their families of origin. Some 7 percent of respondents at Corpus Christi Parish belong to the Millennial Generation. That percentage is similar to that of Catholics in pew nationally (8 percent), but less than half of the percentage of Catholics nationally (19 percent).

Generations	Generation		
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Pre-Vatican II (born 1942 or earlier)	19%	18%	10%
Vatican II (born 1943 to 1960)	48	35	32
Post-Vatican II (born 1961 to 1981)	25	39	38
Millennial (born 1982 to 2000)	7	8	19

**Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA’s 2012 Media Use study*

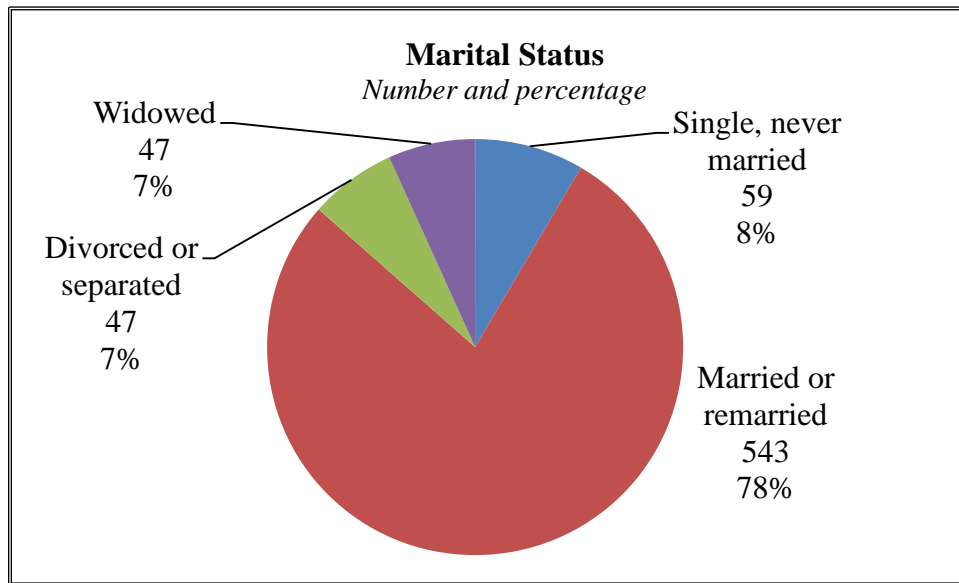
Gender and Marital Status

Nearly six in ten respondents identify as female (57 percentage). This is slightly less than the percentage of Catholics nationally in pew (64 percent) but higher than the percentage of females among self-identified Catholics nationally (51 percent).

	Gender		
	<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Female	57%	64%	51%
Male	43	36	49

**Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA’s 2012 Media Use study*

Nearly eight in ten respondents are currently married or remarried (78 percent). Almost one in ten has never married (8 percent), is divorced or separated (7 percent), or is widowed (7 percent).



Corpus Christi respondents (78 percent) are more likely than Catholics in pew nationally (70 percent) and Catholics nationally (62 percent) to be married. While Corpus Christi respondents are similar to those nationally in the percentage of those divorced or separated and those widowed, Corpus Christi respondents (8 percent) are less likely to have never married than those in pew nationally (15 percent) and Catholics nationally (24 percent).

Marital Status
Percentage responding

Marital Status	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Never married***	8%	15%	24%
Married or remarried	78	70	62
Divorced or separated	7	8	9
Widowed	7	7	5

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
 **Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study
 ***The Media Use study includes those responding "living with a partner" in the "never married" category

Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation (57 percent) are particularly likely to have never married, those of the Post-Vatican II and Vatican II Generation (88 and 86 percent) are most likely to be married, and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (22 percent) are most likely to be widowed.

Marital Status, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Single, never married	2%	3%	7%	57%
Married or remarried	66	86	88	41
Divorced or separated	9	7	5	2
Widowed	22	5	0	0

Children in the Household

Some 136 respondents (18 percent) have at least one child (including stepchildren) under age 18 living with them. Altogether, respondents report 162 children or stepchildren living with them age 12 and younger and 108 living with them ages 13 to 17.² Among those with at least one child living with them, 71 percent have a child age 12 or younger living with them and 55 percent have a child ages 13 to 17 living with them. Combined, three-quarters of those with children under age 18 living with them have one (40 percent) or two children (34 percent).

Number of Children or Stepchildren Living with You	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
None	82%
At least one child under 18 living with you	18
 <i>Among those with at least one child living with them:</i>	
Age 12 or younger	71%
Ages 13 to 17	55
 <i>Among those with at least one child under age 18 living with them:</i>	
One child	40%
Two children	34
Three children	16
Four to six children	10

Residency

Some 83 percent say they live in the area year round. Those of the younger two generations are especially likely to live in the area year round, with 95 percent of the Post-Vatican II Generation and 89 percent of the Millennial Generation saying they do. In comparison, 79 percent of the Vatican II Generation and 72 percent of the Pre-Vatican II Generation live in the area year round.

² More than one respondent may have responded from the same household.

Race and Ethnicity

Respondents were invited to check all of the races and ethnicities that they identify as. Three percent identify more than one. Eighty-two percent identify as white or Anglo, 13 percent as Hispanic/Latino(a), and 5 percent as Asian or Pacific Islander. One percent identifies as black, African, African American, or Afro-Caribbean.

<i>What is your racial or ethnic identity?</i>	
<i>[Check all that apply]</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
American Indian	<1%
Asian, Pacific Islander	5
Black, African, African American, Afro-Caribbean	1
Hispanic/Latino(a)	13
White, Anglo	82
Other	2
More than one race or ethnicity	3

Among those identifying an “other” primary race or ethnicity, two respondents wrote in American and one wrote in East Indian.

Throughout the report when appropriate, comparisons are made between those identifying their ethnicity as follows:

- Hispanic or Latino (87 respondents or 13 percent)
- White or Anglo (549 respondents or 81 percent)

Due to the relatively smaller numbers identifying other races or ethnicities, reliable subgroup comparisons are not possible.

Differences by Generation

Racial and ethnic identification differs some by generation. While a majority of all generations identify as White or Anglo, more than two-tenths of the youngest two generations identify as Hispanic/Latino(a) and just under one in ten identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander.

Primary Race or Ethnicity, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
American Indian	0%	0%	1%	0%
Asian, Pacific Islander	1	3	8	9
Black, African, African American, Afro- Caribbean	0	<1	1	4
Hispanic/Latino(a)	8	8	21	26
White, Anglo	90	87	68	54
Other	1	1	2	7

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This part of the report describes several characteristics of respondents that relate to their religious attributes and parish-related behaviors.

Relationship to the Catholic Church

Seven in ten Corpus Christi respondents say they have been active Catholics since birth, with about one in ten each saying they are returned Catholics or are converts to Catholicism. Two percent each say they are inactive Catholics or non-Catholics.

	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
<i>What best describes you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
Active Catholic since birth	71%	74%
Returned Catholic	12	11
Catholic convert	12	11
Inactive Catholic	4	2
Non-Catholic	2	2

*Source: *CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study*

Corpus Christi respondents are similar to those responding in pew nationally in their relationship to the Catholic Church.

Differences by Generation

Respondents from the different generations are mostly similar. However, 13 percent of those of the Millennial Generation describe themselves as inactive Catholics, compared to 2 to 4 percent of those of other generations.

Relationship to the Parish

Of all respondents to the survey, 84 percent report that Corpus Christi Parish is their primary place of worship and 69 percent say they are registered there. Seven in ten (69 percent) both identify the parish as their primary place of worship *and* say they are registered there. One in six (16 percent) identifies the parish as their primary place of worship but say they are *not* registered there. Most of those who say the parish is not their primary place of worship are visitors to the parish.

Relationship to the Parish		
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Primary place of worship <i>and</i> a registered parishioner	69%	78%
Primary place of worship but <i>not</i> registered	16	13
<i>Not</i> primary place of worship but registered	2	2
Visitor to the parish	14	7
<i>*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

Corpus Christi respondents are *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to be registered parishioners who identify the parish as their primary place of worship (69 percent compared to 78 percent). They are more likely than Catholics in pew nationally to be visitors (14 percent compared to 7 percent).

Years at the Parish

Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for eight years. The median is seven years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for seven years or less and half have attended for seven years or more.

Years at Parish*	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
1 year or less	15%
2-5 years	27
6-10 years	27
11-15 years	21
16-20 years	10
21 years or more	<1
Average	7.9
Median	7
Minimum	1
Maximum	27

* Those who do not regularly attend the parish were asked to write leave the question blank. Those who have attended for less than a year were instructed to write "1."

Differences by Race or Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino(a) respondents are more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to have attended the parish for five years or less (59 percent compared to 41 percent).

Frequency of Mass Attendance

Half of respondents (51 percent) report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional four in ten (39 percent) attend almost every week and about one in 20 (7 percent) attends once or twice a month. Less than one in 20 (3 percent) attends less frequently than that.

<i>About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?</i>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Never or rarely	<1%	<1%	32%
A few times a year	3	2	24
Once/twice a month	7	6	10
Almost every week	39	21	11
Every week	44	57	20
More than once a week	7	14	3

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
**Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study

Comparison to Catholics Nationally

- Compared to the average of parishes CARA has conducted surveys at in the past (71 percent), Corpus Christi respondents are *less* likely to attend Mass at least once a week (51 percent).
- Corpus Christi respondents (51 percent) are more than twice as likely to attend Mass at least once a week than self-identified Catholic adults nationally (23 percent).

Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (64 percent) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those of the Vatican II Generation (52 percent), Millennial Generation (41 percent), and Post-Vatican II Generation (38 percent).

Those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (45 percent), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those of the Vatican II Generation (39 percent), Millennial Generation (35 percent), and Pre-Vatican II Generation (33 percent).

Differences by Race or Ethnicity

More than half of those identifying as white or Anglo (53 percent) attend Mass at least once a week, compared to four-tenths (40 percent) of those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a).

Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- Twenty percent of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish.
- Twenty-one percent have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years.

Non-Catholic Spouse Feeling Welcome

Some 79 percent of respondents with non-Catholic spouses report that their spouse feels welcome at the parish.

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the Corpus Christi Parish Life Survey are very positive. Eleven particular areas were addressed in the survey instrument. These areas are featured in this section of the report, though readers are advised to consult the response frequencies in the Appendix of this document for response rates and other pertinent information about these data. The areas of parish life addressed are:

- Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Programs
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Evaluation of Parish Outreach
- Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Emphasis on Topics for Religious Education Programs
- Priorities for Social Justice Efforts
- Importance of Religious Behaviors
- Attraction to the Parish
- Attitudes about Parish Life

Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

Nearly all respondents give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to Corpus Christi Parish overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Corpus Christi Parish overall	99%	94%
Sense of community within the parish	95	87
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	94	–
Music ministry	91	–
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	90	91
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	90	91
Vision provided by parish leaders	89	90
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	84	88
<i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

- Nine in ten or more give a positive evaluation to the sense of community; outreach to and advocacy for those in need; the music ministry; efforts to educate parishioners in the faith; encouragement to share one’s time, talents, and treasure with the parish; and the vision provided by parish leaders.
- More than eight in ten say the parish is “good” or “excellent” at spreading the Gospel or evangelizing.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Corpus Christi Parish are similar to those responding in pew nationally in their positive evaluations of the aspects of parish life presented in the table above.³

³ As was discussed in the Introduction, only differences of 10 percentage points or more between the national and parish percentages will be treated as meaningful.

“Excellent” Ratings

Two-thirds of respondents give an “excellent” rating to Corpus Christi Parish overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Corpus Christi Parish overall	68%	58%
Music ministry	66	–
Sense of community within the parish	60	46
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	59	–
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	55	57
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	47	55
Vision provided by parish leaders	42	50
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	38	45

**Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study*

The music ministry receives a positive evaluation from two in three respondents.

- Six in ten or slightly fewer give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the sense of community within the parish; outreach to and advocacy for those in need; and encouragement to share one’s time, talents, and treasures with the parish.
- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from almost half of respondents.
- About four in ten rate as “good” or “excellent” the vision provided by parish leaders and parish efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize.

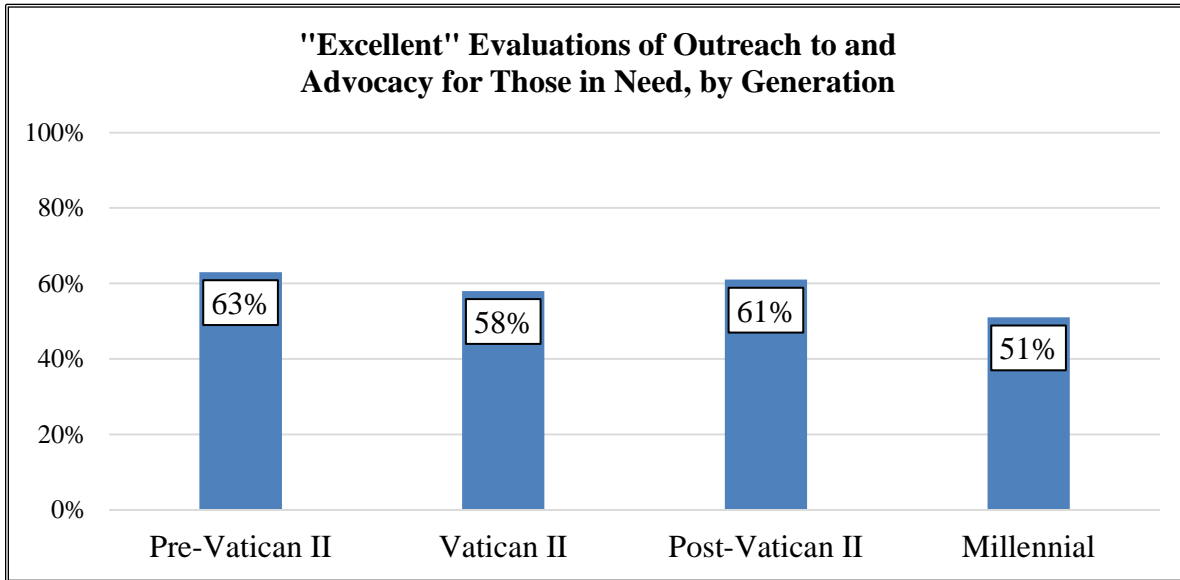
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Those at Corpus Christi Parish are 10 to 14 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following aspects of parish life:

- Sense of community within the parish (60 percent compared to 46 percent)
- Their parish overall (68 percent compared to 58 percent)

Differences by Generation

Those of the three oldest the generations are especially likely to give an “excellent” rating to parish efforts to reach out and advocate for those in need.



Differences by Past Participation in Religious Education Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Respondents who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years (39 percent) are *less* likely than others (49 percent) to rate as “excellent” the parish’s efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Evaluation of Programs

More than eight in ten give a positive evaluation to these areas of formation: sacramental preparation, children’s religious education programs, RCIA, youth ministry, and faith formation for adults.

<i>Please evaluate the following programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Sacramental preparation	96%	–
Social activities	95	72%
Children’s religious education programs	94	83
RCIA (process for entering the Church)	93	81
Youth ministry	93	73
Faith formation for adults	87	71
Small faith-sharing groups	84	80
Retreats	77	74

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- More than nine in ten give a positive evaluation to social activities.
- Small faith-sharing groups receive a “good” or “excellent” evaluation from more than eight in ten respondents.
- Retreats receive a positive evaluation from about three in four respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 12 to 23 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the following programs:

- Social activities (95 percent compared to 72 percent)
- Youth ministry (93 percent compared to 73 percent)
- Faith formation for adults (87 percent compared to 71 percent)
- RCIA (93 percent compared to 81 percent)
- Children’s religious education programs (94 percent compared to 83 percent)

“Excellent” Ratings

Six in ten say social activities at the parish are “excellent.”

<i>Please evaluate the following programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Social activities	60%	27%
Youth ministry	56	31
Sacramental preparation	55	–
Children’s religious education programs	53	39
RCIA (process for entering the Church)	50	38
Faith formation for adults	40	27
Small faith sharing groups	39	29
Retreats	35	26

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- Half or slightly more give an “excellent” rating to the following areas of formation: youth ministry (56 percent), sacramental preparation (55 percent), children’s religious education programs (53 percent), and RCIA (50 percent). Faith formation for adults receives as high a rating from four in ten respondents.
- Small faith-sharing groups and retreats receive an “excellent” rating from almost four in ten respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Those at Corpus Christi Parish are 25 to 33 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following programs:

- Social activities (60 percent compared to 27 percent)
- Youth ministry (56 percent compared to 31 percent)

In addition, those at Corpus Christi Parish are 10 to 14 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following programs:

- Children’s religious education programs (53 percent compared to 39 percent)
- Faith formation for adults (40 percent compared to 27 percent)
- RCIA (50 percent compared to 38 percent)
- Small faith sharing groups (39 percent compared to 29 percent)

Differences by Past Participation in Religious Education Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ from others in their evaluations of children's religious education programs and sacramental preparation. However, they are slightly *less* likely than others to give a "good" or "excellent" rating to youth ministry (87 percent compared to 96 percent).

Respondents who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluation of faith formation for adults.

Evaluation of Parish Efforts

With one exception, at least 86 percent of respondents give a positive evaluation to each of the parish efforts shown in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i> <i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent"</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	94%	89%
Foster spiritual growth	93	81
Provide opportunities for you to help the needy	93	–
Respond to parish needs and concerns	92	84
Invite you to participate in parish life	92	82
Respect other faith traditions	92	–
Communicate with parishioners	91	80
Offer meaningful prayer opportunities	91	–
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	90	82
Strengthen family life	87	86
Advocate for social justice	86	–
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	78	80
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a positive evaluation to parish efforts to:

- Foster spiritual growth (93 percent compared to 81 percent)
- Invite you to participate in parish life (92 percent compared to 82 percent)

“Excellent” Ratings

Nearly six in ten evaluate as “excellent” efforts to invite participation in parish life and to invite participation in parish ministries.

	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	59%	47%
Provide opportunities for you to help the needy	59	–
Invite you to participate in parish life	57	29
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	56	39
Foster spiritual growth	54	35
Offer meaningful prayer opportunities	54	–
Respect other faith traditions	49	–
Communicate with parishioners	48	37
Respond to parish needs and concerns	46	34
Strengthen family life	44	40
Advocate for social justice	36	–
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	30	33

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Between half and six in ten rate as “excellent” parish efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ, foster spiritual growth, and offer meaningful prayer opportunities. Three in ten give as high a rating to efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues.

- Efforts to provide opportunities to help the needy receive an “excellent” rating from six in ten. Just over a third give as high a rating to efforts to advocate for social justice.
- Half or slightly fewer say the parish is “excellent” at respecting other faith traditions, communicating with parishioners, and strengthening family life.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 17 to 28 percentage points more likely than the average of those responding at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to:

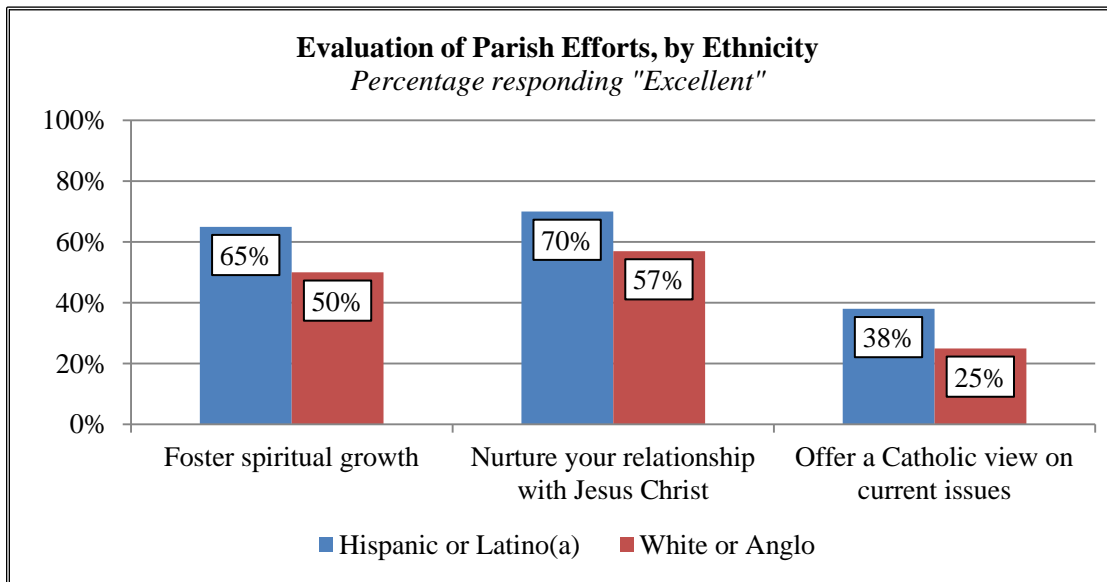
- Invite you to participate in parish life (57 percent compared to 29 percent)
- Foster spiritual growth (54 percent compared to 35 percent)
- Invite you to participate in parish ministries (56 percent compared to 39 percent)

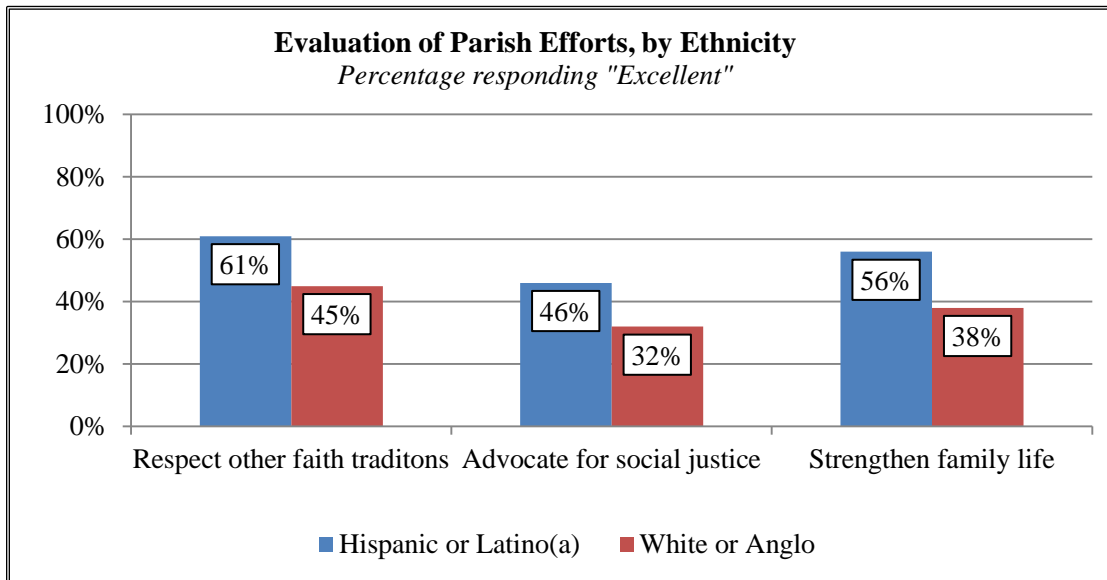
In addition, Corpus Christi respondents are 11 to 12 percentage points more likely than the average of those responding at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to:

- Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ (59 percent compared to 47 percent)
- Respond to parish needs and concerns (46 percent compared to 34 percent)
- Communicate with parishioners (48 percent compared to 37 percent)

Differences by Ethnicity

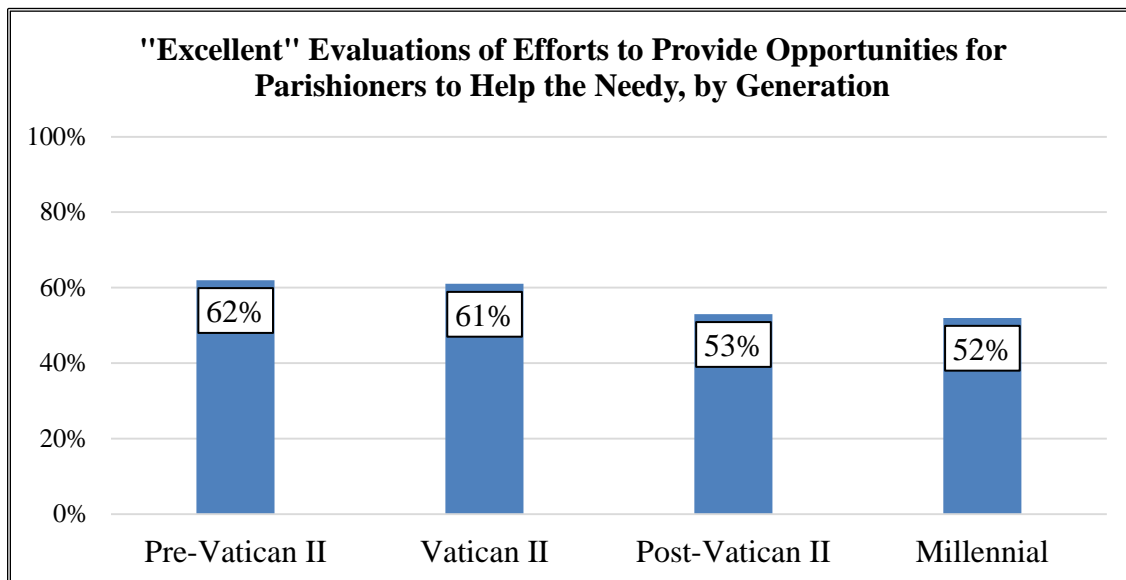
Respondents identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) are more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to give an “excellent” evaluation to the parish efforts shown in the figures below.





Differences by Generation

Consistent with the findings in a previous section concerning their evaluations of parish efforts to reach out and advocate for those in need, those of the two oldest generations are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to provide opportunities for parishioners to help the needy.



Evaluation of Parish Outreach

At least seven in ten respondents at Corpus Christi Parish give a positive evaluation to the parish outreach given to all of the groups in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to the following groups: Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Families	91%	82%
Children (ages 4 to 12)	90	77
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	90	73
Those sick or homebound	89	80
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	88	75
New parishioners	87	70
Those with disabilities	83	72
Those who are grieving	82	72
Families in crisis	79	81
Widows or widowers	78	61
Single parents	74	52
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	71	67
Those divorced or separated	71	54
College-age youth	70	69

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- Around nine in ten respondents give a “good” or “excellent” rating to parish outreach to families, children, teens, those sick or homebound, senior citizens, and new parishioners.
- In comparison, about seven in ten give a positive evaluation to outreach to those divorced or separated, young adults, and college-age youth.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 10 to 22 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to rate outreach to the following as “good” or “excellent”:

- Single parents (74 percent compared to 52 percent)
- Those divorced or separated (71 percent compared to 54 percent)
- Teens (90 percent compared to 73 percent)
- New parishioners (87 percent compared to 70 percent)

- Widows or widowers (78 percent compared to 61 percent)
- Children (90 percent compared to 77 percent)
- Senior citizens (88 percent compared to 75 percent)
- Those with disabilities (82 percent compared to 72 percent)
- Those who are grieving (82 percent compared to 72 percent)

Differences by Age⁴

As was described in the Introduction, the analyses in this report do *not* include those under age 16. For the following analysis only, those ages 13 to 17 (20 respondents) are included. Those ages 13 to 17 are *less* likely than others to give a positive evaluation (“good” or “excellent”) to outreach to teens (70 percent compared to 89 percent).

Although too small a group to provide a reliable comparison, those ages 18 to 25 (only 18 respondents) are *less* likely than other respondents to give a “good” or “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to college-age youth (56 percent compared to 70 percent).

Similarly, too few young adults responded to the survey to provide reliable comparisons with the group. That said, however, those ages 18 to 35 (55 respondents) are also *less* likely than other respondents to give a “good” or “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to young adults (57 percent compared to 72 percent).

Differences by Children Present in Households

Those with children under 18 living with them are slightly more likely than other respondents to give a positive evaluation to parish outreach to families (93 percent compared to 84 percent).

Respondents with children ages 12 and younger living with them are *less* likely than others to rate as “good” or “excellent” parish outreach to children (81 percent compared to 92 percent).

Those with children living with them who are ages 13 to 17 are *less* likely than others to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to teens (75 percent compared to 92 percent).

Differences by Marital Status

Those divorced or separated are *less* likely than others to give a “good” or “excellent” rating to outreach to those divorced or separated (39 percent compared to 74 percent).

⁴ Due to the relatively small numbers of respondents analyzed in this section, the three comparisons below are better thought of as suggestive of real differences.

Differences by Marital Status and Presence of Children

Unmarried respondents with children under age 18 living with them (15 respondents) are more likely than others to give a “poor” evaluation to parish outreach to single parents (22 percent compared to 4 percent). An additional 11 percent of these respondents rate outreach to single parents as “fair” (11 percent). However, due to the relatively small number of these respondents, these differences should be seen as only suggestive of actual differences.

“Excellent” Ratings

About half of respondents give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to children, families, and teens.

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to the following groups:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Children (ages 4 to 12)	51%	33%
Families	49	37
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	47	30
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	47	34
New parishioners	44	29
Those sick or homebound	42	38
Those with disabilities	39	32
Those who are grieving	36	31
Families in crisis	31	42
Widows or widowers	29	22
Single parents	27	17
College-age youth	26	29
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	25	27
Those divorced or separated	25	19

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Nearly half of respondents say the parish is “excellent” in its outreach to senior citizens. In comparison, about a quarter give as high a rating to outreach to young adults and college-age youth.

- Outreach to new parishioners receives an “excellent” evaluation from more than four in ten respondents.
- Parish outreach to those sick or homebound, those with disabilities, and those who are grieving is given an “excellent” rating from roughly four in ten respondents.
- Between a quarter and three-tenths of respondents give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to families in crisis, widows or widowers, single parents, and those divorced or separated.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 10 to 18 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to rate outreach to the following as “excellent”:

- Children (51 percent compared to 33 percent)
- Teens (47 percent compared to 30 percent)
- New parishioners (44 percent compared to 29 percent)
- Senior citizens (47 percent compared to 34 percent)
- Families (49 percent compared to 37 percent)
- Single parents (27 percent compared to 17 percent)

In contrast, Corpus Christi respondents are *less* likely than those responding at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to families in crisis (31 percent compared to 42 percent).

Non-response Rate

Likely due to being unfamiliar with parish outreach to some groups, non-response rates are more than 40 percent for outreach to the following groups:

- 50 percent for single parents
- 49 percent for families in crisis
- 45 percent for those divorced or separated
- 45 percent for widows or widowers
- 43 percent for those with disabilities
- 43 percent for college-age youth
- 42 percent for young adults
- 42 percent for those who are grieving
- 42 percent for those sick or homebound

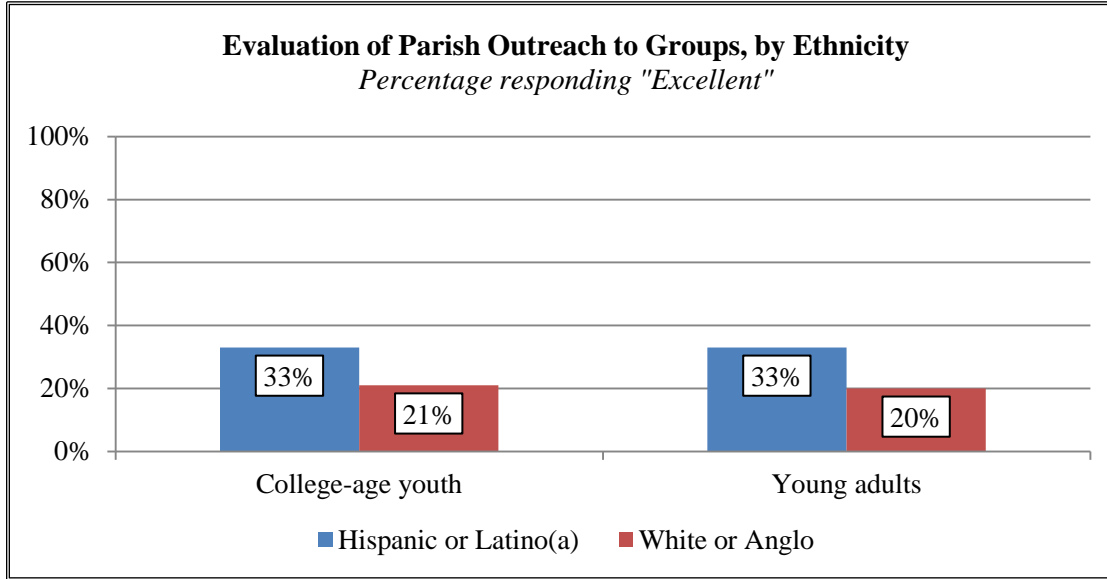
It is worth noting that parish outreach to these groups are also among the *least* likely to receive “excellent” evaluations in the table above.

Differences by Age

Those ages 65 and older are *less* likely than other respondents to give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to senior citizens (37 percent compared to 54 percent). This pattern also can be seen in the generational analysis below.

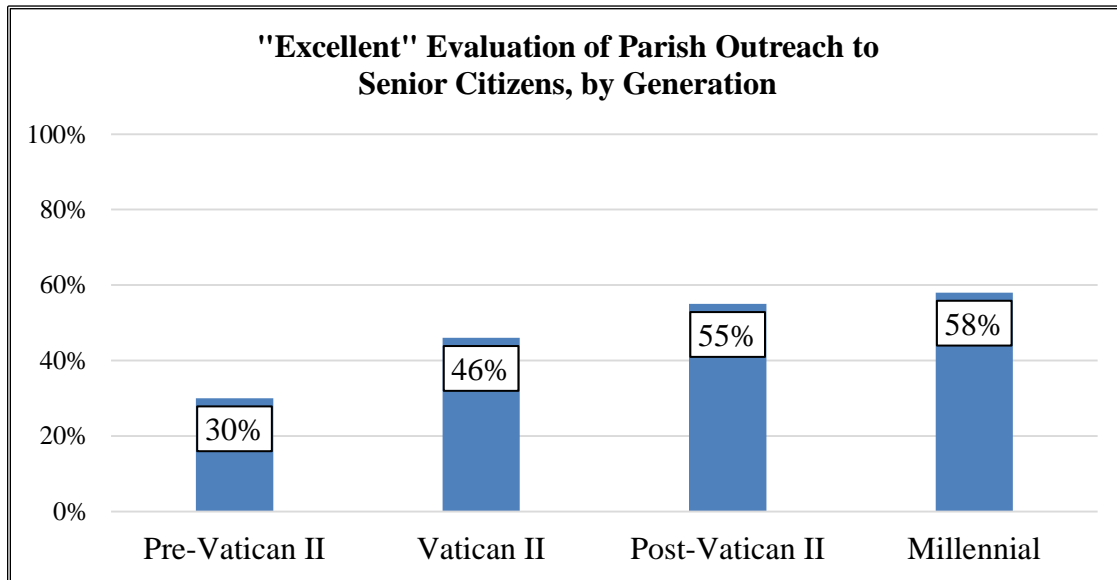
Differences by Ethnicity

A third of those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to college-age youth and young adults, compared to two in ten of others.

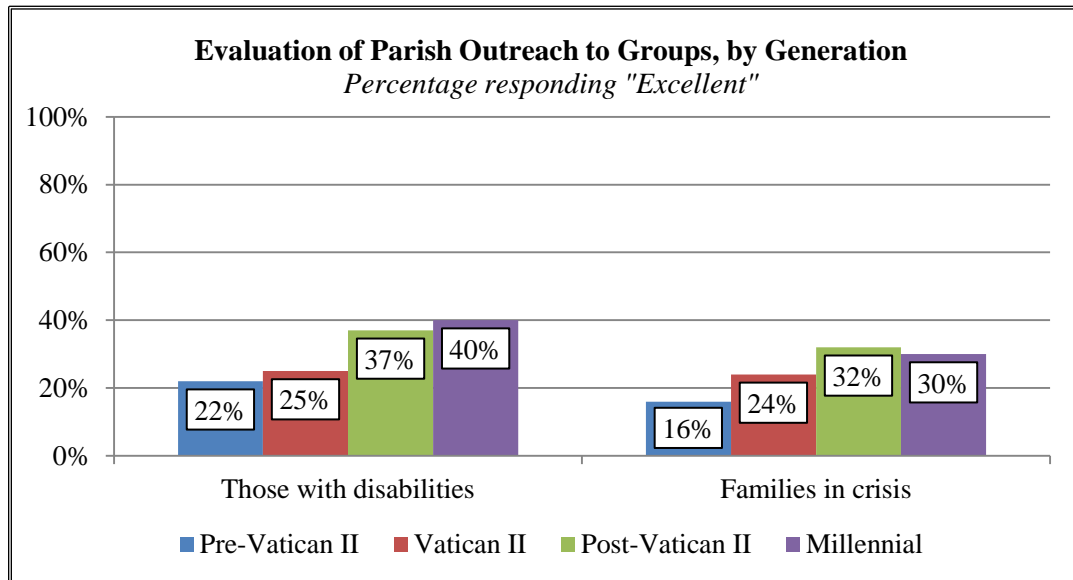


Differences by Generation

The younger the generation respondents belong to, the more likely they are to give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to senior citizens.



Those in the oldest two generations are particularly likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to those with disabilities and families in crisis.



Differences by Marital Status

Those divorced or separated are half as likely as other respondents to give parish outreach to those divorced or separated an “excellent” evaluation (12 percent compared to 25 percent).

Similarly, widowed respondents are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to widows or widowers (19 percent compared to 29 percent).

Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating

More than eight in ten say each of the ways of communicating parish news presented in the table below are at least “somewhat” effective.

<i>How effective are these ways of communicating parish news to you?</i> <i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Sunday bulletins	97%	95%
Announcements read at Mass	93	90
Parish website	85	62

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the parish website is a “somewhat” or “very” effective way of communicating parish news (85 percent compared to 62 percent).

“Very” Effective Ways of Communicating

Eight in ten say Sunday bulletins are a “very” effective way of communicating parish news to them. Seven in ten report that the announcements read at Mass are “very” effective, with half saying the parish website is as effective.

<i>How effective are these ways of communicating parish news to you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Sunday bulletins	79%	70%
Announcements read at Mass	70	57
Parish website	51	30

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the following are “very” effective ways of communicating parish news:

- Parish website (51 percent compared to 30 percent)
- Announcements read at Mass (70 percent compared to 57 percent)

Priority for Parish Needs

Parish needs related to formation, the sense of community, and outreach to the sick, homebound, needy, grieving, and young adults receive “very much” priority from more than nine in ten respondents.

<i>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Children’s religious education/formation	97%	91%
Developing a parish sense of community	96	91
Youth ministry	96	88
Visitation of the sick and homebound	95	90
Providing opportunities to help the needy	95	87
Young adult ministry	94	90
Ministry to those grieving	93	91
Adult faith formation	93	86
Opportunities to meet new people	86	–
Ministry to the divorced and separated	83	82
Providing retreat opportunities	78	71
Parish missions	78	–
More small group prayer opportunities	73	75

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

More than seven in ten give at least “somewhat” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents do *not* differ significantly in the priority they give to the parish needs in the table above.

“Very Much” Priority

About three-quarters of respondents give “very much” priority to children’s religious education/formation and youth ministry. Adult faith formation receives as much priority from about half of respondents.

<i>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Children’s religious education/formation	77%	70%
Developing a parish sense of community	74	60
Youth ministry	73	59
Providing opportunities to help the needy	67	53
Young adult ministry	62	62
Visitation of the sick and homebound	62	55
Ministry to those grieving	60	58
Adult faith formation	52	46
Opportunities to meet new people	49	–
Ministry to the divorced and separated	38	40
Parish missions	36	–
More small group prayer opportunities	32	34
Providing retreat opportunities	32	31

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from three-quarters of respondents. Half give as much priority to the parish providing opportunities for them to meet new people.

- Two-thirds place “very much” priority on providing opportunities to help the needy.
- Ministry to young adults, those sick and homebound, and those grieving are given “very much” priority by about six in ten respondents.
- Around a third place “very much” priority to providing more opportunities for parish missions, small prayer opportunities, and retreat opportunities.

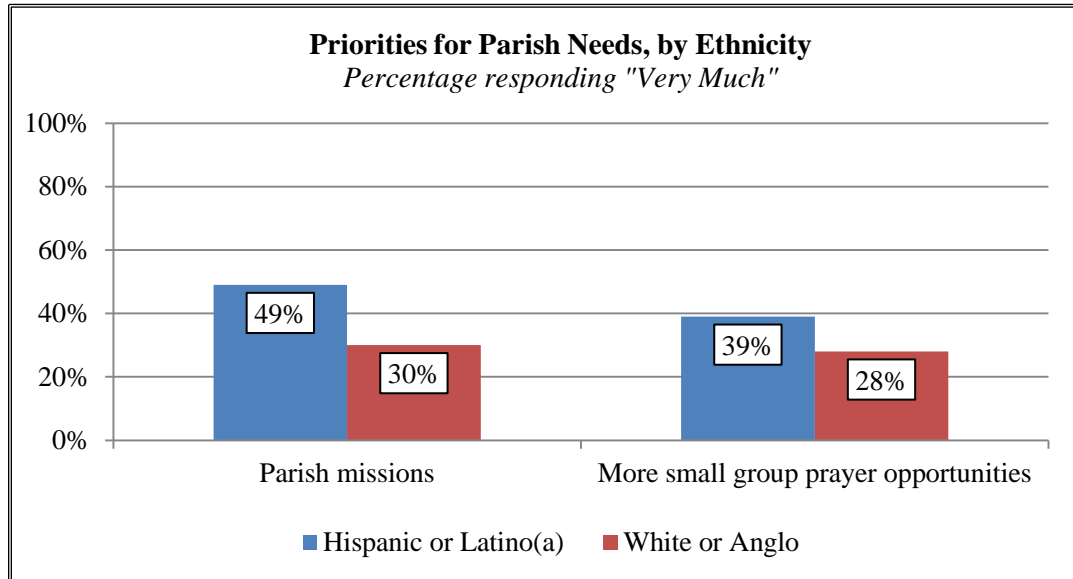
Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Those at Corpus Christi Parish are more likely than those at parishes nationally to give “very much” priority to the following needs:

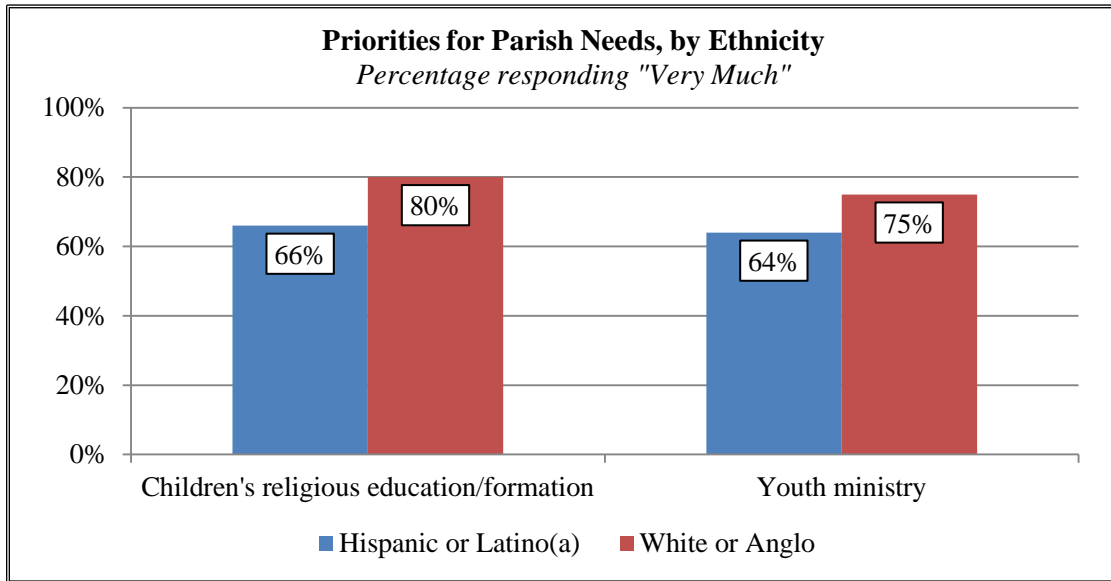
- Developing a parish sense of community (74 percent compared to 60 percent)
- Youth ministry (73 percent compared to 59 percent)
- Providing opportunities to help the needy (67 percent compared to 53 percent)

Differences by Ethnicity

Those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) are more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to give “very much” priority to parish missions and to more small group prayer opportunities.



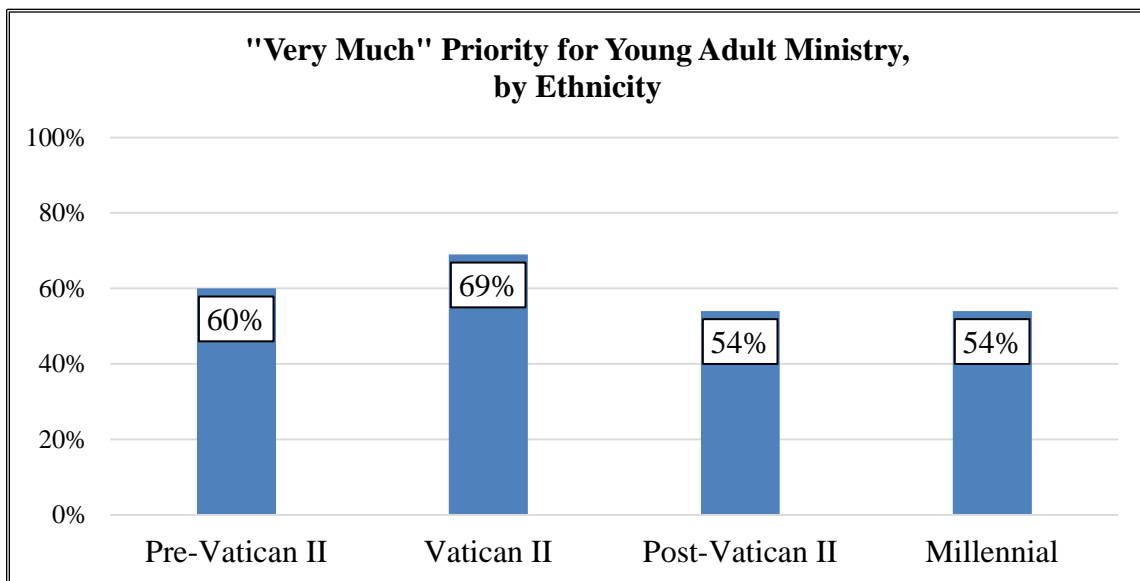
Those identifying as white or Anglo are more likely than those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) to give “very much” priority to children’s religious education/formation and youth ministry.



Differences by Age and Generation

Those ages 18 to 35 are *less* likely than others to give “very much” priority to young adult ministry (52 percent compared to 63 percent).

Consistent with this finding, members of the youngest two generations are *less* likely than others to give “very much” priority to young adult ministry.



Differences by Marital Status

Some 54 percent of those who are divorced or separated at the parish give “very much” priority to ministry to the divorced and separated, compared to 35 percent of other respondents.

Differences by Participation in Religious Education Programs

Some 60 percent of those who have attended adult religious education classes in the past five years give “very much” priority to adult faith formation, compared to 48 percent of other respondents.

Emphasis on Topics for Religious Education Programs

Nearly all respondents (95 percent or more) say the parish should give at least “somewhat” emphasis to these topics for religious education programs: personal prayer and spirituality, the significance of Jesus for humanity, basic teachings of the Catholic Church, conscience formation and values, and the sense of community among parishioners.

How much emphasis should the parish place on the following topics for religious education programs?
Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”

	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Personal prayer and spirituality	97%	91%
The significance of Jesus for humanity	97	–
Basic teachings of the Catholic Church	95	93
Conscience formation and values	95	88
Sense of community among parishioners	95	87
Marriage and family issues	93	–
Death and dying	92	–
Sacraments as a source of grace	91	–
Respecting the cultural traditions of others	90	82
Biblical study and interpretation	89	85
Human sinfulness and forgiveness	88	88
Meaning behind the rituals in Mass	88	86
Church teachings related to social justice	87	89
History and traditions of the Church	85	–
Pro-life issues	78	81

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- Roughly nine in ten say the parish should place “somewhat” or “very much” emphasis on the following topics for religious education programs: marriage and family issues, death and dying, sacraments as a source of grace, respecting the cultural traditions of others, Biblical study and interpretation, human sinfulness and forgiveness, the meaning behind the rituals in Mass, Church teaching related to social justice, and the history and traditions of the Church.
- Almost eight in ten say pro-life issues should receive at least “somewhat” emphasis as a topic for religious education programs.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in the emphasis they say should be placed on the topics in the table above.

“Very Much” Interest in Topics

Three-quarters of respondents say the parish should place “very much” emphasis on the significance of Jesus for humanity as a religious education topic.

<i>How much emphasis should the parish place on the following topics for religious education programs?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
The significance of Jesus for humanity	75%	–
Basic teachings of the Catholic Church	68	63%
Sense of community among parishioners	68	46
Conscience formation and values	65	49
Personal prayer and spirituality	64	54
Marriage and family issues	60	–
Sacraments as a source of grace	58	–
Respecting the cultural traditions of others	56	47
Death and dying	52	–
Human sinfulness and forgiveness	51	50
Meaning behind the rituals in Mass	50	20
Church teachings related to social justice	48	50
Pro-life issues	47	44
History and traditions of the Church	46	–
Biblical study and interpretation	45	45

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Two-thirds or slightly less say the parish should give “very much” emphasis to these topics for religious education programs: basic teachings of the Catholic Church, sense of community among parishioners, conscience formation and values, and personal prayer and spirituality.

- The topics of marriage and family issues, sacraments as a source of grace, and respecting the cultural traditions of others should receive “very much” emphasis for religious education programs according to six in ten or slightly fewer.
- Half or slightly more say the parish should place “very much” emphasis on the following topics: death and dying, human sinfulness and forgiveness, and the meaning behind the rituals in Mass.

- Nearly half give “very much” emphasis to the following topics for religious education programs: Church teachings related to social justice, pro-life issues, history and traditions of the Church, and Biblical study and interpretation.

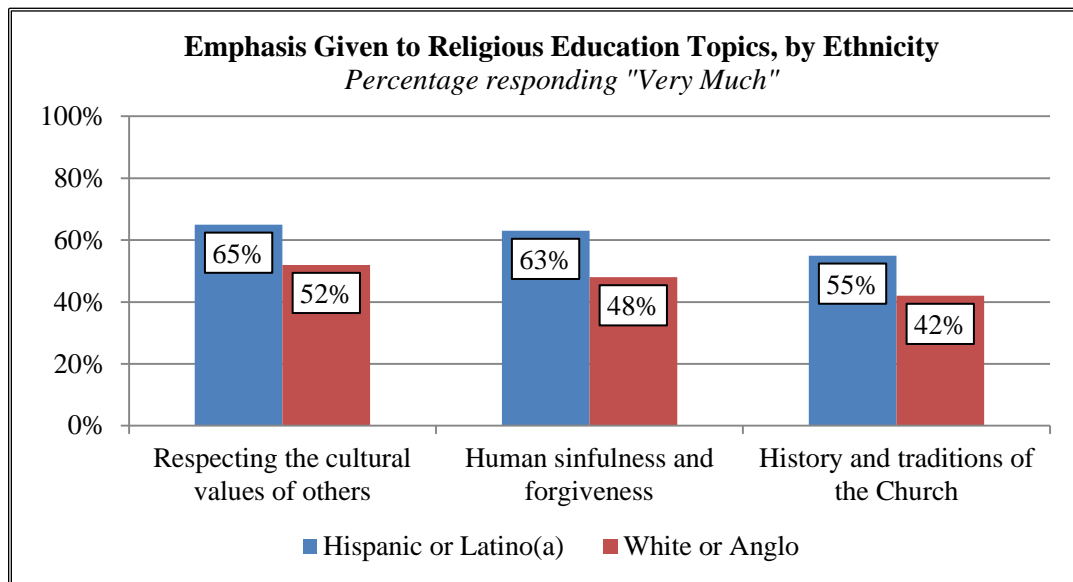
Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Those at Corpus Christi Parish are 16 to 30 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say they are “very much” interested in the following topics:

- Meaning behind the rituals in Mass (50 percent compared to 20 percent)
- Sense of community among parishioners (68 percent compared to 46 percent)
- Conscience formation and values (65 percent compared to 49 percent)

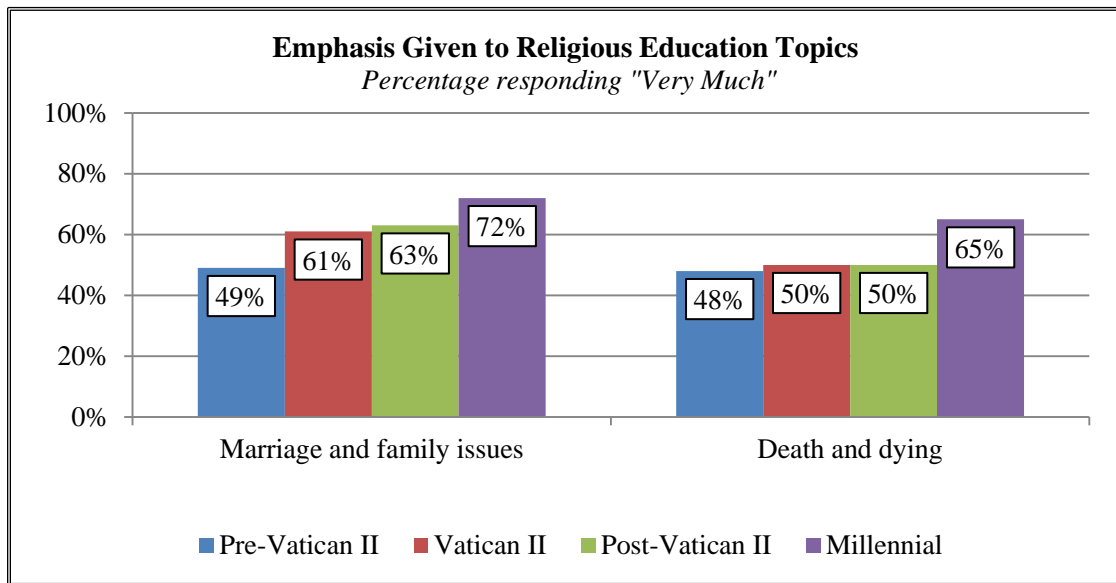
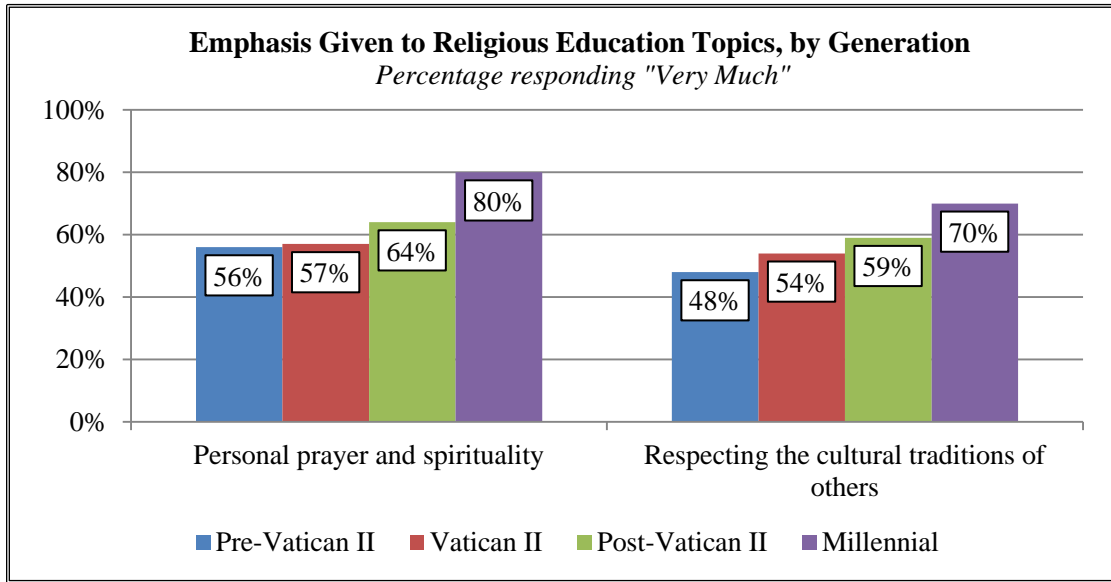
Differences by Ethnicity

Those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to say the parish should give “very much” emphasis to the topics of respecting the cultural traditions of others, human sinfulness and forgiveness, and the history and traditions of the Church.

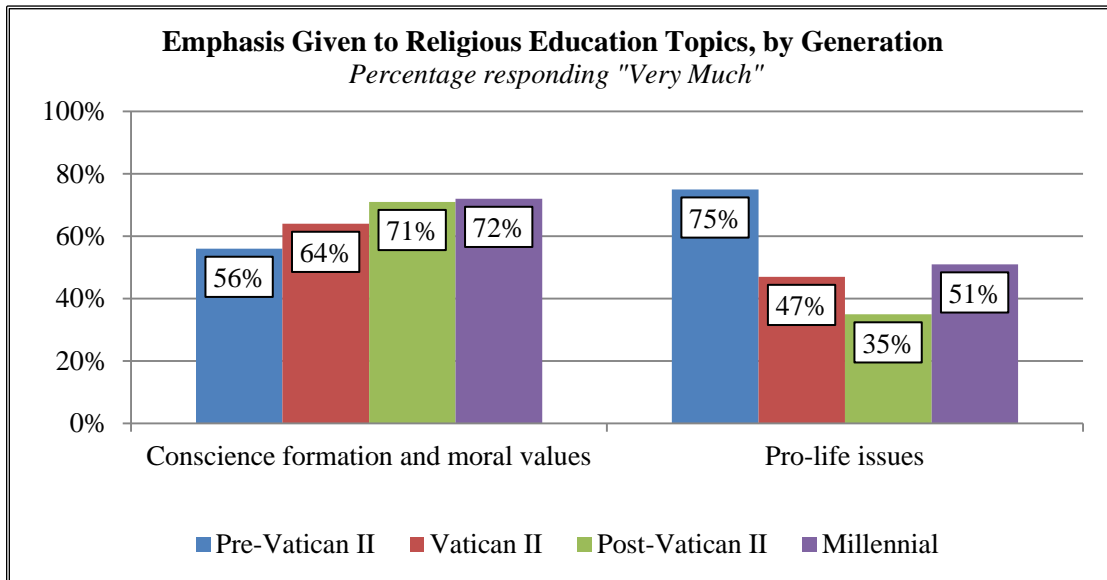


Differences by Generation

Members of the youngest generation are especially likely to say the parish should place “very much” emphasis on the topics shown in the figures below.

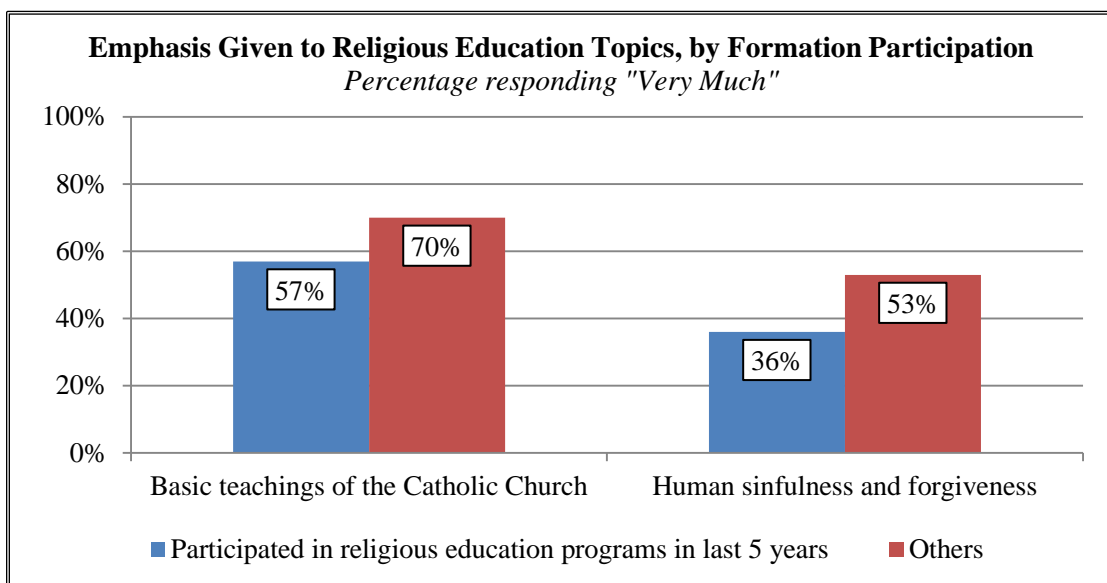


Those of the two younger generations are especially likely to say the parish should give “very much” emphasis to the topic of conscience formation and moral values. Those of the oldest generation are most likely to place “very much” emphasis on the topic of pro-life issues.



Differences by Participation in Religious Education Programs

Those who have attended adult religious education classes in the past five years are *less* likely than others to say they are “very much” interested in the topics in the figure below.



Priorities for Social Justice Efforts

From five choices offered, respondents were invited to choose one top priority for parish contributions to social justice efforts. Corpus Christi respondents are particularly likely to say their top priority is charities such as homeless shelters and food banks. Nearly six in ten indicate that option.

Which of the following is your top priority for parish contributions to social justice efforts?

Respondents were instructed to choose only one

Charities such as homeless shelters and food banks	57%
Empowerment of the poor, such as job training programs	24
Adopting a parish in a disadvantaged area	9
Addressing global issues through organizations like Catholic Relief Services	6
Advocacy for the poor such as lobbying for change or providing legal assistance	4

A quarter identify their top priority for parish contributions to social justice efforts to be empowerment of the poor, such as job training programs.

- For one in ten respondents, adopting a parish in a disadvantaged area is their top priority for parish contributions to social justice efforts.
- About one in 20 each say the following are their top priorities for social justice efforts: addressing global issues through organizations like Catholic Relief Services and advocacy for the poor such as lobbying for change or providing legal assistance.

Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation are especially likely to indicate that empowerment of the poor and addressing global issues are their top priority for social justice efforts.

Top Priority for Parish Contributions to Social Justice Efforts, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Charities such as homeless shelters and food banks	60%	58%	55%	51%
Empowerment of the poor, such as job training programs	20	23	28	31
Adopting a parish in a disadvantaged area	6	10	9	4
Addressing global issues through organizations like Catholic Relief Services	5	5	5	13
Advocacy for the poor such as lobbying for change or providing legal assistance	9	4	3	0

The older the generation is, the more likely they are to give top priority to charities such as homeless shelters and food banks.

Importance of Religious Behaviors

Nearly all respondents say the following are “somewhat” or “very” important to them: developing their relationship with God, living their faith in their daily life, helping the poor and needy, attending Mass, and personal prayer.

<i>How important are the following to you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Developing your relationship with God	98%	98%
Living your faith in your daily life	98	97
Helping the poor and needy	98	95
Attending Mass	97	97
Personal prayer	96	93
Passing on the faith to the next generation	94	96
Learning more about the Catholic faith	89	91
Having devotion to Mary	84	–

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- More than nine in ten say passing on the faith to the next generations is at least “somewhat” important to them. Learning more about the Catholic faith is at least “somewhat” important to nine in ten respondents.
- Having devotion to Mary is seen as “somewhat” or “very” important to just over eight in ten respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in the importance they give to the items in the table above.

“Very” Important Behaviors

About eight in ten say these are “very” important to them: developing their relationship with God, living their faith in their daily life, attending Mass, and helping the poor and needy.

	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Developing your relationship with God	83%	86%
Living your faith in your daily life	82	78
Attending Mass	79	83
Helping the poor and needy	79	64
Personal prayer	74	76
Passing on the faith to the next generation	71	83
Learning more about the Catholic faith	54	58
Having devotion to Mary	54	–

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- Three-quarters or slightly fewer say that personal prayer and passing on the faith to the next generation are “very” important to them.
- Learning more about the Catholic faith and having devotion to Mary is “very” important to just over half of respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

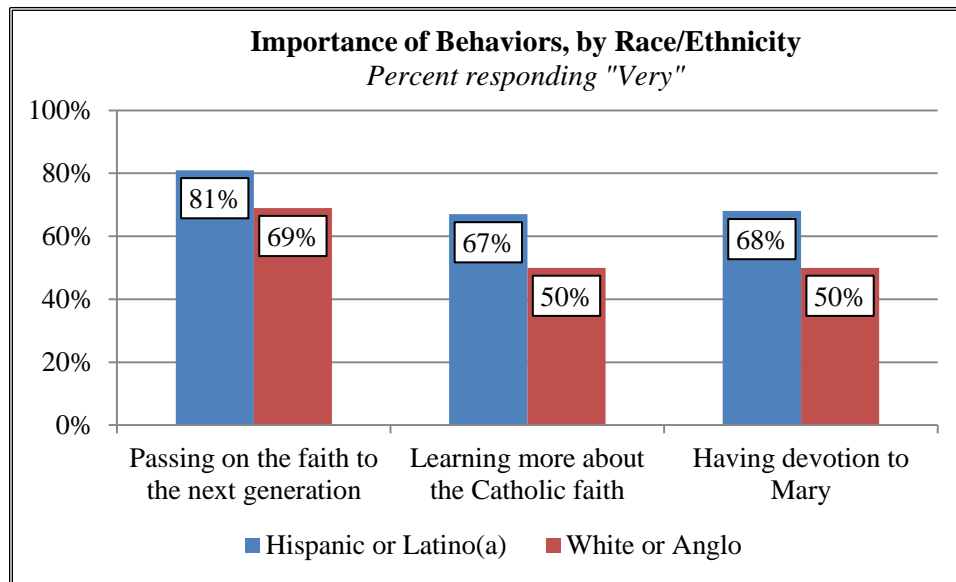
Those at Corpus Christi Parish are more likely than those at parishes nationally to say that helping the poor and needy are “very” important to them (79 percent compared to 64 percent). On the other hand, those at Corpus Christi are *less* likely to say passing on the faith to the next generation is “very” important to them (71 percent compared to 83 percent).

Differences by Child's Participation in Religious Education Programs

Those with children or stepchildren under age 18 living with them are slightly more likely than others to say passing on the faith to the next generation is “very” important to them (79 percent compared to 70 percent).

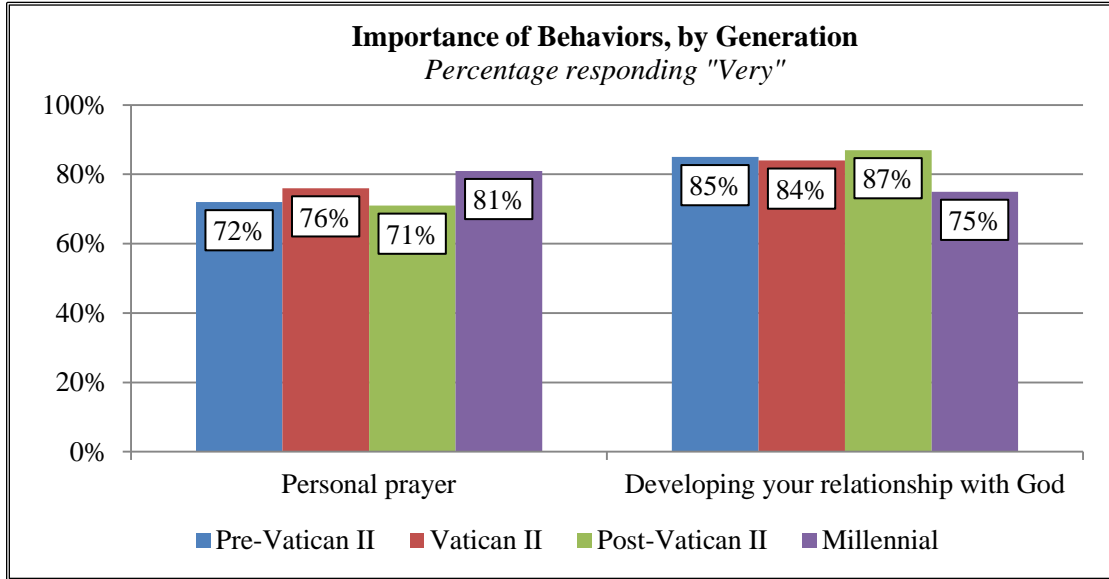
Differences by Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino(a) respondents are more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to report that that the religious behaviors in the figure below are “very” important to them.

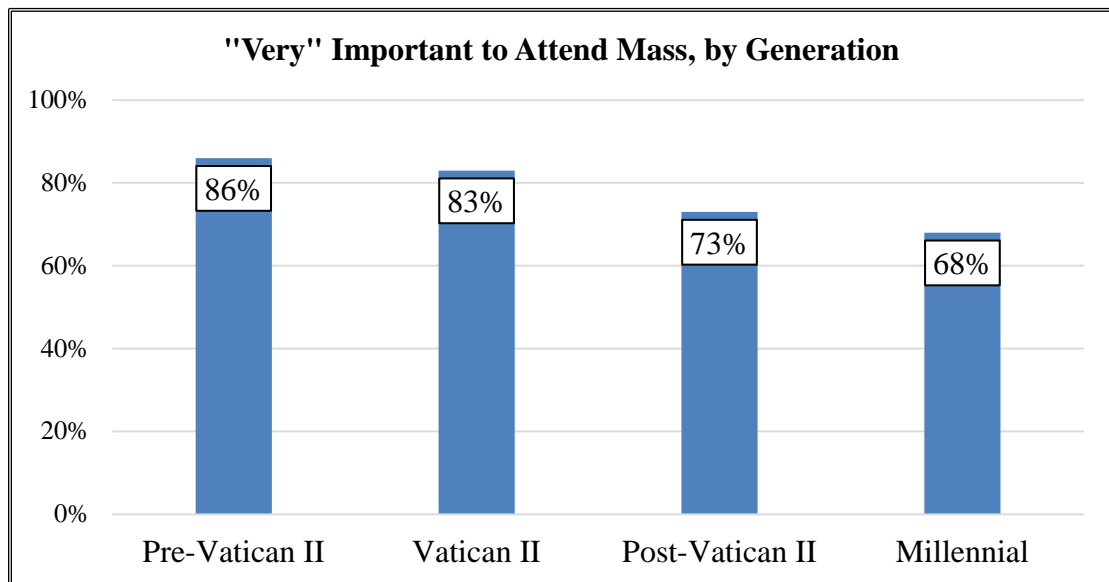


Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation are more likely to say that personal prayer is “very” important to them, but *less* likely to report that developing their relationship with God is as important to them.



Consistent with the frequency of Mass attendance figures reported earlier, the older the generation, the more likely they are to indicate that attending Mass is “very” important to them.



Elements That Attract to the Parish

Those attending Mass at the parish report being especially attracted to the parish by its open and welcoming spirit, the quality of the preaching, the sense of belonging they feel there, and its opportunities for spiritual growth. At least nine in ten say these elements attract them “somewhat” or “very much.”

<i>How much do the following attract you to the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
Its open, welcoming spirit	98%	86%
The quality of the preaching	95	87
The sense of belonging you feel here	94	86
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	90	81
The quality of the music	86	74
Its faith formation for adults	79	66
Its religious education of children and youth	78	74

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

- Nearly nine in ten say the quality of the music attracts them to the parish at least “somewhat.”
- Almost eight in ten report that the parish’s faith formation for adults and its religious education of children and youth attract them to the parish at least “somewhat.”

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the following attract them to the parish at least “somewhat”:

- Its faith formation for adults (79 percent compared to 66 percent)
- Its open, welcoming spirit (98 percent compared to 86 percent)
- The quality of the music (86 percent compared to 74 percent)

Elements That Attract “Very Much”

Three-quarters or more report being attracted to the parish “very much” by its open and welcoming spirit, the quality of the preaching, and the sense of belonging they feel there.

	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
<i>How much do the following attract you to the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
Its open, welcoming spirit	81%	57%
The quality of the preaching	76	57
The sense of belonging you feel here	74	62
The quality of the music	60	40
Its religious education of children and youth	43	40
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	35	42
Its faith formation for adults	35	28

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Six in ten say they are attracted to the parish “very much” by the quality of the music.

- The parish’s religious education of children and youth attracts just over four in ten to the parish “very much.”
- Just over a third say they are “very much” attracted to the parish by its opportunities for spiritual growth and its faith formation for adults.

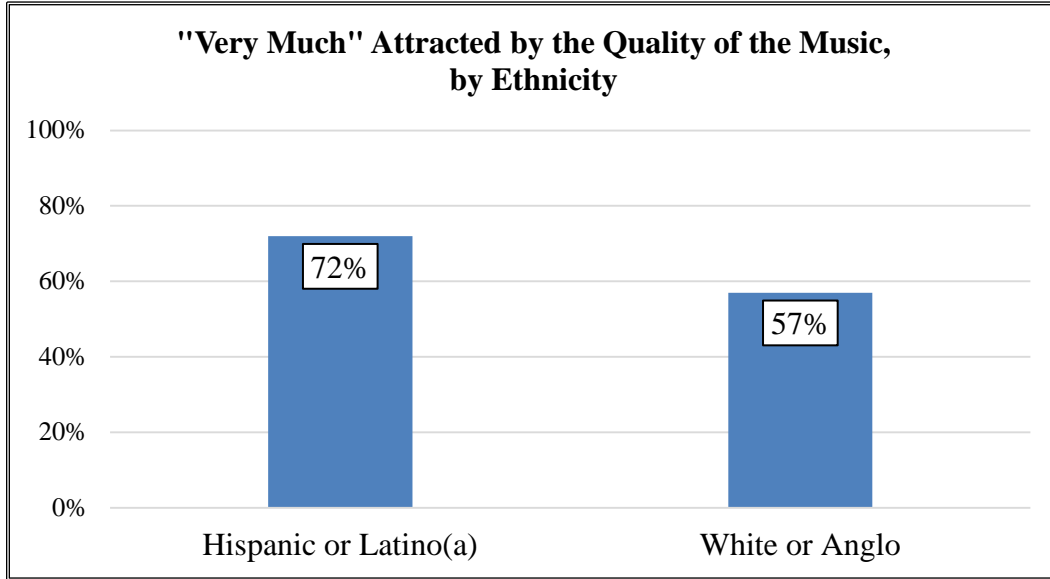
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 12 to 23 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the following attract them to the parish “very much”:

- Its open, welcoming spirit (81 percent compared to 57 percent)
- The quality of the music (60 percent compared to 40 percent)
- The quality of the preaching (76 percent compared to 57 percent)
- The sense of belonging you feel here (74 percent compared to 62 percent)

Differences by Ethnicity

Those identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a) are more likely than those identifying as white or Anglo to report that the quality of the music attracts them to the parish “very much.”



Differences by Participation in Religious Education Classes

Those who have children who have attended children’s religious education classes at the parish in the past five year do *not* differ significantly from other respondents in how much they say the parish’s religious education for children and youth attracts them to the parish.

Those who have attended adult faith formation classes at the parish in the past five years are slightly more likely than others to report that the parish’s adult faith formation attracts them to the parish “very much” (40 percent compared to 31 percent).

Attitudes about Parish Life

More than nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

<i>Please respond to the following</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	93%	48%
I attend Mass because of the sense of belonging I feel there	91	–
Participation in this faith community has deepened my faith	87	–
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	81	79
I am likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year	79	–
Parish pastoral council members are accessible to me	78	75
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Nine in ten “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they attend Mass because of the sense of belonging they feel there.

- Almost nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that participation in the Corpus Christi faith community has deepened their faith.
- About eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish and that parish pastoral council members are accessible to them.
- Eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they are likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Corpus Christi respondents are 45 percentage points more likely than those in parishes nationally to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with their pastor (93 percent compared to 48 percent).

“Strongly” Agree

More than six in ten “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

	Corpus Christi	Parishes Nationally*
I attend Mass because of the sense of community I feel there	64%	–
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	63	21%
I am likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year	55	–
Participation in this faith community has deepened my faith	48	–
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	40	40
Parish pastoral council members are accessible to me	34	28

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Just under two in three “strongly” agree that they attend Mass because of the sense of community they feel there.

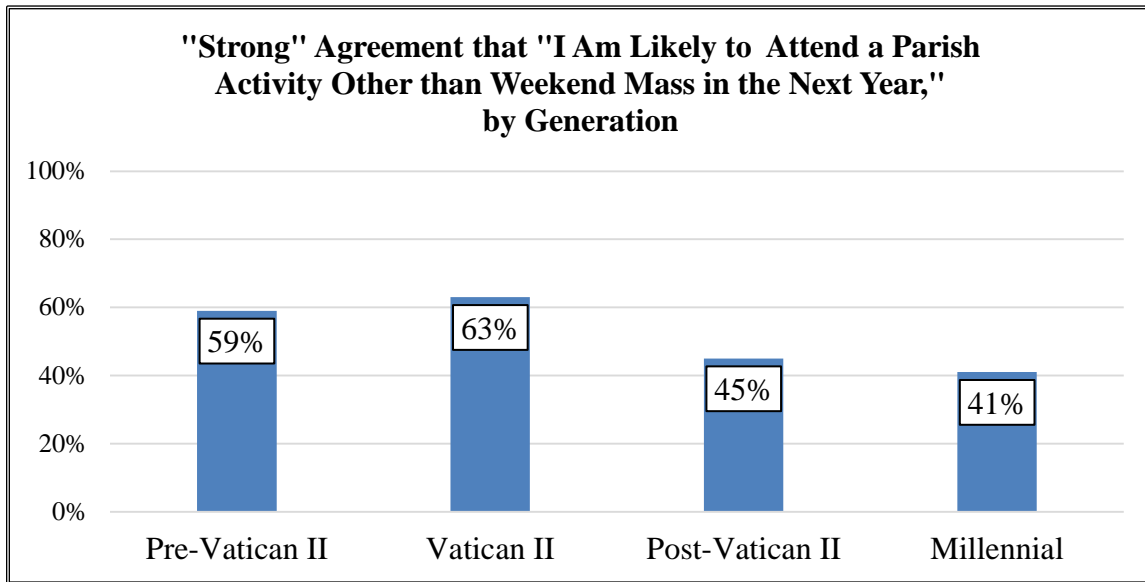
- Slightly fewer than six in ten “strongly” agree that they are likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year.
- Nearly half agree “strongly” that participation in the faith community at Corpus Christi has deepened their faith.
- A third to four-tenths “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish and that parish pastoral council members are accessible to them.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

Those at Corpus Christi Parish are 43 percentage points more likely than those in parishes nationally to “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (63 percent compared to 21 percent).

Differences by Generation

Members of the two oldest generations are especially likely to “strongly” agree that they are likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year.



Appendix: Response Frequencies to All Questions

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=None or Not at All 3=Some or Somewhat
2=Only a Little 4=Very Much
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

How much do the following **attract** you to this parish?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 1 2 16 81 5 67. Its open, welcoming spirit
5 10 26 60 6 68. The quality of the music
1 3 20 76 7 69. The quality of the preaching
9 14 35 43 36 70. Its religious education for children & youth
6 15 44 35 32 71. Its faith formation for adults
2 8 44 35 32 72. Its opportunities for spiritual growth
2 4 20 74 10 73. The sense of belonging you feel here

How much **emphasis** should the parish place on the following topics for religious education programs?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 1 4 28 68 11 74. Basic teachings of the Catholic Church
2 13 38 48 17 75. Church teachings related to social justice
1 3 32 64 13 76. Personal prayer and spirituality
1 5 26 68 13 77. Sense of community among parishioners
1 2 23 75 13 78. The significance of Jesus for humanity
2 10 37 51 16 79. Human sinfulness and forgiveness
2 10 44 45 15 80. Biblical study and interpretation
1 12 38 50 13 81. Meaning behind the rituals in Mass
1 8 33 58 16 82. Sacraments as a source of grace
1 6 33 60 14 83. Marriage and family issues
1 7 39 52 15 84. Death and dying
2 13 40 46 14 85. History and traditions of the Church
1 4 30 65 15 86. Conscience formation and moral values
2 9 34 56 14 87. Respecting the cultural traditions of others
8 14 31 47 17 88. Pro-life issues

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Strongly Disagree 3=Somewhat Agree
2=Somewhat Disagree 4=Strongly Agree
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

Please **respond** to the following about parish life.

1 2 3 4 NR

- 1 6 30 63 7 89. I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor
5 17 44 34 33 90. Parish pastoral council members are accessible to me
5 15 41 40 27 91. Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish
3 10 39 48 23 92. Participation in this faith community has deepened my faith
3 6 26 64 12 93. I attend Mass because of the sense of belonging I feel there
7 14 24 55 15 94. I am likely to attend a parish activity other than weekend Mass in the next year

95. Which of the following is your top priority for parish contributions to social justice efforts? **Select only one.**

- 57 1. Charities such as homeless shelters and food banks
24 2. Empowerment of the poor, such as job training programs
4 3. Advocacy for the poor such as lobbying for change or providing legal assistance
9 4. Adopting a parish in a disadvantaged area
6 5. Addressing global issues through organizations like Catholic Relief Services **NR=15**

96. What best describes you? **Please select only one.**

- 71 1. Active Catholic since birth 4 4. Inactive Catholic
12 2. Returned Catholic 2 5. Non-Catholic
12 3. Catholic convert **NR=4**

97. About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?

- <1 1. Never or rarely 39 4. Almost every week
3 2. A few times a year 44 5. Every week **NR=6**
7 3. Once or twice a month 7 6. More than once a week

Avg NR

7.9 36 98. Years you have attended this parish? **Leave blank if this is not your regular parish. Write "1" if one year or less.**

Yes No NR

- 69 31 5 99. Are you registered in this parish?
84 16 8 100. Is this parish your primary place of worship?
79 21 78 101. If your spouse is not Catholic, does he or she feel welcome at this parish?
21 79 32 102. Have any of your children attended religious education classes here in the past 5 years?
20 80 24 103. Have you attended adult religious education classes here in the past 5 years?
83 17 7 104. Do you live in this area year round?

105. Year you were born: **Avg=1956 NR=8**

106. Gender: 43 1. Male 57 2. Female **NR=7**

107. What best describes your current marital status?

- 9 1. Single, never married 7 3. Divorced or separated
78 2. Married or remarried 7 4. Widowed **NR=7**

Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who are: **Leave blank if none.**

Sum

Sum

162 108. Age 12 or younger 108 109. Ages 13 to 17

What is your racial or ethnic identity? **Check all that apply.**

- <1 110. American Indian 13 113. Hispanic/Latino(a)
5 111. Asian, Pacific Islander 82 114. White, Anglo
1 112. Black, African American, 2 115. Other
African, Afro-Caribbean _____

116. What is the **greatest need** of the parish?

Thank you for completing this survey.

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