

**June 2005**

*Parish Life Survey*

**Saint Thomas Parish  
Bedford, Pennsylvania**



**Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Georgetown University  
Washington, D.C.**

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Bedford, Pennsylvania**

**June 2005**



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# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction .....	3
Interpreting this Report .....	4
Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents .....	5
Religious Characteristics of the Respondents .....	8
Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life .....	12
Evaluation of Persons, Programs, and Services .....	16
Evaluation of Parish Outreach .....	20
Evaluation of Areas of Liturgy .....	23
Evaluation of Parish Facilities .....	26
Evaluation of Parish Efforts .....	28
Likelihood of Engaging in Religious Activities .....	30
Priorities for Parish Needs .....	34
Priorities for Formation Needs .....	39
Priorities for Outreach to Groups .....	42
Priorities for Facilities-Related Needs .....	44
Impediments to Volunteering More .....	47
Attitudes about Parish Life .....	51
Summary of Findings .....	54
Appendices	
I: Questionnaire with Response Frequencies .....	60
II: Complete Transcription of Open-Ended Comments .....	63



# **Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Pastoral Assistance Surveys and Services (PASS)**

## ***Parish Life Survey***

### **Saint Thomas Parish Bedford, Pennsylvania**

#### **Executive Summary**

The St. Thomas Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The project was completed in June 2005. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending the parish liturgies on a weekend in May 2005. Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with some designed specifically for St. Thomas Parish. In all, there were 502 respondents. Four questionnaires returned by parishioners under age 18 were not used for analysis, leaving 498 valid respondents.

#### **Major Findings**

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

- St. Thomas respondents are generally pleased with the parish. More than nine in ten rate their overall satisfaction with the parish as at least "good," with half rating it as "excellent."
- Aspects of parish life related to leadership, worship, facilities, and the parish school are *particularly* likely to receive high evaluations. At least half give an "excellent" rating to the pastor, his leadership, the parish staff, Masses and liturgies in general, the liturgical decorations and environment, the music, the air conditioning, the heat, and St. Thomas School.

- Areas of parish life related to parish outreach and community are *least* likely to receive high evaluations. Fewer than a quarter rate outreach to the following groups as “excellent”: Catholics who do not come to Mass on a regular basis, the divorced and separated, single parents, single adults, inactive Catholics, young adults, widows and widowers, and those with low incomes. Furthermore, the sense of community within the parish and the small prayer groups are rated highly by fewer than a quarter of respondents.
- Needs related to passing along the faith to the next generation, facilities, community, and social justice are *most* likely to receive high priority from parish respondents. Half to three-quarters place “very much” priority on the following: children’s religious education or formation, youth ministry, maintaining the parish school, the upkeep of parish facilities, a parish hall for gatherings, visitation of the sick and homebound, developing a parish sense of community, ministry to the grieving, and promoting the sacredness of human life.
- Nearly two in three respondents are currently not involved with any parish ministries or activities, and only one in six report being “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the future. The factor most likely to prevent parishioners from volunteering more is their busy schedules or lack of time. And one in six say that their health problems or disabilities and being unsure of parish needs “very much” prevents their volunteering more.

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## *Parish Life Survey*

### **Saint Thomas Parish Bedford, Pennsylvania**

#### **Introduction**

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In all, there were 502 respondents. Four questionnaires returned by parishioners under age 18 were not used for analysis, leaving 498 valid respondents. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 498 provides a margin of error of approximately  $\pm 4.4$  percentage points.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>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.

## Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four point scales (“not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; “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 much of what follows, these responses are typically combined to allow for clearer comparisons. However, sometimes examining the most positive response distinguishes important contrasts in level of support. Thus almost every section in this report gives both the combined positive side of the scale and the most positive response – “very much” or “excellent” response or its equivalent – separately.

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 on the *Questionnaire with Response Frequencies* (where?). 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 that question, separately calculated out of 100 percent for clarity of comparison.

In addition to summarizing the responses to each question for respondents as a whole, the report also compares the responses of those from selected subgroups. To assess possible differences among respondents based on their characteristics or experiences, a wide range of subgroups were examined. These include subgroups based on the demographic characteristics of the respondents and their religious characteristics. 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 typically present only the percentages of those who give the most positive response.

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 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.

Finally, there was one open-ended question on the questionnaire concerning whether the school should remain open. While these comments are not analyzed in the main body of this report, a complete transcription of those comments is presented in Appendix II.

## Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section describes several characteristics of respondents that relate to their personal and social attributes.

### Age

Adult respondents who reported their age range from 18 to 88. For respondents who reported an age of 18 and over, the average age is 55.

<b>Age Distribution in Calendar Year 2005</b>	
Percentage responding	
18-19	2%
20-29	6
30-39	10
40-49	23
50-59	19
60-69	20
70-79	13
80 and over	7

### Generation

Important differences among groups in parishes are typically found among those who belong to different generations. CARA divides Catholics into the following three generations, reflective of the categories used by other researchers.

- *Ages 63 and over, the “Pre-Vatican II Generation.”* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members, age 63 and older in 2005, came of age before the Second Vatican Council. This generation played a crucial role in creating many of the social and religious institutions of the twentieth century, and they tend to show high degrees of loyalty to those institutions. Due to differential mortality between men and women, surviving members of this generation are now disproportionately female. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 36 percent of responding parishioners (163 respondents), which is similar to the percentage found at parishes nationally (35 percent), but double that for Catholics nationally (18 percent).
- *Ages 45-62, the “Vatican II Generation.”* 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 are most likely to span that time of profound changes in the Church. They are sometimes considered a “questioner” generation; in Church life they tend to share common memories of a Catholic childhood but now exhibit a wide variety of forms of religious practice and understanding. In general, members of this generation are more likely than the generations before them to emphasize concerns of individual self-actualization over institutional commitment. Vatican II Generation parishioners make up 36 percent (135 respondents) of those who responded to the question about age, similar to that for parishes nationally (42 percent) and for Catholics nationally (32 percent).

- *Ages 18-44, the “Post-Vatican II Generation.”* Born between 1961 and 1987, today’s young adults, sometimes called “Generation X” or “baby busters” by demographers, have no lived experience of the pre-Vatican II Church. For many of this generation, their religious training occurred during the 1970s and 1980s, a time when catechetical styles were very different from the methods used up to the late 1960s. They were children at a time when divorce rates rose rapidly and seemingly intractable socio-economic problems grew. Sometimes called the “survivor” generation, they are relatively less likely to make long-term commitments, more pessimistic, pragmatic, and relatively more interested in issues of identity and community. Twenty-eight percent (129 respondents) of those who completed the survey at St. Thomas Parish are members of the Post-Vatican II Generation. This is comparable to the percentage for parishes nationally (23 percent), but somewhat less than that for Catholics nationally (50 percent).

The table below compares the percentage of members of the parish in each of the three generations compared to those found in other CARA parish and national studies.

<b>CARA Catholic Generational Profile</b>			
	<b>St. Thomas</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally</b>
Pre-Vatican II Generation (ages 63 and older)	36%	35%	18%
Vatican II Generation (ages 45-62)	36	42	32
Post-Vatican II Generation (ages 18-44)	28	23	50

### **Marital Status**

Slightly more than seven in ten are married. Just over one in ten have never married, and another one in six are currently not married due to divorce, separation, or widowhood.

<b>Marital Status</b>	
Percentage responding	
Single, never married	12%
Married	72
Divorced/separated	6
Widowed	10

There are some differences of marital status among those belonging to the various generations. Thirty-one percent of those of the youngest generation have never married, with 28 percent of those of the oldest generation being widowed.

### **Number of Children**

Twenty-nine percent of respondents have at least one child under age 18 living with them, and some report having as many as four children. The average number of children among all respondents is 0.6. When taking into account that in some households both spouses answered the questionnaire, the total number of children reported by respondents may be estimated at 162.

## **Religious Characteristics of the Respondents**

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

### **Relationship to the Parish**

Of the 498 adult respondents, 89 percent report being registered at the parish and 93 percent identify the parish as their primary place of worship.

Examining only those identifying the parish as their primary place of worship, there are 27 respondents who regularly attend the parish but are not registered there.

### **Religious Education**

Thirty-six percent say they have attended religious education classes at the parish.

Sixty-five percent indicate that their children do or did attend parish religious education classes.

Forty-four percent report that their children have attended the parish school.

## Frequency of Mass Attendance

Eighty percent of St. Thomas respondents report they attend Mass at least once a week.

Frequency of Mass Attendance	
Percentage responding	
Never or rarely	1%
A few times a year	2
Once or twice a month	1
Almost every week	16
Every week	71
More than once a week	9

At appropriate places throughout this report, comparisons are made between the following two groups of Mass attenders:

- *Attend Mass almost every week or less frequently* (94 respondents)
- *Attend Mass at least every week* (368 respondents).

Members of the youngest generation (72 percent) are somewhat less likely than those of the Vatican II Generation (83 percent) and the Pre-Vatican II Generation (85 percent) to say they attend Mass at least once a week.

Moreover, those of the oldest generation are *most* likely to report attending Mass more than once a week (15 percent).

### Mass Regularly Attended

Slightly more than a quarter each most regularly attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Saturday, and 7:45 a.m. Sunday Masses.

<i>Which Mass do you most regularly attend at the parish?</i>	
Percentage responding	
5:00 p.m. Saturday	26%
7:45 a.m. Sunday	26
10:00 a.m. Sunday	29
11:30 a.m. Sunday	20
I do not regularly attend Mass at this parish	1

In appropriate places, comparisons will be made between the following four groups based on the Mass they regularly attend:

- *Regularly attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass (113 respondents)*
- *Regularly attend the 7:45 a.m. Sunday Mass (113 respondents)*
- *Regularly attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (127 respondents)*
- *Regularly attend the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass (88 respondents).*

There are some difference among the generations in which Mass they most regularly attend. Members of the oldest generation are *especially* likely to regularly attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass (35 percent), with those of the youngest generation *most* likely to attend the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass (42 percent).

## Level of Involvement

Just over a third of respondents are involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish.

<i>How many ministries or activities are you involved in at the parish?</i>	
Percentage responding	
None	65%
One	17
Two to four	17
Five or more	1

Throughout this report, comparisons are made between the following groups based on how involved in parish ministries or activities they are.

- *Those not involved with any parish ministries or activities (259 respondents)*
- *Those involved with one parish ministry or activity (69 respondents)*
- *Those involved with at least two parish ministries or activities (71 respondents).*

Members of the Vatican II Generation (45 percent) are *more* likely to be involved with at least one parish ministry or activity than those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (28 percent) or Post-Vatican II Generation (31 percent).

## Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

*More than nine in ten St. Thomas respondents rate their overall satisfaction with the parish as at least “good,” with half rating it as “excellent.”*

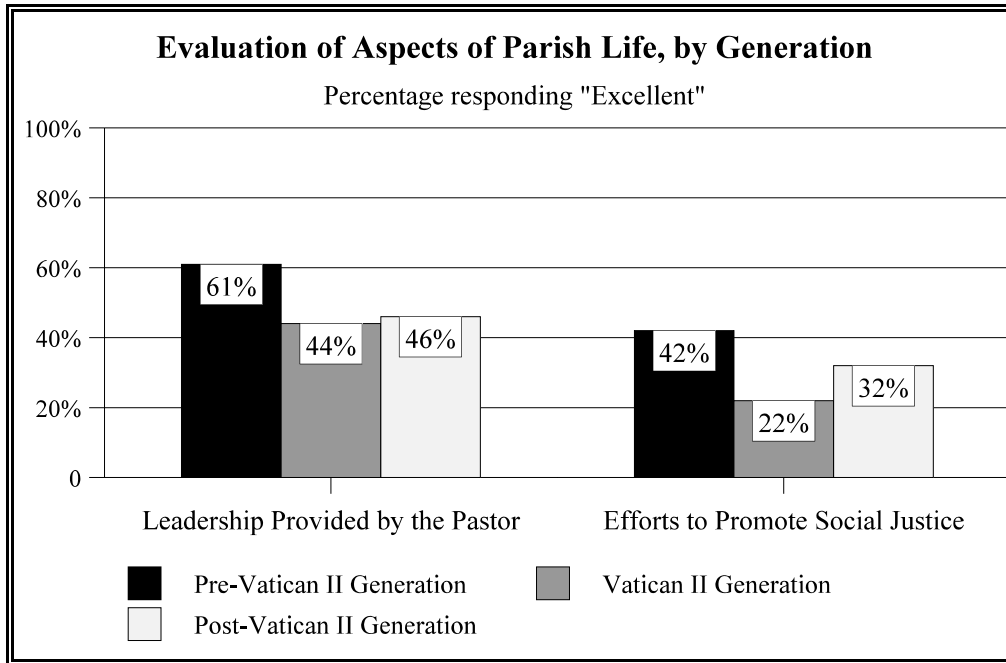
<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Overall satisfaction with the parish	95%	49%
Masses and liturgies in general	92	52
Leadership provided by the pastor	89	49
Promotion of responsible stewardship	87	32
Vision provided by parish leaders	86	30
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	84	36
Efforts to promote social justice	83	31
Inviting your participation in parish ministries	81	31
Sense of community within the parish	81	24
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	79	28
Outreach to inactive Catholics	60	19

With the exception of outreach to inactive Catholics, at least eight in ten rate each of the aspects of parish life listed above as “good” or “excellent.”

- Masses and liturgies in general and the leadership provided by the pastor receive “excellent” ratings from half of respondents.
- About a third give an “excellent” rating to the following aspects of parish life: efforts to educate parishioners in the faith, promotion of responsible stewardship, efforts to promote social justice, inviting participation in parish ministries, and the vision provided by parish leaders.
- The sense of community within the parish and efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize are rated as “excellent” by approximately a quarter of parish respondents.
- Two in ten give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to inactive Catholics.

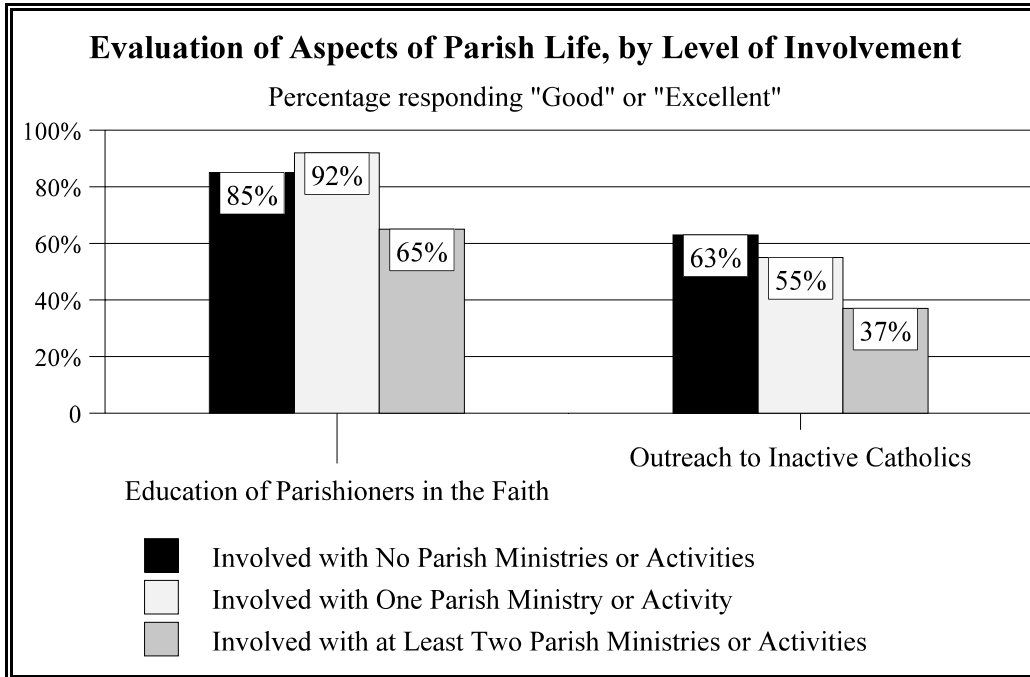
## Generation

Members of the oldest generation are *especially* likely to give an “excellent” rating to the leadership provided by the pastor and to efforts to promote social justice.



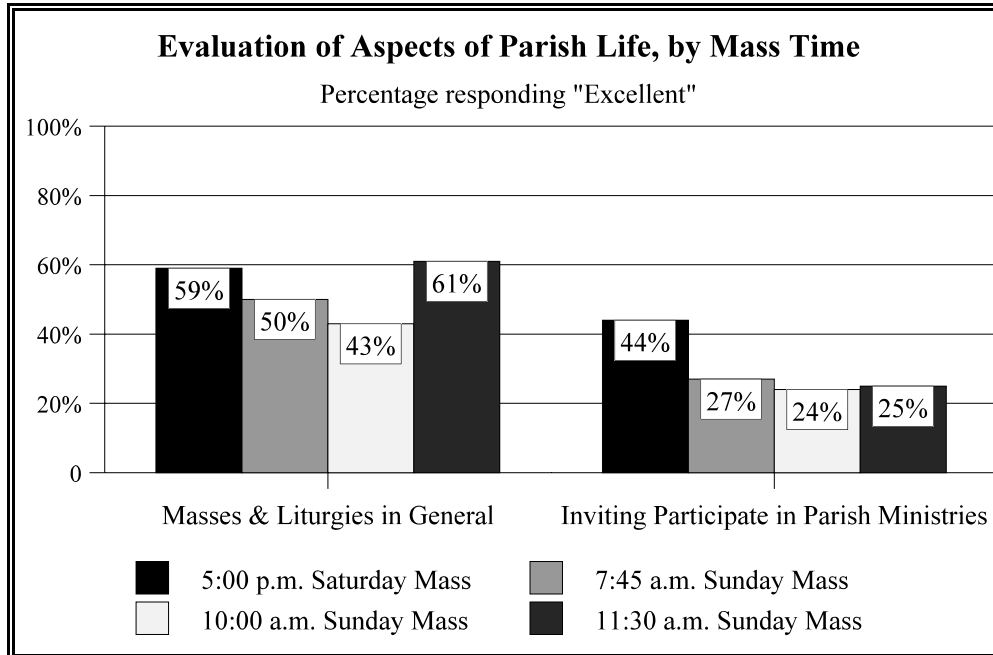
### Level of Involvement

Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith and outreach to inactive Catholics are *least* likely to receive a positive rating from those involved with at least two parish ministries or activities.



## Mass Time

Regular attenders of the 11:30 a.m. Sunday and 5:00 p.m. Saturday Masses are *most* likely to rate the Masses and liturgies in general as “excellent.”



Efforts to invite participation in parish ministries are *especially* likely to receive a high evaluation from regular attenders of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass.

## Evaluation of Persons, Programs and Services

*Persons at the parish, the weekly bulletins, and the parish school are particularly likely to receive high ratings. At least half rate the pastor, parish staff, weekly bulletins, and St. Thomas School as “excellent.”*

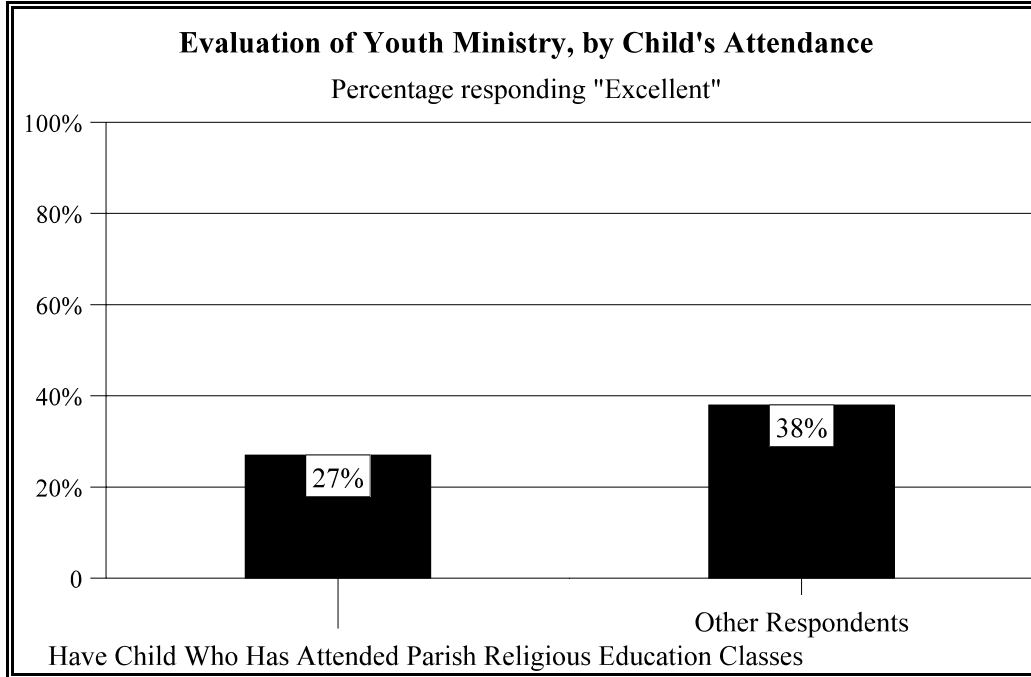
<i>Please evaluate these persons, programs, or services</i>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Parish staff	96%	52%
Weekly bulletins	95	57
Pastor	91	59
Parish Pastoral Council	91	35
Director of Religious Education (DRE)	90	42
St. Thomas School	88	50
Children’s religious education programs	88	45
Social activities	79	27
Adult religious education programs	78	30
Youth ministry	76	30
Small prayer groups	65	21

At least three in four give a “good” or “excellent” rating to all persons, programs, or services evaluated except small prayer groups.

- Slightly fewer than half rate children’s religious education programs as “excellent.” Three in ten give as high a rating to youth ministry and adult religious education programs.
- The Director of Religious Education receives an “excellent” rating from just over four in ten.
- Just over a third rate the Parish Pastoral Council as “excellent.”
- Social activities are rated as “excellent” by slightly more than a quarter of respondents.
- Two in ten rate small prayer groups as “excellent.”

### Child's Attendance of Religious Education Classes

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish are *less* likely than other respondents to rate youth ministry as "excellent."

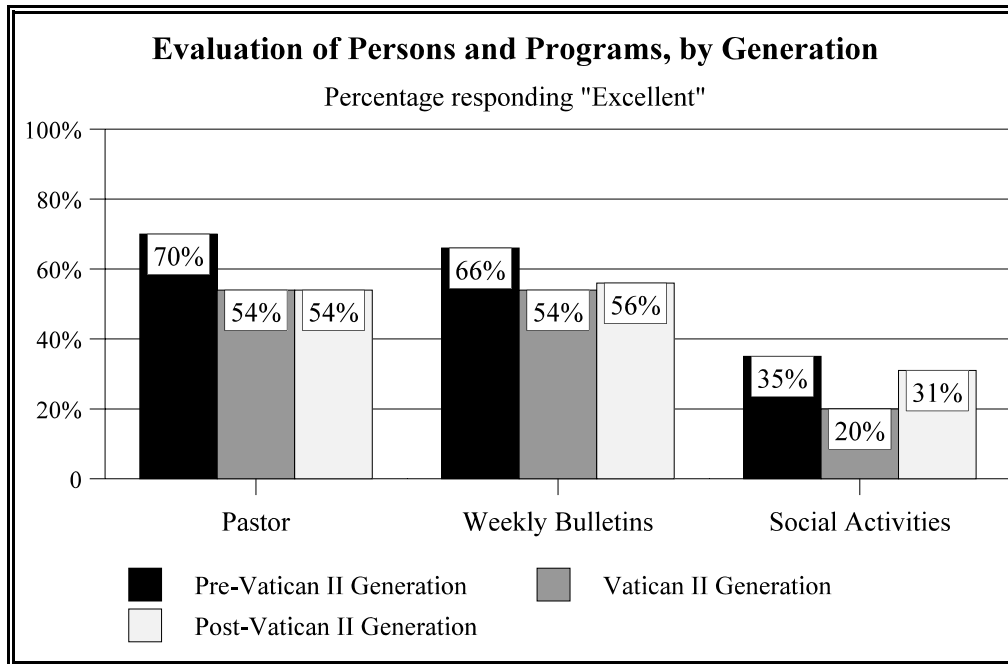


### Child's Attendance of the Parish School

There are *no* significant differences between those whose children have attended the parish school and other respondents in how they evaluate St. Thomas School.

## Generation

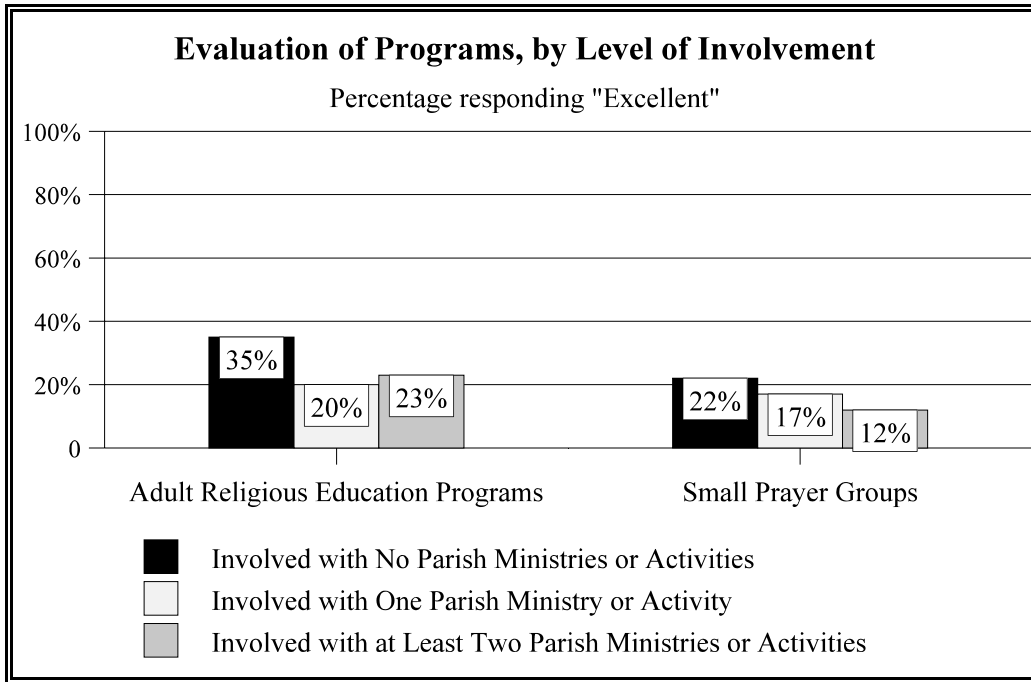
Members of the oldest generation are *particularly* likely to give an “excellent” rating to the pastor and the weekly bulletins.



Social activities are *least* likely to receive a high evaluation from those of the Vatican II Generation.

### Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any parish ministries or activities are *least* likely to rate adult religious education programs as “excellent.”



Small prayer groups are *least* likely to receive high evaluations from those involved with at least two parish ministries or activities.

## Evaluation of Parish Outreach

*The parish is seen as being especially successful in its outreach to the sick and disabled and to children.*

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to the following groups</i>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Sick or disabled	83%	32%
Children (ages 3 to 12)	77	29
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	73	24
New parishioners	73	22
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	72	26
Married couples	72	24
Those with low incomes	68	21
Young adults (ages 35 to 64)	62	20
Widows and widowers	61	20
Single parents	60	18
Single adults	56	19
Divorced and separated	53	16

Slightly fewer than three in four rate outreach to senior citizens, new parishioners, teens, and married couples as at least “good.” About a quarter rate outreach to these groups as “excellent.”

- Between six-tenths and two-thirds rate outreach to those with low incomes, young adults, widows and widowers, and single parents as “good” or “excellent.” About two in ten rate outreach to these groups as “excellent.”
- Parish outreach to single adults and to the divorced and separated as at least “good.” About one in six rate this outreach as “excellent.”

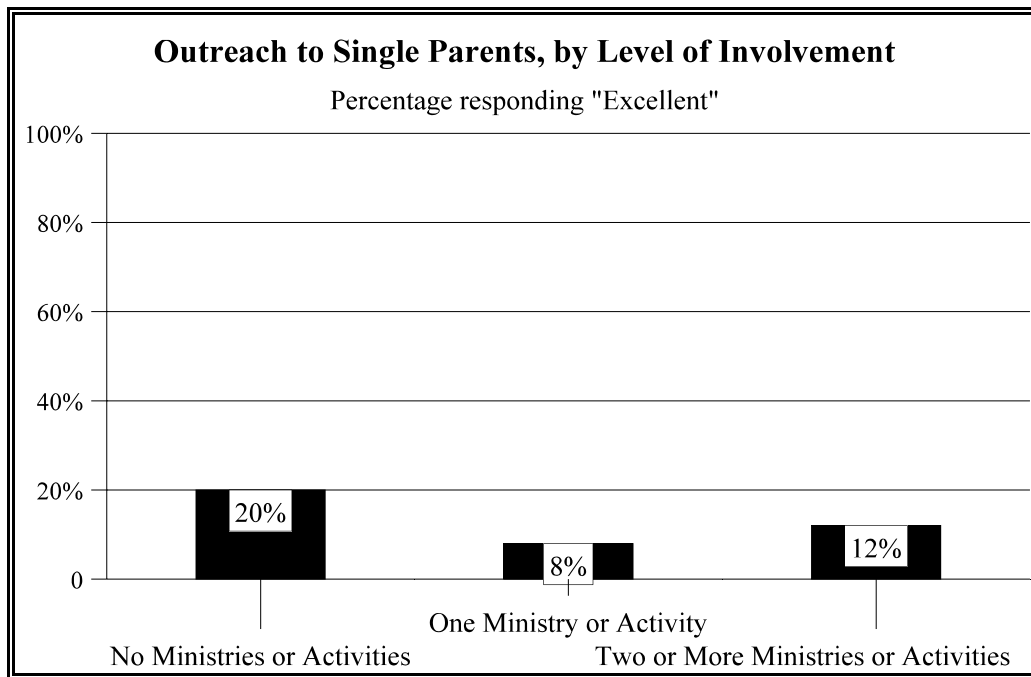
### Non-Response Rate

The results above are for those who responded to the questions. Examination of the percentage of respondents who did not respond suggests that some parishioners may not be aware of how the parish reaches out to some groups. Non-response rates are especially high for outreach to the following groups:

- Single parents (40 percent of all respondents left this item blank)
- Divorced and separated (39 percent of all respondents left this item blank)
- Widows and widowers (38 percent of all respondents left this item blank)
- Single adults (38 percent of all respondents left this item blank).

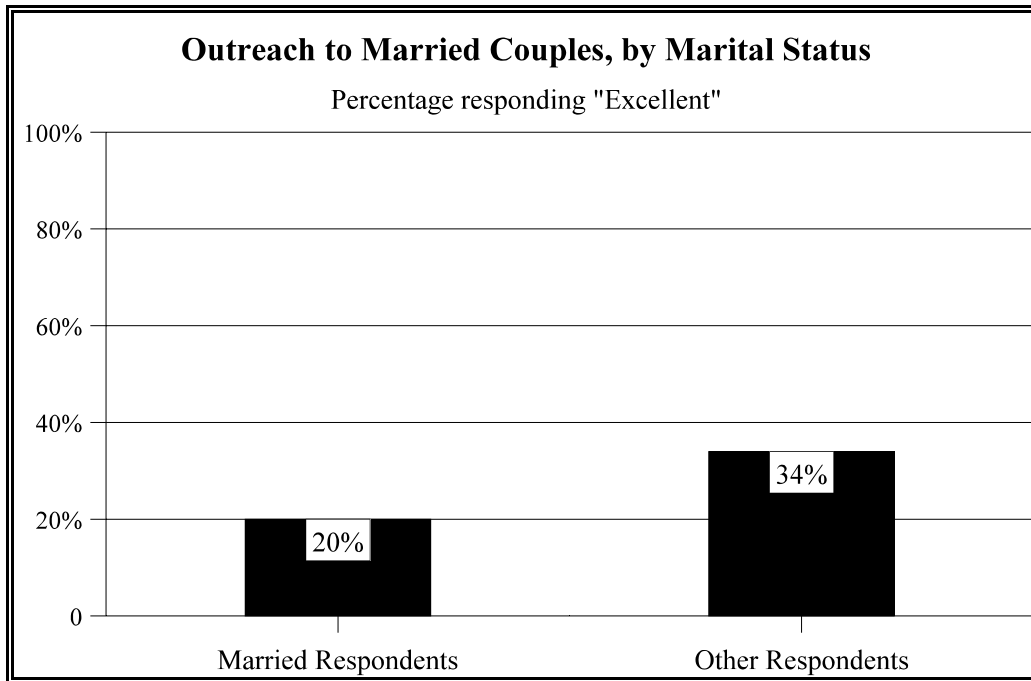
### Level of Involvement

Outreach to single parents is *especially* likely to receive a high rating from those *not* involved with any parish ministries or activities.



## Marital Status

Married respondents are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to married couples.



While the difference is *not* statistically significant, there is some indication that divorced or separated respondents (32 percent) are *less* likely than other respondents (54 percent) to give parish outreach to the divorced and separated a “good” or “excellent” rating.

Similarly, while the difference is *not* statistically significant, there is some indication that widowed respondents (45 percent) are *less* likely than other respondents (62 percent) to rate outreach to widows or widowers as “good” or “excellent.”

## Single Parents

Eleven respondents report being unmarried and having children under age 18 living with them. While the difference is *not* statistically significant, these respondents (29 percent) are *more* likely than others (18 percent) to rate parish outreach to single parents as “excellent.”

## Evaluation of Areas of Liturgy

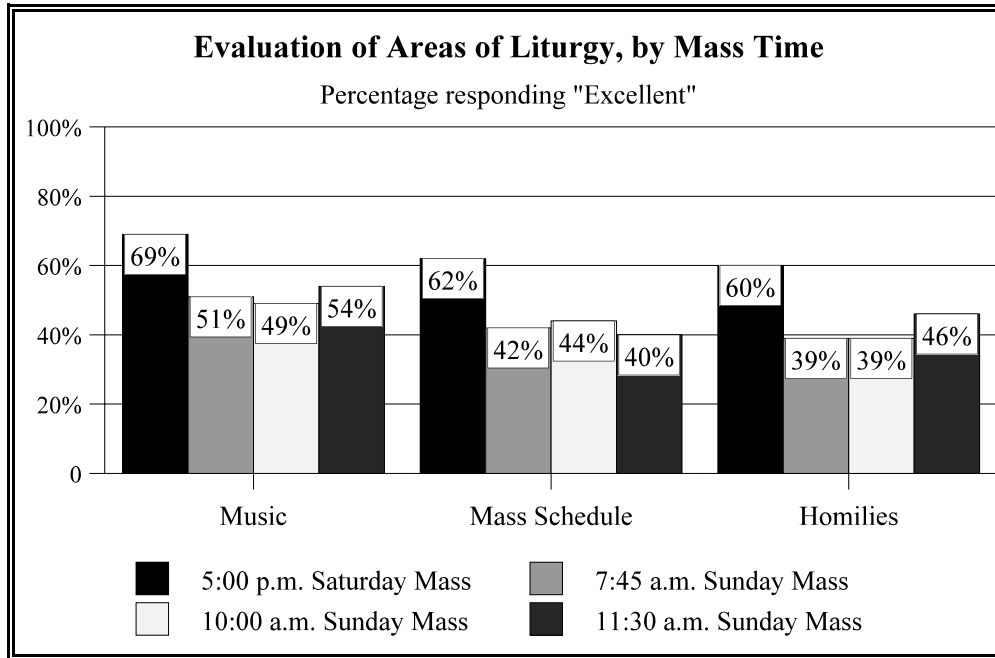
*Respondents are particularly likely to rate the liturgical decorations and environment and music overall highly.*

<i>Please evaluate these areas of liturgy overall</i>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Liturgical decorations and environment	97%	60%
Music	90	56
Homilies	88	45
Mass schedule	86	48
Hospitality/sense of welcome	81	39

- Nearly nine in ten rate the homilies overall and Mass schedule as at least “good.” Slightly fewer than half rate these areas of liturgy as “excellent.”
- The hospitality or sense of welcome receives a positive evaluation from eight in ten parish respondents. Four in ten rate the hospitality as “excellent.”

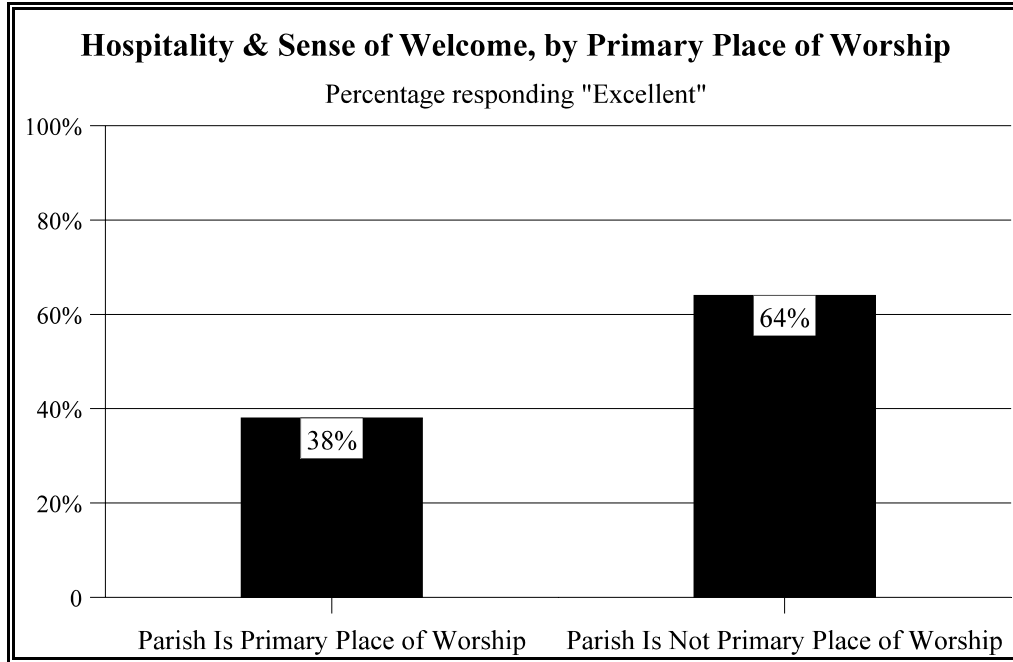
## Mass Time

Regular attenders of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass are *especially* likely to give an “excellent” rating to the music overall, Mass schedule, and homilies overall.



**Visitors**

Those who report that the parish is *not* their primary place of worship are considerably *more* likely than other respondents to rate the hospitality or sense of welcome as “excellent.”



## Evaluation of Parish Facilities

*With the exception of the restrooms and cry room, about nine in ten or more rate each of the facilities evaluated as “excellent.”*

<i>Please evaluate the following facilities</i>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Heat	95%	51%
Parish hall	94	41
Air conditioning	93	52
Parish school	93	45
Parish grounds	93	43
Sound system	90	46
Carpet	90	41
Classrooms	88	34
Restrooms	61	20
Cry room	55	22

The heat and air conditioning is rated as “excellent” by about half.

- Slightly more than four in ten give an “excellent” rating to the sound system, parish school, parish grounds, parish hall, and carpet.
- The classrooms receive an “excellent” rating from a third of parish respondents.
- The restrooms and cry room are rated as “excellent” by about two in ten.

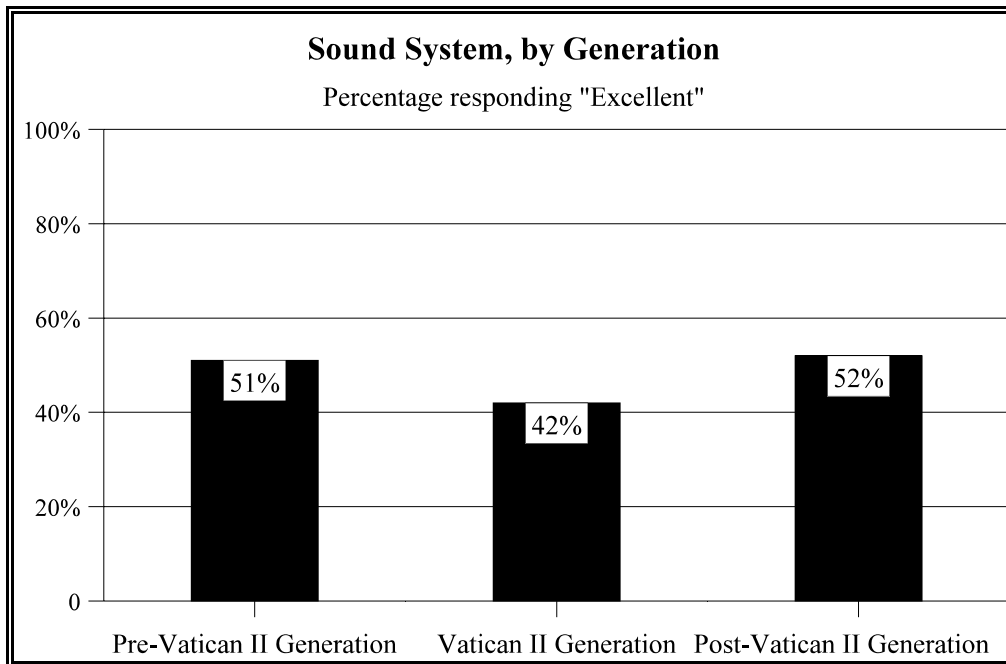
### Attendance of Religious Education Classes and the Parish School

While the difference is *not* statistically significant, there is some indication that those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish (32 percent) are *less* likely than other respondents (42 percent) to rate the classrooms as “excellent.”

There are *no* statistically significant differences between those whose children have attended the school and others in how they evaluate the parish school facilities.

### Generation

Members of the Vatican II Generation are *least* likely to rate the sound system as “excellent.”



## Evaluation of Parish Efforts

*With the exception of efforts to reach out to Catholics who do not come to Mass on a regular basis, at least three in four rate each of the efforts listed as at least “good.”*

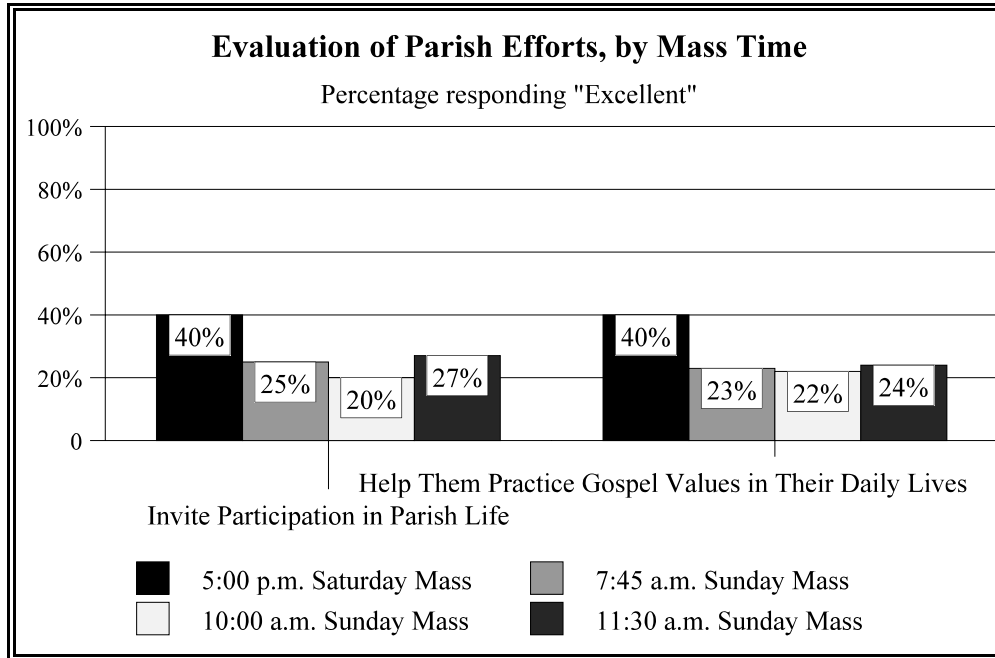
<b><i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Good” or “Excellent”</b>	<b>“Excellent” Only</b>
Meet people’s spiritual needs	86%	33%
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	83	28
Meet the needs of those with disabilities	82	31
Offer a Catholic perspective on current topics	82	31
Respond to parish community concerns	82	26
Invite you to participate in parish life	78	28
Be sensitive to the needs and concerns of the parishioners	78	27
Communicate with parishioners	74	26
Reach out to Catholics who do not come to Mass on a regular basis	52	13

Just over three in ten give an “excellent” rating to efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs, to meet the needs of those with disabilities, and to offer a Catholic perspective on current topics.

- Approximately a quarter rate the following parish efforts as “excellent”: helping them practice gospel values in their daily lives, inviting their participation in parish life, being sensitive to the needs and concerns of the parishioners, responding to parish community concerns, and communicating with parishioners.
- Parish efforts to reach out to Catholics who do not come to Mass on a regular basis are rated as “excellent” by just over one in ten parish respondents.

## Mass Time

Regular attenders of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass are *particularly* likely to give efforts to invite participation in parish life and to help them practice gospel values in their daily lives an “excellent” rating.



## Likelihood of Engaging in Religious Activities

*Parish respondents are about twice as likely to say they are “very” likely to contribute generously to the support of the parish than to volunteer for a parish ministry.*

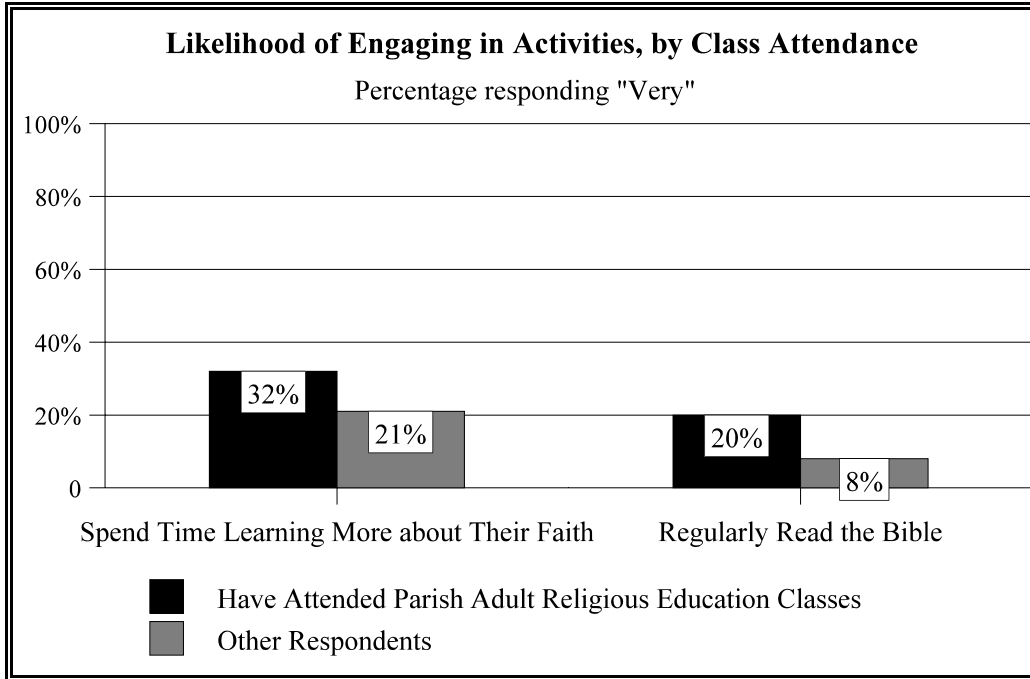
<b><i>How likely are you to do the following?</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	88%	38%
Regularly spend time in personal prayer	86	49
Talk to someone about my faith	78	38
Encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith	77	36
Spend time learning more about my faith	66	25
Invite someone to attend one of our parish services or activities	65	26
Give service on behalf of the poor	64	24
Volunteer for a parish ministry	42	16
Regularly read the Bible	36	14
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	27	8

Almost nine in ten report being at least “somewhat” likely to regularly spend time in personal prayer. Half say they are “very” likely to do so.

- A little more than three in four are “somewhat” or “very” likely to talk to someone about their faith or to encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith. Nearly four in ten are “very” likely to engage in these behaviors.
- About two in three say they are at least “somewhat” likely to spend time learning more about their faith, to invite someone to attend a parish service or activity, and to give service on behalf of the poor. About a quarter are “very” likely to engage in these activities.
- Just over a third are at least “somewhat” likely to regularly read the Bible, with slightly more than one in ten “very” likely to do so.
- Approximately a quarter say they are at least “somewhat” likely to participate in a small faith-sharing group. A little less than one in ten are “very” likely to participate in such a group.

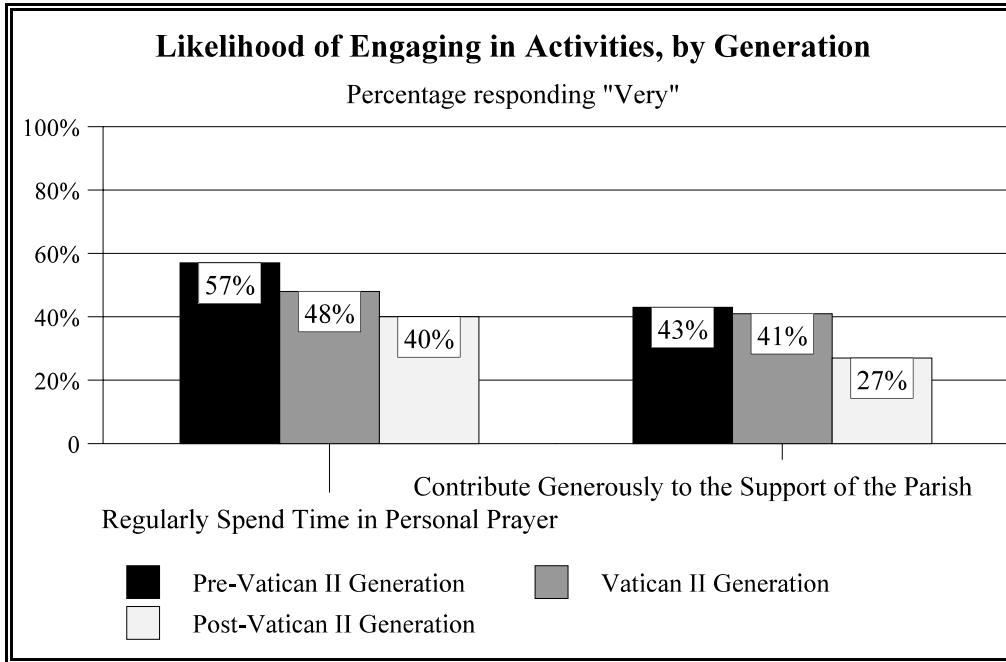
### Attendance at Religious Education Classes

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish are *more* likely than other respondents to report being “very” likely to both spend time learning more about their faith and to regularly read the Bible.



## Generation

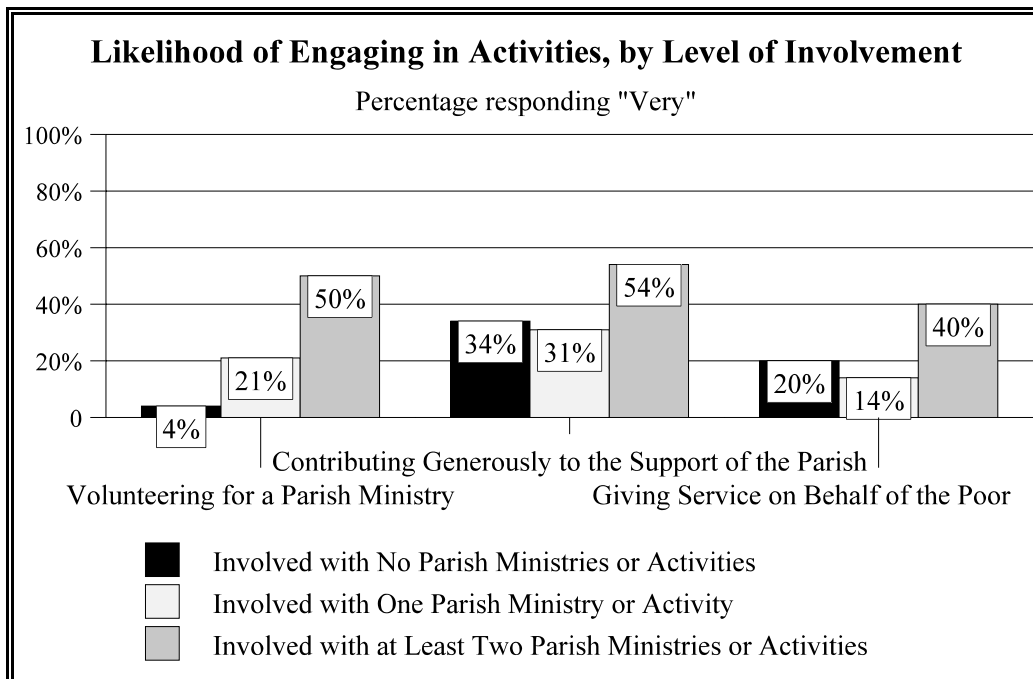
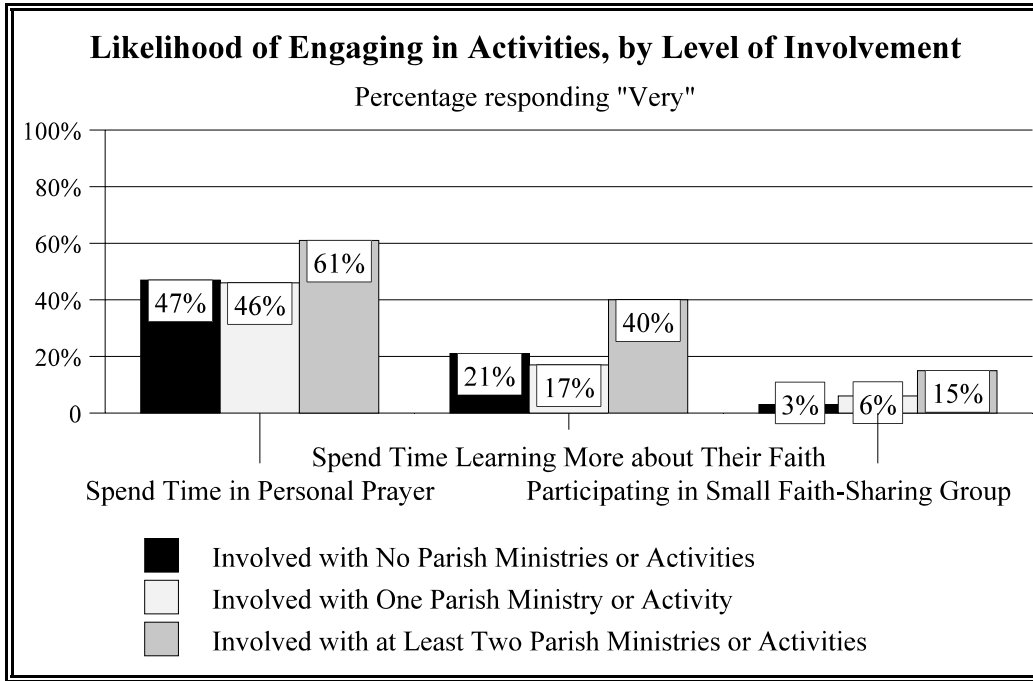
The older respondents are, the *more* likely they are to report being “very” likely to regularly spend time in personal prayer.



Those of the youngest generation are *least* likely to say they are “very” likely to contribute generously to the support of the parish.

### Level of Involvement

Respondents involved with at least two parish ministries or activities are *especially* likely to report being “very” likely to do the following: spending time in personal prayer, spending time learning more about their faith, participating in a small faith-sharing group, volunteering for a parish ministry, contributing generously to the support of the parish, and giving service on behalf of the poor.



## Priorities for Parish Needs

*Respondents are particularly likely to give high priority to promoting the sacredness of life.*

<b>What priority do you give the following parish needs?</b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Promoting the sacredness of human life	90%	58%
Providing opportunities to help the needy	84	40
Upkeep of parish facilities	83	41
Developing a parish sense of community	78	55
Providing a directory of parish services	75	33
Fostering religious vocations	74	33
Additional ministerial staff	64	19
Adopting a parish in a developing country	64	27
More opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	60	22
More opportunities for devotions	57	16
Adding songleaders/cantors to Mass	53	18
Small group prayer opportunities	49	16

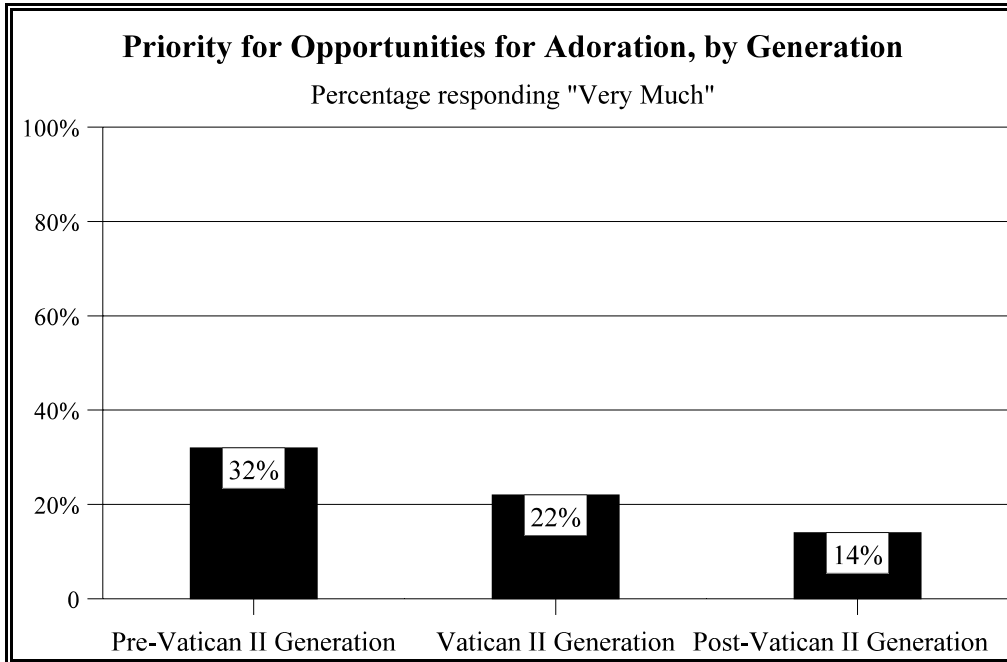
Just over eight in ten place at least “somewhat” priority on providing opportunities to help the needy, with nearly two in three giving “somewhat” priority to adopting a parish in a developing country. Four in ten give opportunities to help the needy “very much” priority, with just over a quarter giving as much priority to adopting a parish.

- Upkeep of parish facilities is given at least “somewhat” priority by a little more than eight in ten. Four in ten give such upkeep “very much” priority.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives at least “somewhat” priority from almost eight in ten. A little over half give such community “very much” priority.
- Three in four place “somewhat” or “very much” priority on providing a directory of parish services and fostering religious vocations. A third give these needs “very much” priority.

- Additional ministerial staff are given at least “somewhat” priority by almost two in three. Two in ten give additional staff “very much” priority.
- About six in ten give “somewhat” or “very much” priority to more opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and more opportunities for devotions. Two in ten or slightly fewer place “very much” priority on such opportunities.
- Adding songleaders/cantors to the Mass and small group prayer opportunities are given at least “somewhat” priority by approximately half of parish respondents. About one in six give these needs “very much” priority.

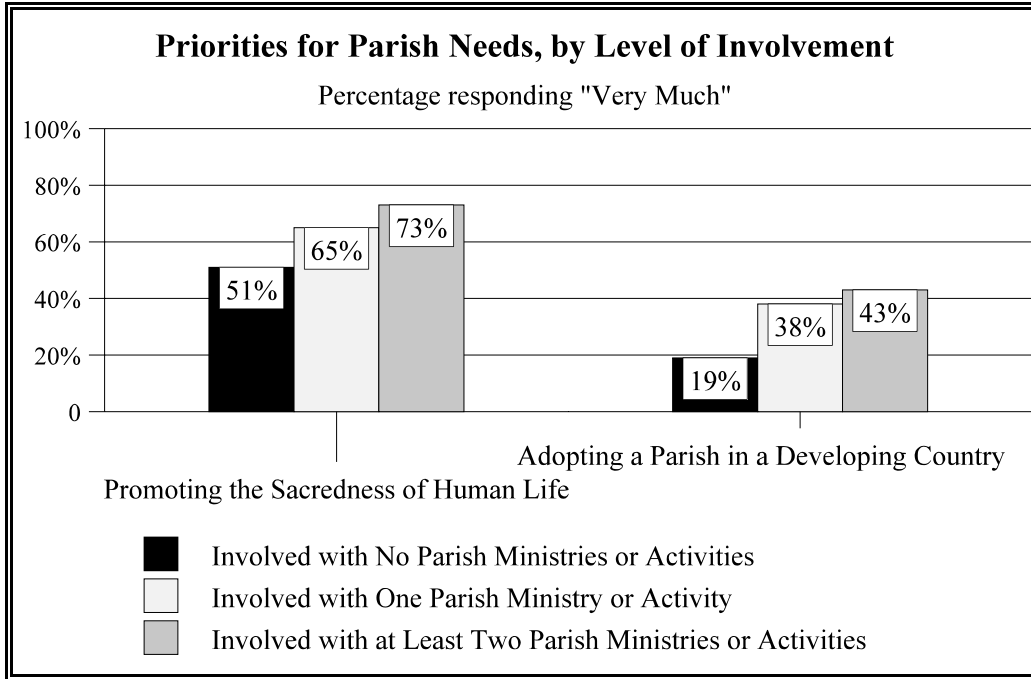
## Generation

The older respondents are, the *more* likely they are to give more opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament “very much” priority.



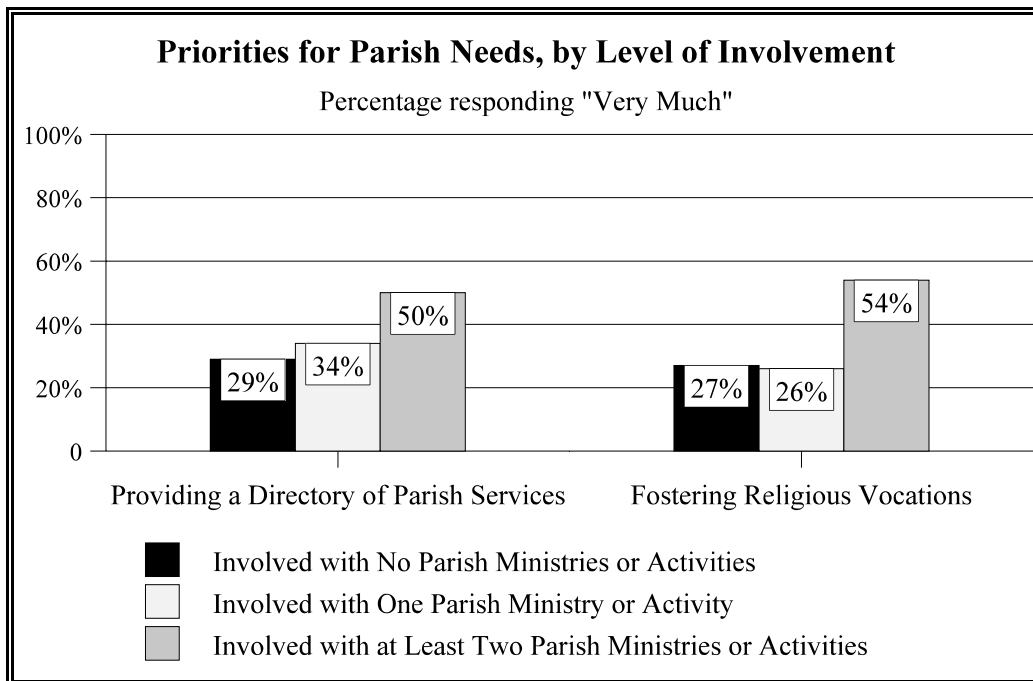
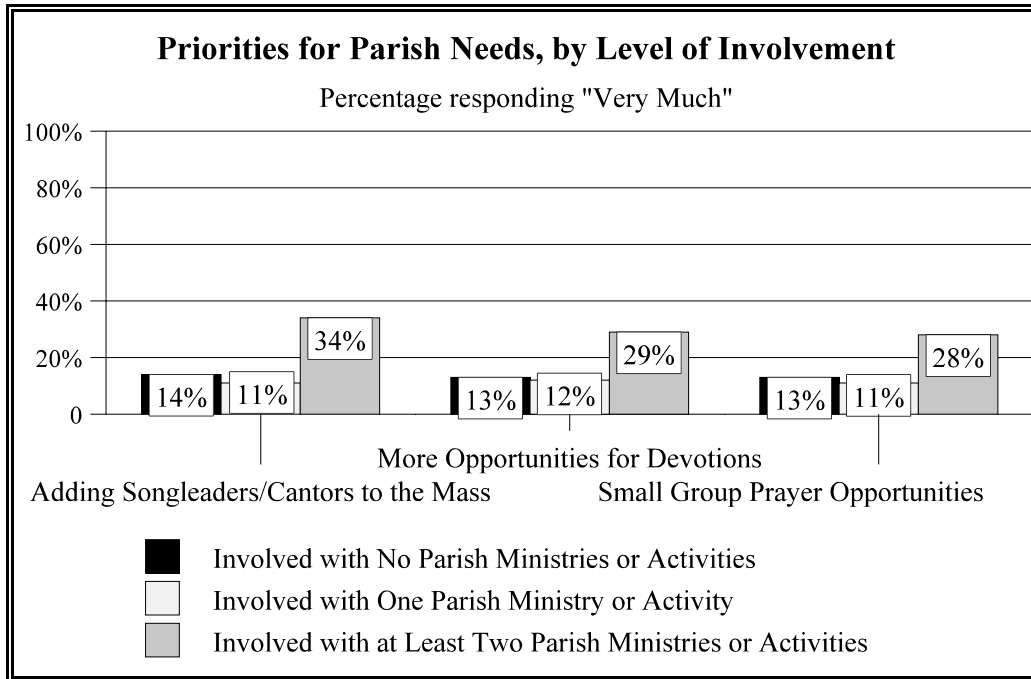
## Level of Involvement

The more involved in parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *more* likely they are to give “very much” priority to promoting the sacredness of human life.



Adopting a parish in a developing country is *especially* likely to be given “very much” priority by those involved with at least one parish ministry or activity.

Respondents involved with at least two parish ministries or activities are *particularly* likely to place “very much” priority on the following: adding songleaders or cantors to the Mass, more opportunities for devotions, small group prayer opportunities, providing a directory of parish services, and fostering religious vocations.



## Priority for Formation Needs

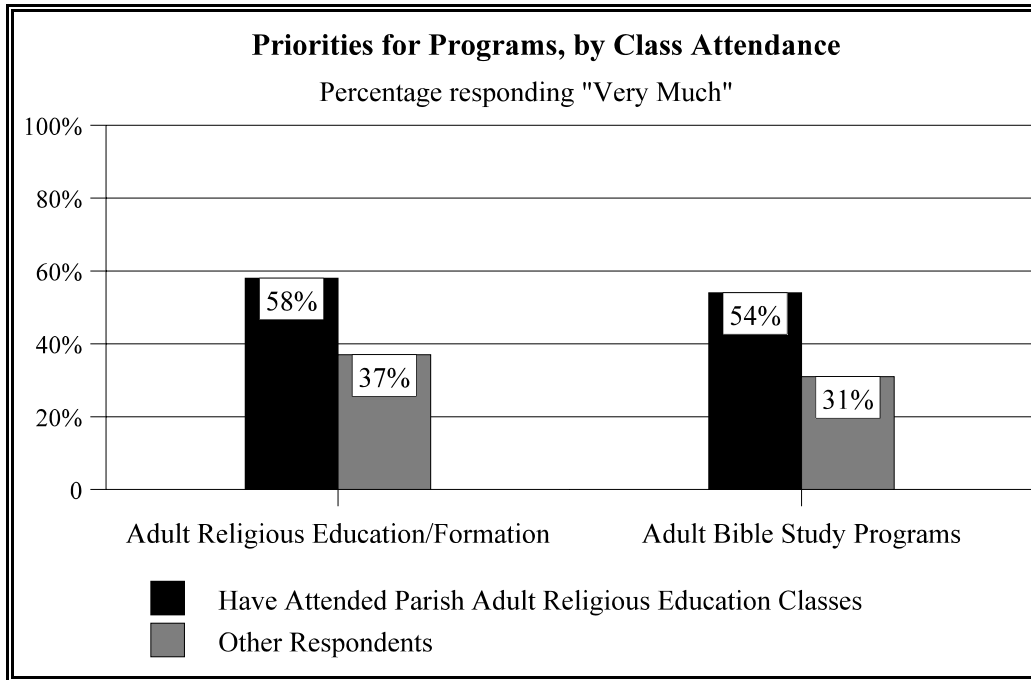
*Needs related to passing on the faith to the next generation are particularly likely to receive high priority. About six-tenths to three-quarters give “very much” priority to children’s religious education or formation, youth ministry, and maintaining the parish school.*

<b><i>How much do you give to these formation needs?</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Children’s religious education/formation	92%	73%
Youth ministry	89	61
Adult religious education/formation	82	45
Maintaining our parish school	80	57
Adult Bible study programs	78	40
Retreat opportunities	65	30

- Adult religious education or formation and adult Bible study programs are given at least “somewhat” priority from about eight in ten. Four in ten or slightly more give these needs “very much” priority.
- Just under two in ten place “somewhat” or “very much” priority on retreat opportunities. Three in ten give such opportunities “very much” priority.

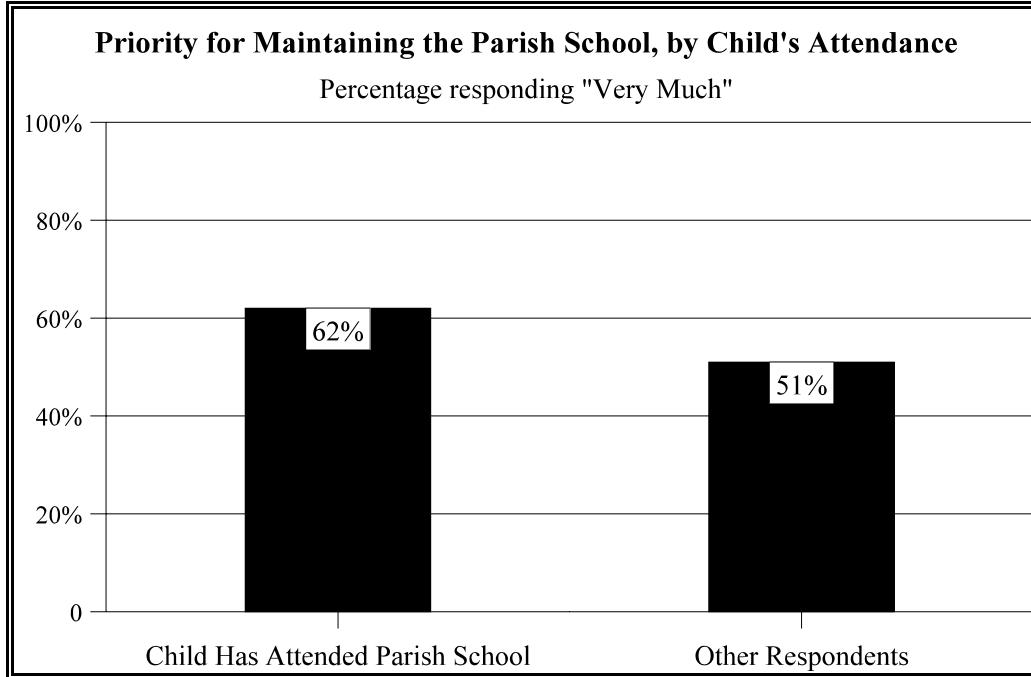
### Attendance of Religious Education Classes

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish are *more* likely than other respondents to give “very much” priority to adult religious education or formation and to adult Bible study programs.



### Child's Attendance at the Parish School

Those who report having a child who has attended the parish school are *more* likely than other respondents to give maintaining the school "very much" priority.



## Priority for Outreach to Groups

*Respondents are particularly likely to give high priority to visitation of the sick and homebound, followed by ministry to the grieving.*

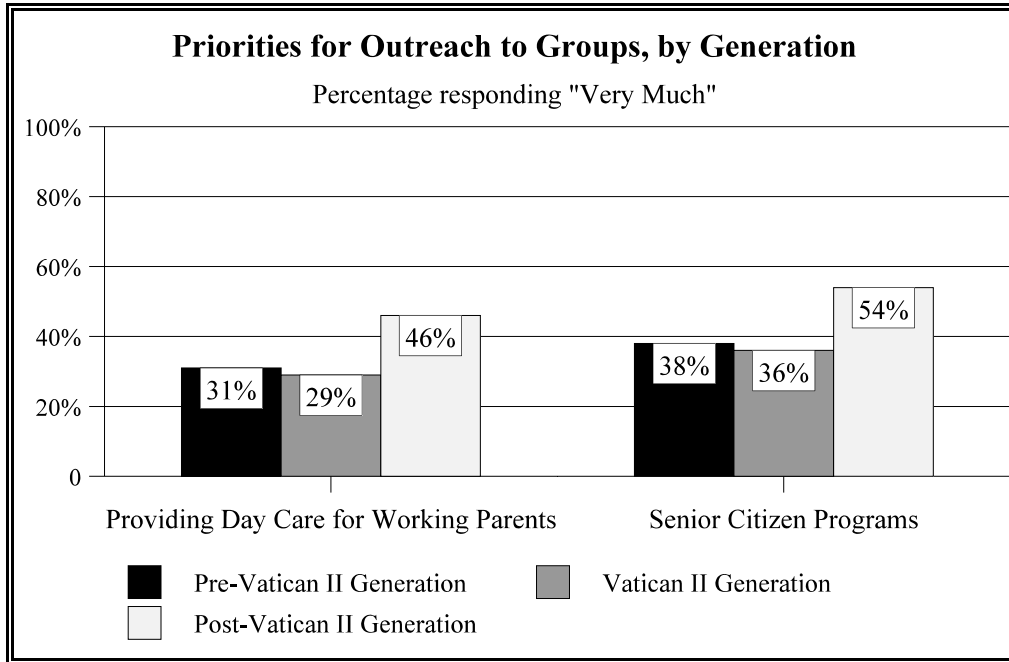
<b><i>How much priority do you give to outreach to the following groups?</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Visitation of the sick and homebound	90%	61%
Ministry to the grieving	86	52
Senior citizen programs	82	42
Outreach to inactive Catholics	81	36
Young adult ministry	80	39
Ministry to couples	78	36
Ministry to the divorced and separated	75	38
Providing day care for working parents	69	35

With the exception of providing day care for working parents, at least three in four give “very much” priority to each of the needs listed.

- About four in ten place “very much” priority on senior citizen programs, young adult ministry, and ministry to the divorced and separated.
- A little more than a third give “very much” priority to outreach to inactive Catholics, ministry to couples, and to providing day care for working parents.

## Generation

Members of the youngest generation are *especially* likely to place “very much” priority on providing day care for working parents and on senior citizen programs.



## Priorities for Facilities-Related Needs

*Parishioners are more than twice as likely to give high priority to the upkeep for parish facilities than to renovation of current properties.*

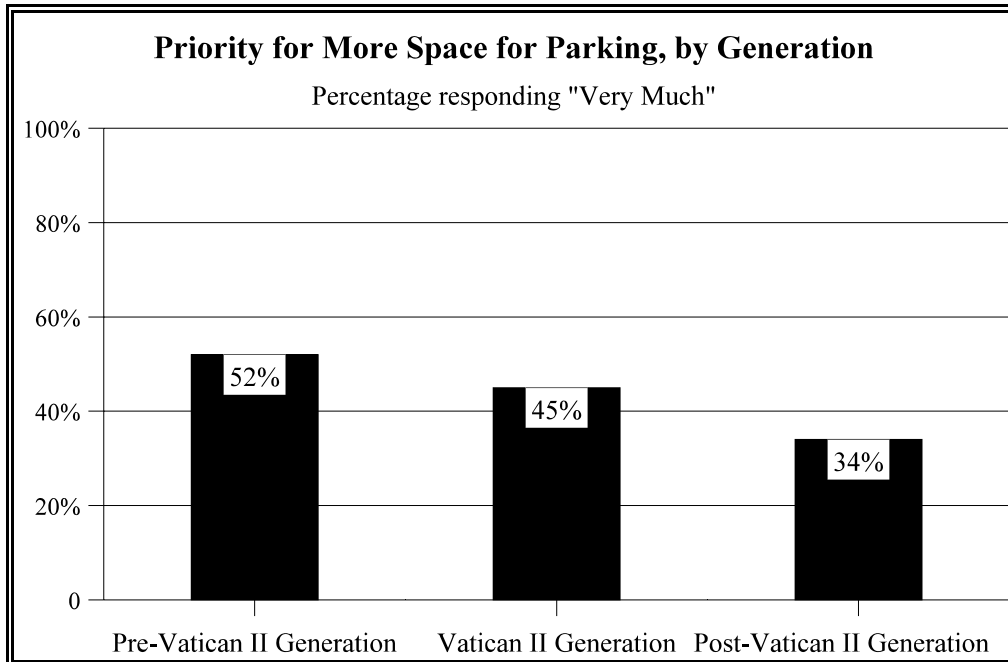
<b><i>How much priority do you give to these facilities-related needs?</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Upkeep of parish facilities	92%	66%
A parish hall for gatherings	85	54
More space for parking	71	43
Renovation of current properties	70	29

The upkeep of parish facilities is given at least “somewhat” priority by slightly more than nine in ten. Two in three place “very much” priority on such upkeep.

- Almost nine in ten give “very much” priority to a parish hall for gatherings. Just over half place “very much” priority on such a hall.
- More space for parking receives at least “somewhat” priority from seven in ten. A little more than four in ten give more parking space “very much” priority.
- Renovation of current properties is given “somewhat” or “very much” priority by seven in ten. Three in ten give such renovation “very much” priority.

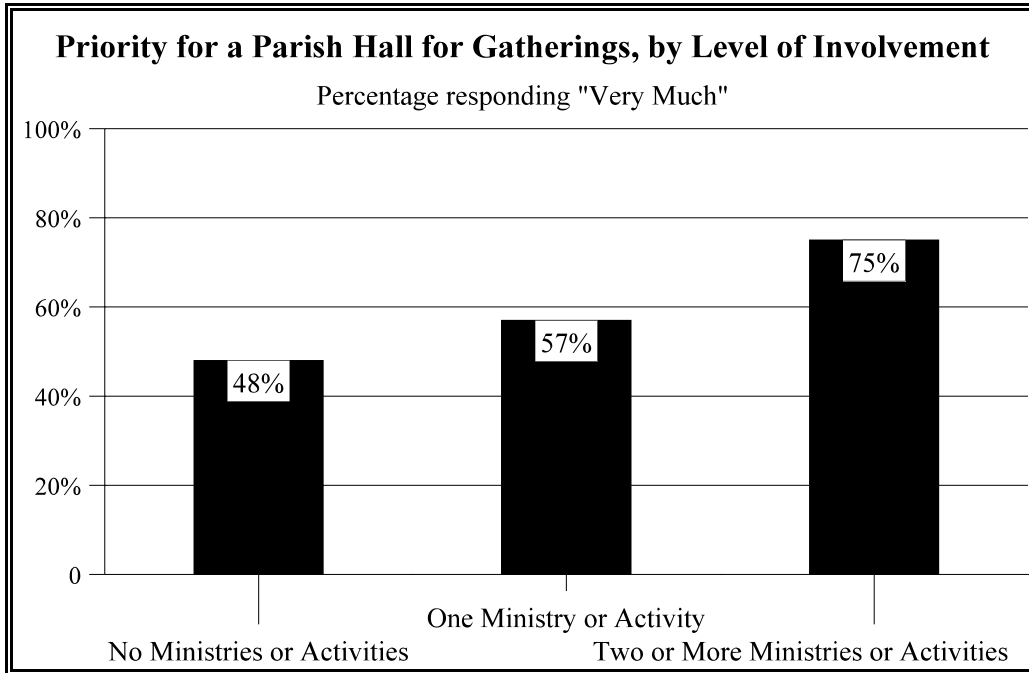
## Generation

The older respondents are, the *more* likely they are to place “very much” priority on more space for parking.



### Level of Involvement

The more involved in parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *more* likely they are to place “very much” priority on a parish hall for gatherings.



## Impediments to Volunteering More

*The factor that most often prevents respondents from volunteering more at the parish, their busy schedules or lack of time, is one that is often beyond the control of the parish. Nearly eight in ten report that this factor prevents their volunteering at least “somewhat,” with half reporting that it “very much” prevents them from volunteering more.*

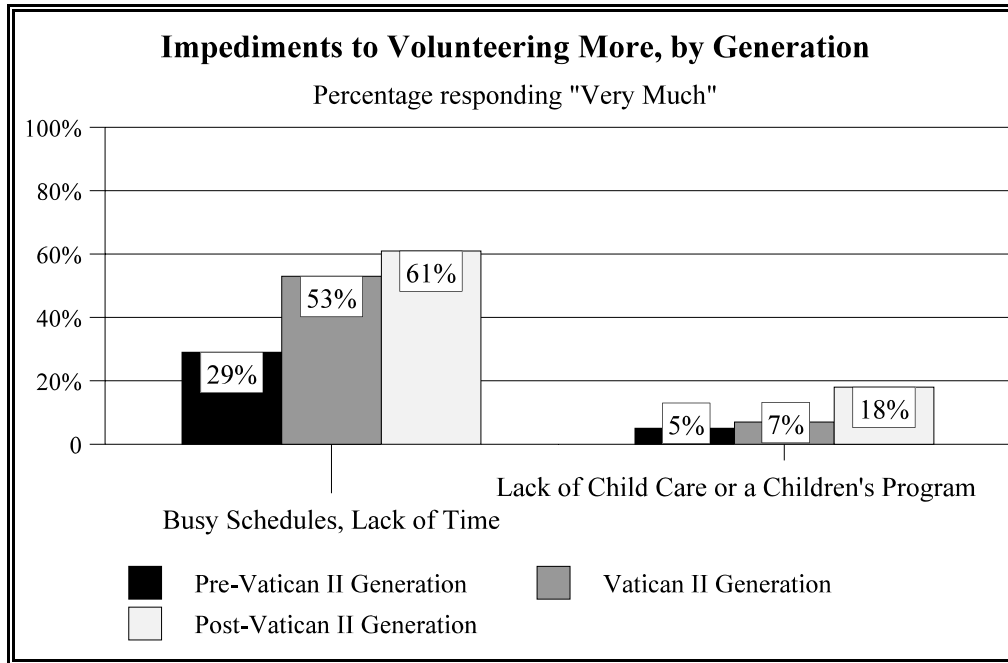
<b><i>How much do the following prevent you from volunteering more for the parish?</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat” or “Very Much”</b>	<b>“Very Much” Only</b>
Busy schedules, lack of time	78%	50%
I am not aware of parish needs	42	15
I am unsure who to contact	40	13
Health problems or a disability	28	16
Lack of child care or children’s program	23	11
I am unable to find transportation	10	5

Lack of awareness of parish needs and not being sure who to contact prevents about four in ten parish respondents from volunteering more at least “somewhat.” Slightly more than one in ten report that these prevent their volunteering more “very much.”

- Health problems or a disability prevents almost three in ten “somewhat” or “very much” from volunteering more. One in six say this factor “very much” prevents their volunteering more.
- Nearly a quarter report that the parish’s lack of child care or of a children’s program at least “somewhat” prevents their volunteering more. One in ten reports that it prevents them “very much.”
- One in ten is prevented from volunteering more by their inability to find transportation. This factor “very much” prevents one in twenty from volunteering more.

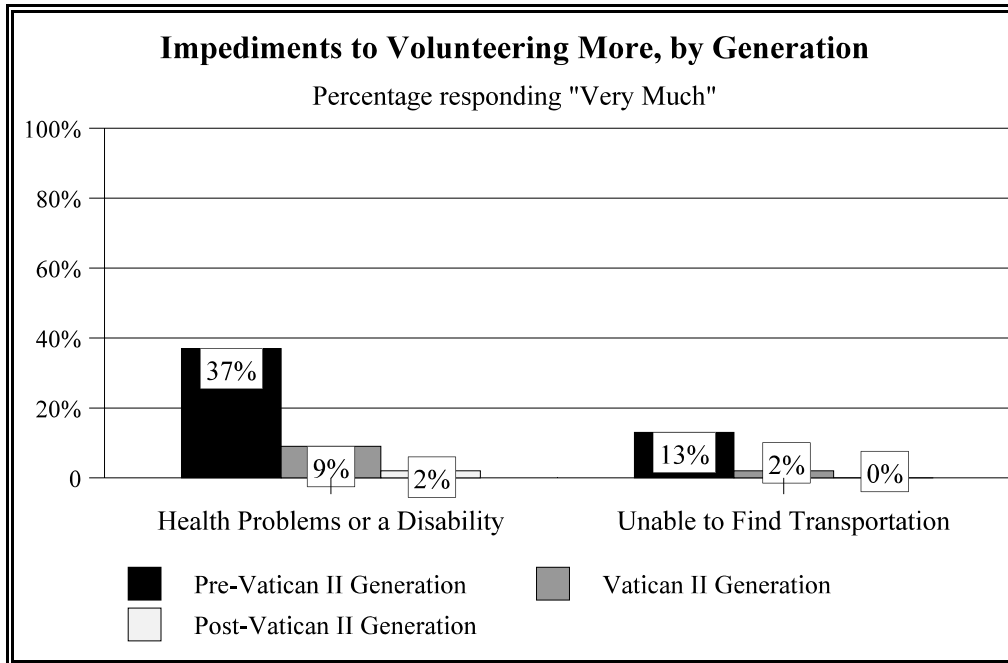
## Generation

Members of the younger two generation of respondents are *especially* likely to report that their busy schedules or lack of time “very much” prevent their volunteering more.



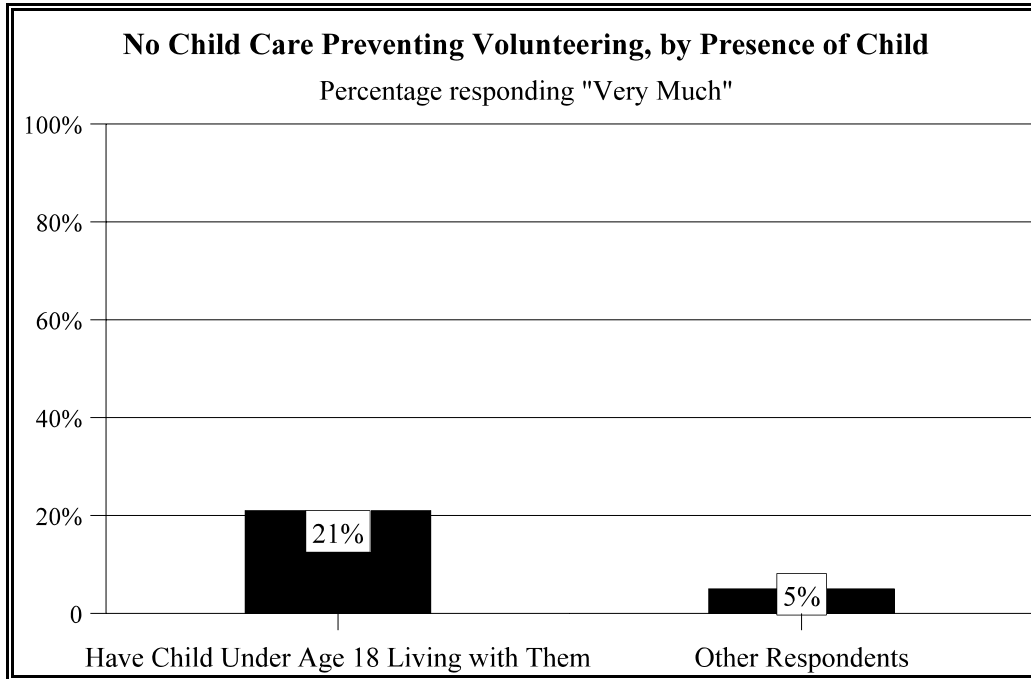
Those of the youngest generation are *most* likely to say that the lack of child care or of a children’s program prevents their volunteering more “very much.”

Pre-Vatican II Generation members are *particularly* likely to report that health problems or a disability and an inability to find transportation “very much” prevent their being able to volunteer more for the parish.



### Those with Children

About two in ten of those with children under age 18 living with them report that the parish's lack of childcare or of a children's program prevents their volunteering more for the parish "very much."



## Attitudes about Parish Life

*Just over eight in ten at least “somewhat agree” that they feel included in parish life. Three in ten “strongly agree” that they do.*

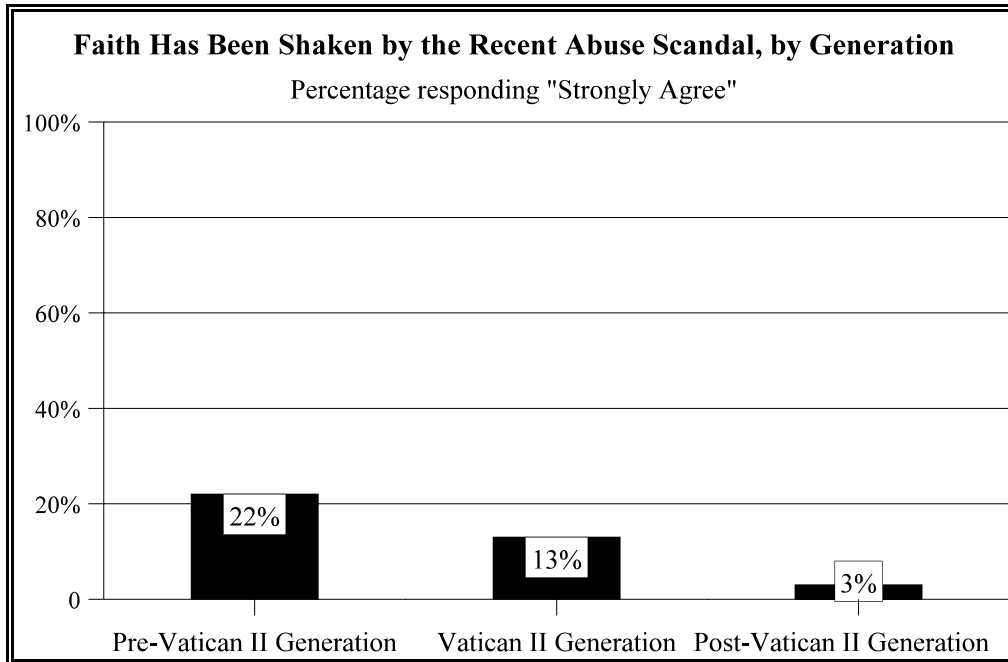
<b><i>Please respond to the following statements</i></b>		
Percentage responding		
	<b>“Somewhat Agree” or “Strongly Agree”</b>	<b>“Strongly Agree” Only</b>
I feel included in parish life	82%	31%
I am comfortable with the merging of our two parishes	59	25
The current parish facilities will not be adequate to satisfy the parish need in 10 years	56	28
We need more space for parish liturgies	53	21
My faith has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal	36	13

Six in ten “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” that they feel comfortable with the merging of the two parishes. A quarter “strongly agree” they are comfortable with the merging.

- Slightly more than half at least “somewhat agree” both that the current parish facilities will not be adequate to satisfy the parish need in 10 years and that the parish needs more space for parish liturgies. Almost three in ten “strongly agree” that the current facilities will not be adequate, with two in ten agreeing as strongly that more space is needed for parish liturgies.
- Just over a third at least “somewhat agree” that their faith has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal. A little more than one in ten “strongly agree” that their faith has been shaken by the scandal.

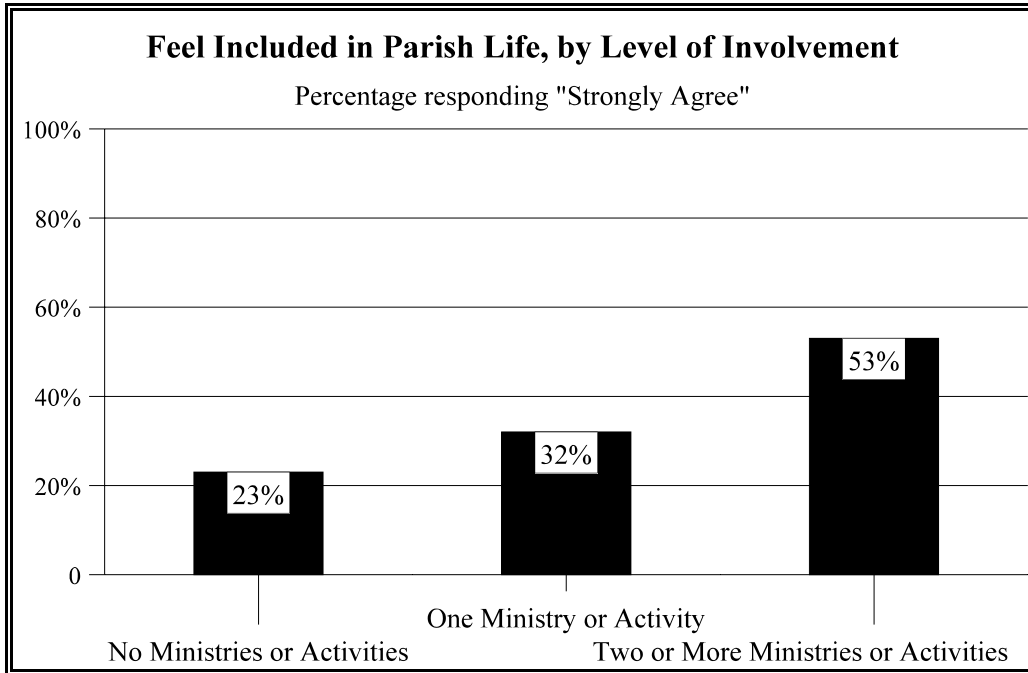
## Generation

The older respondents are, the *more* likely they are to “strongly agree” that the recent abuse scandal has shaken their faith.



### Level of Involvement

The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *more* likely they are to “strongly agree” that they feel included in parish life.



## Summary of Findings

Major findings described in this report are summarized below for each of the following areas.

### *Parish Life*

- More than nine in ten St. Thomas respondents rate their overall satisfaction with the parish as at least “good,” with half rating it as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to invite participation in parish life receive “excellent” ratings from almost three in ten respondents.
- Three in ten “strongly agree” that they feel included in parish life. The more involved in parish ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to feel included.
- Efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs are rated as “excellent” by a third.
- Just over a quarter rate parish efforts to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of parishioners and to respond to parish community concerns as “excellent.”
- Nearly six in ten give the weekly bulletins an “excellent” rating. Members of the oldest generation of parishioners are particularly likely to give the bulletins a high rating.
- Providing a directory of parish services is given “very much” priority by a third of respondents. Half of those involved with at least two parish ministries or activities place high priority on such a directory, compared to about a third of those involved with one or fewer.
- A quarter “strongly agree” that they are comfortable with the merging of the two parishes.
- Just over one in ten “strongly agree” that their faith has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to agree strongly that it has.
- Fostering priestly vocations is given “very much” priority by a third of respondents. More than half of those involved in two or more parish ministries or activities give this need “very much” priority, compared to about a quarter of those involved with one or fewer ministries or activities.

### *Sense of Community*

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive evaluation from eight in ten respondents, with a quarter rating it as “excellent.”
- Social activities are rated as “excellent” by just over a quarter of respondents.
- Parish outreach to the sick or disabled and to children is especially likely to receive a high rating from respondents. About three in ten rate outreach to these groups as “excellent.”
- Three in ten rate efforts to meet the needs of those with disabilities as “excellent.”
- The parish is perceived as being relatively least successful in its outreach to the divorced and separated, to single parents, to single adults, to young adults, to widows and widowers, to those with low incomes, and to new parishioners. Approximately two in ten rate outreach to these groups as “excellent.”
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from almost six in ten respondents.
- Visitation of the sick and homebound is given “very much” priority by six in ten respondents. A little more than half give as much priority to ministry to the grieving.
- Four in ten or slightly fewer place “very much” priority on senior citizen programs, young adult ministry, ministry to the divorced and separated, ministry to couples, and providing day care for working parents.

### *Worship and Devotional Life*

- Masses and liturgies in general are rated as at least “good” by more than nine in ten parish respondents, with just over half rating them as “excellent.”
- About six in ten give an “excellent” rating to the liturgical decorations and environment and to the music.
- The Mass schedule and homilies receive “excellent” ratings from almost half. Regular attenders of the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Masses are particularly likely to give these areas of liturgy a high rating.
- Four in ten give an “excellent” rating to the hospitality or sense of welcome. However, nearly two in three of those who say the parish is not their primary place of worship give the hospitality a high rating.

- Adding songleaders or cantors to the Mass is given “very much” priority by one in six parish respondents.
- Small prayer groups receive an “excellent” rating from two in ten respondents.
- Almost one in ten say they are “very” likely to participate in a small faith-sharing group.
- Half report being “very” likely to regularly spend time in personal prayer. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to regularly spend time doing so.
- Just over two in ten place “very much” priority on more opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to give opportunities for Adoration high priority.
- One in six give “very much” priority both to more opportunities for devotions and to small group prayer opportunities. However, nearly twice that many of those involved with at least two parish ministries or activities give each of these needs high priority.

### *Evangelization*

- Efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize are rated as at least “good” by eight in ten, with nearly three in ten rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- Two in ten give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to inactive Catholics.
- Parish efforts to reach out to Catholics who do not come to Mass on a regular basis receive “excellent” ratings from just over one in ten respondents.
- Just over two in ten rate parish outreach to new parishioners as “excellent.”
- Nearly four in ten report being “very” likely to both talk to someone about their faith and to encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith.
- A quarter are “very” likely to invite someone to attend a parish service or activity.
- Outreach to inactive Catholics receives “very much” priority from slightly more than a third of parish respondents.

### *Spiritual Formation*

- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive rating from more than eight in ten, with just over a third rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- The Director of Religious Education receives an “excellent” rating from just over four in ten parish respondents.
- St. Thomas School is rated as “excellent” by half of respondents.
- Nearly half give an “excellent” rating to children’s religious education programs. Three in ten give as high a rating to youth ministry.
- Adult religious education programs receive an “excellent” rating from three in ten.
- Approximately three in ten give an “excellent” rating to parish efforts to offer a Catholic view on current topics and to help them practice gospel values in their daily lives.
- A quarter report being “very” likely to spend time learning more about their faith, with just over one in ten as likely to regularly read the Bible. Those who have ever attended adult religious education classes at the parish are slightly more likely to report being “very” likely to engage in both of these activities.
- Children’s religious education or formation receives “very much” priority from almost three in four respondents. About six in ten place as much priority on maintaining the parish school and on youth ministry.
- Adult religious education or formation and adult Bible study programs receive “very much” priority from four in ten or slightly more. Six in ten or slightly fewer of those who have ever attended adult religious education classes at the parish place high priority on these needs.
- Three in ten give “very much” priority to retreat opportunities.

### *Stewardship*

- Efforts to promote responsible stewardship receive positive evaluations from almost nine in ten respondents, with almost a third rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- Three in ten give an “excellent” rating to efforts to invite participation in parish ministries.

- In the future, respondents are more than twice as likely to support the parish than volunteer for a ministry. Nearly four in ten report being “very” likely to contribute generously to the support of the parish, with one in six as likely to volunteer for a parish ministry.
- Those already involved with at least two parish ministries or activities are considerably more likely to say they are “very” likely both to volunteer for a parish ministry and to contribute generously to the support of the parish.
- The factor that most often prevents respondents from volunteering more at the parish, their busy schedules or lack of time, is one that is greatly beyond the control of the parish.
- Health problems or a disability and being unaware of parish needs prevents one in six respondents from volunteering more at the parish “very much.”
- Nearly four in ten of those of the oldest generation of parishioners say that their health problems or disabilities “very much” prevent their volunteering more.
- Two in ten of those with children under age 18 living with them say that the parish’s lack of child care or a children’s program “very much” prevents their volunteering more.

### *Leadership*

- The vision provided by parish leaders is rated as at least “good” by almost nine in ten, with three in ten rating that vision as “excellent.”
- Six in ten rate the pastor as “excellent,” with half rating his leadership as highly. Members of the oldest generation of parishioners are particularly likely to rate the pastor and his leadership highly.
- The parish staff receives an “excellent” rating from just over half of parish respondents.
- Just over a third rate the Parish Pastoral Council as “excellent.”
- Communication with parishioners is rated as “excellent” by a quarter.
- Two in ten place “very much” priority on having additional ministerial staff.

### *Social Justice*

- Efforts to promote social justice receive positive evaluations from more than eight in ten, with three in ten rating these efforts as “excellent.” Members of the oldest generation are especially likely to rate these efforts highly.
- Parish outreach to those with low incomes and to single parents is rated as “excellent” by about two in ten respondents.
- A quarter report being “very” likely to give service on behalf of the poor.
- Promoting the sacredness of human life receives “very much” priority from almost six in ten parish respondents.
- Four in ten place “very much” priority on providing opportunities to help the needy. Just over a quarter place as much priority on adopting a parish in a developing country.

### *Facilities*

- Four-tenths to half give an “excellent” rating to the following facilities: air conditioning, heat, the sound system, the parish school facilities, parish grounds, parish hall, and carpet.
- A third rate the classrooms as “excellent.” About two in ten give as high a rating to the cry room and to the restrooms.
- Two in three place “very much” priority on the upkeep of parish facilities. Three in ten give as much priority to the renovation of current properties.
- A parish hall for gatherings is given “very much” priority by just over a half. The more involved in parish ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to give this need high priority.
- Slightly more than four in ten place “very much” priority to more space for parking. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to give this need high priority.
- Nearly three in ten “strongly agree” that the current parish facilities will not be adequate to satisfy the parish need in 10 years. Two in ten agree as strongly that the parish currently needs more space for parish liturgies.

**Appendix I:**  
**Questionnaire with Response Frequencies**



Please use the responses below for questions 69-104.  
If you are not sure how to respond, please leave a blank.

1=None or Not at All      3=Some or Somewhat  
2=Only a Little          4=Very Much or a Great Deal

How much priority do you give the following **parish needs**?

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| 10 | 26 | 45 | 19 | 22 | 69. Additional ministerial staff.                              |
| 17 | 30 | 36 | 18 | 22 | 70. Adding songleaders/cantors to the Mass.                    |
| 8  | 35 | 41 | 16 | 24 | 71. More opportunities for devotions.                          |
| 5  | 35 | 39 | 22 | 23 | 72. More opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. |
| 13 | 38 | 33 | 16 | 25 | 73. Small group prayer opportunities.                          |
| 6  | 11 | 42 | 41 | 19 | 74. Upkeep of parish facilities.                               |
| 6  | 21 | 41 | 33 | 24 | 75. Fostering priestly vocations.                              |
| 5  | 20 | 43 | 33 | 23 | 76. Providing a directory of parish services.                  |
| 3  | 13 | 44 | 40 | 18 | 77. Providing opportunities to help the needy.                 |
| 12 | 25 | 37 | 27 | 24 | 78. Adopting a parish in a developing country.                 |
| 3  | 7  | 32 | 58 | 21 | 79. Promoting the sacredness of human life.                    |
| 2  | 9  | 34 | 55 | 21 | 80. Developing a parish sense of community.                    |

How much priority do you give to these **formation needs**?

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 10 | 10 | 24 | 57 | 12 | 81. Maintaining our parish school.            |
| 3  | 5  | 19 | 73 | 14 | 82. Children's religious education/formation. |
| 4  | 7  | 28 | 61 | 17 | 83. Youth ministry.                           |
| 4  | 14 | 38 | 45 | 18 | 84. Adult religious education/formation.      |
| 6  | 17 | 38 | 40 | 19 | 85. Adult Bible study programs.               |
| 11 | 24 | 36 | 30 | 19 | 86. Retreat opportunities.                    |

How much priority do you give to **outreach to the following groups**?

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 4  | 16 | 45 | 36 | 20 | 87. Outreach to inactive Catholics.         |
| 5  | 15 | 42 | 39 | 23 | 88. Young adult ministry.                   |
| 8  | 15 | 42 | 36 | 22 | 89. Ministry to couples.                    |
| 11 | 20 | 34 | 35 | 24 | 90. Providing day care for working parents. |
| 7  | 18 | 37 | 38 | 23 | 91. Ministry to the divorced and separated. |
| 4  | 11 | 33 | 52 | 20 | 92. Ministry to the grieving.               |
| 3  | 7  | 29 | 61 | 17 | 93. Visitation of the sick and homebound.   |
| 6  | 13 | 40 | 42 | 20 | 94. Senior citizen programs.                |

How much priority do you give to these **facilities-related needs**?

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |                                       |
|----|----|----|----|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2  | 6  | 26 | 66 | 14 | 95. Upkeep of parish facilities.      |
| 4  | 11 | 31 | 54 | 16 | 96. A parish hall for gatherings.     |
| 9  | 20 | 28 | 43 | 16 | 97. More space for parking.           |
| 10 | 20 | 41 | 29 | 20 | 98. Renovation of current properties. |

How much do the following **prevent you from volunteering more for the parish**?

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| 10 | 12 | 29 | 50 | 24 | 99. Busy schedules, lack of time.              |
| 65 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 37 | 100. Lack of child care or children's program. |
| 3  | 9  | 13 | 16 | 28 | 101. Health problems or a disability.          |
| 86 | 5  | 4  | 5  | 36 | 102. I am unable to find transportation.       |
| 35 | 23 | 27 | 15 | 34 | 103. I am not aware of parish needs.           |
| 43 | 17 | 27 | 13 | 36 | 104. I am unsure who to contact.               |

Please use the responses below for questions 105-109.  
If you are not sure how to respond, please leave a blank.

1=Strongly Disagree      3=Somewhat Agree  
2=Somewhat Disagree    4=Strongly Agree

Please **respond** to the following statements.

- | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | NR |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 53 | 11 | 23 | 13 | 12 | 105. My faith has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal.                                      |
| 4  | 14 | 51 | 31 | 15 | 106. I feel included in parish life.  |
| 21 | 20 | 34 | 25 | 21 | 107. I am comfortable with the merging of our two parishes.                                     |
| 21 | 23 | 28 | 28 | 19 | 108. The current parish facilities will not be adequate to satisfy the parish need in 10 years. |
| 22 | 25 | 32 | 21 | 25 | 109. We need more space for parish liturgies.   |
| 1  | 1  |    |    |    | 110. About how <i>frequently</i> do you attend Mass at this time?                               |
| 2  | 2  |    |    |    | 1 1. Never or rarely.      16 4. Almost every week.   |
| 2  | 2  |    |    |    | 2 2. A few times a year.      71 5. Every week.      NR=7                                       |
| 1  | 3  |    |    |    | 1 3. Once or twice a month.      9 6. More than once a week.                                    |
|    |    |    |    |    | 111. Which <i>Mass</i> do you regularly attend at the parish?                                   |
|    |    |    |    |    | <b>Please select only one Mass time.      NR=11</b>   |
| 26 | 1  |    |    |    | 26 1. 5:00 p.m. Saturday.      20 4. 11:30 a.m. Sunday.   |
| 26 | 2  |    |    |    | 26 2. 7:45 a.m. Sunday.      1 5. I do not regularly attend                                     |
| 29 | 3  |    |    |    | 29 3. 10:00 a.m. Sunday.      Mass at this parish.  |

**Avg. NR**

- 0.7 20 112. How many *ministries or activities* are you involved in at the parish? **Write "0" if none.**

**Yes No NR**

- |    |    |    |  |  |  |
|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| 89 | 11 | 4  |  |  | 113. Are you registered in this parish?  |
| 93 | 7  | 5  |  |  | 114. Is this parish your primary place of worship?                                 |
| 44 | 56 | 12 |  |  | 115. Do/did any of your children attend the parish school?                         |
| 65 | 35 | 15 |  |  | 116. Do/did any of your children attend religious education classes at the parish? |
| 36 | 64 | 10 |  |  | 117. Do/did you attend adult religious education classes at the parish?            |
| 57 | 43 | 17 |  |  | 118. Will/did your spouse also complete this survey?                               |

**Avg. NR**

- 1950 8 119. Year you were *born*: 19\_\_\_\_\_.

120. What *best* describes your current marital status?
- |    |   |  |  |  |                             |
|----|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 12 | 1 |  |  |  | 6 3. Divorced or separated. |
| 72 | 2 |  |  |  | 10 4. Widowed.      NR=7    |

**Avg. NR**

- 0.6 12 121. How many children under age 18 do you have living with you? **Write "0" if none.**

122. Should the parish school remain open? Why or why not?

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

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**Appendix II:**  
**Complete Transcription of Open-Ended Comments**

***Question 122: Should the parish school remain open? Why or why not?***

Yes.

Yes. But what do you do if you don't have children to go?

Yes. Provides a good basis with parental support for fostering religious values.

Yes. We need a Catholic school.

Yes. It is a very, very important part of education – both religious or “other.” Children need this more today than ever.

Yes. If it is feasible to do so. It makes for better adults from the children who attend the school.

No. Not enough Catholic parishioners.

No. Not enough Catholic children go there.

Yes. I attended the school and was very satisfied with the education I received there. I would consider sending my children there.

Yes. This day and age kids need all the moral support we can provide in all aspects of life.

Yes! Gives the parish children better guidance, structure, and faith.

Yes. Teaching was great. My children did. We never regretted it. Good for children – spiritual and educational need.

Yes. So “important” for their spiritual and social behavior and upbringing. There is such a difference in the school's children!

Yes. It made a great difference in my daughter's life. She was always one year ahead.

Yes. Because it has more room to fit people for the summertime.

No. Some people cannot afford to send their children.

Yes. Without teaching God to our children we are failing why we are here...to teach everyone about Him!

[Yes.] Because I believe it is good for the children.

Yes.

Yes. I love the school very much and my children do too. Faith-based education is very important for the parish and the surrounding area.

Yes.

[Yes.] Catholic education is a true gift!! It is the future for our children in formation for leaders of the future.

Yes. This is most important!!

Yes.

Yes. Religious and parish growth would be severely stunted without the opportunities the school provides.

[Yes.] Our children received an excellent education at St. Thomas, both academic and religious. Also, the parish is well able to financially support the school.

Not if there is not enough children to make sense to keep it open.

Yes. If possible.

Yes.

Yes. It's a very important part of the Catholic community and should be taken seriously. Without it, the church would not be complete.

Yes. It shows a commitment to the youth which are the future of the Church.

Yes. It's important for religious education. I attended Catholic school and its benefits far outweigh not having one.

[Yes.] Our children need the school!

Yes. It is good to learn about Church.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes!

Yes. I know and believe my children were well educated and have strong faith in God. They studied religious training at early age and this gifts them as they grow older.

Yes. Should remain open – important for children and new generation to learn the Catholic faith and everything that goes with religious education.

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Not a parishioner. Don't feel could provide accurately. However, did attend parish school and feel that it should stay open. Fosters community and good foundation for Catholicism, great family to feel a member of.

Depends upon "enrollment" – economy poor.

Not if it is needed. How many go, are Catholic? I had nuns. Against a new church – why do we need another church in Wolfsburg, bad economy. Some people do not have the money; is the school losing money?

Unsure. Is it able to keep up with technology and the extra help that children might need if struggling with courses? If they need to attend public school for this, then I wonder.

Not in its current form – the parish either needs to hire (and pay) the best and the brightest teachers, and meet the needs of all learners, or close the school.

Yes. I think St. Thomas teaches important values in their curriculum that are lacking in public schools.

Yes. Quality of education provided.

Yes.

Yes. If our children do not have this, they'll know nothing of their faith.

Yes. It's a wonderful source of Christian education.

Yes.

Yes.

[Yes.] I believe in Catholic education; however, when response falls below economic level, close it.

We are seasonal visitors and find the church to be very nice. It meets our spiritual needs when we are away. I would think the school plays a vital role in this community and should remain open.

Yes. The future of our religion depends on the education of our children.

Yes. So students can later in life compare systems and religions.

Yes. Children are our future and Catholic education is very important in everyone's life.

Yes. Education is a vital part of understanding anything; strengthens faith.

Yes. The individual attention given to the students are priceless and my grandsons amaze me all the time in sharing what the teachers have taught them, and above all the religious instruction is excellent!

Yes. Losing the school would be a disaster. There goes the future of our parish. [Please ban cell phones from Mass; also gum-chewing.]

Yes. It is very important to the young people – the education on our religion.

[Yes.] Absolutely!! We have the only Catholic school in our county. I believe it would go against our Catholic values to remove such an enriching opportunity from our parents and children. This school is important for our children's faith as well as education. I want to continue to worship in our current church; we have wonderful properties and do not need new ones. I am very much opposed to closing our school and building a new church.

[Yes.] Only if there is enough enrollment. The school is a dinosaur – very expensive to maintain. If it needs to be closed then so be it.

Yes. The children get a better education.

I am in very strong support of our school. We need to support it and keep it open. As long as there are any children that want to attend and receive an education with God in it, they should be able to do so. That would be a crime to close this school.

Yes. I attended the school and it helped me significantly. The school benefitted me both spiritually and educationally in more ways than I can describe in this box.

Yes. I think it is a vital part of this church community.

Yes. Check past student performance in high school.

Yes. I think it is good for the children.

Yes. I think it is great to have if we can afford to keep it open.

Yes. Our community needs an educational institute where children can learn faith and good morals.

[Yes.] I would like it to stay open. It is a good alternate to public school.

No. Not enough pupils attending to offset expenses. Turn school into bigger church.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. I went to a Catholic school and it was good for me.

Yes. We need a school for our children.

Yes.

Yes. These children are our parish future. The foundation the school provides re. our faith could never be replaced.

Yes. It is important to our parish and children to help maintain our spiritual family and quality education. Please keep it open!

Yes. Small seeds grow strong and large trees.

Yes. It is very important for it to stay open and remain open. If it closes, it will never open again. My whole family (brothers and sisters) went to the Catholic school. We loved it, and it taught us well – good Catholicism. Even though there is a decreasing number of students it is due to the decreasing number of Catholic families.

Yes. Once closed it is not likely to reopen. It helps a Catholic presence in high Protestant area.

Yes. It provides a religious influence for our young people.

Yes. Need for Catholics.

No. I strongly believe in religious education taking place at home and academics in public school with experienced teachers.

Yes. Provides a great learning experience for kids that a public school can't offer.

[Yes.] There is nothing to compare with a Catholic education! Wish I could do more to help!

[Yes.] I think the school should be given the opportunity to remain open BUT only if cost to the parish is lowered to a more reasonable amount.

Yes...if supported by the young families with school-age children who are willing to send their children and thereby increase enrollment.

Yes. It is extremely important to have Catholic education to promote strong Catholic values in our children. It is equally as important for children to have the opportunity to pray during their day.

This should be decided upon through enrollment. However, not at the expense of closing/rebuilding a new church (shifting funds; maintain the church should be a priority).

Yes. Summer Masses – meeting hall – school...

Yes. It should remain open – make more use of school to accommodate more people.

Yes. Children need the spiritual education.

Absolutely! St. Thomas students learn respect and discipline early on. More importantly, they learn how to live their faith, how to be proud of being Christian. They are not ashamed of saying prayers in front of others or offering prayers for others. Our school is priceless.

Yes. Because some children only hear about God there. And say their prayers. The teachers are very good with the children.

[Yes.] It is good for children to have a Catholic education. If it is feasible and we have enough children to remain open.

Yes. I attended Catholic school for twelve years; it made me who I am today. There is a sense of community there [in Catholic school(s)] not found in a public school.

[Yes.] Only to the extent that our parish students are the majority of enrollment. The Catholic school is important in the development of a Catholic mentality.

I am not familiar with the school and its workings to answer.

Yes. Our parish school provides a very good foundation in both education and religion. Children are far advanced knowledge-wise than their peers in public school.

Yes. Does help children to become loving, responsible adults.

No. Too few children attending and it is a great expense to the parish.

[Yes.] Absolutely. The morals of our society are crumbling. We must be taught as children.

[Yes.] Absolutely!

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. We need good Catholic schools.

[Yes.] Remain open; we need it in these times! Even if it only helps one child.

Yes. Good training in religion and discipline.

Yes. Used in summer.

Yes. Children need to learn *early* basic religious values that are taught and enforced daily at St. Thomas School.

Yes. Children need religion and the parish school is important.

Yes! I believe a child needs a religious education.

[Yes.] I feel the school should because the children are the future of the parish. The faith instilled at school enhances the faith and values instilled at home and church, and should be continued no matter what the cost. There can't be a price tag put on instilling values in our children.

[Yes.] Absolutely! For the children and for the good of the parish and Bedford!

Yes. The article in this week's paper about the child that was not permitted to read the Bible in his public school should be reason enough.

Yes. Children need religious foundation in their education.

Yes.

Yes, include child care.

No.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. It is good for the kids. I enjoyed my time there.

Yes. The children are our future and the church should guide them.

[Yes.] We belong to St. Michael's in Loretto and visit here often. We have a Catholic school too and I believe Catholic education is a must for all of our children. Please keep it open.

[Yes.] Our children need God in their everyday life!!

Yes.

Yes, but we need more people to support it.

Only if we can afford it. I feel a Catholic education is important but we do have CCD.

No. Too much overhead for all that is attending.

Yes. We would like to send our children to the parish school.

Yes. It is the cornerstone of children's faith. Close it and we will find another parish.

Yes. The parish school should be the heart and soul of the parish. If the school is closed, the opportunity for our children to receive a Catholic education dies. Find out why people aren't sending their kids there; if it is the teaching or the principal, get rid of them. People need to know that Catholics are required to support the school.

Yes. I feel it was a strong foundation for my three children.

Not unless enrollment increases significantly.

Yes, but the cost is too high for parents.

Yes.

Yes. It is the best place for religious education in the area.

Only if enough interested parents to help keep it going. It takes *both* parish and parents.

Yes. It is a key factor in maintaining a good Catholic life for children.

Yes, because the Catholic values instilled in the students lasts a life-time.

Yes – Important to have religious teachings in school.

Yes. The children need religious education.

Yes. It's a good school for the children to attend and learn the ways of the Lord.

No. The enrollment is too low for the interaction needed during these prime growth years. The cost per student is excessive due to the low enrollment. It should be closed.

Yes. Needed by our young people for steadfast moral ideas.

No, the parish is putting too much money into the school. It's not financially responsible.

Yes.

Yes. The school should remain open, however – the staff desperately needs to change. That's why I took my children out of St. Thomas.

Yes. I believe the school should remain open because it is a very good place to learn both about God and about things that will be needed later in life.

[Yes.] Because we need it.

[Yes.] As long as the parish can financially afford to keep the school open and as long as there is an interest in enrollment I feel it should stay open.

Yes. Unless it becomes a financial burden. Then it should close for the parish's sake.

If it can be run without a financial drain on the parish it should remain open. It is good to give our children an education with a strong Catholic teaching. If it remains open, it should also have a better Christian attitude.

No. Too great of an expense and Sunday Children's School is excellent.

Yes – sets good example for us and community. Good for fostering vocations to religious life...etc.

Yes. A good excellent education is necessary for a successful future – there is excellent moral values and the best education and obedience.

No. Too expensive. Catholic education can be accomplished in church.

[Yes.] If it is financially possible; if enrollment justifies it.

No. Expense for number of children attending. I don't think they receive the same academics. Need for children to be exposed to other children – class sizes are actually too small.

Yes. It is so important especially today that children have a good education with religion. This gives them an important start in life that stays with them forever.

Yes, good thing.

Yes, because it is important to bring up children in a religious atmosphere.

No comment.

Yes, but only if more parents do their religious duty as I did and send their children.

[No.] Not if we cannot afford it. It takes money away from the church. The children cannot do as many things due to lack of funds.

No. I think it will handicap our growth.

Yes. The school can teach morals, values, and talk about God openly. Public schools are okay but they are limited. I attended St. Thomas for two years and I am glad my parents made that decision.

Yes, because it is a part of our church and there are parents that still want their children to go there.

No. Too much of a burden on parish.

Yes. They teach children more respect for others and of their religion than public schools.

Yes, if we get more children to attend. If not, it should not stay open.

Student enrollment low.

It depends. If there are enough children to attend. It is too expensive to keep open for a few students.

Yes. For many reasons.

Yes. A good Catholic education is very important. Responsible, moral upbringing of youth affects everyone.

Yes; it's good.

Yes.

Yes, children and adults need a strong religious education. The school also provides a center for parish activities.

Yes. Children need a strong faith and moral upbringing; the school provides this!

Yes. I feel St. Thomas is a great base for our Catholic children.

Yes, because it is the one thing that keeps this church alive.

Yes—as long as the funds are there; if you're losing a lot of money – no.

[Yes.] The school is a vital part of the parish and provides the necessary guidance and religious base a child needs to grow into an adult who cares about the world around them. The school is a great asset to the parish and community as a whole.

Yes, very strong and educational/religion for children that is strongly needed in this day and age.

Yes. The Catholic education is the best!!

Yes. Very important for children to get religious education.

Yes. Very important for children to get religious education. My kids did back home and all are good for this.

Try as long as possible to keep it open for the sake of the children – (ours had to close last year).

Yes. As long as it can support itself.

Yes. It is a great start for your children. One hour of religion a week is not enough.

Yes. If there is (are) enough students to keep it open.

Yes. My three children went there and received a very good education not only in regular classes but also in religious classes.

Yes.

Yes; better education.

Yes.

Yes – children receive good education and individualization. Need to increase enrollment that has steadily declined over the years – cost related?

Yes. It gives a choice for children to have education, gives moral values which are sometimes lacking in school-setting. I do think a child-care would also be good to offer. Once you start a child (at a) younger age, such as a baby, you are more than likely to keep them as they grow older.

Yes. Our children need a Catholic education.

Yes. Our children need a Catholic education.

Mixed feeling; I can see both sides.

Yes. From what I have read; it is a struggle – every business requires “selling.” Maybe start at top and resell benefits of school = Catholic education.

Yes. Those who wish and can afford the tuition should get the best education without sending the children to Altoona or Cumberland.

Yes. Offer a Catholic/good education locally.

If enrollment justifies it – keep it open. Minimum class size should be at about 10-14.

Yes; very important.

Yes.

Although Catholic education is vital to the spread of our faith and this is the only Catholic school in the county, if parents do not wish to send their children to the school, the parish cannot afford to operate it forever.

Yes, if it is financially possible.

Yes. It provides parents with a choice. My children received both a solid academic and religious education. The building blocks of their religion were fostered by the school.

[Yes.] I hope so; the youth need this education.

Yes.

Yes.

More kids are needed to stay open.

Absolutely. Children need prayer and worship, God in their school day. They need to be aware of God's presence in each day – not available in public school.

Yes. Because the children need more religious instruction.

Yes.

Yes. Religious education is the foundation of our faith.

Yes. I believe in the Catholic school system. In years when I had children that age, sent mine from K-8<sup>th</sup> grade there.

Yes. I believe it's important for our children to have the opportunity for Catholic education.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. It gives them (children) a good start in life.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes – it provides an important Catholic background that the children will keep with them throughout life. It creates adults that are more likely to be practicing Catholics. By the time they figure out that everyone doesn't go to Church on Sunday, it is already a habit.

There is no way you can put a cost of the value of a child's full-time Catholic education.

Yes. Our children need to know more about religion and the Catholic faith.

No. Terrible drain on finances; most of our children attend CCD and their needs are not being met.

[Yes.] Because a Catholic education is invaluable and puts God in the life of children.

Yes. I am strongly considering sending our child. I feel in today's world with all the substance

problems we really need a school.

Yes. Our children need a Catholic education.

Yes. Encourage the children to be good Catholic Christian adults.

Not unless it can become more financially self sufficient and less of a drain on the rest of the parish.

Yes. If enough students to be feasible; good foundation for children.

No; not enough kids.

Yes; good strong Catholic background.

No; not cost-effective.

Yes, only if at least one nun can teach. At present, it is the same as public school.

Absolutely! It is necessary to educate our young with Christian beliefs as much as possible.

Yes. St. Thomas is a very good start for the children. Much better than public schools.

Yes.

Yes. To provide religion and respect for Church, and public to survive this world of turmoil.

[Yes.] To give the opportunity for the children of the church to attend a great school.

Yes. To provide a base of proper knowledge in the faith.

Provides an alternative to public schools.

Yes; to provide a good, solid spiritual formation for our young.

Yes.

No – not enough interest.

No; not enough students.

[Yes.] We need it.

Yes.

Yes. It is the best education you can give youth!

Yes, but only if enrollment can be increased.

If there are enough children attending – I say the school should remain open.

No, if enrollment doesn't rise.

No, if too expensive and enrollment too small.

[Yes.] The school should remain open. However, new supervisor is needed. Someone who takes control and will not gossip and put down other parishioners or let others in the school do the same. Also, they should be more willing to do fundraisers (dinners) to help finance the school.

If 40% or more of parish (grade-related) children are attending – leave open. If 39% or less of parish children – close. Reason: if parents not sending children, they perceive public education better.

Yes, if: 1) enrollment of Catholic children increases. 2) more Catholic teachers are hired (less now). 3) Catholic faith permeates all subjects (not just one class/day); otherwise, NO.

A Catholic school is a necessity. We have too low number of students to keep open.

Yes.

If it is financially feasible – yes.

Yes! Religious education programs are a minimal substitute.

Yes. This is important for the parish children. Also the building is used for other parish activities including Mass when the church is too small.

Yes, if at all financially possible.

Yes, I feel it helps the children learn better with smaller classes and they have a great education and start in their early years.

Yes...definitely. Christ becomes more alive to the students. They learn more about their faith. Parents feel more connected to the parish. It is an evangelization tool for the non-Catholics.

Absolutely! In the words of the Bible, "Would you destroy the city (school) if there was one good person (student) to save?" [good = "willing to learn."] \*We don't need another church!

Yes.

Yes. In today's society, we have to offer our youth the opportunity to attend a faith-based school. It is an important foundation to build on more, maybe, now than ever before.

It should remain open IF attendance can be increased to an acceptable (diocesan guidelines) level.

No – especially if the enrollment doesn't increase.

Yes – to give opportunity for young students to a more one on one start.

Yes. Provides a structured environment for both education AND religion.

Yes, I feel the children need to have the structure that the school gives.

[Yes.] Because CCD classes cannot cover all the same aspects of our faith as the day-to-day teaching in a Catholic school.

Yes. To provide basis of Catholic education.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes. To continue instilling values into the parish children as my Catholic grade school upbringing helped instill in me.

Yes, because it instills qualities in the kids that they do not get anywhere else.

Yes! There need to be more families in our parish participating in the school. Our children should have a chance to have a religious education and be brought up right.

Yes. Lack of morality and guidance provided in the public schools.

Yes. More than ever, a religious background is needed to face the many worldly problems.

Yes.

Yes...the kids need it.

[No.] Due to financial constraints, I would not be opposed if St. Thomas school closed...

No, I believe the school is not cost effective. Many of the parishioners send their children to public school. The money can be used elsewhere (towards a new church). This one is old, and cannot last forever. Not to mention the shortage of priests will cause dioceses to merge. Everett is likely, we should take steps now to anticipate this inevitable , however unfortunate, change.

Yes. Very important; parents need all the help to foster good values.

Yes.

Yes.

Not sure.

Yes, I feel it is a very good education. I went to St. Thomas School.

Yes.

No – run POORLY!

Yes. We need Catholic education.

Yes. Important to give the children a good Catholic foundation.

No.

No, it has outlived its usefulness. Too expensive for such few kids.

No, cost is too high; no work in area.

Yes. It gives the children a good foundation.

Yes. All children need the direction and discipline and religious education that this school provides.

Yes. Good religious foundation for the kids.

Yes. Good faith-based education.

Yes, but as a primary school! We need the option to attend a private school!!

Yes – K to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Yes. Children need religious guidance.

If possible, yes. There isn't a better way to advocate our faith to the children.

No – we are no longer servicing members of our church – it has become more of a public school.

Yes, it is important to have faith-based education in this area because the closest Catholic schools would be in Altoona, Johnstown, or Edensburg.

No, because it requires quite a bit of the money from the parish.

[Yes.] They need the religion.

Yes, kids learn more in a Catholic school.

Yes, so people don't lose their jobs.

[Yes.] Definitely. Our children need to learn moral and religious values.

[Yes.] To help young people learn and practice the faith, help the parents teach them moral values and actions.

Yes. With all the problems in our society – one hour of religious education per week is not enough.

No. Lack of attendance and a financial drain on the parish.

Yes – to foster religious values and moral beliefs. Need more *Catholic* teachers.

Yes. Religious education greatly needed.

No. Too expensive; serves too few children.

Yes. They get a good education along with their religious education.

Yes – remain open. Kids need the good-training they get from parish school.

Yes. Because I believe it provides an excellent education.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes, it teaches the faith which is not allowed in public schools.

Yes, they get faith-filled education, smaller classes.

Yes. Because they need a religious education.

Yes. A Catholic education is very important. One nun would be nice (school saving).

Close. Need more children to justify cost.

Yes – to obtain a religious foundation. To receive more of a one-on-one base of learning. Respect is instilled.

No – money from upkeep of the school could be used toward the building of a new church since school enrollment is so small.

Only if can be supported with enough students.

Yes.

Yes. We need it.

Yes. Catholic school is great for children.

Yes. Parish school is the only school in the area that teaches religious education that make our children better people.

[Yes.] The children need the school.

Yes. They are the future of the Church.

Yes.

No. Bedford School District provides a good education; money can be used elsewhere.

Yes.

Yes.

[Yes.] The school should remain open. It provides our children with a sense of morality.

Yes, this is a good place to learn your faith and practice it. All children participate in the school Mass. This parish should support Catholic school to include Bishop Guilford, Altoona, PA.

Depends on number of students and finance.

Need better pay for teachers.

Yes. For well being of the children.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes, we need to do whatever it takes to promote young education and keep school going; my opinion.

Yes, children within our religious community need religion in their education. The times demonstrate the need for prayer and religion.

Yes. Our children need this religious formation in these most important years. Too much secularism in the world.

Yes – if goals set by parish council are met: 1) Financially feasible. 2) Catholic teachers. 3) Grades to teach. 4) Etc.

Yes – as long as it doesn't cause any financial problems.

[Yes.] Please retain an alternative to public schools.

Yes – for families who want to provide religious education for their children.

Yes, better education.

No, too expensive.

No!! Needs to be self-supportive.

Only if enrollment can be increased, even if personnel changes are necessary!

No, not enough attendance. Cost is a lot to keep open. Maybe keep open if personnel changes are made. The one there now isn't doing the school any good.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes – discipline and religious education.

[Yes.] If we have enough students to stay open.

Yes. Jesus told the children to come...if it closes what example are we showing our children.

They are the leaders.

Yes; educating the young.

Yes. We need all the children to learn about religion and have a *very* strong faith in God!

[Yes.] If possible. To give the children direction in their lives.

Absolutely! The problems with public schools are numerous. Our children should have the opportunity to receive a good education as well as learn to be good Christian citizens. Our society needs them!

Yes, it is their turn. We had ours.

Yes. It is our duty to teach our children. Do you think God wants us to close His school? Shame on us if we do!

Yes! Yes! These are our future Catholics. In a world that discourages Catholic values, we need our school. It is a blessing.

Yes. It is the only Catholic school in this district. We need this.

Yes.

Yes. Our young people need the discipline and Catholic standards offered here.

We need more students from parish to attend. If not, close the doors. Why are there not enough students? Change teachers and principal.

[Yes.] If possible, I think the children receive quality education and personal attention.

Yes.

No – not enough students.

Yes. Good.

Yes – all children need Catholic religion if possible. God wants it that way.

Yes – children need the individual help and to learn about their religion.

Sorry to see the school close – but if we don't get more students, in all reality, it will have to close.

Yes. Quality of Catholic education. Some Bedford County schools leave too much to be desired.

Yes. The children are worth it.

Yes, public schools do not give children the ability to express their religious beliefs and St. Thomas is the school for that.

Maybe. Only if it has enough students to support the school financially.

Very much so!!! The children need to continue to grow in their Catholic religion and this is the perfect environment.

Yes.

Yes.

[Yes.] I believe it is a great opportunity to learn about our Catholic faith.

[Yes.] Only if it gets more students, especially more Catholic students to support the school.

Probably not – cost too high for the benefit. Spend money on an effective CCD program.

No – not enough students turn into our church.

Yes, if not possible – make into a new church (building).

[No.] Should not be kept open.

[Yes.] I feel the school provides a solid background to enhance the teachings learned in the home. Hoping something learned with spark of understanding and closeness to God.

Yes – my childhood memories greatly involve St. Thomas. I attended St. Thomas from kindergarten through fifth grade. My education and the positive social relationships I developed and enhanced there – have stayed with me my entire life! I pray the school remains open to give children the same remarkable opportunities I received when I was a child.

Yes – our school provides the foundation for the future but also opportunities for many factors mentioned in this survey – fellowship – adult education, more spaces, etc. Our school needs new leadership and not a “clique” of leaders but “educational” leaders. Hire a new principal and add advisory board.

Yes, it gives an additional reinforcement to a child’s Catholic education; I enjoy their happy faces!! It aids our Christian community.