

January 2019

Parish Life Survey

**Saints Edward and Lucy Parish
Parkman and Middlefield, Ohio**

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

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January 2019



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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey **Saints Edward and Lucy Parish** **Parkman and Middlefield, Ohio**

Executive Summary

The Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.¹ Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with a few questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in November 2018. In all, there were 244 valid responses. There were 128 valid responses at St. Edward Church in Parkman, Ohio and 116 at St. Lucy Mission in Middlefield, Ohio.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

- In calendar year 2018, the average age of valid respondents to the in-pew survey at Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish is 63. Half are 65 or younger.
- Nearly two in three (65%) respondents to the survey are female and 35% are male. Seventy-one percent say they are currently married or remarried. Some 8% have never married, 9% are divorced or separated, and 13% are widowed. Seventeen percent report having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.
- Some 33% have attained a high school diploma or less, 35% have attended some college or have an associate's degree, and 32% have a bachelor's or graduate degree.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- On average, respondents have attended the parish for 22 years, with half having attended 18 years or more.
- Some 94% identify the parish as their primary place of worship and 91% say they have registered there.

¹ CARA is a national, non-profit research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964 and affiliated with Georgetown University since 1989, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers, and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism.

Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

- Nine in ten (91%) give Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall a positive evaluation (“good” and “excellent” combined). Some 50% rate it as “excellent.”
- Some 89% at least “somewhat” agree that they feel included in parish life, with 60% agreeing “strongly” that they do.
- Ss. Edward and Lucy respondents are particularly likely to report being attracted to the parish “very much” by the following: its open and welcoming spirit (69%), the sense of belonging they feel there (67%), the quality of the liturgy (63%), and the quality of the preaching (63%).
- The following needs are especially likely to receive high priority from respondents: children’s religious education/formation (76%), developing a parish sense of community (71%), visitation of the sick and homebound (69%), and youth ministry (67%).
- Respondents were also invited to choose from a predetermined list the three needs to which parish should give most priority. The top three identified are children’s religious education/formation (53%), youth ministry (45%), and developing a parish sense of community (32%).
- Communication with parishioners receives a positive evaluation from 86% of respondents, with 32% rating these efforts as “excellent.”

Leadership

- Three in four (74%) give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders, with 34% rating it as “excellent.”
- The leadership provided by the pastor receives an “excellent” rating from 72%. Some 80% “strongly” agree they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- Some 42% “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.
- Half (50%) rate efforts to manage parish finances as “excellent.”
- Some 64% give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff. Eighty-three percent of new parishioners, that is those who started attending the parish in the past two years, rate it as “excellent.”

Worship

- Masses and liturgies in general receive a positive evaluation from 92% of respondents. Fifty-seven percent rate them as “excellent.”

- About two in three rate the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses (66%), weekend Mass schedule (66%) and liturgical decorations and environment (65%) as “excellent.”
- The homilies in general receive an “excellent” rating from 59% of respondents. Fifty-two percent give an “excellent” rating to the music in general at the parish.
- Some 76% attend Mass at least once a week and another 21% attend almost every week. Mass attendance varies some by generation, with those of the oldest generation (89%) most likely to attend Mass at least once a week.
- Having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration receives “very much” priority from 38% of respondents. Twenty-nine percent give as much priority to the parish providing more small group prayer opportunities.

Sense of Community

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive rating from 81% of respondents. Some 39% give it an “excellent” rating. Social activities at the parish receive an “excellent” rating from 44% of respondents.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from 71% of respondents.

Formation

- Parish efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from 88% of respondents, with 49% giving these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Forty-eight percent rate efforts to nurture one’s relationship with Jesus Christ as “excellent.” Efforts to foster spiritual growth receive an “excellent” rating from 43% of respondents, with 40% saying the parish is “excellent” at helping them practice gospel values in their daily lives. Some 39% rate efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues as highly.
- Children’s religious education programs receive an “excellent” rating from 31%, with 22% giving as high a rating to youth ministry.
- Some 25% say they have attended adult faith formation classes at the parish. Faith formation for adults receives an “excellent” rating from 35%. Forty-four percent place “very much” priority on adult faith formation.

Stewardship

- Ninety-three percent agree at least “somewhat” that they understand the concept of stewardship, with 60% agreeing “strongly” that they do.

- Parish efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish receive a positive evaluation from 91%. Some 51% rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to invite participation in ministries receive an “excellent” evaluation from 55% of respondents.
- A third (32%) report not being involved with any ministries or activities at the parish, 27% are involved with one, and 41% are involved with two or more.
- Some 51% report being “very” likely to contribute generously to the support of the parish in the next year. Forty-six percent are as likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in that same time frame.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize receive a positive rating from 80% of respondents. Some 39% 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 those sick or homebound (60%) and those grieving (55%). They are least likely to give the same rating to outreach to inactive Catholics (23%), teens (22%), single adults (22%), single parents (21%), young adults (20%), and those divorced or separated (19%).
- Respondents were asked to choose the top three groups to which the parish should give most priority for outreach. The three most commonly selected groups are these groups: teens (56%), young adults (46%), and children (31%)
- Parish outreach to visitors and guests receives an “excellent” rating from 32%, the same percentage who give an “excellent” rating to outreach to new parishioners.
- Some 39% give “very much” priority to reaching out inactive Catholics.

Social Justice

- Outreach to and advocacy for those in need receive a positive rating from 90% of respondents. Fifty-five percent rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Some 60% rate parish outreach to those sick or homebound as “excellent.” Visitation of the sick and homebound receives “very much” priority from 69%.
- Some 29% say the parish is “excellent” at reaching out to those in financial need. Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receives “very much” priority from 61%.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Saints Edward and Lucy Parish Parkman, Ohio

Introduction

The Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.² Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with a few questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in November 2018. In all, there were 244 valid responses. There were 128 valid responses at St. Edward Church in Parkman, Ohio and 116 at St. Lucy Mission in Middlefield, Ohio. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 244 provides a margin of error of approximately ± 6.2 percentage points.³

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four-point response scales (i.e., “not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow respondents to choose between two relatively “negative” choices (e.g., “poor” and “fair”) and two relatively “positive” choices (e.g., “good” and “excellent”). 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 Appendix I. That appendix shows the percentage responses for each item, calculated out of 100%, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to each question, separately calculated out of 100% for clarity of comparison.

² CARA is a national, non-profit research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964 and affiliated with Georgetown University since 1989, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers, and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism.

³ Strictly 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.

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 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. As a rule-of-thumb for this report, for example, only differences between responses at the two parish sites of 10 percentage points or more will be noted. These differences should be treated as merely suggestive of real differences that may exist between the subgroups under consideration.

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 and given an open box for written comments, rather than select from a set of response options. These comments were collected and analyzed by the parish and so they do not appear in this report.

The results of this survey fairly represent the characteristics and attitudes of people ages 16 or older who attend Mass at Ss. Edward and Lucy 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 the 244 valid 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 those attending Mass on a typical weekend at the parish.

Age

Valid respondents at Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish surveyed in 2018 were born between 1924 and 2002. The average age of respondents is 63, with half saying they are 65 or younger. The most common age range reported is 65 to 74.

Age in 2018	
Age Range	%
16-24	4
25-34	1
35-44	7
45-54	13
55-64	24
65-74	26
75 or older	24

Differences by Site

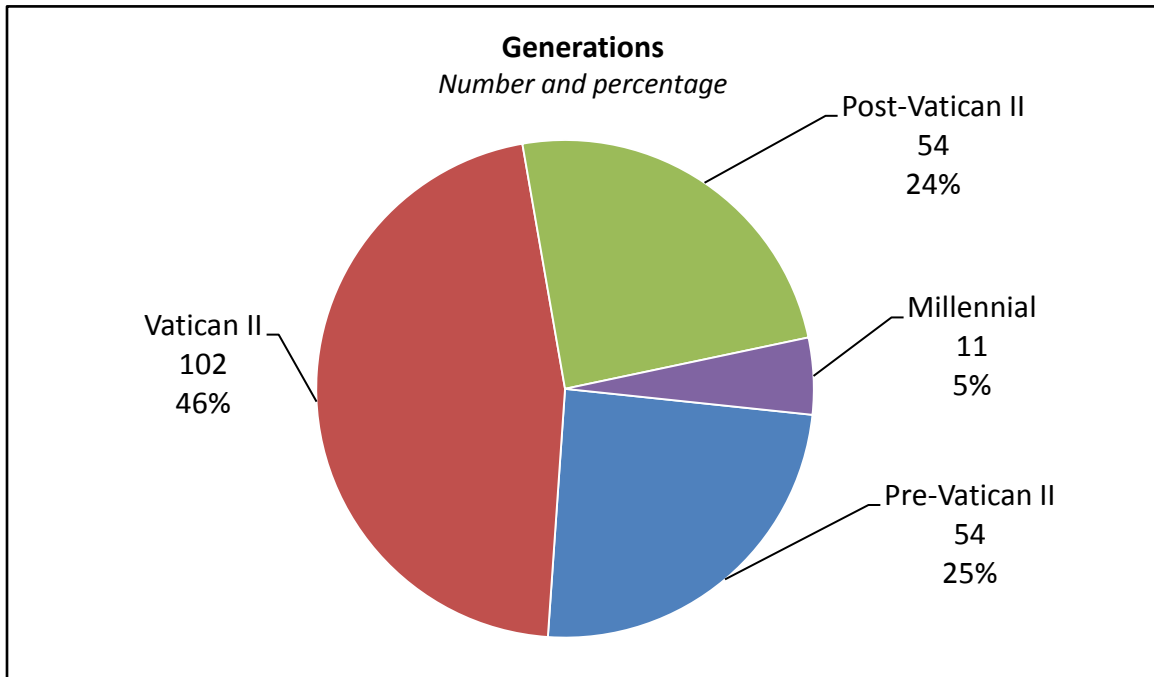
Valid respondents at St. Edward surveyed in 2018 (128 respondents) were born between 1924 and 2002. The average age of respondents is 63, with half saying they are 63 or younger. The most common age range reported is 55 to 64. Nine percent of respondents at St. Edward are under age 45.

Age Range	St. Edward %	St. Lucy %
16-24	1	6
25-34	2	1
35-44	6	8
45-54	16	11
55-64	29	20
65-74	26	26
75 or older	21	28

St. Lucy respondents (116 respondents) were born between 1927 and 2002. The average age of respondents is 63, with half saying they are 67 or younger. The most common age range reported is 75 or older. Fifteen percent of those responding at St. Lucy are under age 45.

Generation

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 Ss. Edward and Lucy respondents is the Vatican II Generation (ages 57 to 74), followed by the Pre-Vatican II Generation (ages 75 or older).



- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 75 and over in 2018:* 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 25% of the respondents at Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish.
- *The “Vatican II Generation,” ages 57-74 in 2018:* 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 Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish represent 46% of respondents.
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation,” ages 36-56 in 2018:* 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 24% of those at Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish are members of this generation.
- *The “Millennial Generation,” ages 18-35 in 2018:* This generation, born in 1982 or later (up to 1996 among adults), has come of age primarily under the papacies of 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 5% of respondents at Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish belong to the Millennial Generation, or are younger and so are included here.

Where relevant, these four generations will be used for comparisons throughout the rest of the report.

Differences by Site

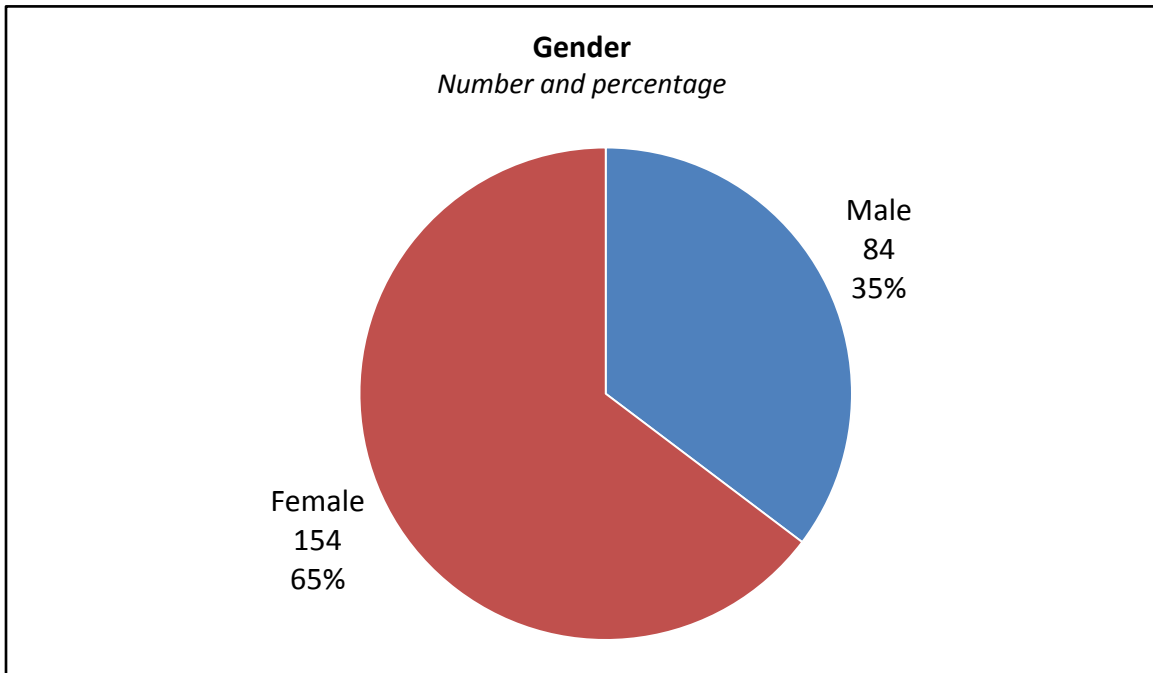
St. Edward respondents are more likely to be members of the Vatican II Generation than those responding at St. Lucy (52% compared to 41%).⁴

Generation, by Site		
Generation	St. Edward %	St. Lucy %
Pre-Vatican II (born 1942 or earlier)	21	28
Vatican II (born 1943 to 1960)	52	41
Post-Vatican II (born 1961 to 1981)	24	24
Millennial (born 1982 to 2000)	3	7

⁴ As was discussed in the Introduction, only differences of at least 10 percentage points will be noted and treated as meaningful.

Gender

Nearly two in three (65%) respondents identify as female and 35% as male.



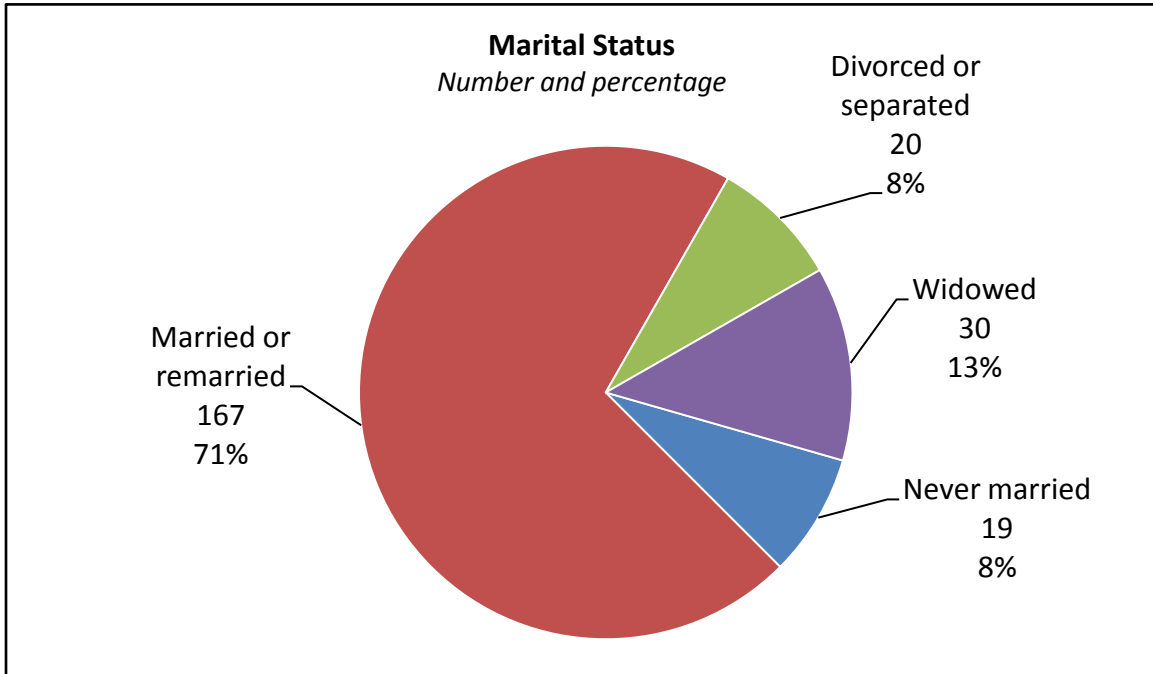
Differences by Site

Those responding at St. Lucy are slightly more likely to be female than those responding at St. Edward (68% compared to 61%).

Gender, by Site		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Female	39	32
Male	61	68

Marital Status

Seventy-one percent of respondents are currently married or remarried. Some 8% have never married, 8% are divorced or separated, and 13% are widowed.



Differences by Generation

Marital status differs by generation. Members of the Millennial Generation are particularly likely to have never married (82%); those of the Post-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be married (85%); and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be widowed (34%).

	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
	%	%	%	%
Single, never married	2	5	6	82
Married or remarried	60	74	85	18
Divorced or separated	4	13	9	0
Widowed	34	9	0	0

Differences by Site

St. Lucy respondents, who also are more likely to be under age 45, are slightly more likely to be single than those responding at St. Edward (11% compared to 5%).

Marital Status, by Site		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Single, never married	5	11
Married or remarried	73	69
Divorced or separated	9	8
Widowed	13	12

Marital status differs by generation at St. Edward. Members of the Millennial Generation are particularly likely to have never married (67%); those of the Post-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be married (88%); and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be widowed (38%).

Marital Status at St. Edward, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
	%	%	%	%
Single, never married	0	4	4	67
Married or remarried	57	76	88	33
Divorced or separated	5	13	8	0
Widowed	38	8	0	0

At St. Lucy, marital status also differs by generation. Members of the Millennial Generation are particularly likely to have never married (88%); those of the Post-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be married (83%); and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be widowed (31%).

Marital Status at St. Lucy, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
	%	%	%	%
Single, never married	3	6	7	88
Married or remarried	63	71	83	12
Divorced or separated	3	12	10	0
Widowed	31	10	0	0

Children in the Household

Respondents report having from zero to five of their children or stepchildren under age 18 living with them. Some 16% of respondents have at least one child under age 18 (including stepchildren) living with them.

Children or Stepchildren Living in Household	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	%
No children	83
One child	4
Two children	5
Three or more children	7
Ages 12 or younger	12
Ages 13 to 17	13

Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to this question, respondents report 31 children or stepchildren ages 12 and younger living with them and 31 children or stepchildren ages 13 to 17 living with them.⁵

⁵ This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: “Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?”

Differences by Site

Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to this question, St. Edward respondents report 13 children or stepchildren ages 12 and younger living with them and 15 children or stepchildren ages 13 to 17 living with them.⁶

Children or Stepchildren Living in Household, by Site		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
No children	82	84
One child	6	2
Two children	6	5
Three or more children	6	9
Ages 12 or younger	11	12
Ages 13 to 17	13	13

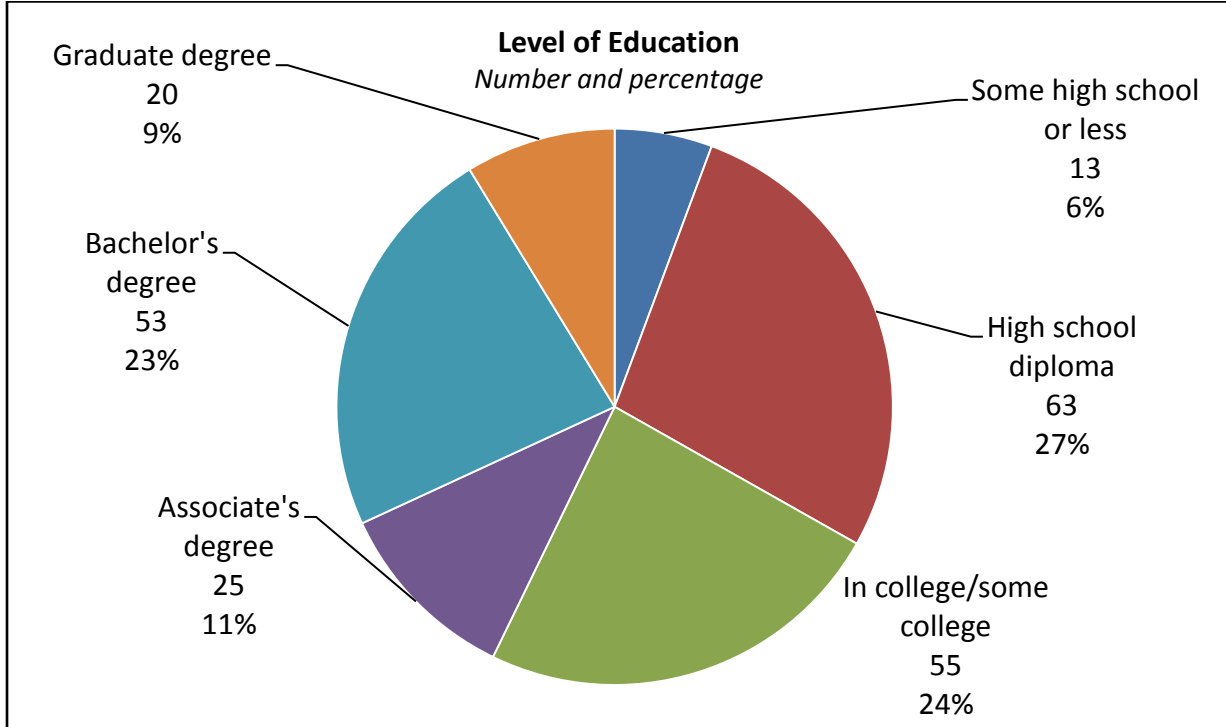
Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to this question, St. Lucy respondents report 18 children or stepchildren ages 12 and younger living with them and 16 children or stepchildren ages 13 to 17 living with them.⁷

⁶ This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: "Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?"

⁷ This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: "Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?"

Level of Education

A third (33%) have a high school diploma or less. Another 35% have attended some college or have an associate's degree. Some 32% report having a bachelor's or graduate degree.



Differences by Generation

Level of education differs some by generation. Members of the Pre-Vatican II and Millennial Generations are particularly likely to have a high school diploma or less (54% each), with those of the Post-Vatican II Generation most likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (49%). Millennials, it should be noted, are most likely to still be in college or high school.

Level of Education, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Level of Education	%	%	%	%
Some high school or less	4	3	8	36
High school diploma	50	27	13	18
In college/some college	16	29	19	27
Associate's degree	12	12	11	0
Bachelor's degree	14	16	43	9
Graduate degree	4	13	6	9

Differences by Site

Respondents' level of education differs only slightly at the two parish sites.

Level of Education, by Site		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
Level of Education	%	%
Some high school or less	3	8
High school diploma	28	27
In college/some college	22	26
Associate's degree	13	9
Bachelor's degree	25	22
Graduate degree	10	8

At St. Edward, level of education differs some by generation. Members of the Pre-Vatican II are particularly likely to have a high school diploma or less (55%), with those of the Millennial Generation most likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (66%). Millennials, it should be noted, are most likely to still be in college or high school.

Level of Education at St. Edward, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Level of Education	%	%	%	%
Some high school or less	5	4	0	0
High school diploma	50	28	12	33
In college/some college	10	30	16	0
Associate's degree	10	13	16	0
Bachelor's degree	20	13	48	33
Graduate degree	5	11	8	33

Level of education also differs some by generation at St. Lucy. Members of the Millennial (63%) and Pre-Vatican II (53%) Generations and are particularly likely to have a high school diploma or less, with those of the Post-Vatican II Generation most likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (43%). Millennials, it should be noted, are most likely to still be in college or high school.

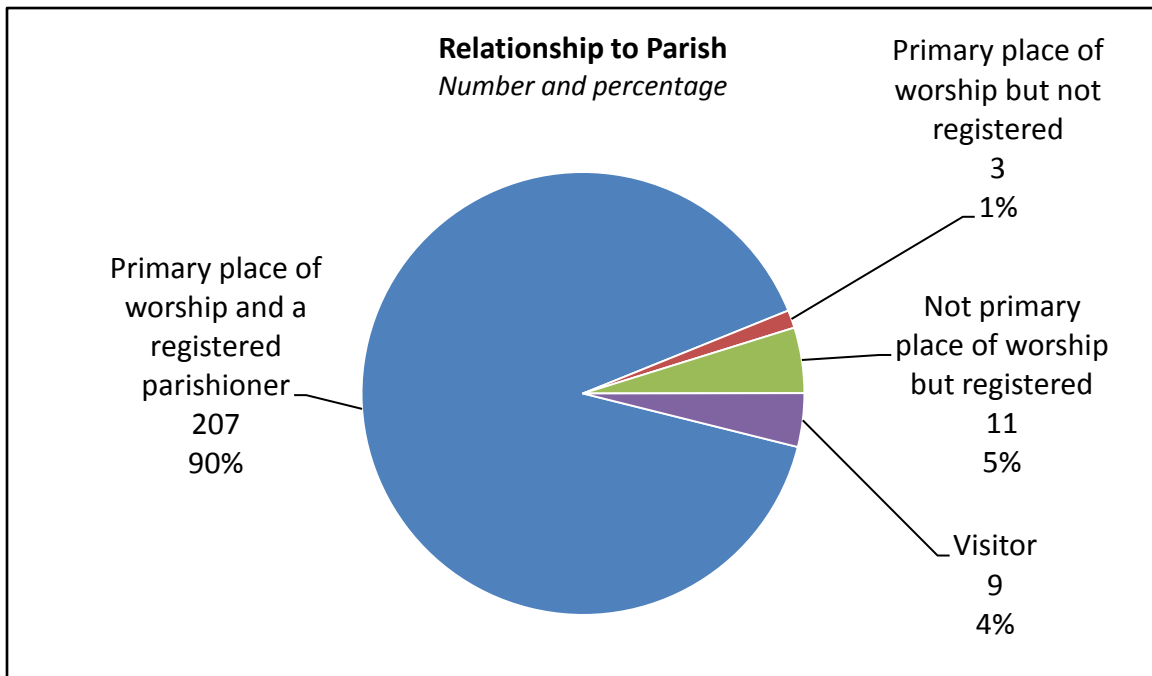
Level of Education at St. Lucy, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Level of Education	%	%	%	%
Some high school or less	3	2	14	50
High school diploma	50	25	14	13
In college/some college	20	28	21	37
Associate's degree	13	11	7	0
Bachelor's degree	10	19	39	0
Graduate degree	3	15	4	0

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This part of the report describes several characteristics of the 244 valid respondents to the survey that relate to their religious attributes and parish-related behaviors.

Relationship to the Parish

Of all respondents, 94% report that Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish is their primary place of worship and 91% say they are registered there. In the figure below, those two measures are examined in relationship to one another. Nine in ten (90%) say both that the parish is their primary place of worship and that they are registered there. Just 1% say the parish is their primary place of worship but that they are *not* registered there. Four percent are visitors to the parish.



Differences by Site

- Among St. Edward respondents, 96% report that Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish is their primary place of worship and 90% say they are registered there. Three respondents on the weekend of the survey were visitors.
- Some 93% of St. Lucy respondents report that Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish is their primary place of worship and 91% say they are registered there. On the weekend of the survey, six respondents were visitors.

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 22 years. The median is 18 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 18 years or less.

Years at Parish*	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	%
1 year or less	7
2-5 years	14
6-10 years	13
11-15 years	11
16-20 years	12
21-25 years	9
26-30 years	8
31-35 years	3
36-40 years	3
41-45 years	5
46-50 years	6
51 years or more	8
Average	22
Median	18
Minimum	1
Maximum	72

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

Differences by Site

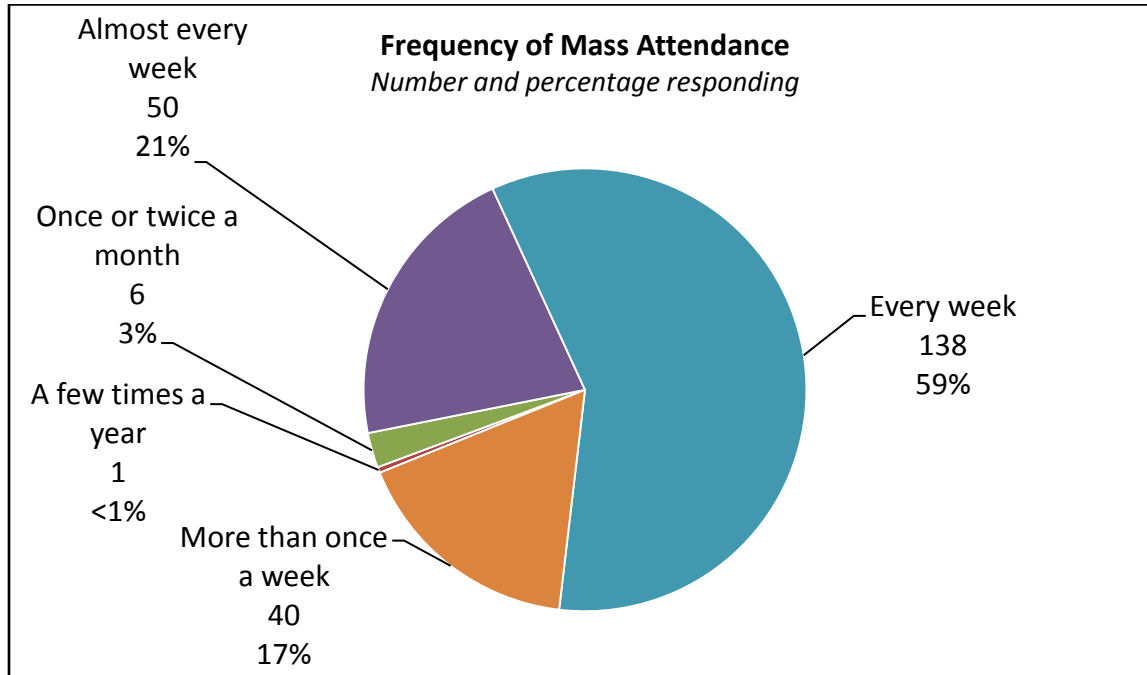
On average, those responding at St. Edward have attended the parish for 25 years. The median is 20 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 20 years or less.

Years at Parish, by Site*		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
1 year or less	2	12
2-5 years	15	12
6-10 years	13	13
11-15 years	5	17
16-20 years	16	8
21-25 years	8	10
26-30 years	11	6
31-35 years	4	2
36-40 years	2	5
41-45 years	7	4
46-50 years	7	5
51 years or more	9	6
Average	25	20
Median	20	14
Minimum	1	1
Maximum	72	70
<p>* Those who do not regularly attend the parish were asked to leave the question blank. Those who have attended for less than a year were instructed to write "1."</p>		

On average, St. Lucy respondents have attended the parish for 20 years. The median is 14 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 14 years or less.

Frequency of Mass Attendance

Some 76% of respondents report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional 21% attend almost every week and 3% attend once or twice a month. Less than 1% attends less frequently than that.⁸



Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (89%) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those of the Millennial Generation (82%), Post-Vatican II Generation (72%), and Vatican II Generation (70%).

Those of the Vatican II Generation (25%) and Post-Vatican II Generation (25%), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those of the Millennial Generation (18%) and Pre-Vatican II Generation (11%).

⁸ No respondents report attending Mass “never or rarely.”

Differences by Site

Respondents at both sites are very similar in their frequency of Mass attendance.

Frequency of Mass Attendance, by Site		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Never or rarely	0	0
A few times a year	1	0
Once or twice a month	2	3
Almost every week	19	23
Every week	60	58
More than once a week	18	16

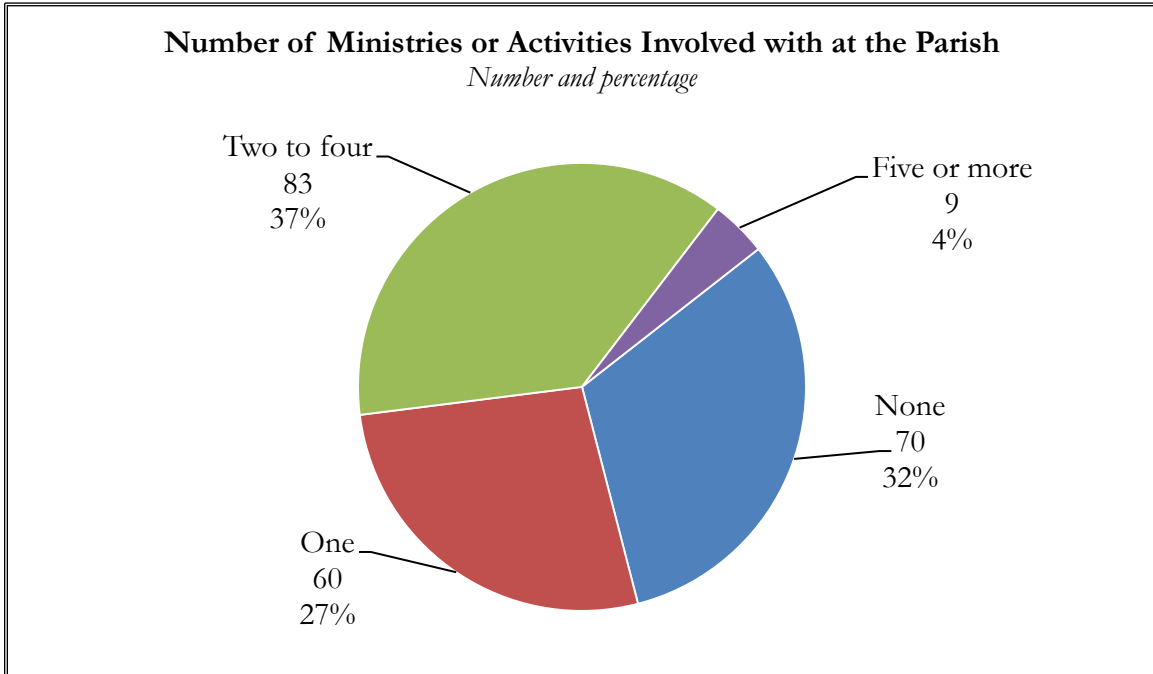
Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- Twenty-four percent of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish. Twenty-four percent of St. Edward respondents report having children who attended such a program, compared to 24% of those responding at St. Lucy.
- Some 22% have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years. Twenty percent of those responding at St. Edward say they have attended such a program, compared to 25% of those at St. Lucy.

Ministry and Activity Participation

Sixty-eight percent report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish in the past year. Some 32% are not involved with any.



Where applicable, comparison is made between two groups of respondents according to their involvement in parish activities:

- Those not involved with any parish ministries or activities (70 respondents or 32%)
- Those involved with at least one parish ministry or activity (152 respondents or 68%)

Differences by Site

Those responding at St. Lucy (71%) are slightly more likely to be involved with at least one ministry or activity than those responding at St. Edward (65%).

Involvement with Parish Ministries or Activities, by Site		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
None	35	29
One	25	29
Two to four	37	37
Five or more	3	5

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish Life Survey are very positive. Thirteen 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 Appendix I 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 Persons and Programs
- Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Evaluation of Parish Outreach
- Top Priority for Parish Outreach
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Top Priority for Parish Needs
- Attraction to the Parish
- Likelihood of Future Behaviors
- Times of the Week Available
- Invitations to Participate in Parish Functions
- Attitudes about Parish Life

Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

This section presents the survey’s most general evaluation of parish life. Besides an evaluation of the parish overall, the other items are very general measures of CARA’s seven elements of parish life: community, worship, leadership, faith formation, stewardship, social justice, and evangelization.

Nine in ten respondents (91%) give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall. Among the more specific measures of areas of parish life, respondents are especially likely to give a positive rating to Masses and liturgies in general (92%), encouragement to share one’s time, talents and treasure with the parish (91%), outreach to and advocacy for those in need (90%), and efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (88%).

Please evaluate these aspects of parish life		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” %	“Excellent” Only %
Masses and liturgies in general	92	57
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	91	51
Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall	91	50
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	90	55
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	88	49
Sense of community within the parish	82	39
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	80	39
Vision provided by parish leaders	74	34

Half rate the parish overall as “excellent.”

- At least half give an “excellent” rating to Masses and liturgies in general (57%), outreach to and advocacy for those in need (55%), encouragement to share one’s time, talents and treasure with the parish (51%), and efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (49%).
- More than a third say the following are “excellent”: the sense of community within the parish (39%), efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize (39%), and the vision provided by parish leaders (34%).

Differences by Site

Positive Evaluations

Respondents at both sites give similar positive evaluations to the aspects of parish life presented in the table below.⁹

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall	93	90
Sense of community within the parish	83	81
Masses and liturgies in general	95	90
Vision provided by parish leaders	72	76
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	88	89
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	95	88
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	94	87
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	85	76

⁹ As was discussed in the introduction of this report, only differences of 10 percentage points or more will be noted and treated as meaningful.

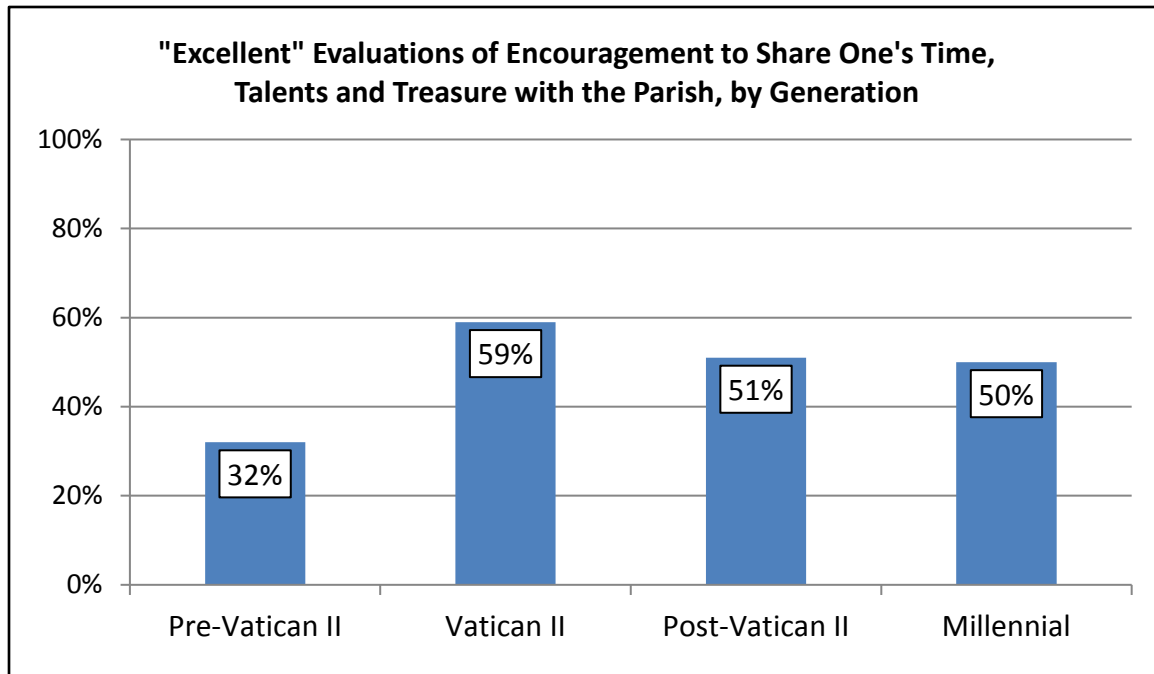
“Excellent” Evaluations

Respondent at both parish sites also give similar “excellent” evaluations of the aspects of parish life presented in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall	54	47
Sense of community within the parish	39	40
Masses and liturgies in general	60	55
Vision provided by parish leaders	32	36
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	46	51
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	56	47
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	58	52
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	40	38

Differences by Generation

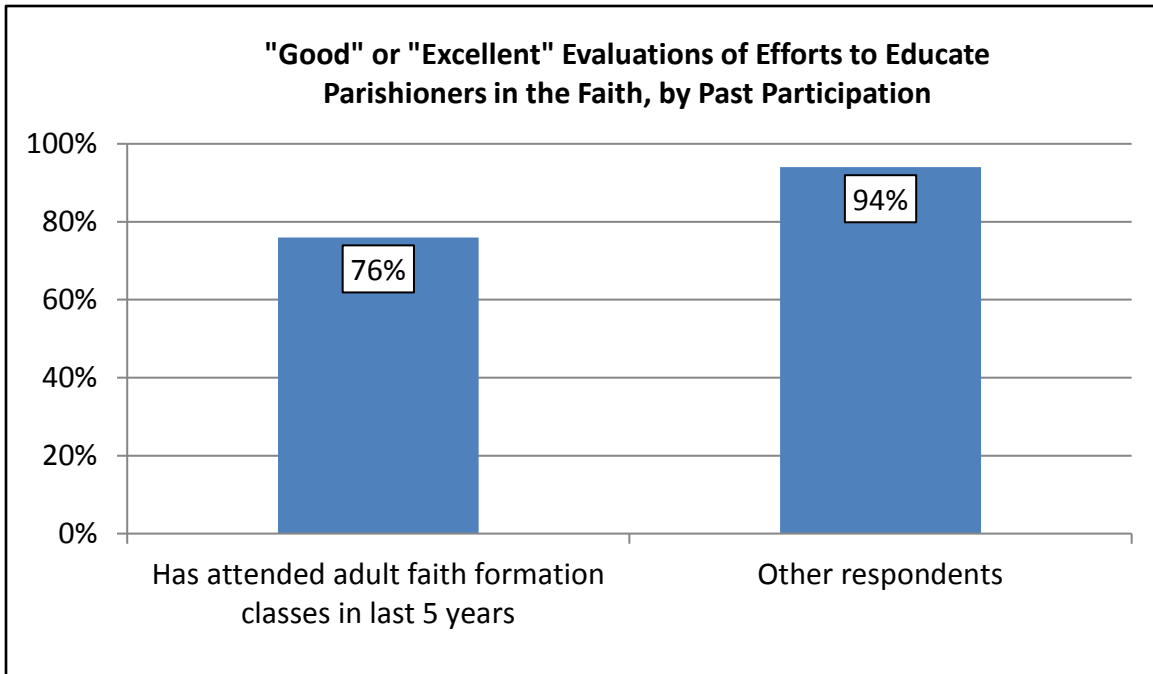
Those of the oldest generation are *least* likely to evaluate efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish as “excellent.”



Differences by Past Participation in Formation 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.

Those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are *less* likely than others to rate as “good” or “excellent” efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.



Evaluation of Persons and Programs

With one exception (youth ministry), more than seven in ten give each of the persons and programs evaluated in the table below a positive evaluation. Respondents are particularly likely to say the following are “excellent”: the leadership provided by the pastor (93%), friendliness of the parish office staff (92%), and social activities (88%).

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” %	“Excellent” Only %
Leadership provided by the pastor	93	72
Friendliness of the parish office staff	92	64
Social activities	88	44
Faith formation for adults	78	35
Children’s religious education programs	71	31
Youth ministry	48	22

More than six in ten give an “excellent” evaluation to the leadership provided by the pastor (72%) and the friendliness of the parish office staff (64%).

- Social activities receive an “excellent” rating from 44% of responding parishioners.
- About a third say faith formation for adults (35%) and children’s religious education programs (31%) are “excellent.” Just over two in ten (22%) give as high of an evaluation to youth ministry.

Differences by Site

Positive Evaluations

Those responding at both sites give similar positive evaluations of the persons and programs, as is presented in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Leadership provided by the pastor	93	93
Friendliness of the parish office staff	93	90
Social activities	87	88
Faith formation for adults	80	78
Children's religious education programs	74	68
Youth ministry	53	44

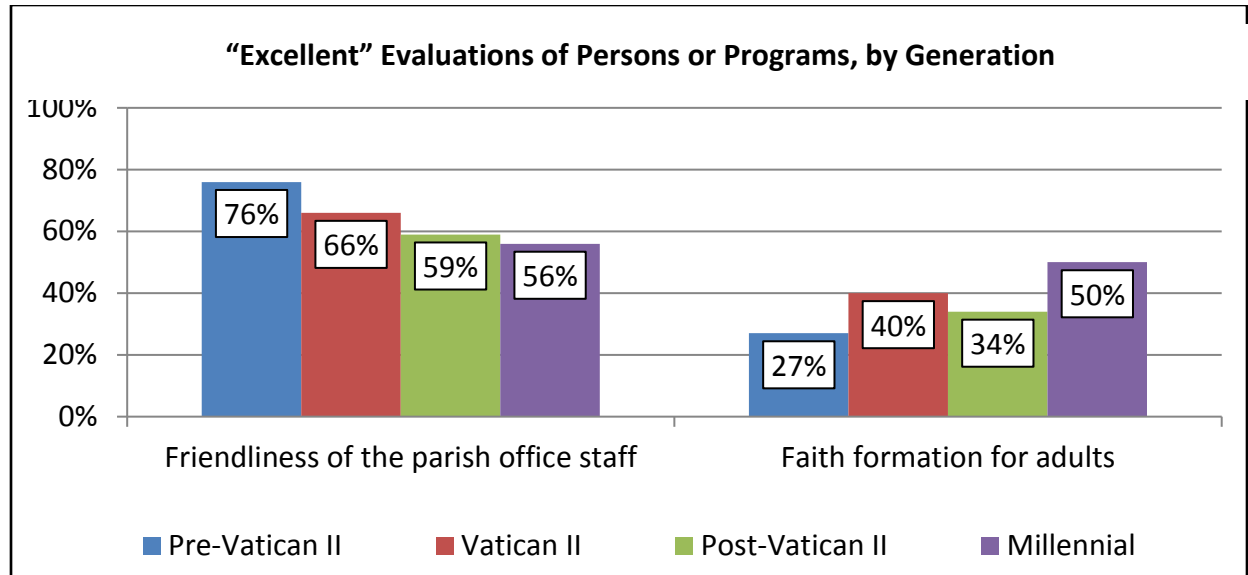
"Excellent" Evaluations

Similar proportions at both sites also give "excellent" evaluations to the persons and programs shown in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Leadership provided by the pastor	69	75
Friendliness of the parish office staff	63	65
Social activities	44	44
Faith formation for adults	34	35
Children's religious education programs	30	31
Youth ministry	22	22

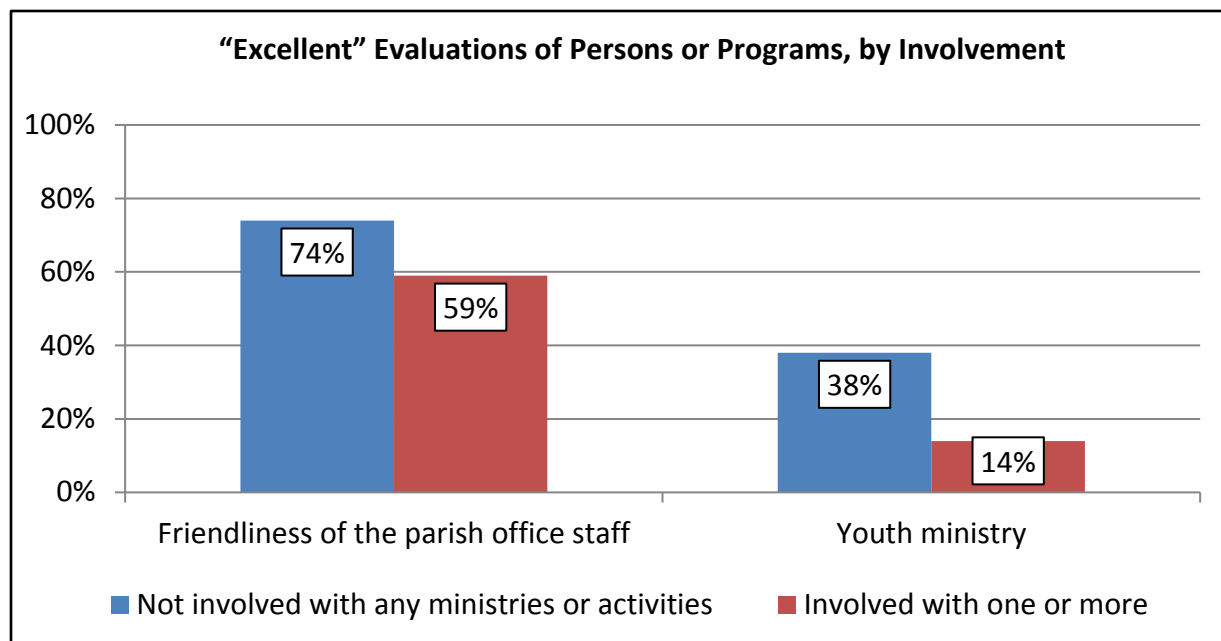
Differences by Generation

The older the generation, the more likely its members are to give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff. Those of the youngest generation, on the other hand, are most likely to rate faith formation for adults as “excellent.”



Differences by Level of Involvement

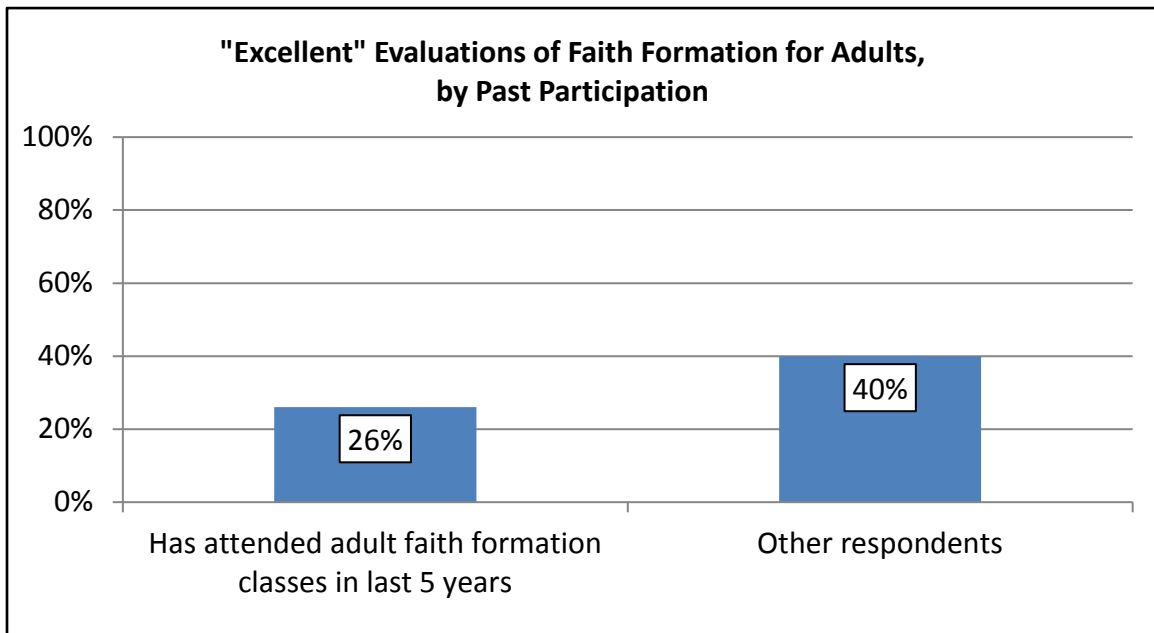
Those not involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff and to youth ministry.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

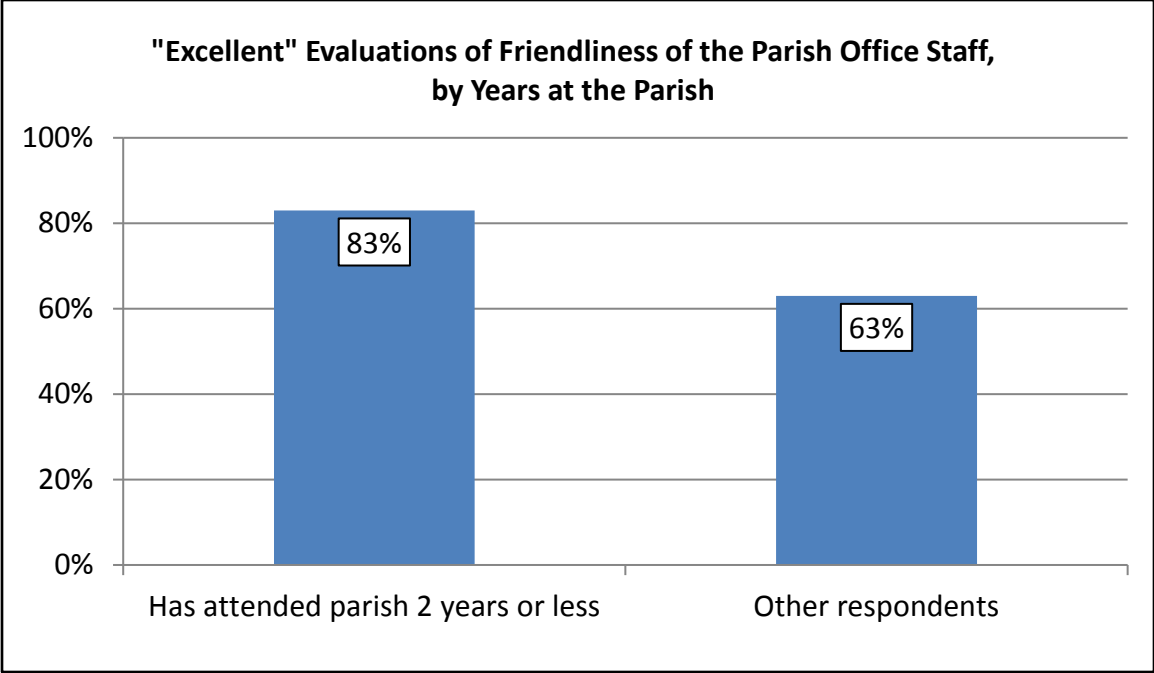
Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate children's religious education programs or youth ministry.

Respondents who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are *less* likely than others to rate as "excellent" faith formation for adults.



Differences by Years at the Parish

Eighty-three percent of newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff.



Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses

Between 86% and 95% give each of the areas of weekend Masses overall shown in the table below a positive evaluation.

<i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” %	“Excellent” Only %
Weekend Mass schedule	95	66
Liturgical decorations and environment	95	65
Hospitality or sense of welcome	93	66
Homilies	87	59
Music	86	52

- About two in three say the following areas of weekend Masses are “excellent”: the weekend Mass schedule (66%), hospitality or sense of welcome (66%), and liturgical decorations and environment (65%).
- The homilies receive an “excellent” evaluation from 59% of respondents. Some 52% rate the music as highly.

Differences by Years at the Parish

Newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, do *not* differ significantly in how they evaluate the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses overall.

Differences by Site

Positive Evaluations

Respondents at both sites give similar positive evaluations for each of the areas of weekend Masses overall shown in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend</i>		
<i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Liturgical decorations and environment	95	95
Hospitality or sense of welcome	95	91
Weekend Mass schedule	93	97
Homilies	88	86
Music	85	88

"Excellent" Evaluations

Similar proportions of respondents at each site give "excellent" evaluations to the areas of weekend Masses overall presented below.

<i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend</i>		
<i>Percentage responding "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Hospitality or sense of welcome	69	63
Weekend Mass schedule	69	63
Liturgical decorations and environment	68	63
Homilies	58	60
Music	56	48

Evaluation of Parish Efforts

More than three in four give each of the parish efforts presented in the table below a positive evaluation, with efforts to invite participation in parish ministries (94%) especially likely to receive a positive evaluation.

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” %	“Excellent” Only %
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	94	55
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	90	48
Foster spiritual growth	88	43
Manage parish finances	87	50
Communicate with parishioners	86	42
Meet people’s spiritual needs	84	43
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	80	40
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	77	39

About half rate as “excellent” efforts to invite participation in parish ministries (55%) and to manage parish finances (50%).

- Between four-tenths and half rate the following formation-related parish efforts as “excellent”: nurturing parishioners’ relationship with Jesus Christ (48%), fostering spiritual growth (43%), helping parishioners practice gospel values in their daily lives (40%), and offering a Catholic view on current issues (39%).
- Efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs (43%) and to communicate with parishioners (42%) are given an “excellent” rating by more than four in ten respondents.

Differences by Site

Positive Evaluations

Similar proportions at both sites give positive evaluations to the parish efforts presented in the table below.

Please evaluate parish efforts to: <i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	94	94
Foster spiritual growth	90	87
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	89	91
Manage parish finances	89	85
Communicate with parishioners	87	86
Meet people's spiritual needs	84	84
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	81	79
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	74	79

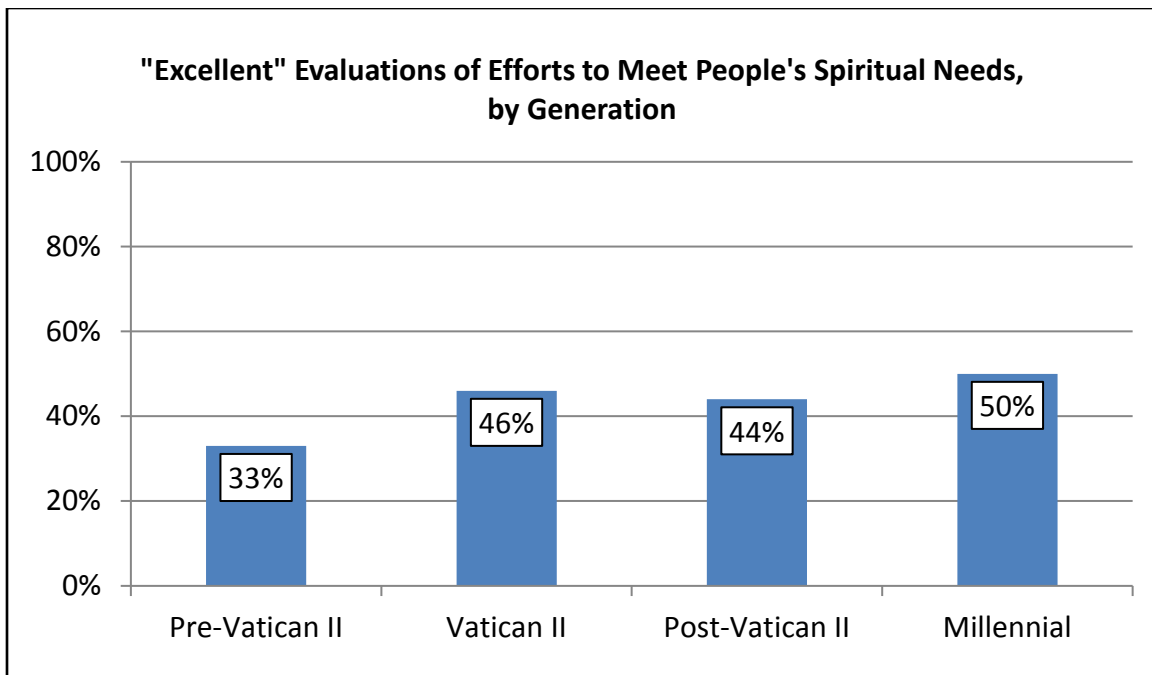
"Excellent" Evaluations

Similarly, those responding at each parish are similar in the parish efforts they rate as "excellent."

Please evaluate parish efforts to: <i>Percentage responding "Excellent"</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	54	57
Manage parish finances	54	47
Meet people's spiritual needs	46	41
Communicate with parishioners	45	40
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	43	52
Foster spiritual growth	42	43
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	39	42
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	38	40

Differences by Generation

Members of the oldest generation are *least* likely to rate efforts to meet people's spiritual needs as "excellent."



Evaluation of Parish Outreach

Responding parishioners are most likely to give a positive evaluation to parish outreach to those grieving (93%), those sick or homebound (92%), senior citizens (80%), and visitors and guests (78%). They are *least* likely to give a positive evaluation to outreach to inactive Catholics (56%), single parents (54%), those divorced or separated (54%), young adults (52%), and teens (49%).

Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” %	“Excellent” Only %
Those grieving	93	55
Those sick or homebound	92	60
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	80	34
Visitors and guests	78	32
Those in financial need	74	39
New parishioners	73	32
Married couples	68	28
Children (ages 4 to 12)	66	28
Single adults	59	22
Inactive Catholics	56	23
Single parents	54	21
Those divorced or separated	54	19
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	52	20
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	49	22

More than half say parish outreach to those sick or homebound (60%) and those grieving (55%) is “excellent.”

- Outreach to those in financial need is given an “excellent” rating from 39% of respondents.
- A third rate parish outreach to senior citizens (34%). Outreach to other age groups is seen as less successful: children (28%), teens (22%), and young adults (20%).
- About a third say the parish is “excellent” in its outreach to visitors and guests (32%) and new parishioners (32%). Fewer rate outreach to inactive Catholics (23%) as highly.
- Parish outreach to married couples receives an “excellent” rating from 28%. Fewer give as high an evaluation to outreach to single adults (22%), single parents (21%), and those divorced or separated (19%).

Differences by Site

Positive Evaluations

Those responding at St. Edward are more likely than those responding at St. Lucy to say outreach to the following groups is “good” or “excellent”: new parishioners (80% compared to 67%), inactive Catholics (62% compared to 51%), and those grieving (98% compared to 88%).

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Those grieving	98	88
Those sick or homebound	96	90
Visitors and guests	81	76
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	80	80
New parishioners	80	67
Those in financial need	76	73
Married couples	72	66
Children (ages 4 to 12)	66	66
Single adults	62	58
Inactive Catholics	62	51
Those divorced or separated	58	50
Single parents	56	53
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	54	50
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	50	48

“Excellent” Evaluations

St. Edward respondents are more likely than those responding at St. Lucy to give an “excellent” rating to outreach to single parents (29% compared to 16%), those divorced or separated (25% compared to 13%), young adults (26% compared to 15%), new parishioners (38% compared to 28%), and inactive Catholics (29% compared to 19%).

Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Those sick or homebound	62	59
Those grieving	51	58
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	38	31
New parishioners	38	28
Visitors and guests	37	28
Those in financial need	36	42
Children (ages 4 to 12)	31	26
Inactive Catholics	29	19
Single parents	29	16
Married couples	28	28
Single adults	27	18
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	26	19
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	26	15
Those divorced or separated	25	13

Non-response Rate

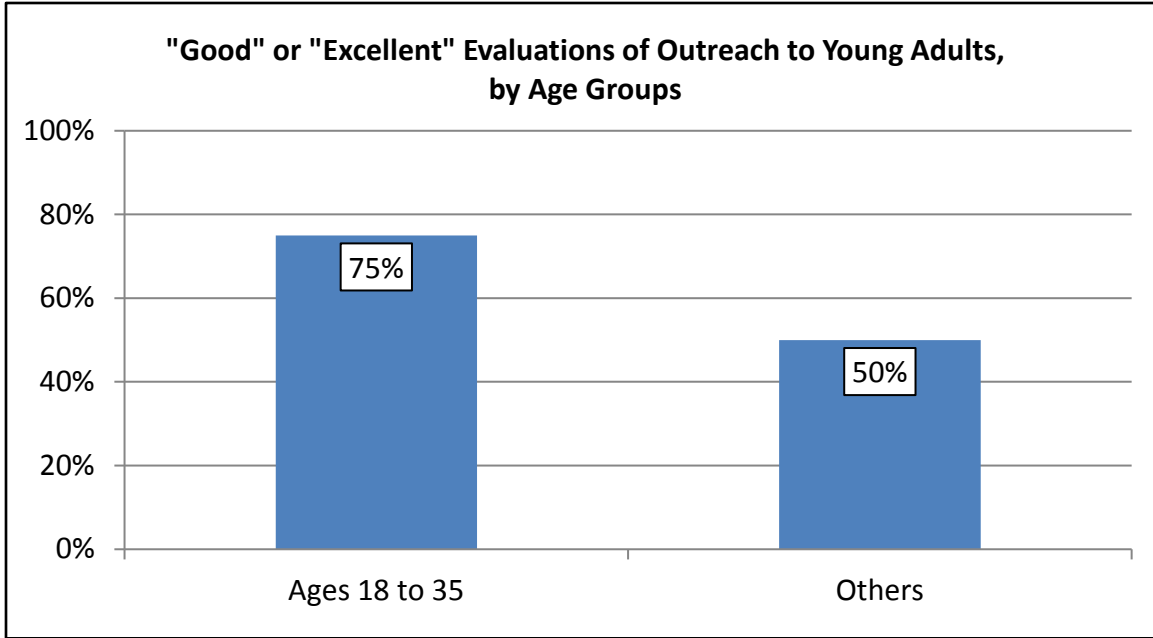
Perhaps due to being unfamiliar with parish outreach to some groups, non-response rates are at least 50% for outreach to the following groups:

- 58% for single parents
- 56% for those divorced or separated
- 52% for single adults
- 50% for young adults
- 50% for those in financial need

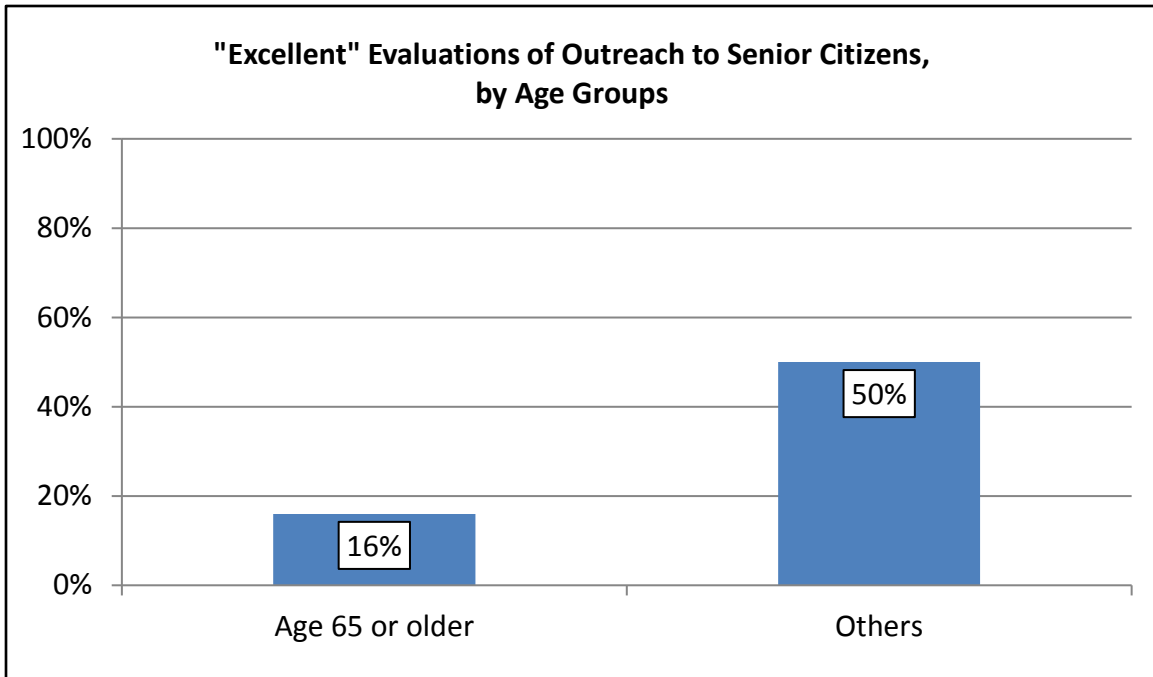
While it is impossible to know why a respondent did not provide a response to a question, these high non-response rates might be suggestive that the parish has not made these programs well known.

Differences by Age Group

Those ages 18 to 35 are more likely than others to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to young adults.

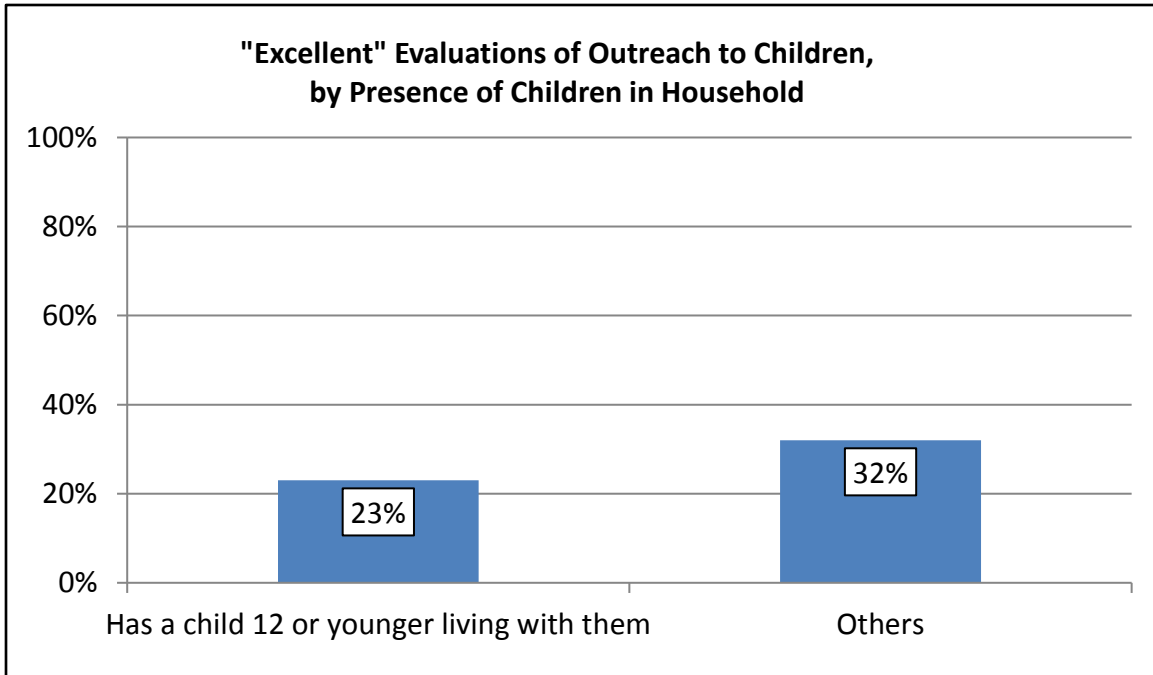


Those age 65 or older are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to senior citizens.



Differences by Children Present in the Household

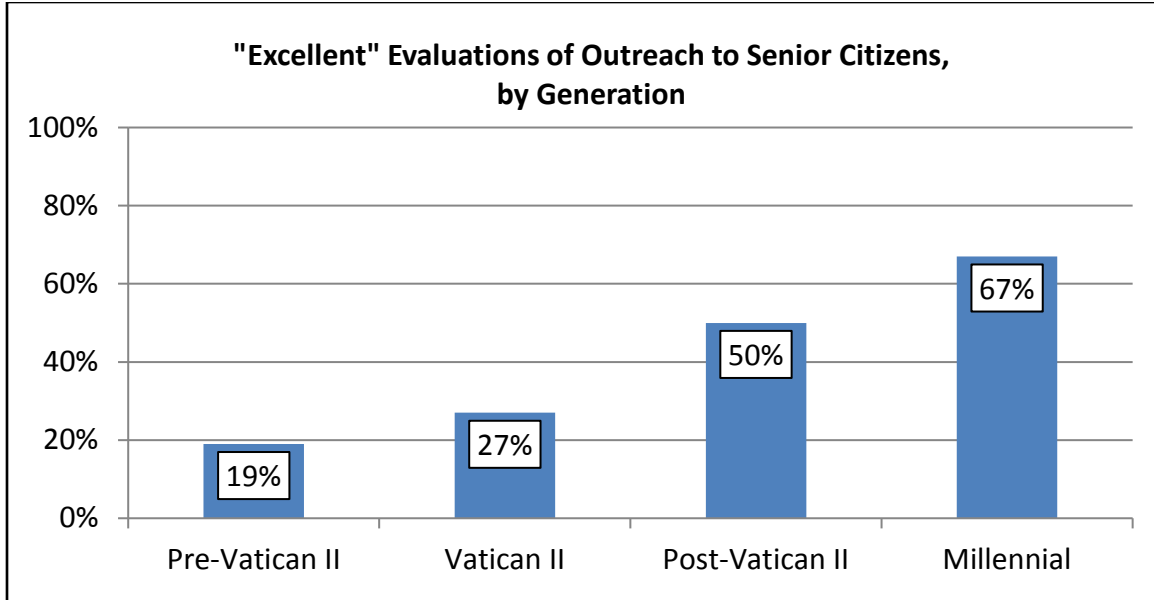
Respondents with children or stepchildren living with them are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to children ages 12 or younger.



Those with children ages 13 to 17 do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluation of outreach to teens.

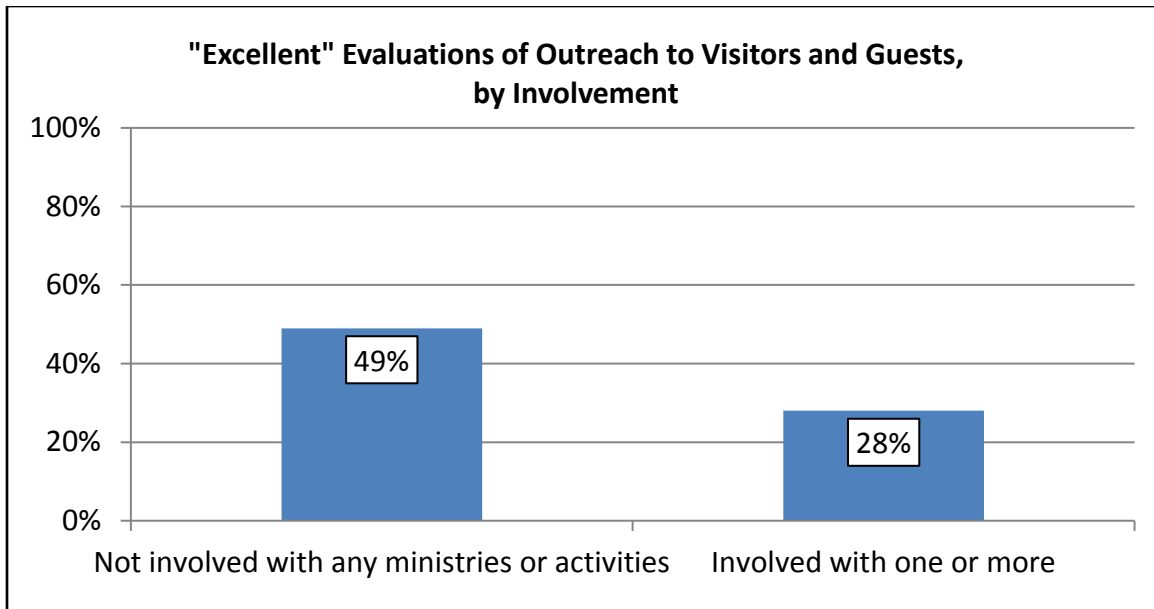
Differences by Generation

The younger the generation, the more likely its members are to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to senior citizens.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to visitors and guests.



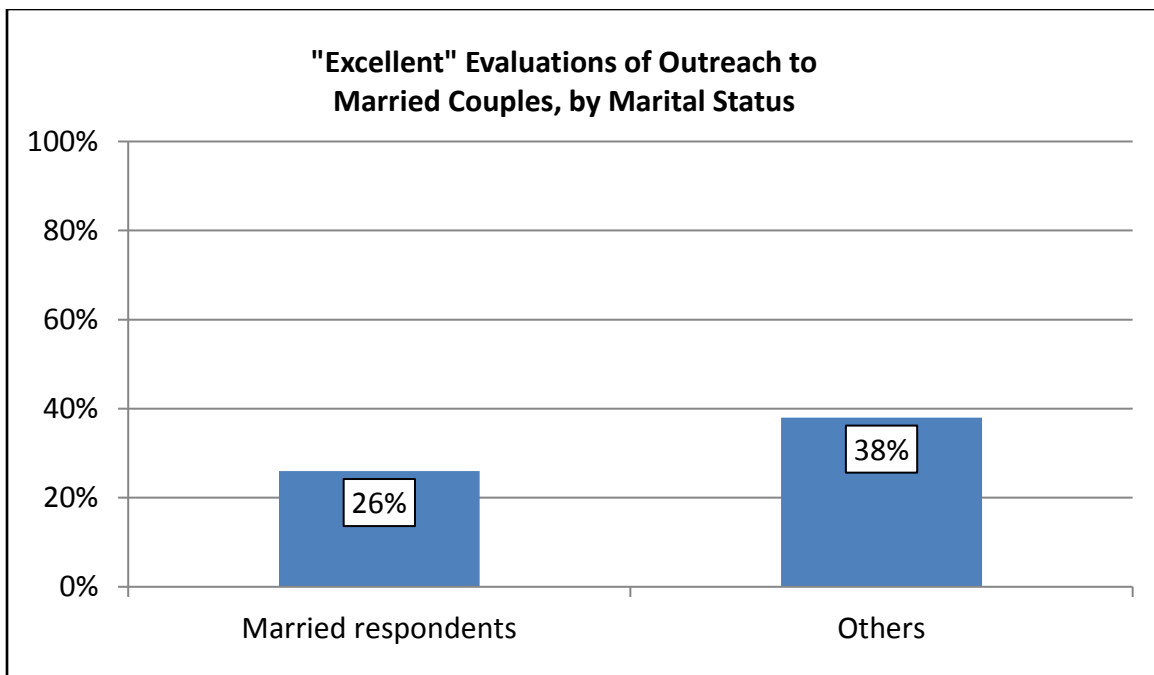
Differences by Marital Status

Single respondents do *not* differ significantly in how they evaluate parish outreach to single adults.

Similarly, divorced or separated respondents do *not* differ significantly in how they evaluate parish outreach to those divorced or separated.

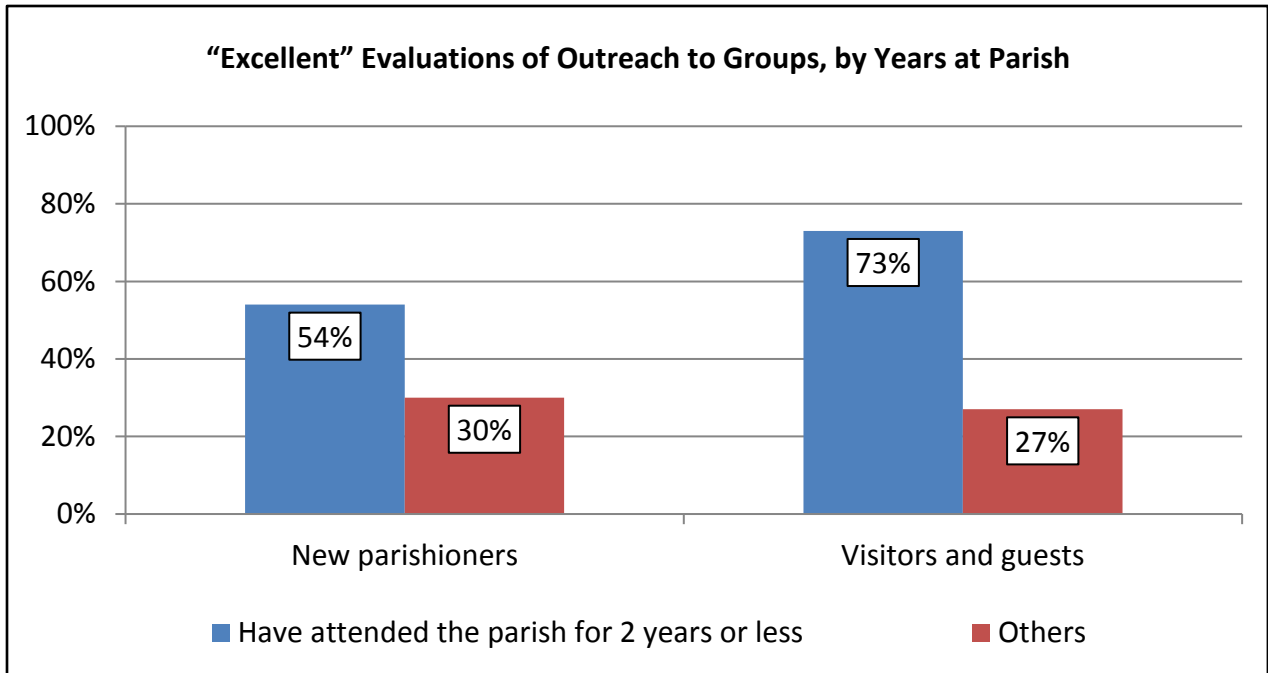
Widowed respondents do *not* differ significantly in how they evaluate parish outreach to those grieving.

Married respondents, on the other hand, are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to married couples.



Differences by Years at the Parish

Newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, are more likely than others to evaluate parish outreach to new parishioners and to visitors and guests as “excellent.”



Top Priorities for Parish Outreach

Respondents were asked to choose the three groups from the list in the previous section that the parish should give most priority to for outreach.¹⁰ Outreach to teens is listed as a top priority by 56% of respondents, followed by outreach to young adults (46%) and children (31%).

Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach for Both Parishes	
	One of Top Three Priorities
	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	56
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	46
Children (ages 4 to 12)	31
Inactive Catholics	27
Those sick or homebound	23
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	17
Married couples	17
Those grieving	15
New parishioners	14
Those in financial need	9
Single parents	7
Single adults	5
Those divorced or separated	5
Visitors and guests	1

- About a quarter list inactive Catholics (27%) and those sick or homebound (23%) among their top three priorities for outreach.
- One in six or slightly fewer lists outreach to senior citizens (17%), married couples (17%), those grieving (15%), and new parishioners (14%) among their top three.
- Less than one in ten lists among their top three groups outreach to those in financial need (9%), single parents (7%), single adults (5%), those divorced or separated (5%), and visitors and guests (1%).

¹⁰ Some 38% did not provide a response to this series of questions.

St. Edward

The 61 respondents at St. Edward who responded to the questions are similar to respondents overall in the groups they list among the top three for parish priority.

Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach for St. Edward	
	One of Top Three Priorities
	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	56
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	38
Children (ages 4 to 12)	34
Inactive Catholics	31
Those sick or homebound	30
Those grieving	25
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	23
Married couples	15
New parishioners	15
Those in financial need	10
Single adults	3
Those divorced or separated	3
Single parents	2
Visitors and guests	2

St. Lucy

In comparison to those at St. Edward, those 90 persons responding to this series of questions at St. Lucy are more likely to list outreach to young adults (51% compared to 38%) among their top three groups for priority.

Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach for St. Lucy	
	One of Top Three Priorities %
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	57
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	51
Children (ages 4 to 12)	29
Inactive Catholics	24
Married couples	19
Those sick or homebound	18
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	13
New parishioners	13
Single parents	11
Those grieving	8
Those in financial need	8
Single adults	6
Those divorced or separated	6
Visitors and guests	1

Priority for Parish Needs

With three exceptions, more than four-fifths give at least “somewhat” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below. The needs most likely to be given “somewhat” or “very much” priority are related to social justice, developing community, and formation for children and adults: visitation of the sick and homebound (97%), developing a parish sense of community (94%), children’s religious education/formation (93%), providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (93%), ministry to those grieving (92%), and adult faith formation (91%).

<i>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very Much”	“Very Much” Only
	%	%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	97	69
Developing a parish sense of community	94	71
Children’s religious education/formation	93	76
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	93	61
Ministry to those grieving	92	60
Adult faith formation	91	44
Youth ministry	88	67
Young adult ministry	85	53
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	82	38
Outreach to inactive Catholics	81	39
Providing retreat opportunities	77	34
Ministry to the divorced and separated	76	34
More small group prayer opportunities	73	29

Two-thirds to three-quarters place “very much” priority on needs related to passing the faith on to the next generation, developing community, and social justice: children’s religious education/formation (76%), developing a parish sense of community (71%), visitation of the sick and homebound (69%), and youth ministry (67%).

- Six in ten give “very much” priority to providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (61%) and ministry to those grieving (60%).
- Young adult ministry is given “very much” priority by more than half of respondents (53%).

- About four in ten place “very much” priority on adult faith formation (44%) and outreach to inactive Catholics (39%).
- Three-tenths to four-tenths give “very much” priority to more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration (38%), providing retreat opportunities (34%), ministry to the divorced and separated (34%), and more small group prayer opportunities (29%).

Differences by Sites

“Somewhat” or “Very Much” Priority

With a few exceptions, respondents at St. Edward and St. Lucy give similar priority at this level. The exceptions are: providing retreat opportunities (82% of St. Lucy respondents give this at least “somewhat” priority compared to 71% of St. Edward respondents) and ministry to the divorced and separated (82% of St. Edward respondents place at least “somewhat” priority on this compared to 71% of respondents at St. Lucy).

What priority do you give the following for the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	98	97
Developing a parish sense of community	96	92
Ministry to those grieving	95	90
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	94	92
Adult faith formation	92	89
Children’s religious education/formation	90	95
Young adult ministry	86	85
Youth ministry	85	89
Outreach to inactive Catholics	84	79
Ministry to the divorced and separated	82	71
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	78	84
More small group prayer opportunities	75	72
Providing retreat opportunities	71	82

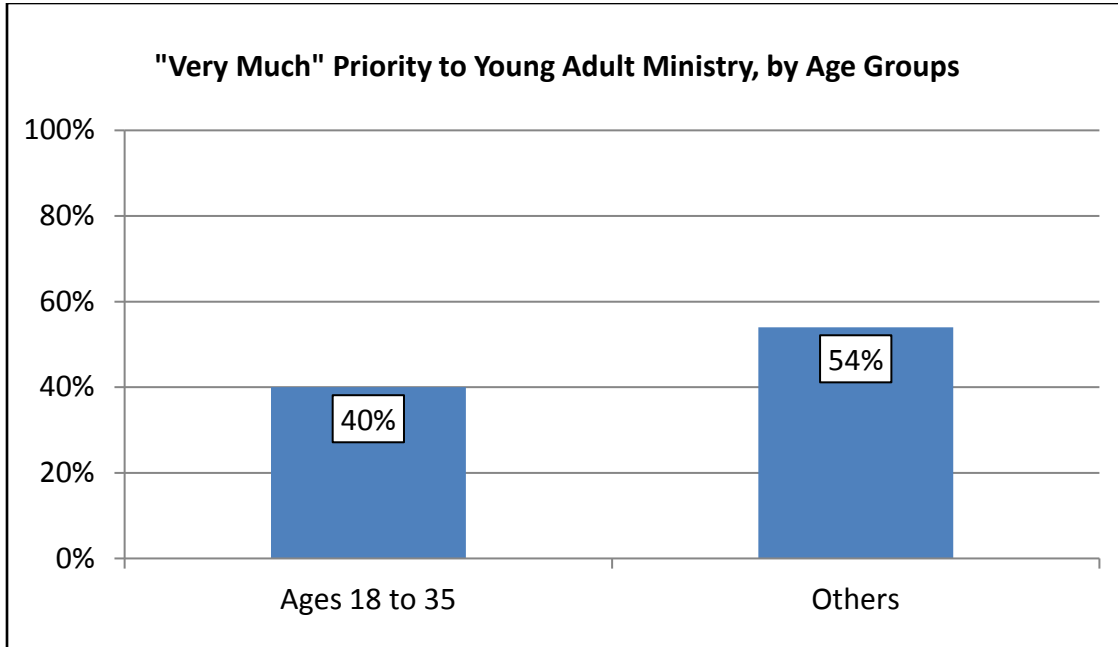
“Very Much” Priority

Those responding at St. Lucy are more likely than those responding at St. Edward to give four needs more priority: providing retreat opportunities (41% compared to 24%), youth ministry (73% compared to 61%), more small group prayer opportunities (34% compared to 22%), and young adult ministry (58% compared to 47%).

What priority do you give the following for the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Children’s religious education/formation	72	79
Developing a parish sense of community	72	70
Visitation of the sick and homebound	68	69
Youth ministry	61	73
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	61	60
Ministry to those grieving	56	64
Young adult ministry	47	58
Adult faith formation	42	46
Outreach to inactive Catholics	39	39
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	34	40
Ministry to the divorced and separated	32	35
Providing retreat opportunities	24	41
More small group prayer opportunities	22	34

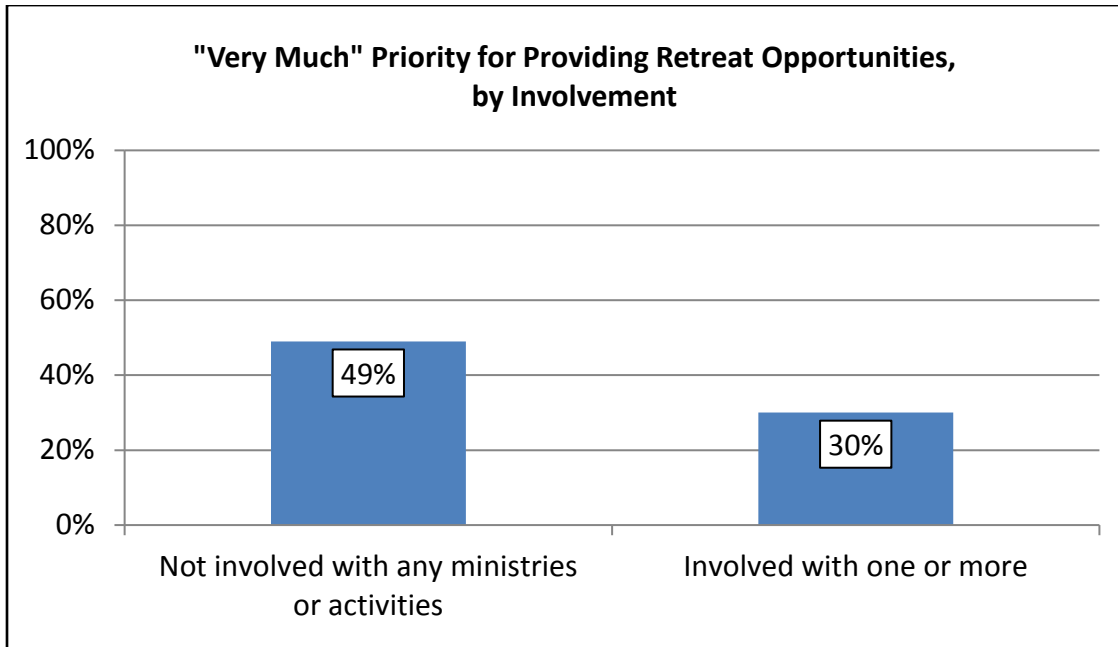
Differences by Age Group

Four in ten of those ages 18 to 35 say the parish should give “very much” priority to young adult ministry, compared to more than half of other respondents.



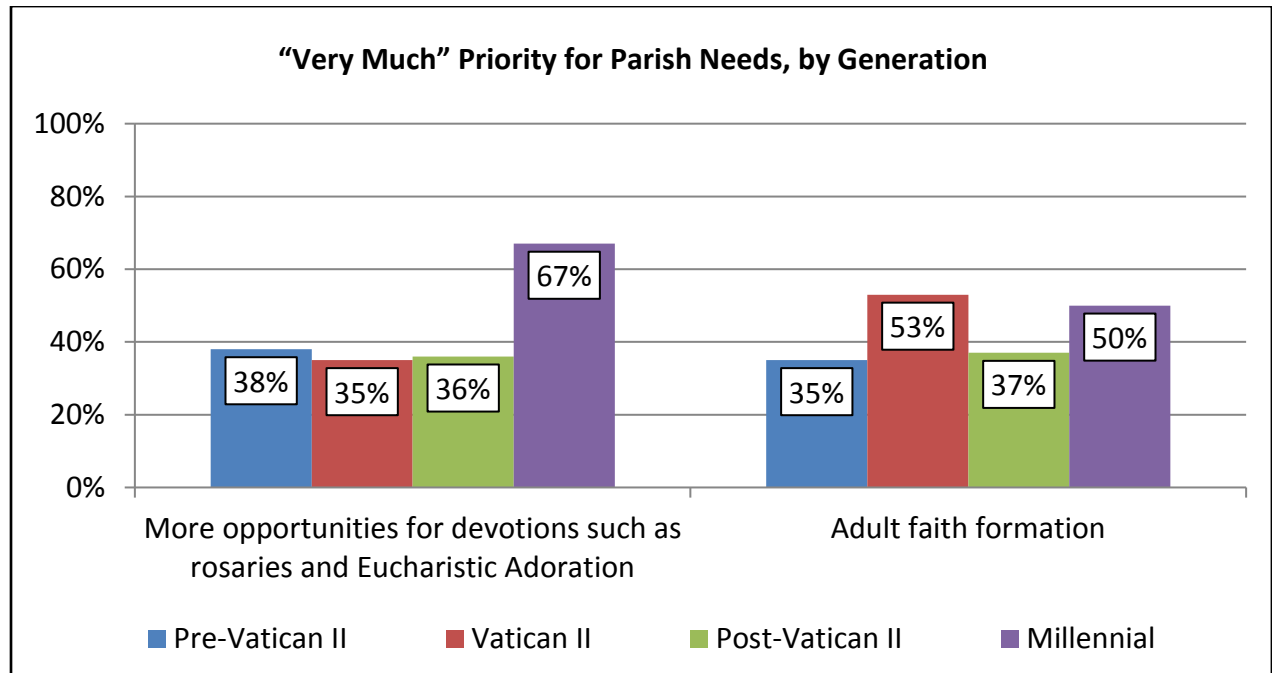
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those not involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to say the parish should give providing retreat opportunities “very much” priority.



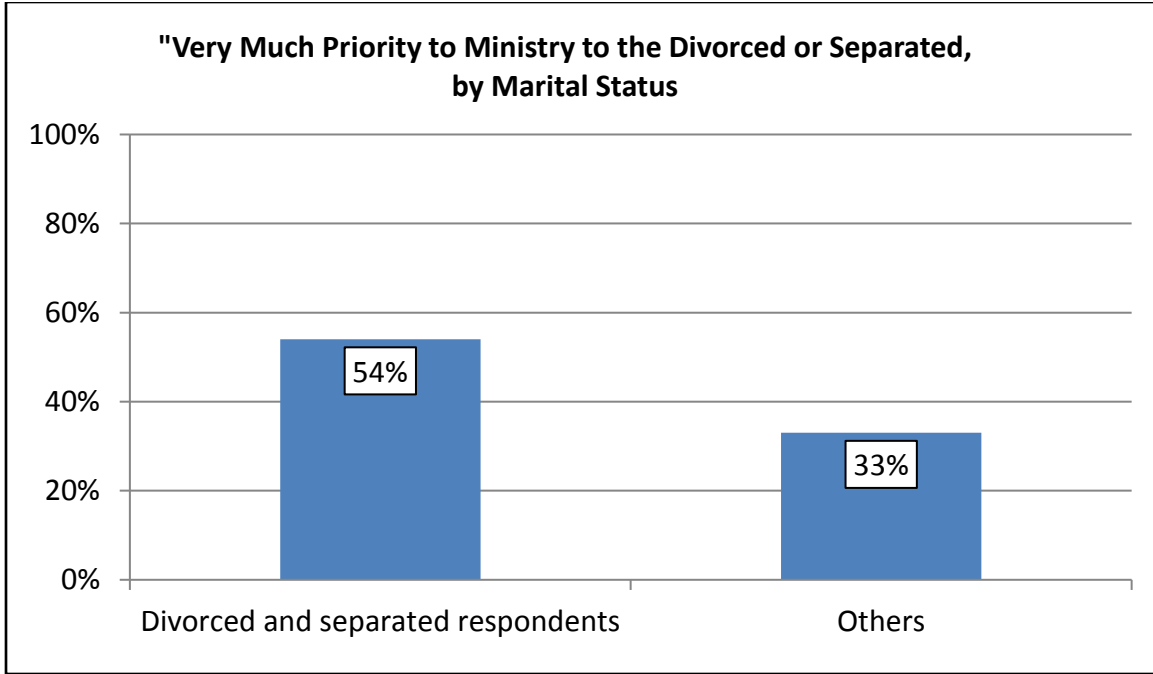
Differences by Generation

Millennials are most likely to say the parish should give more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration “very much” priority. Adult faith formation is most likely to be given as high a priority by those of the Vatican II and Millennial Generations.



Differences by Marital Status

More than half of divorced or separated respondents say the parish should give “very much” priority to ministry to the divorced or separated.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation 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 much priority they say the parish should give to children’s religious education/formation and youth ministry.

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how much priority they say the parish should give to adult faith formation.

Top Priorities for Parish Needs

Respondents were asked to choose the three needs from the list in the previous section to which the parish should give most priority.¹¹ Needs related to passing the faith on to the next generation and developing the parish’s sense of community are particularly likely to receive top priority. Children’s religious education/formation (53%), youth ministry (45%), and developing a parish sense of community (32%) are listed as a top priority by 32% to 53% of respondents.

Needs Listed Among One’s Top Three Priorities	
	One of their Three Top Priorities
	%
Children’s religious education/formation	53
Youth ministry	45
Developing a parish sense of community	32
Young adult ministry	23
Outreach to inactive Catholics	23
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	22
Visitation of the sick and homebound	20
Adult faith formation	17
Ministry to those grieving	12
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	9
More small group prayer opportunities	7
Ministry to the divorced and separated	7
Providing retreat opportunities	5

Ministry and outreach to different groups varies in the high priority given. About two in ten list young adult ministry (23%), outreach to inactive Catholics (23%), visitation of the sick and homebound (20%) among their top three priorities. About one in ten lists ministry to those grieving (12%) and ministry to the divorced and separated (7%).

- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy is listed among the top three priorities by 22% of responding parishioners.
- One in six (17%) lists adult faith formation among their top three priorities.

¹¹ Some 40% did not provide a response to this series of questions.

- Less than one in ten lists these opportunities among their top three priorities: more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration (9%), more small group prayer opportunities (7%), and providing retreat opportunities (5%).

Differences by Site

St. Edward

Some 64 persons responded to this series of questions at St. Edward. The top three needs are similar to those for respondents combined at both sites: children’s religious education/formation (47%), youth ministry (42%), and developing a parish sense of community (36%). In contrast to respondents at both sites, fewer list young adult ministry among their top three priorities.

Needs Listed Among One’s Top Three Priorities – St. Edward	
	One of their Three Top Priorities %
Children’s religious education/formation	47
Youth ministry	42
Developing a parish sense of community	36
Outreach to inactive Catholics	27
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	27
Visitation of the sick and homebound	22
Adult faith formation	19
Young adult ministry	14
Ministry to those grieving	14
More small group prayer opportunities	9
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	8
Providing retreat opportunities	3
Ministry to the divorced and separated	3

St. Lucy

Some 83 responded at St. Lucy. Compared to St. Edward respondents, those at St. Lucy are more likely to list young adult ministry among their top three priorities.

Needs Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities – St. Lucy Mission	
	One of their Three Top Priorities %
Children's religious education/formation	58
Youth ministry	47
Young adult ministry	30
Developing a parish sense of community	29
Outreach to inactive Catholics	20
Visitation of the sick and homebound	18
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	18
Adult faith formation	16
Ministry to those grieving	11
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	10
Ministry to the divorced and separated	10
Providing retreat opportunities	7
More small group prayer opportunities	5

Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (21 respondents) are most likely to list these seven needs as one of their top three priorities for parish needs:

- Youth ministry (48%)
- Children's religious education/formation (38%)
- Young adult ministry (29%)
- *Tie:* Outreach to inactive Catholics (24%), visitation of the sick and homebound (24%), providing opportunities to help the needy (24%), and developing a parish sense of community (24%)

Those of the Vatican II Generation (65 respondents) are most likely to list these five needs as one of their top three priorities for parish needs:

- Youth ministry (48%)
- Children's religious education/formation (46%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (40%)
- *Tie:* Young adult ministry (23%) and visitation of the sick and homebound (23%)

Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation (46 respondents) are most likely to list these five needs as one of their top three priorities for parish needs:

- Children's religious education/formation (65%)
- Youth ministry (39%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (30%)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (26%)
- Young adult ministry (24%)

Millennials (eight respondents) are most likely to list these seven needs as one of their top three priorities for parish needs:

- *Tie:* Children's religious education/formation (63%) and youth ministry (63%)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (38%)
- *Tie:* Young adult ministry (25%), providing retreat opportunities (25%), ministry to those grieving (25%), and visitation of the sick and homebound (25%)

Attraction to the Parish

Those attending Mass at the parish report being especially attracted to the parish by the quality of the liturgy, the sense of belonging, its open and welcoming spirit, and the quality of the preaching. Between 89% and 92% say these elements attract them “somewhat” or “very much.” More than six in ten say the parish’s opportunities for spiritual growth (83%), its commitment to social justice and peace (79%), and its faith formation for adults (76%), and its religious education for children and youth (64%) attract them at least “somewhat.”

How much do the following attract you to the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very Much”	“Very Much” Only
	%	%
The quality of the liturgy	92	63
The sense of belonging you feel here	90	67
Its open, welcoming spirit	89	69
The quality of the preaching	89	63
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	83	47
Its commitment to social justice and peace	79	44
Its faith formation for adults	76	38
Its religious education of children and youth	64	36

- About two in three report being attracted to the parish “very much” by its open and welcoming spirit (69%), the sense of belonging they feel there (67%), the quality of the liturgy (63%), and the quality of the preaching (63%).
- Less than half say they are “very much” attracted by the parish’s opportunities for spiritual growth (47%), its commitment to social justice and peace (44%), its faith formation for adults (38%), and its religious education of children and youth (36%).

Differences by Site

Attracted “Somewhat” or “Very Much”

St. Edward respondents (91%) are more likely than those responding at St. Lucy (78%) to say they are at least “somewhat” attracted to the parish by its opportunities for spiritual growth.

How much do the following attract you to the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
The quality of the liturgy	96	88
The sense of belonging you feel here	94	87
The quality of the preaching	93	86
Its open, welcoming spirit	92	87
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	91	78
Its commitment to social justice and peace	80	78
Its faith formation for adults	80	73
Its religious education of children and youth	62	65

Attracted “Very Much”

Those responding at St. Edward (61%) are more likely than St. Lucy respondents (36%) to report being attracted to the parish “very much” by its opportunities for spiritual growth.

How much do the following attract you to the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Its open, welcoming spirit	74	66
The sense of belonging you feel here	69	64
The quality of the liturgy	67	60
The quality of the preaching	61	64
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	61	36
Its commitment to social justice and peace	48	41
Its faith formation for adults	42	35
Its religious education of children and youth	36	36

Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how much they say the parish’s faith formation for adults attracts them to the parish.

Similarly, those whose children have attended classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how much they say the parish’s religious education/formation for children and youth attracts them to the parish.

Invitations to Parish Worship Services or Activities

Responding parishioners were invited to report the number times in the past year they have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity.¹² On average, Ss. Edward and Lucy respondents invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity 3.9 times in the past year. Almost three in four (73%) did so at least once, with 33% doing so three or more times.

<i>Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	%
Never	27
Once	15
Twice	25
Three or more times	33
 Average	 3.9

Differences by Site

St. Edward

St. Edward respondents are similar to respondents overall in how often they have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year.

<i>Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year</i>	
<i>Percentage responding at St. Edward</i>	
	%
Never	28
Once	15
Twice	29
Three or more times	28
 Average	 3.7

¹² 33% did not provide a response to this series of questions.

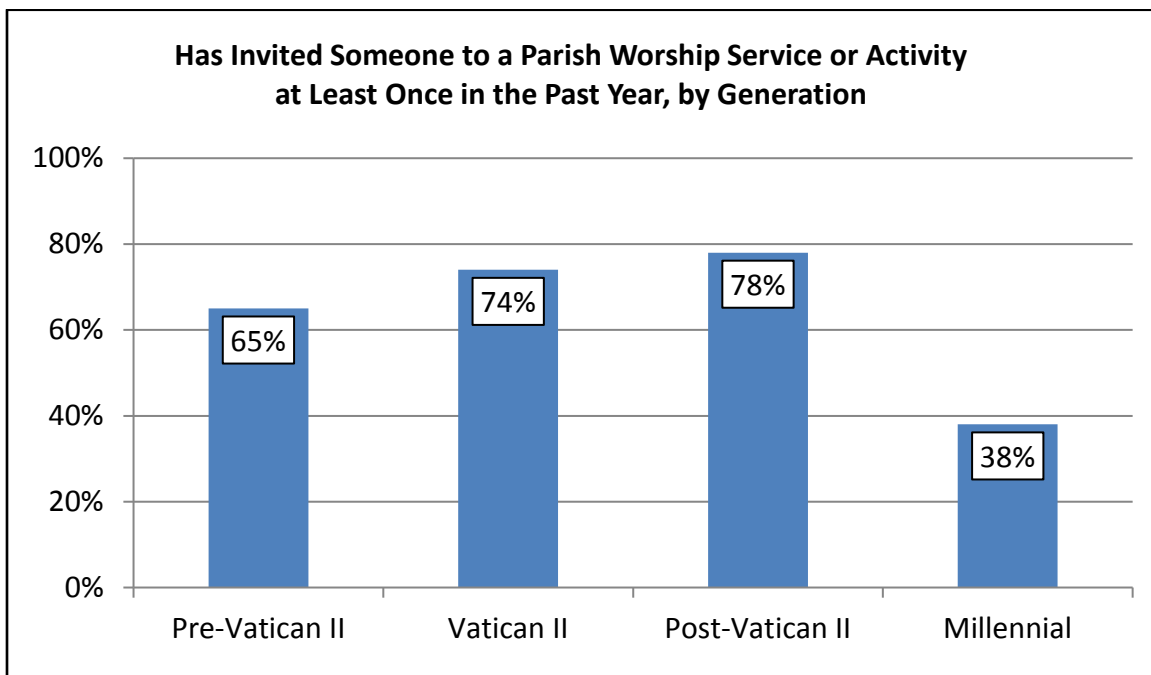
St. Lucy

St. Lucy respondents are also similar to respondents overall in how often they have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year.

Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year	
<i>Percentage responding at St. Lucy</i>	
	%
Never	26
Once	15
Twice	22
Three or more times	37
Average	4.1

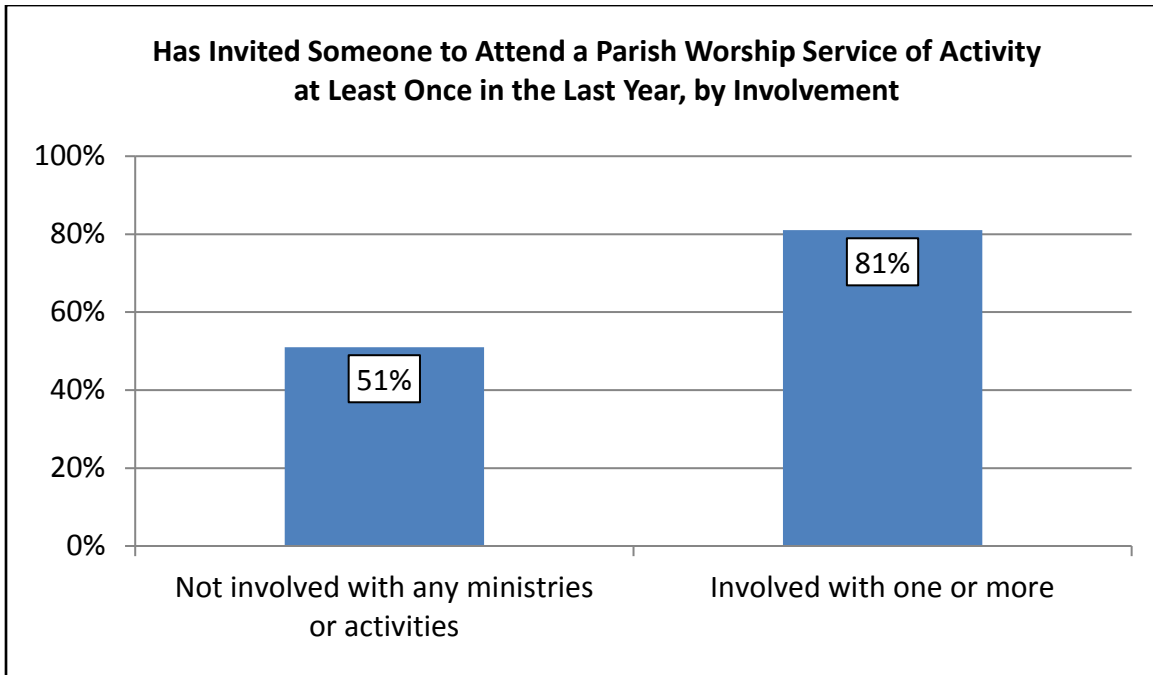
Differences by Generation

Millennials are *least* likely to have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity at least once in the past year.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to say they have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity at least once in the past year.



Likelihood of Future Behaviors

More than eight in ten respondents say they are at least “somewhat” likely to regularly spend time in personal prayer (94%), contribute generously to the support of the parish (88%), spend time learning more about their faith (86%), attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass (84%), and talk to someone about their faith (82%). Between half and two-thirds are as likely to regularly read the Bible (68%), invite someone to attend a parish service or activity (67%), volunteer for a parish ministry (66%), and participate in a small faith-sharing group (50%).

<i>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very” %	“Very” Only %
Regularly spend time in personal prayer	94	73
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	88	51
Spend time learning more about your faith	86	51
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	84	59
Talk to someone about your faith	82	49
Regularly read the Bible	68	36
Invite someone to attend one of our parish services or activities	67	32
Volunteer for a parish ministry	66	46
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	50	23

About half to three-quarters report being “very” likely to regularly spend time in personal prayer (73%), attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass (59%), contribute generously to the support of the parish (51%), spend time learning more about their faith (51%), and talk to someone about their faith (49%). Between about a quarter and half are as likely to volunteer for a parish ministry (46%), regularly read the Bible (36%), invite someone to attend a parish service or activity (32%), and participate in a small faith-sharing group (23%).

Differences by Site

“Somewhat” or “Very” Likely

Those responding at St. Lucy are more likely than those responding at St. Edward to report being “somewhat” or “very” likely in the next year to volunteer for a parish ministry (74% compared to 54%), participate in a small faith-sharing group (57% compared to 42%), and talk to someone about their faith (86% compared to 76%).

<i>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Regularly spend time in personal prayer	95	94
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	89	86
Spend time learning more about your faith	87	86
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	83	86
Talk to someone about your faith	76	86
Regularly read the Bible	63	71
Invite someone to attend one of our parish services or activities	63	70
Volunteer for a parish ministry	54	74
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	42	57

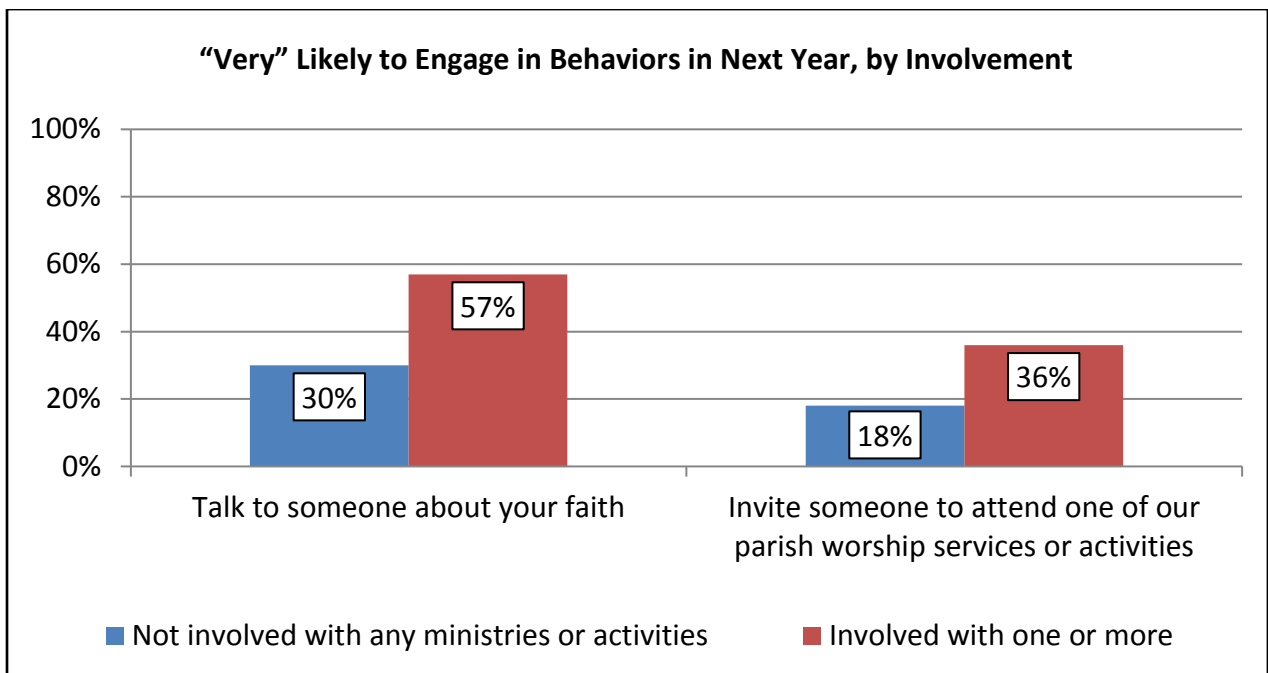
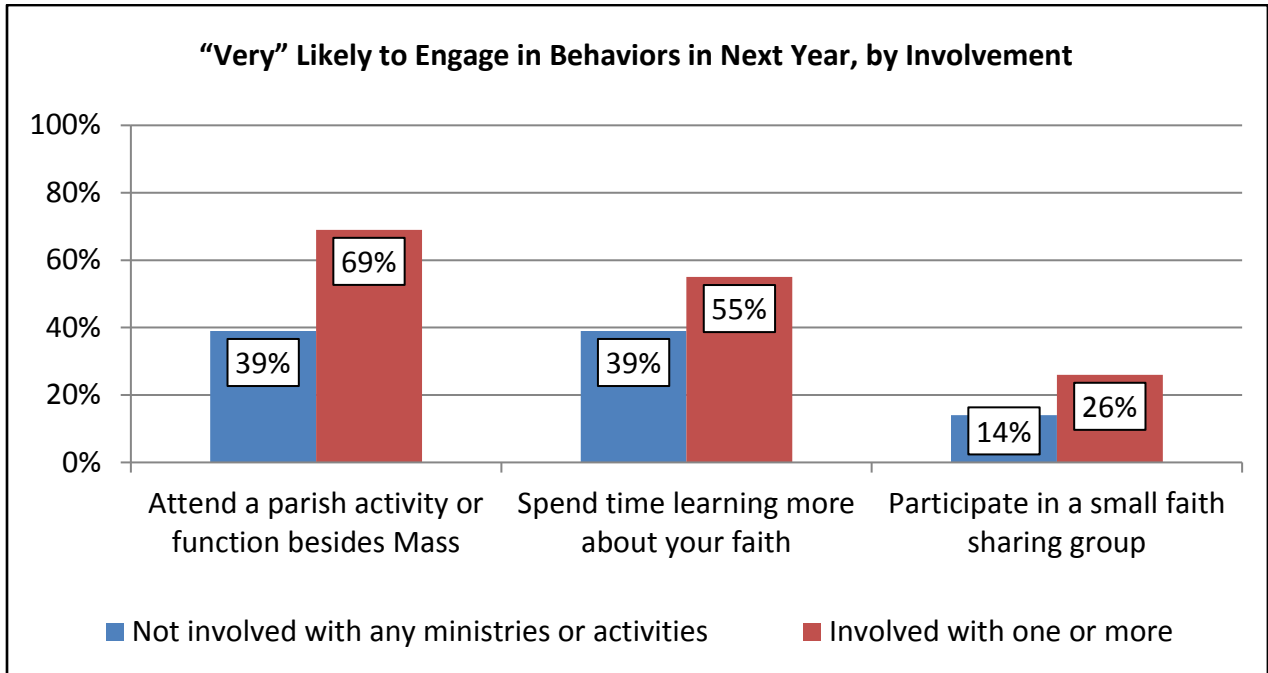
“Very” Likely

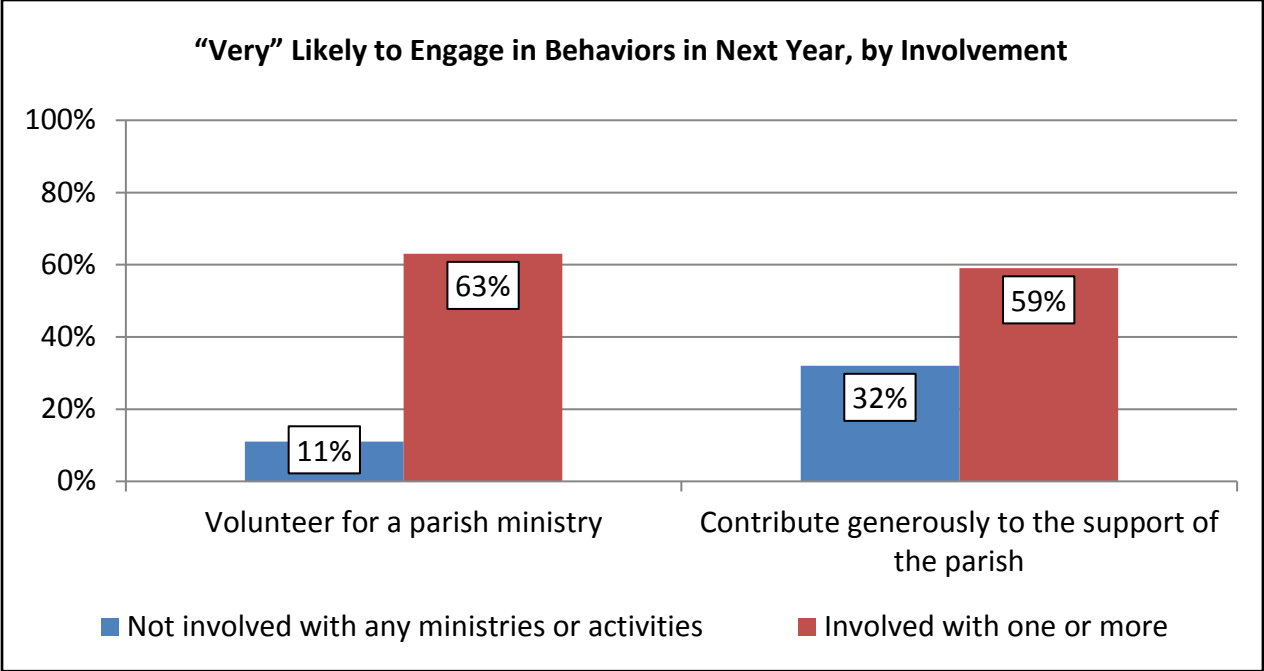
Those responding at St. Lucy are more likely than those at St. Edward to report being “very” likely to participate in a small faith-sharing group (32% compared to 12%) and volunteer for a parish ministry (51% compared to 39%).

<i>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very”</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
Regularly spend time in personal prayer	73	73
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	58	61
Spend time learning more about your faith	51	51
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	48	54
Talk to someone about your faith	44	53
Volunteer for a parish ministry	39	51
Invite someone to attend one of our parish services or activities	34	31
Regularly read the Bible	33	38
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	12	32

Differences by Level of Involvement

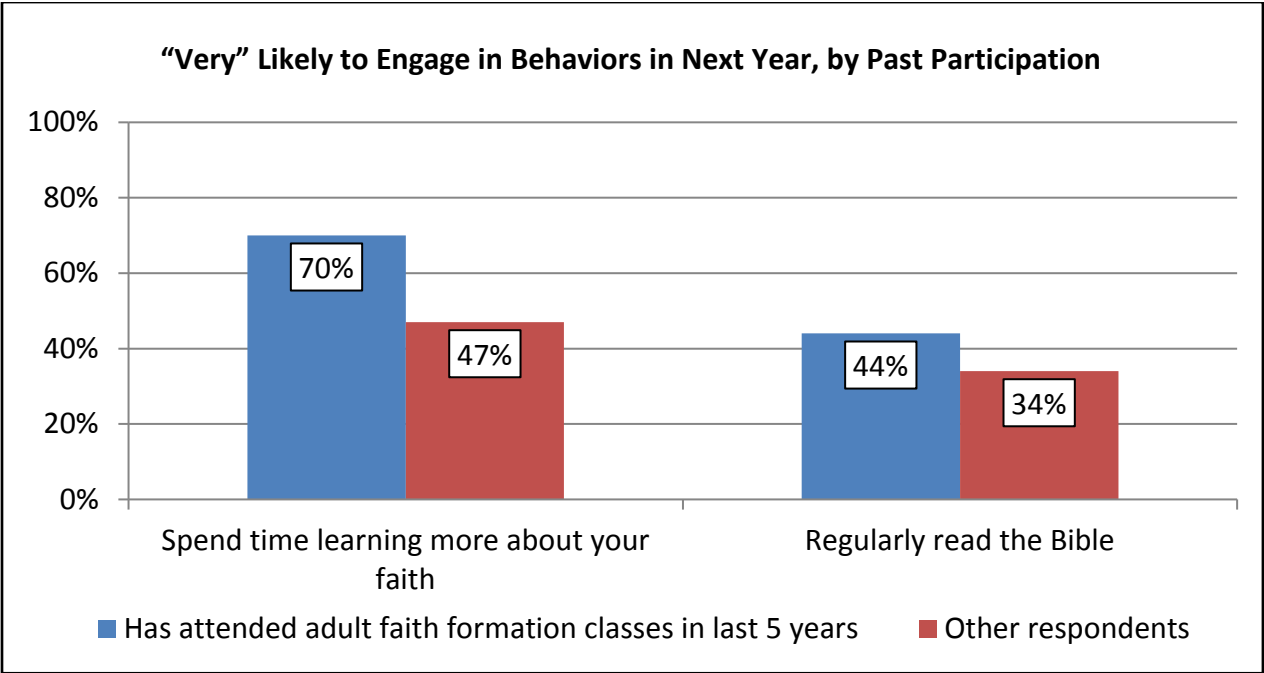
Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to say they are “very” likely to engage in the behaviors shown in the three figures below in the next year.





Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Respondents who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are more likely than others to say they are “very” likely to engage in the behaviors shown in the figure below in the next year.



Attitudes about Parish Life

With one exception, at least eight in ten agree at least “somewhat” with each of the statements presented in the table below. Respondents are particularly likely to agree that the Mass means a lot to them (99%), that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (95%), and that they understand the concept of stewardship (93%).

Please respond to the following		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree %	“Strongly” Agree Only %
The Mass means a lot to me	99*	89
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	95	80
I understand the concept of stewardship	93	60
I feel included in parish life	89	60
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	85	42
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	84	51
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	80	43
I want to volunteer more for the parish	76	30
*The combined total of 99.6% is represented as 100% so as to not confuse the reader into thinking it was unanimous.		

Some 89% agree “strongly” that the Mass means a lot to them.

- Eighty percent agree “strongly” that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor. Concerning other leadership-related statements, half (51%) agree “strongly” that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish, with about four in ten agreeing as strongly that they feel adequately informed about parish finances (43%) and that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish (42%).
- Six in ten agree “strongly” that they feel included in parish life.
- Sixty percent say they agree “strongly” that they understand the concept of stewardship. Thirty percent agree as strongly that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

Differences by Site

“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree

St. Edward respondents (86%) are more likely than those responding at St. Lucy (76%) to agree at least “somewhat” that they feel adequately informed about parish finances.

Please respond to the following		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
The Mass means a lot to me	100	99
I feel included in parish life	89	89
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	89	80
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	86	76
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	94	96
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	86	84
I understand the concept of stewardship	93	92
I want to volunteer more for the parish	77	76

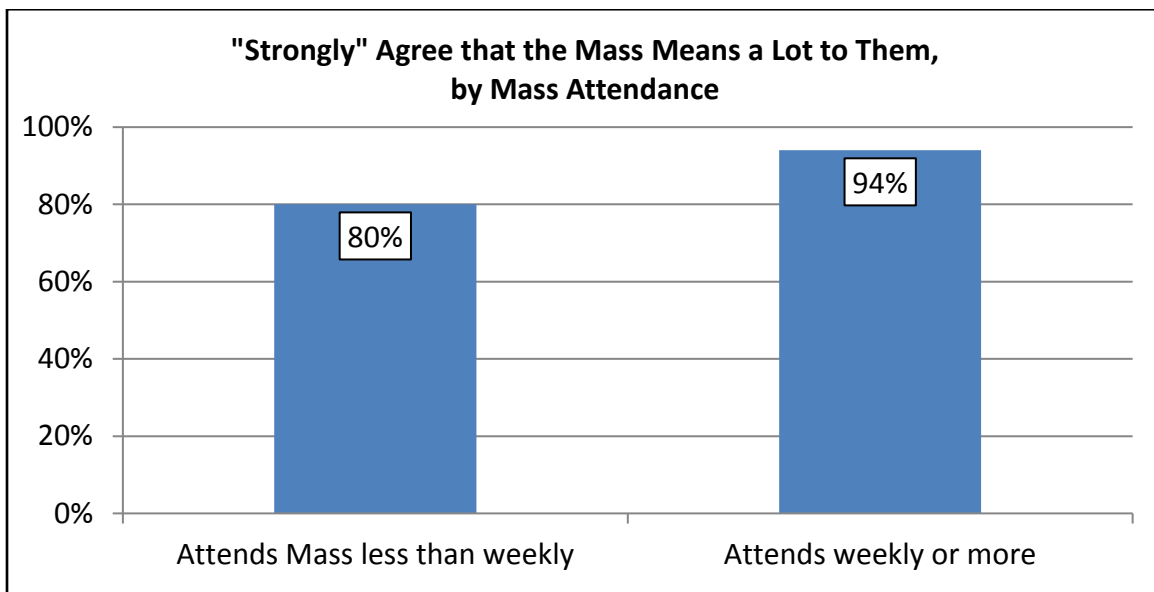
“Strongly” Agree

Respondents at both sites are similar in how much they “strongly” agree with the statements below.

Please respond to the following		
<i>Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	St. Edward	St. Lucy
	%	%
The Mass means a lot to me	87	91
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	76	84
I understand the concept of stewardship	62	59
I feel included in parish life	60	61
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	51	51
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	43	44
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	42	43
I want to volunteer more for the parish	27	33

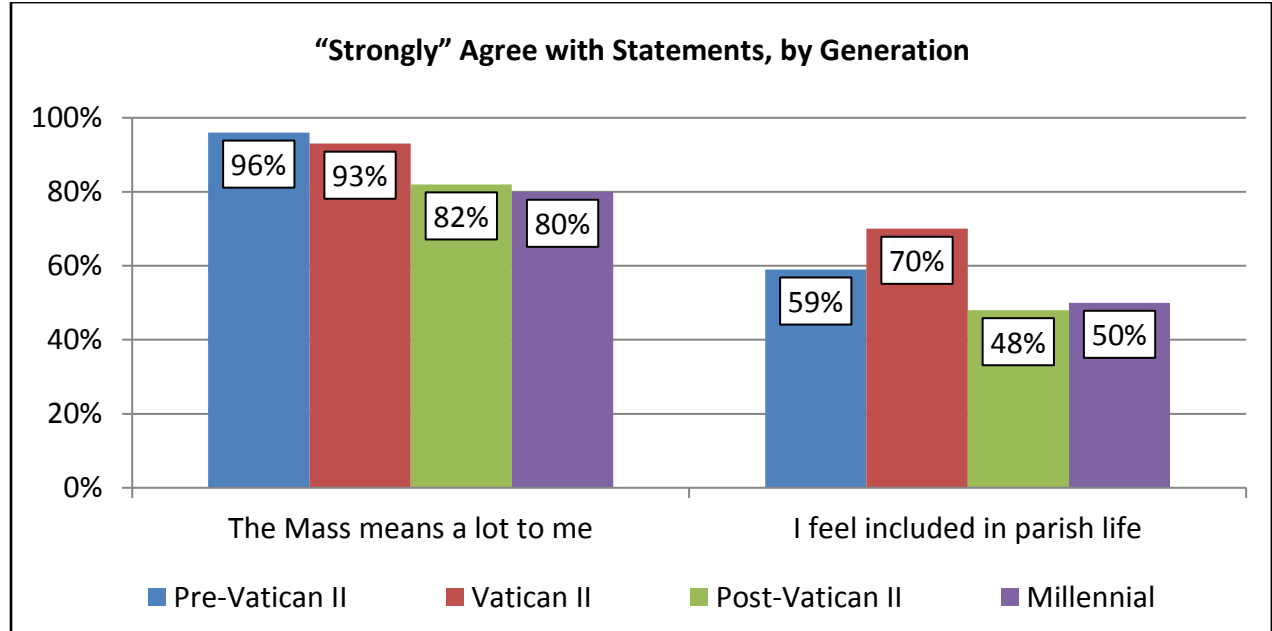
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely than those attending less frequently to “strongly” agree that the Mass means a lot to them.



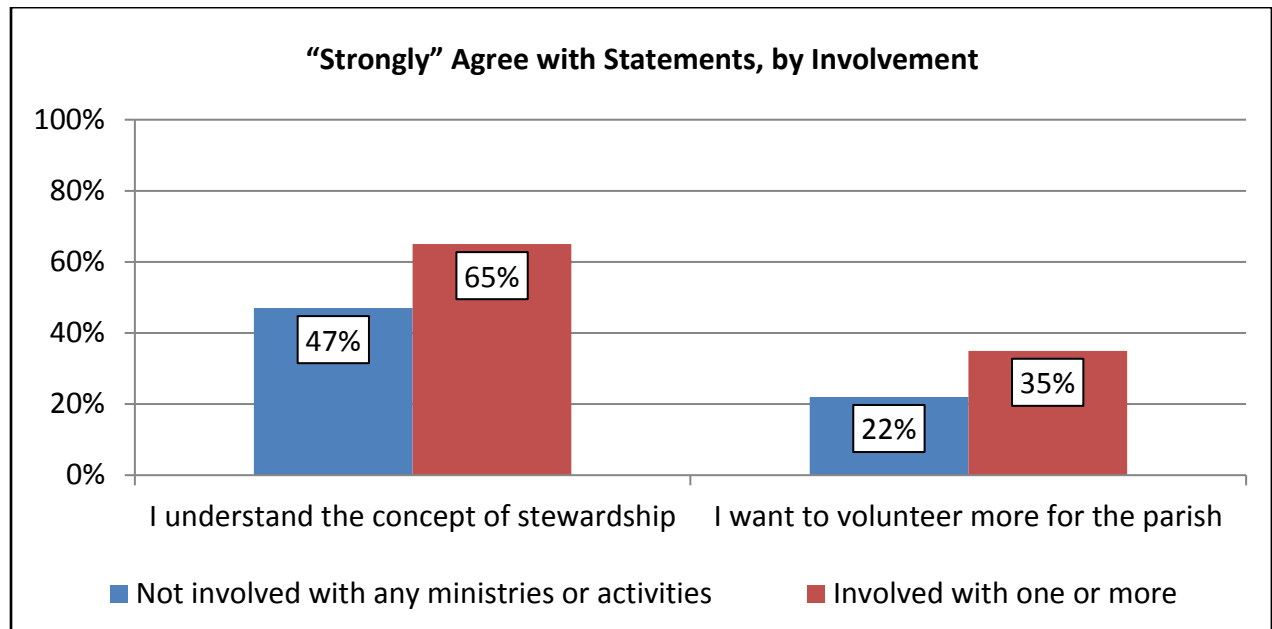
Differences by Generation

Members of the two oldest generation are especially likely to “strongly” agree with the statements presented in the figure below.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree with the statements presented in the figure below.



Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions



Parish Life Survey for Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish, Parkman and Middlefield, Ohio
CARA – Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

There were 244 respondents to the Parish Life Survey age 16 and older, 128 at St. Edward Parish and 116 at St. Lucy Mission. The percentage giving each response, calculated out of 100 percent, is shown below. The percentage not responding (NR) is shown separately, also calculated out of 100 percent.

Please use these responses for the questions below.
1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good 4=Excellent
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

Please evaluate these aspects of parish life.

- 1 2 3 4 NR
<1 8 41 50 6 1. Ss. Edward and Lucy Parish overall
4 15 43 39 7 2. Sense of community within the parish
<1 7 35 57 5 3. Masses and liturgies in general
4 22 40 34 14 4. Vision provided by parish leaders
2 10 40 49 10 5. Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith
2 7 40 51 12 6. Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish
2 9 35 55 18 7. Outreach to and advocacy for those in need
4 16 41 39 19 8. Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing

Please evaluate the following persons and programs.

- 1 2 3 4 NR
2 5 21 72 7 9. Leadership provided by the pastor
3 5 27 64 9 10. Friendliness of the parish office staff
7 23 40 31 38 11. Children's religious education programs
23 29 26 22 40 12. Youth ministry
3 19 44 35 28 13. Faith formation for adults
1 11 43 44 12 14. Social activities

Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups.

- 1 2 3 4 NR
8 27 37 28 46 15. Children (ages 4 to 12)
20 32 27 22 48 16. Teens (ages 13 to 17)
22 26 32 20 50 17. Young adults (ages 18 to 35)
5 15 46 34 38 18. Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)
16 25 37 22 52 19. Single adults
7 25 40 28 43 20. Married couples
19 27 35 19 56 21. Those divorced or separated
17 29 33 21 58 22. Single parents
1 7 32 60 37 23. Those sick or homebound
1 7 38 55 40 24. Those grieving
3 23 34 39 50 25. Those in financial need
18 27 32 23 49 26. Inactive Catholics
4 23 41 32 44 27. New parishioners
4 18 46 32 39 28. Visitors and guests

Using the numbers for items 15-28 above, to which three groups should the parish give most priority for outreach?
Overall NR for Qs 29 to 31 = 38

29. 30. 31.

Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend.

- 1 2 3 4 NR
3 5 27 66 4 32. Hospitality or sense of welcome
0 5 30 65 7 33. Liturgical decorations and environment
4 10 34 52 5 34. Music
2 11 28 59 5 35. Homilies
1 4 29 66 6 36. Weekend Mass schedule

Please evaluate parish efforts to:

- 1 2 3 4 NR
2 11 44 42 14 37. Communicate with parishioners
2 8 42 48 12 38. Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ
3 9 46 43 16 39. Foster spiritual growth
8 16 38 39 14 40. Offer a Catholic view on current issues
2 19 39 40 17 41. Help you practice gospel values in your daily life
2 14 41 43 21 42. Meet people's spiritual needs
1 5 39 55 15 43. Invite you to participate in parish ministries
4 9 37 50 26 44. Manage parish finances

Please use these responses for the questions below.
1=No Priority 2=A Little Priority 3=Some Priority 4=High Priority
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

What priority do you give the following for the parish?

- 1 2 3 4 NR
2 6 16 76 23 45. Children's religious education/formation
5 8 20 67 25 46. Youth ministry
2 8 46 44 26 47. Adult faith formation
3 12 32 53 31 48. Young adult ministry
4 19 44 34 28 49. Providing retreat opportunities
5 22 44 29 31 50. More small group prayer opportunities
3 16 44 38 29 51. More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration
5 14 42 39 30 52. Outreach to inactive Catholics
6 19 42 34 36 53. Ministry to the divorced and separated
1 7 32 60 26 54. Ministry to those grieving
2 1 29 69 26 55. Visitation of the sick and homebound
1 6 32 61 24 56. Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy
0 6 23 71 24 57. Developing a parish sense of community

Using the numbers for items 45-57 above, to which three needs should the parish give most priority?
Overall NR for Qs 58 to 60 = 40

58. 59. 60.

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Not at All **3=Somewhat**
2=Only a Little **4=Very or Very Much**
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

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

1 2 3 4 NR

- 5 6 20 69 11 61. Its open, welcoming spirit
2 7 28 63 13 62. The quality of the liturgy
2 8 27 63 12 63. The quality of the preaching
15 22 28 36 38 64. Its religious education/formation for children and youth
10 14 38 38 29 65. Its faith formation for adults
6 11 37 47 26 66. Its opportunities for spiritual growth
9 13 35 44 29 67. Its commitment to social justice and peace
5 5 24 67 12 68. The sense of belonging you feel here

How **likely** are you to do the following in the next year?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 3 13 25 59 11 69. Attend a parish activity or function besides Mass
3 15 33 49 17 70. Talk to someone about your faith
7 26 35 32 19 71. Invite someone to attend one of our parish worship services or activities
1 5 22 73 12 72. Regularly spend time in personal prayer
2 12 36 51 19 73. Spend time learning more about your faith
11 21 32 36 19 74. Regularly read the Bible
24 26 27 23 24 75. Participate in a small faith sharing group
16 19 20 46 21 76. Volunteer for a parish ministry
2 11 36 51 15 77. Contribute generously to the support of the parish

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 0 10 89 5 78. The Mass means a lot to me
4 7 29 60 9 79. I feel included in parish life
3 13 33 51 7 80. I feel well informed about what goes on in our parish
7 13 37 43 15 81. I feel adequately informed about parish finances
3 2 15 80 8 82. I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor
4 12 42 42 20 83. Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish
2 5 33 60 17 84. I understand the concept of stewardship
8 15 46 30 22 85. I want to volunteer more for the parish

86. About how **frequently** do you currently attend Mass?

- 0 1. Never or rarely 21 4. Almost every week
<1 2. A few times a year 59 5. Every week **NR=4**
3 3. Once or twice a month 17 6. More than once a week

87. Excluding your Mass attendance, how many ministries or activities are you involved with at this parish? **NR=9**

- 32 1. None 37 3. Two to four
27 2. One 4 4. Five or more

AVG NR

22.3 16 88. Years you have attended this parish?

Leave blank if this is not your regular parish. Write "1" if one year or less.

- 3.9 33 89. Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year?

Please answer "**yes**" or "**no**" to the following questions.

Yes No NR

- 91 9 5 90. Are you registered in this parish?
94 6 4 91. Is this parish your primary place of worship?
22 78 24 92. Have any of your children attended religious education classes here in the past 2 years?
25 74 13 93. Have you attended adult religious education classes here in the past 2 years?
46 54 21 94. Will/did your spouse also complete this survey?

AVG NR

1955 9 95. Year you were *born*: _____ (4-digit year)

96. Gender: 35 1. Male 65 2. Female **NR=3**

97. What *best* describes your current marital status?

- 8 1. Single, never married 9 3. Divorced or separated
71 2. Married or remarried 13 4. Widowed **NR=3**

Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who are: **Leave blank if none or not applicable.**

SUM

SUM

49 98. Age 12 or younger 48 99. Ages 13 to 17

100. What *best* describes your highest level of education?

- 6 1. Some high school or less 11 4. Associate's degree
28 2. High school diploma 23 5. Bachelor's degree
24 3. In college or some college 9 6. Graduate degree

NR=6

101. What else would you like the Parish Pastoral Council to know?

Thank you for completing this survey.

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