

**May 2019**

***Parish Life Survey***

**Saint John Fisher Parish  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California**



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

*Parish Life Survey*

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Rancho Palos Verdes, California

May 2019



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# Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

## *Parish Life Survey* **Saint John Fisher Parish** **Rancho Palos Verdes, California**

### **Executive Summary**

The St. John Fisher Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.<sup>1</sup> Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in March 2019. In all, there were 1,260 valid responses.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

#### **Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

- In calendar year 2019, the average age of valid respondents to the in-pew survey at St. John Fisher Parish is 62. Half are 61 or younger.
- Three-fifths (60%) respondents to the survey are female and 40% are male. Seventy-one percent say they are currently married or remarried. Some 13% have never married, 7% are divorced or separated, and 9% are widowed. Twenty-six percent report having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.
- Some 9% have attained a high school diploma or less, 16% have attended some college or have an associate's degree, and 75% have a bachelor's or graduate degree.

#### **Religious Characteristics of Respondents**

- On average, respondents have attended the parish for 29 years, with half having attended 27 years or more.
- Some 80% identify the parish as their primary place of worship *and* are registered at the parish. Twelve percent regularly attend at the parish but are not registered there. Six percent were identified as visitors on the weekend of the survey.

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

## **Assessment of Parish Life and Needs**

- Nearly all (96%) give St. John Fisher Parish overall a positive evaluation (“good” and “excellent” combined). Some 63% rate it as “excellent.”
- Some 86% at least “somewhat” agree that they feel included in parish life, with 48% agreeing “strongly” that they do.
- Efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs receive an “excellent” rating from 45% of respondents.
- St. John Fisher respondents are particularly likely to report being attracted to the parish “very much” by the following: the quality of the liturgy and music (73%), its open and welcoming spirit (59%), the sense of belonging they feel there (57%), and the quality of the preaching (56%).
- Respondents were also invited to choose from a predetermined list the three needs to which parish should give most priority. The top five identified are children’s religious education/formation (39%), Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation (37%), providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (30%), developing a parish sense of community (30%), and young adult ministry (29%).

## **Leadership**

- Eighty-nine percent give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders, with 45% rating it as “excellent.” The leadership provided by the pastor receives an “excellent” rating from 64%.
- Some 54% “strongly” agree they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor. Sixty-seven percent give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff.
- Forty percent “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.
- Some 61% rate efforts to manage parish finances as “excellent.”

## **Worship**

- Weekend Masses in general receive a positive evaluation from 97% of respondents. Sixty-seven percent rate them as “excellent.”
- Some 68% rate the hospitality or sense of welcome at worship as “excellent.” Parish outreach to visitors and guests receives an “excellent” evaluation from 45% of respondents.
- Eighty-one percent give an “excellent” rating to the music in general at the parish. The homilies in general receive an “excellent” rating from 60% of respondents.



- Some 74% attend Mass at least once a week and another 19% attend almost every week. Mass attendance varies some by generation, with those of the oldest generations (92%) most likely to attend at least once a week and those ages 25-34 (52%) least likely.

### **Sense of Community**

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive rating from 88% of respondents. Some 47% give it an “excellent” rating.
- Social activities receive an “excellent” rating from 36% of respondents.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from 69% of respondents.

### **Formation**

- Parish efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from 90% of respondents, with 54% giving these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Efforts to foster spiritual growth receive an “excellent” rating from 53% of respondents. Fifty-six percent rate efforts to nurture one’s relationship with Jesus Christ as highly.
- Children’s religious education programs receive an “excellent” rating from 59%, with 53% giving as high a rating to youth ministry.
- Some 26% say they have attended adult faith formation classes at the parish. Faith formation for adults receives an “excellent” rating from 53%. Fifty-four percent place “very much” priority on adult faith formation.

### **Stewardship**

- Parish efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish receive a positive evaluation from 91%. Some 58% rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to invite participation in ministries receive an “excellent” evaluation from 50% of respondents.
- Half (49%) report *not* being involved with any ministries or activities at the parish, 27% are involved with one, and 24% are involved with two or more.

### **Evangelization and Parish Outreach**

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize receive a positive rating from 85% of respondents. Some 43% give these efforts an “excellent” rating.

- When asked to evaluate parish outreach to 25 groups, respondents are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to outreach to those sick and homebound (57%) and children (53%). They are least likely to give the same rating to outreach to single parents (26%), single young adults (25%), those who do not belong to a faith community (25%), and inactive Catholics (24%).
- Respondents were asked to choose the top three groups to which the parish should give most priority for outreach. The five most commonly selected groups are teens (36%), families in crisis (22%), young adults (20%), college-age youth (18%), and inactive Catholics (18%).
- Parish outreach to inactive Catholics receives an “excellent” rating from 24%. Some 45% give “very much” priority to reaching out inactive Catholics.

### **Social Justice**

- Outreach to and advocacy for those in need receives a positive rating from 89% of respondents. Fifty-four percent rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Respondents differ in their evaluations of parish outreach to those in need or in crisis, with “excellent” evaluations ranging from 26% to 57%: those sick or homebound (57%), those with physical disabilities (48%), those grieving (47%), those with developmental or intellectual disabilities (36%), families in crisis (34%), those who need marriage or family counseling (34%), those in financial need (30%), those with mental health issues (29%), those with addictions (29%), and single parents (26%).
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receive “very much” priority from 63%.

### **Parish Communications**

- Communication with parishioners receives a positive evaluation from 91% of respondents, with 48% rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- Half “strongly” agree that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish (50%) and that they feel adequately informed about parish finances (51%).
- Seventy percent say they have accessed the parish website at least once in the past year. Some 87% give a positive rating to the effectiveness of the website for communicating parish news.

# Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

## *Parish Life Survey* Saint John Fisher Parish Rancho Palos Verdes, California

### Introduction

The St. John Fisher Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.<sup>2</sup> Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in March 2019. In all, there were 1,260 valid responses. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 1,260 provides a margin of error of approximately  $\pm 2.7$  percentage points.<sup>3</sup>

### Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four-point response scales (i.e., “not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow respondents to choose between two relatively “negative” choices (e.g., “poor” and “fair”) and two relatively “positive” choices (e.g., “good” and “excellent”). In parts of the analysis in this report, these responses are combined to allow for clearer comparisons. However, as sometimes examining the most positive response distinguishes important contrasts in level of support, those responses are presented 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 in Appendix I. That appendix shows the percentage responses for each item, calculated out of 100%, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to each question, separately calculated out of 100% for clarity of comparison.

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

<sup>3</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.

In addition to summarizing the responses to most questions for respondents as a whole, the report also compares the responses of those from selected subgroups. The first section of the report describes the characteristics of the respondents as well as the subgroups that are used in the analyses that follow. Throughout the report, the tables and charts that compare differences between and among these various subgroups are presented following the responses for parishioners as a whole in each section.

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

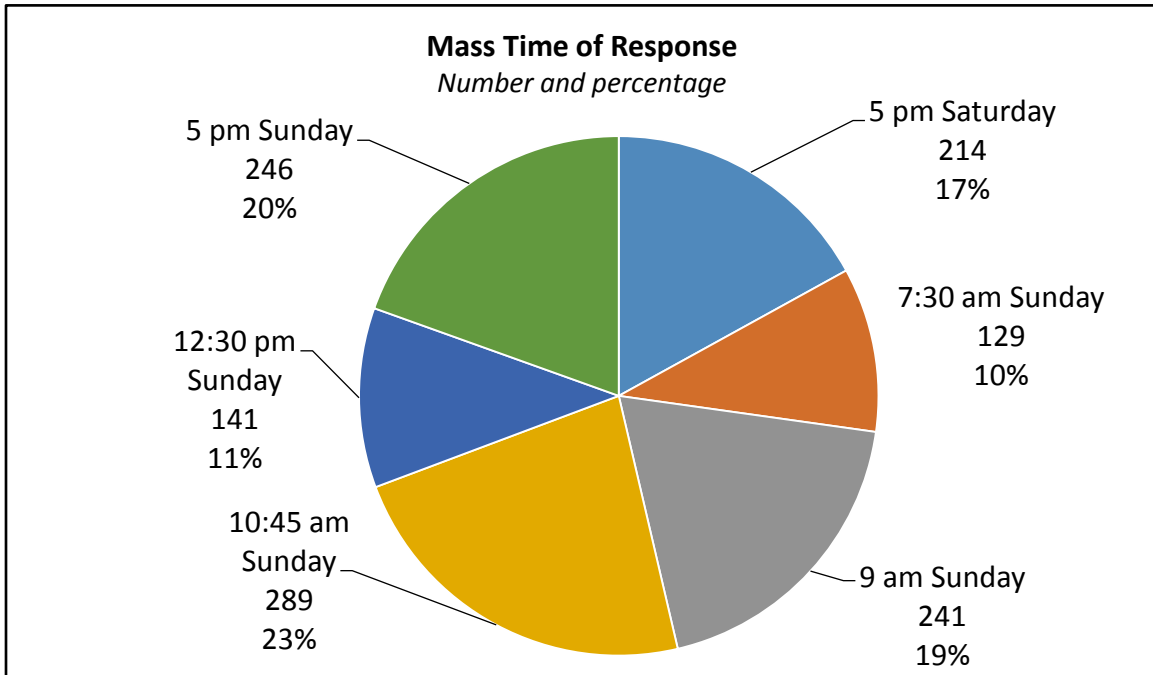
CARA regularly conducts parish surveys through its Parish Life Surveys. Parish Life Surveys are a series of dynamic survey instruments for pastoral planning, including survey data collection, analyses of key stakeholders and demographic groups, and user-friendly reports and products. From the aggregate data collected through the Parish Life Survey services over the past 20 years, CARA has a database of characteristics of parish life gathered from more than 1,000 parishes nationwide. While this database is not a random sample of parishes, and therefore not necessarily representative of all parishes nationwide, it is the most comprehensive source of data of its kind and covers a broad range of topics important to vibrant parish life.

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

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

## Mass Time of Response

The parish collected the surveys by Mass time of response and sent them to CARA bundled in that way. Respondents were particularly likely to have responded at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Mass (23%).



Where relevant throughout the rest of the report, comparisons are made among those who responded at the various Masses.

## Differences by Generation

The generations used in this analysis are discussed in the next section. The table below shows the Mass time of response for those of the different generations.<sup>4</sup>

<b>Mass Time of Response, by Generation</b>					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
5 p.m. Saturday	26	20	12	10	9
7:30 a.m. Sunday	10	16	7	4	5
9 a.m. Sunday	13	18	25	27	18
10:45 a.m. Sunday	26	19	23	21	9
12:30 p.m. Sunday	14	11	9	6	27
5 p.m. Sunday	11	16	24	33	32

- Members of the oldest generation (the Pre-Vatican II Generation) are especially likely to have responded at the 5 p.m. Saturday (26%) and 10:45 a.m. Sunday (26%) Masses.
- The responses of Vatican II Generation members are fairly well spread out throughout the Masses.
- Post-Vatican II members are most likely to have responded at the 9 a.m. (25%), 5 p.m. (24%), and 10:45 a.m. Sunday (23%) Sunday Masses.
- Young adults are particularly likely to have responded at the 5 p.m. (33%) and 9 a.m. (27%) Sunday Masses.
- The youngest adults are most likely to have responded at the 5 p.m. (32%) and 12:30 p.m. (27%) Sunday Masses.

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<sup>4</sup> Throughout this report, the percentages presented may not total 100% (instead totaling 99% or 101%) due to the natural errors that occur when rounding numbers.

## Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the report includes demographic and other descriptive data for the 1,260 valid respondents to this survey. These data may be helpful in considering who responded to the survey, which populations are represented in the data, and characteristics of those attending Mass on a typical weekend at the parish.

### Age

Valid respondents at St. John Fisher Parish surveyed in 2019 were born between 1923 and 2003. The average age of respondents is 62, with half saying they are 61 or younger. Although not directly comparable as the national data comes from 2012, this is higher than the median age of 49 among all self-identified Catholics nationally.<sup>5</sup> The most common age range reported is 75 or older.

<b>Age in 2019, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>			
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
<b>Age Range</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
18-24	2	4	9
25-34	4	9	17
35-44	9	20	20
45-54	19	23	19
55-64	23	19	20
65-74	18	15	10
75 or older	26	10	5

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

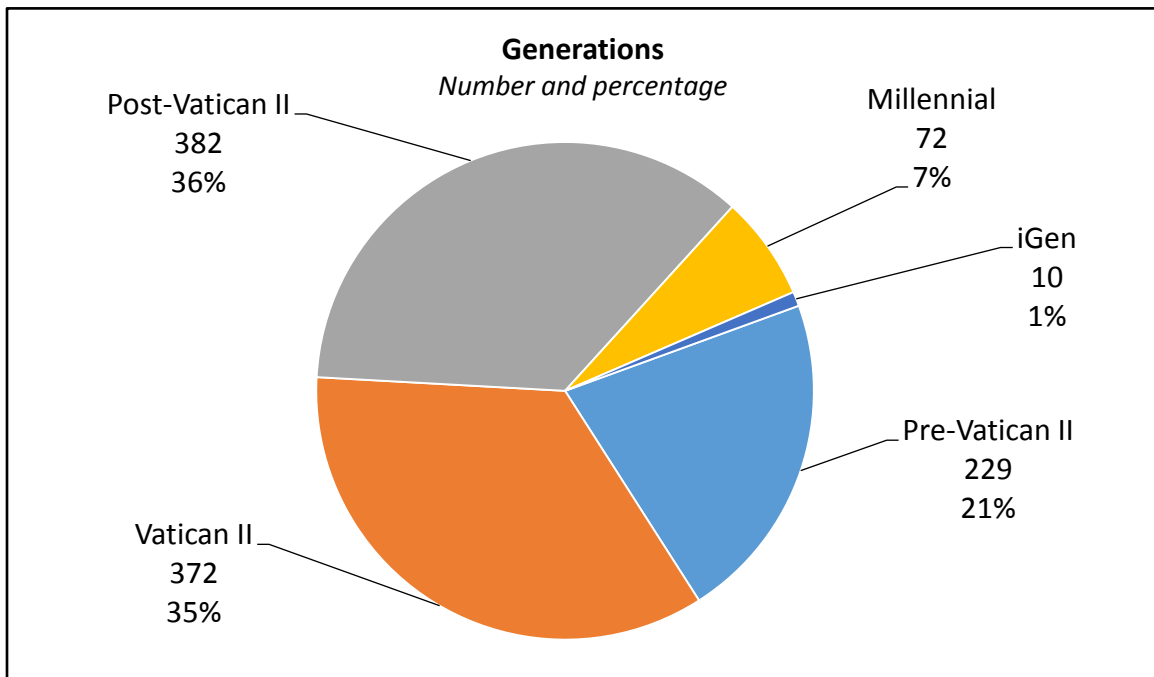
- Overall, St. John Fisher respondents report being older than those responding in-pew nationally. Some 15% of St. John Fisher respondents are under age 45 compared to 33% of Catholics in pew nationally.
- They differ significantly from self-identified Catholics nationally. Some 15% of St. John Fisher respondents are under age 45 compared to 46% of Catholics nationally.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Mark M. Gray, and Mary L. Gautier. 2012. *Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012*.

## Generation

Important differences between groups in parishes are typically found among those who belong to different generations. CARA divides Catholics into five generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other Catholic researchers. The most common generation among St. John Fisher respondents is the Post-Vatican II Generation (ages 38 to 58), followed by the Vatican II Generation (ages 59 to 76).



- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 77 and over in 2019:* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members came of age before the Second Vatican Council. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 21% of the respondents at St. John Fisher Parish. This is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (18%) but higher than the percentage among Catholics nationally (10%).
- *The “Vatican II Generation,” ages 59-76 in 2019:* These are the “Baby Boomers” who were born between 1943 and 1960, a time of great demographic and economic growth. They came of age during the time of the Second Vatican Council and their formative years likely spanned that time of profound changes in the Church. Members of the Vatican II Generation at St. John Fisher Parish represent 35% of respondents. This is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (35%) and among Catholics nationally (32%).
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation,” ages 38-58 in 2019:* Born between 1961 and 1981, this generation, sometimes called “Generation X” or “Baby Busters” by demographers, has no lived experience of the pre-Vatican II Church. Some 36% of those at St. John Fisher Parish are members of this generation. This is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (39%) and among Catholics nationally (38%).



- *The “Millennial Generation,” ages 23-37 in 2019:* This generation, born in 1982 or later (up to 1996 among adults), has come of age primarily under the papacies of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. The number of religiously unaffiliated persons – or “nones” – has increased dramatically among this generation. This generation is also delaying marriage (or not getting married at all) and having children. Some 7% of respondents at St. John Fisher Parish belong to the Millennial Generation. This is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (8%) but less than the percentage among Catholics nationally (19%).
- *“iGen,” ages 16-22 in 2019:* Also sometimes called “Generation Z,” this generation, born in 1997 or later has come of age primarily under the papacies of Benedict XVI and Francis. Because some still live with their parents, their religious practice is often closely related to that of their families of origin. Many are visual learners, having used a smartphone from a very early age and never having known a world without the Internet. Some 1% of respondents at St. John Fisher Parish belong to the Millennial Generation. CARA does not yet have national comparisons for this group.

<b>Generation, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>			
<b>Generation</b>	<b>St. John Fisher %</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
Pre-Vatican II (born 1942 or earlier)	21	18	10
Vatican II (born 1943 to 1960)	35	35	32
Post-Vatican II (born 1961 to 1981)	36	39	38
Millennial (born 1982 to 1996)	7	8	19
iGen (born 1997 to present)	1	–	–

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

At the parish’s request, a special generational analysis will be conducted and presented throughout this report *regardless of whether the difference is statistically significant or not*. The parish is especially interested in the young adults and asked that they be broken into two categories. The generational analysis presented throughout this report uses these categories:

- Pre-Vatican II Generation (229 respondents or 21%)
- Vatican II Generation (372 respondents or 35%)
- Post-Vatican II Generation (390 respondents or 37%)
- Young adults, ages 25-34 (52 respondents or 5%)
- Youngest adults, ages 16-24 (22 respondents or 2%)

### Gender

Sixty percent of respondents identify as female and 40% as male. These percentages are similar to Catholics nationally in pew (64%) but higher than the percentage of self-identified Catholics nationally identifying as female (51%).

<b>Gender, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
	%	%	%
Female	60	64	51
Male	40	36	49

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

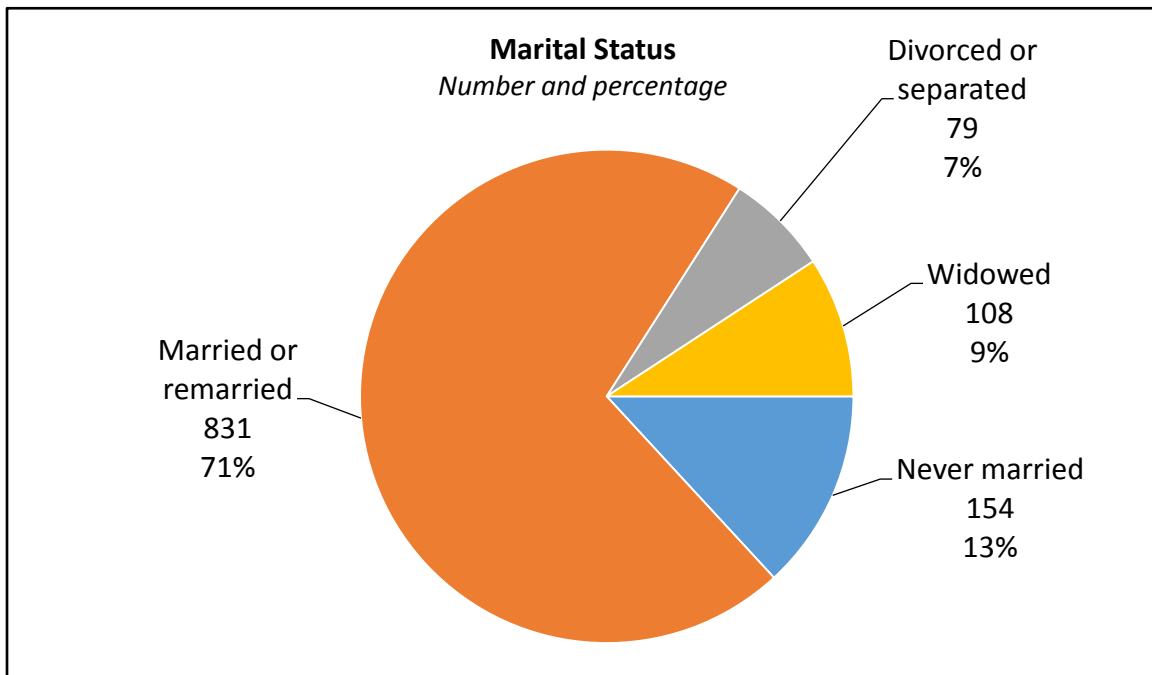
## Differences by Generation

The table below shows gender for the different generations. The youngest adults are the most evenly distributed.

<b>Mass Time of Response, by Generation</b>					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	58	60	62	57	50
Male	42	40	38	43	50

## Marital Status

Seventy-one percent of respondents are currently married or remarried. Some 13% have never married, 7% are divorced or separated, and 9% are widowed.



## Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Marital status at the parish is compared to the national data in the table below. The percentage married or remarried at St. John Fisher Parish (71%) is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (70%) but higher than the percentage among Catholics nationally (62%).

<b>Marital Status, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never married***	13	15	24
Married or remarried	71	70	62
Divorced or separated	7	8	9
Widowed	9	7	5

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

- Thirteen percent have never married, compared to about one in seven in-pew Catholics nationally (15%) and a quarter of adult Catholics nationally (24%).
- Some 7% are divorced or separated, compared to almost one in ten Catholics in pew and nationally (8% or 9%).
- One in ten St. John Fisher respondents (9%) has been widowed, compared to about one in 20 (5% to 7%) of those in pew and nationally.

## Differences by Generation

Marital status differs by generation. The youngest adults (95%) and young adults (46%) are particularly likely to have never married; those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (85%) and Vatican II Generation (80%) are most likely to be married or remarried; and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be widowed (32%).

	<b>Marital Status, by Generation</b> <i>Percentage responding</i>				
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Single, never married	2	3	8	46	95
Married or remarried	64	80	85	50	5
Divorced or separated	3	11	7	2	0
Widowed	32	6	1	2	0

## Children in the Household

Respondents report having from zero to ten of their children or stepchildren of any age living with them. Some 38% of respondents have at least one child of any age (including stepchildren) living with them. Twenty-six percent have at least one child ages 17 and younger currently living with them and 17% have at least one child ages 18 and older living with them.

<b>Children or Stepchildren Living in Household</b>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	<b>%</b>
No children	62
One child	14
Two children	14
Three or more children	10
Ages 17 or younger	26
Ages 18 or older	17

Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to this question, respondents report 456 children or stepchildren ages 17 and younger living with them and 222 children or stepchildren ages 18 and older living with them.<sup>6</sup>

### Differences by Generation

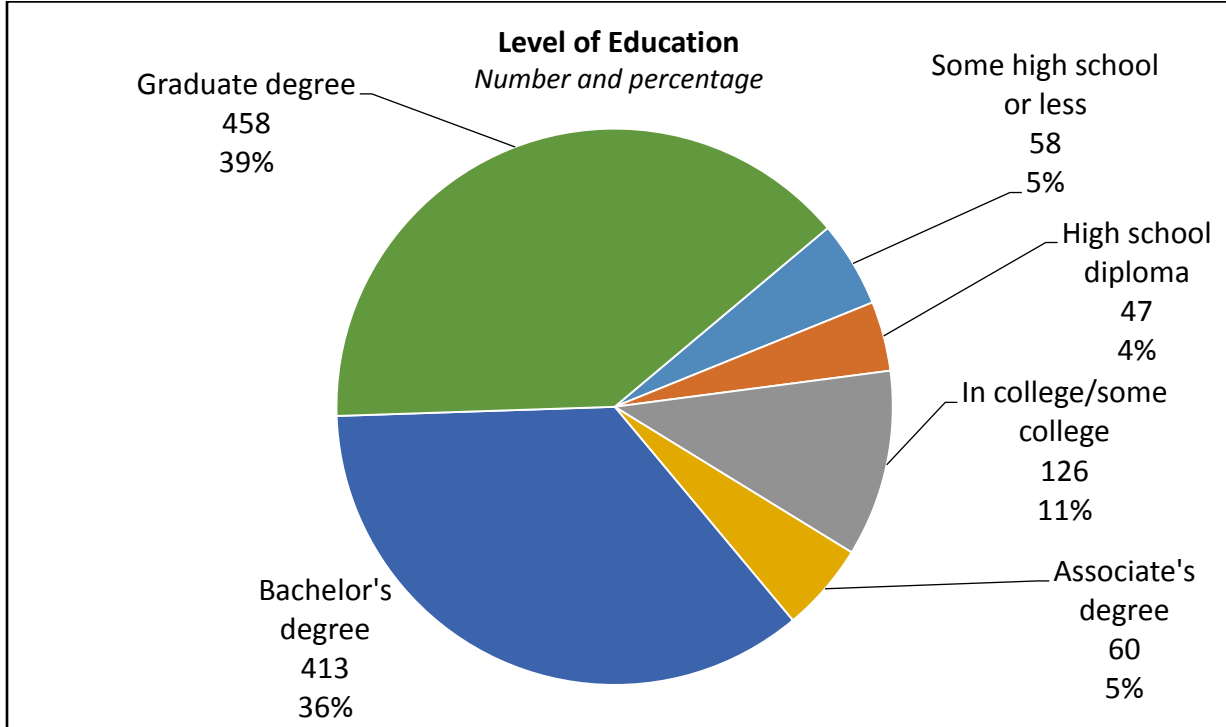
None of those of the youngest generation report having any children living with them, compared to 35% of young adults, 77% of those of the Post-Vatican II Generation, 28% of the Vatican II Generation, and 13% of the Pre-Vatican II Generation.

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<sup>6</sup> This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: “Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?”

### Level of Education

Nine percent have a high school diploma or less. Another 16% have attended some college or have an associate's degree. Some 75% report having a bachelor's or graduate degree.



## Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Level of education at the parish is higher than at parishes nationally. Some 75% of those at St. John Fisher have a bachelor's or graduate degree compared to 53% of Catholics in pew nationally and 27% of self-identified Catholics nationally.

<b>Level of Education, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Some high school or less	5	5	}47
High school diploma	4	14	
Some college	11	19	}26
Associate's degree	5	9	
Bachelor's degree	36	33	}27
Graduate degree	39	20	

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

## Differences by Generation

Level of education differs some by generation. Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation are particularly likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (86%), with youngest adults most likely to be in college or have completed some college (48%).

<b>Level of Education, by Generation</b>					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
<b>Level of Education</b>	<b>Pre-Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post-Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Some high school or less	1	1	1	2	5
High school diploma	5	4	1	2	0
In college/some college	17	10	7	10	48
Associate's degree	7	5	5	6	10
Bachelor's degree	35	37	41	47	33
Graduate degree	36	43	45	33	5



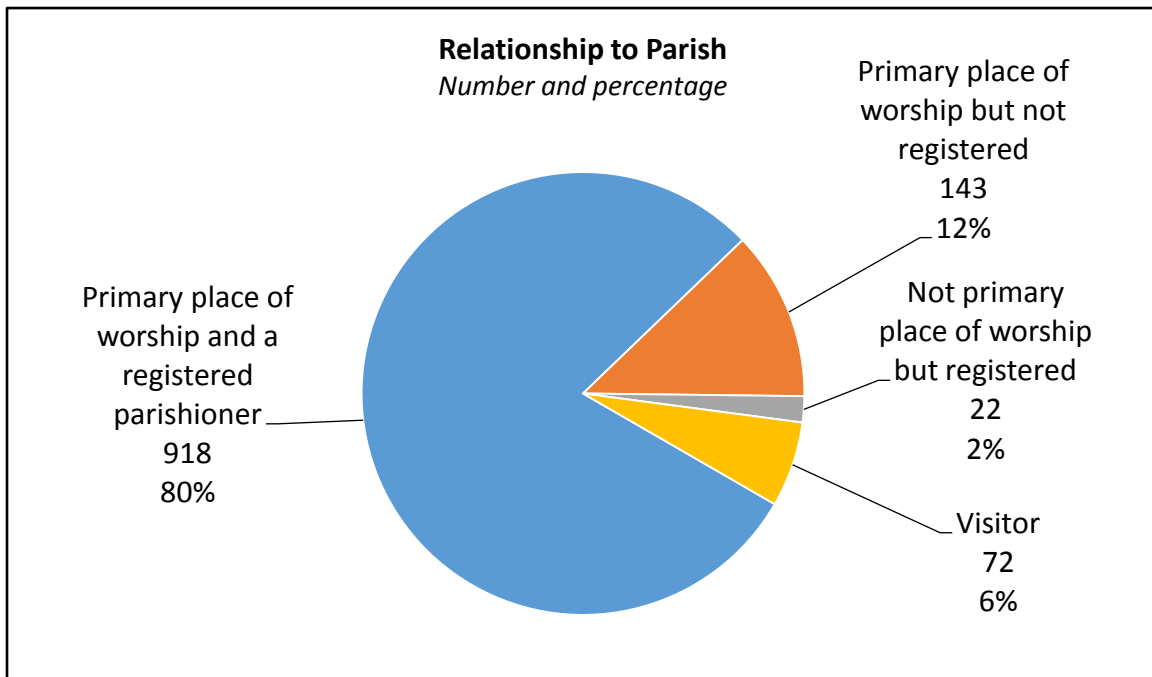
## Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This part of the report describes several characteristics of the 1,260 valid respondents to the survey that relate to their religious attributes and parish-related behaviors.

### Relationship to the Parish

Of all respondents, 92% report that St. John Fisher Parish is their primary place of worship and 81% say they are registered there.

In the figure below, those two measures are examined in relationship to one another. Four-fifths (80%) say both that the parish is their primary place of worship and that they are registered there. Fewer, 12%, say the parish is their primary place of worship but that they are *not* registered there. Six percent are visitors to the parish.



St. John Fisher respondents are very similar to Catholics in-pew nationally in their relationship to the parish.

<b>Relationship to the Parish, Compared to Catholics Nationally</b>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Primary place of worship <i>and</i> a registered parishioner	80	78
Primary place of worship but <i>not</i> registered	12	13
<i>Not</i> primary place of worship but registered	2	2
Visitor to the parish	6	7

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

### Differences by Generation

Young adults (35%) are most likely to regularly attend the parish but not be registered there, followed by the youngest adults (24%).

<b>Relationship to the Parish, by Generation</b>					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
<b>Relationship to the Parish</b>	<b>Pre-Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post-Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Primary place of worship <i>and</i> a registered parishioner	95	80	74	60	57
Primary place of worship but <i>not</i> registered	1	9	18	35	24
<i>Not</i> primary place of worship but registered	2	3	1	0	0
Visitor to the parish	2	8	6	4	19

## Years at the Parish

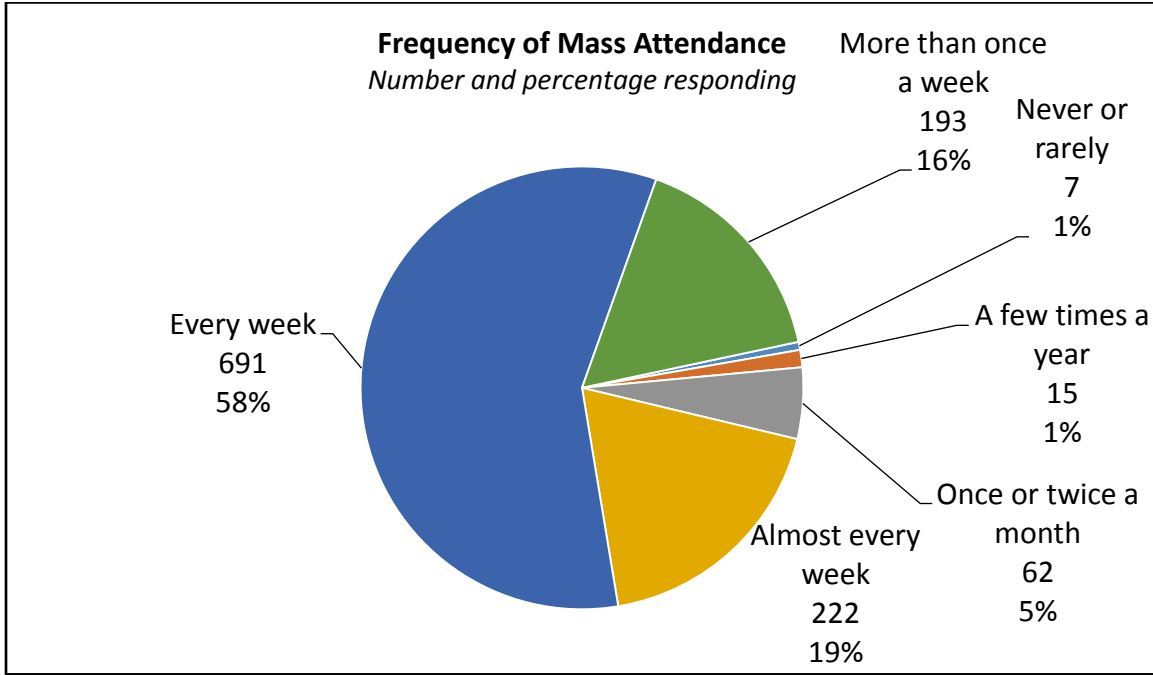
Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for 29 years. The median is 27 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 27 years or more.

<b>Years at Parish*</b>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	<b>%</b>
1 year or less	<1
2-5 years	0
6-10 years	5
11-15 years	14
16-20 years	19
21-25 years	10
26-30 years	12
31-35 years	8
36-40 years	15
41-45 years	6
46-50 years	8
51 years or more	4
Average	29
Median	27
Minimum	1
Maximum	65

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

## Frequency of Mass Attendance

Some 74% of respondents report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional 19% attend almost every week and 5% attend once or twice a month. Two percent attend less frequently than that.



## Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Compared to in-pew Catholics nationally (71%), St. John Fisher respondents are about as likely to attend Mass at least once a week (74%).

St. John Fisher respondents (74%) are considerably more likely to attend Mass at least once a week than are self-identified Catholic adults nationally (23%).

<b>About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?</b>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>	<b>Catholics Nationally**</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Never or rarely	1	<1	32
A few times a year	1	2	24
Once or twice a month	5	6	10
Almost every week	19	21	11
Every week	58	57	20
More than once a week	16	14	3

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

## Differences by Generation

Members of the oldest generation (92%) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those of the Vatican II Generation (75%), the youngest adults (69%), Post-Vatican II Generation (67%), and the young adults (52%).

The youngest adults (29%) and young adults (28%), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (22%), Vatican II Generation (20%), and Post-Vatican II Generation (7%).

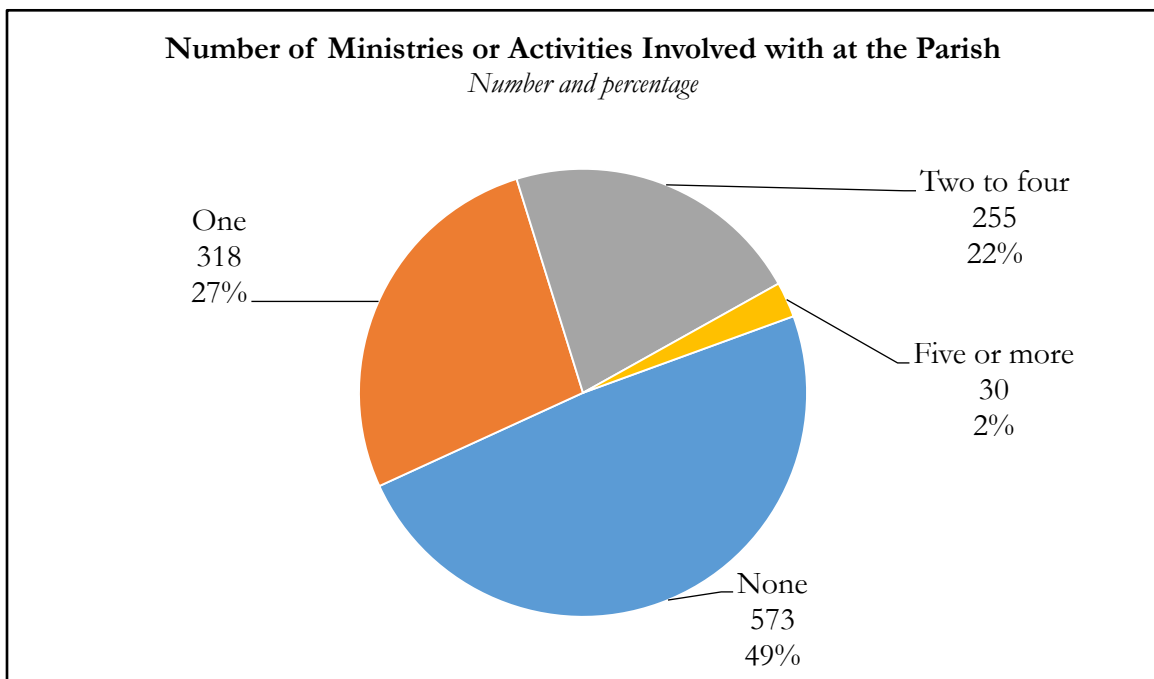
## Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- 26% of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish. Some 34% of the oldest generation has attended such programs, compared to 30% of the Vatican II Generation, 19% of the Post-Vatican II Generation, 17% of the youngest adults, and 13% of the young adults.
- 35% have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years.

## Ministry and Activity Participation

Fifty-one percent report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish in the past year. Some 49% are not involved with any.



In the remainder of this report comparison is made between three groups of respondents according to their involvement in parish activities:

- Those not involved in any parish ministries or activities (573 respondents or 49%)
- Those involved in one parish ministry or activity (318 respondents or 27%)
- Those involved with two or more ministries or activities (285 respondents or 24%)

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

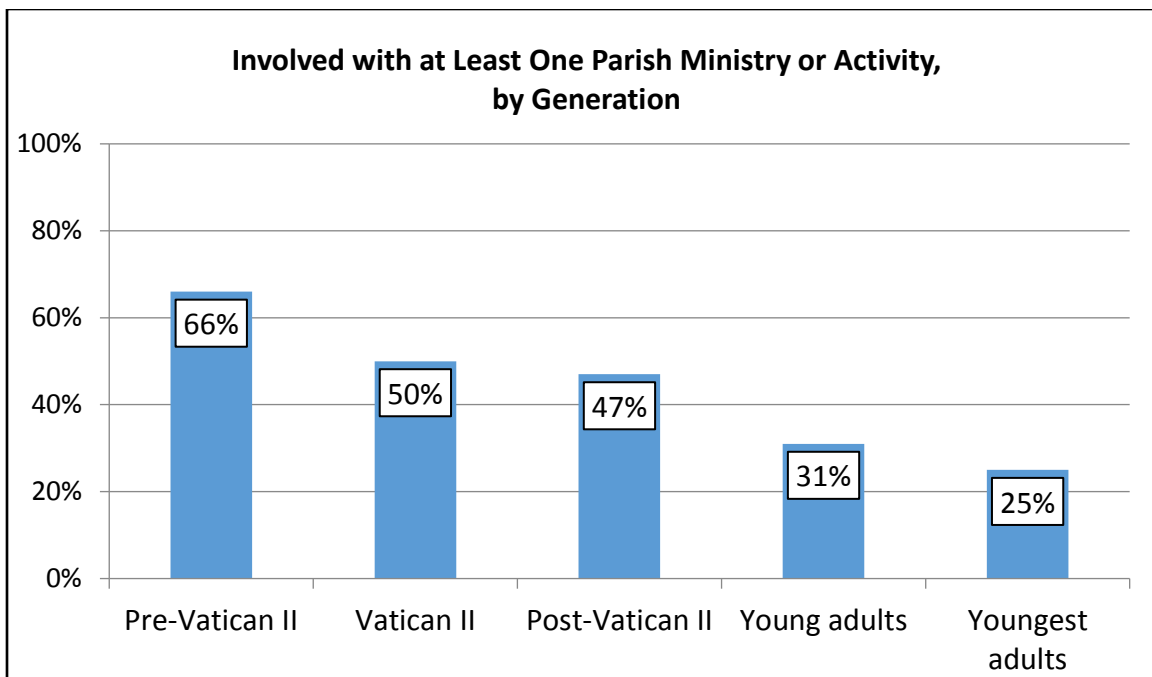
St. John Fisher respondents are about as likely to report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish as those parishes CARA has worked with in the past (50%).

<b>Number of Ministries or Activities Involved With</b>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
None	49	50
One	27	23
Two	22	23
Three or more	4	4

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

## Differences by Generation

The older the generation, the more likely its members are to be involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish.



## Frequency Accessing the Parish Website

Seventy percent report having accessed the parish website at least once during the past year.

### Differences by Generation

Post-Vatican II Generation members are most likely to have accessed the parish website at least once during the past year.

<b>Have you accessed the parish website at least once during the past year?</b>	
<i>Percentage responding "Yes"</i>	
	<b>%</b>
Pre-Vatican II	54
Vatican II	70
Post-Vatican II	83
Young adults	70
Youngest adults	57



### **Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs**

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

- Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Persons and Programs
- Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Evaluation of Parish Outreach
- Top Priorities for Parish Outreach
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Top Priorities for Parish Needs
- Attraction to the Parish
- Likelihood of Future Behaviors
- Attitudes about Parish Life

## Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

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

Nearly all respondents (96%) give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to St. John Fisher Parish overall.

<b>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent” combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Weekend Masses in general	97	93
St. John Fisher Parish overall	96	94
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	91	91
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	90	91
Vision provided by parish leaders	89	90
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	89	–
Sense of community within the parish	87	87
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	85	88
<i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

Weekend Masses at the parish receive a positive evaluation from 97% of responding parishioners. Between 85% and 91% give each of the other aspects of parish life a positive evaluation.

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally<sup>7</sup>

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their positive evaluations of aspects of parish life.

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<sup>7</sup> As discussed in the Introduction, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful.

## “Excellent” Evaluations

Some 63% of respondents give an “excellent” rating to St. John Fisher Parish overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Weekend Masses in general	67	59
St. John Fisher Parish overall	63	58
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	58	57
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	54	55
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	54	–
Sense of community within the parish	47	46
Vision provided by parish leaders	45	50
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	43	45

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

- Weekend Masses in general receive an “excellent” evaluation from 67% of responding parishioners.
- More than half rate the following as “excellent”: encouragement to share one’s time, talents and treasure with the parish (58%), efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (54%), and outreach to and advocacy for those in need (54%).
- Less than half give an “excellent” rating to the sense of community within the parish (47%), the vision provided by parish leaders (45%), and efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize (43%).

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their “excellent” evaluations of aspects of parish life.

## “Excellent” Evaluations by Generation

The youngest adults are most likely to rate the weekend Masses in general as “excellent,” but are among the *least* likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to any of the other aspects of parish life in this section.<sup>8</sup>

<b>“Excellent” Evaluations of Aspects of Parish Life, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Weekend Masses in general	64	69	66	63	77
St. John Fisher Parish overall	64	64	60	65	57
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	59	62	58	50	41
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	56	57	53	59	43
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	50	55	55	57	50
Sense of community within the parish	44	53	42	42	40
Vision provided by parish leaders	41	46	48	53	33
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	34	44	42	61	36

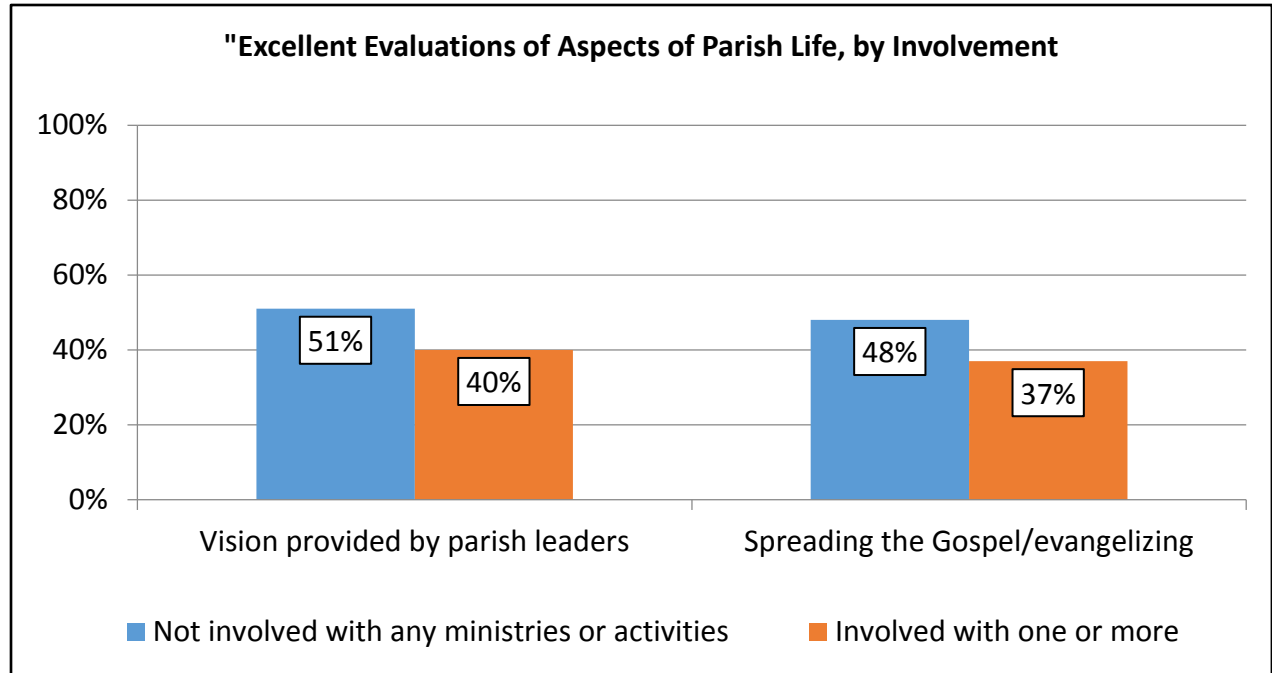
## Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Respondents’ evaluations of Masses and liturgies do *not* differ significantly by how often they currently attend Mass.

<sup>8</sup> As was discussed in the Introduction, only differences presented in graphs in this report are known to be statistically significant. Throughout this report, generational tables, like the one presented above, display all generational differences, whether they are statistically significant or not.

### Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than those involved with at least one to give an “excellent” rating to the vision provided by parish leaders and to efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize.



### Differences by Mass of Response

Responding parishioners do *not* differ significantly in their evaluations of Masses and liturgies in general by the Mass time where they responded to the survey.

### Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

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

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

## Evaluation of Persons and Programs

More than nine in ten rate the friendliness of the parish office staff (93%) and leadership provided by the pastor (92%) as “good” or “excellent.”

<b><i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent” combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Friendliness of the parish office staff	93	92
Leadership provided by the pastor	92	88
Children’s religious education programs <sup>9</sup>	91	83
Faith formation for adults	90	71
Effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news	87	–
Sacramental preparation for Teen Confirmation	84	–
Social activities	81	72

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

- Concerning the faith formation programs at the parish, more than eight in ten give a positive evaluation to children’s religious education programs (91%), faith formation for adults (90%), and sacramental preparation for Teen Confirmation (84%).
- The effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news receives a “good” or “excellent” rating from 87% of responding parishioners.
- Eighty-one percent rate the social activities positively.

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 19 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to faith formation for adults (90% compared to 71%).

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<sup>9</sup> This program and other formation programs have non-response rates between 28 and 36 percent due to limited family participation in those programs. For the non-response rates to all questions, see Appendix I.

## “Excellent” Evaluations

The friendliness of the parish office staff (67%) and the leadership provided by the pastor (64%) receive an “excellent” evaluation from about two in three responding parishioners.

<b>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Friendliness of the parish office staff	67	51
Leadership provided by the pastor	64	55
Children’s religious education programs	59	39
Faith formation for adults	53	27
Sacramental preparation for Confirmation	53	–
Effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news	49	–
Social activities	36	27

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

- Between 53% and 59% give an “excellent” evaluation to these faith formation programs: children’s religious education programs (59%), faith formation for adults (53%), and sacramental preparation for Confirmation (53%).
- Half (49%) rate the effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news as “excellent.”
- Social activities receive an “excellent” evaluation from 36% of respondents.

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 16 to 26 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following persons or programs:

- Faith formation for adults (53% compared to 27%)
- Children’s religious education programs (59% compared to 39%)
- Friendliness of the parish office staff (67% compared to 51%)

## “Excellent” Evaluations by Generation

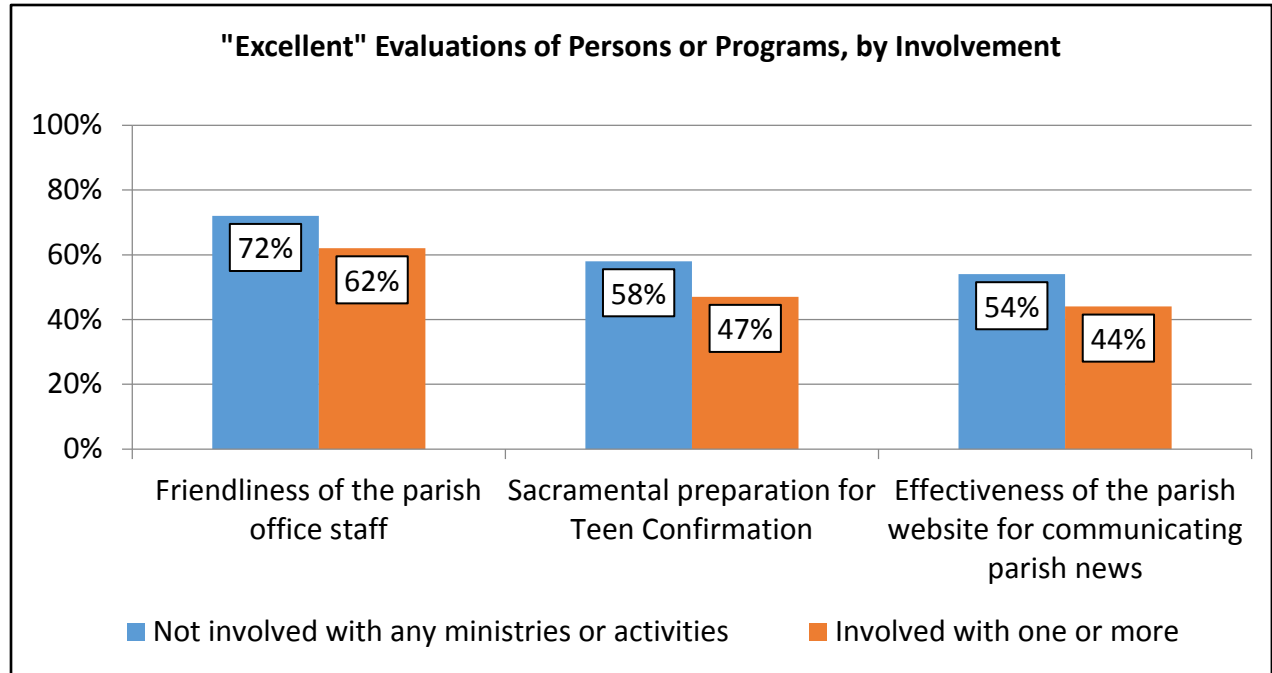
The youngest adults stand out among the generations. They are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation of social activities but are among the *least* likely to rate the other persons and programs as highly. Young adults, on the other hand, are most likely to rate the effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news as “excellent” and are among the most likely to rate the friendliness of the parish office staff and the leadership provided by the pastor as highly.

	<b>Pre- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Vatican II %</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Young Adults %</b>	<b>Youngest Adults %</b>
Friendliness of the parish office staff	73	67	66	76	65
Leadership provided by the pastor	65	68	61	71	45
Sacramental preparation for Confirmation	57	54	51	56	44
Children’s religious education programs	56	60	61	61	47
Faith formation for adults	49	54	54	55	40
Effectiveness of the parish website for communicating parish news	39	50	53	64	44
Social activities	37	36	37	36	53



### Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than those involved with at least one to give an “excellent” rating to the persons and programs presented in the figure below.



### Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate the children’s religious education program or the sacramental preparation program for Teen Confirmation.

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate adult faith formation.

## Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses

More than nine in ten give a positive evaluation to each of the areas of weekend Masses presented in the table below.

	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Music	96	82
Liturgical decorations and environment	94	88
Hospitality or sense of welcome	93	85
Homilies	91	87

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

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 14 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the music at weekend Masses (96% compared to 82%).

## “Excellent” Evaluations

The music at weekend Masses receives an “excellent” evaluation from 81% of responding parishioners.

<b><i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Catholics In Pew Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Music	81	48
Hospitality or sense of welcome	68	49
Liturgical decorations and environment	68	48
Homilies	60	48

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

- Two in three rate the hospitality or sense of welcome (68%) and liturgical decorations and environment (68%) at weekend Masses as “excellent.”
- The homilies are given an “excellent” rating by 60% of responding parishioners.

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 12 to 33 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following areas of weekend Masses:

- Music (81% compared to 48%)
- Liturgical decorations and environment (68% compared to 48%)
- Hospitality or sense of welcome (68% compared to 49%)
- Homilies (60% compared to 48%)

### “Excellent” Evaluations by Generation

The youngest adults are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to the liturgical decorations and environment and hospitality or sense of welcome. Members of the oldest generation are *least* likely to rate the homilies as “excellent.”

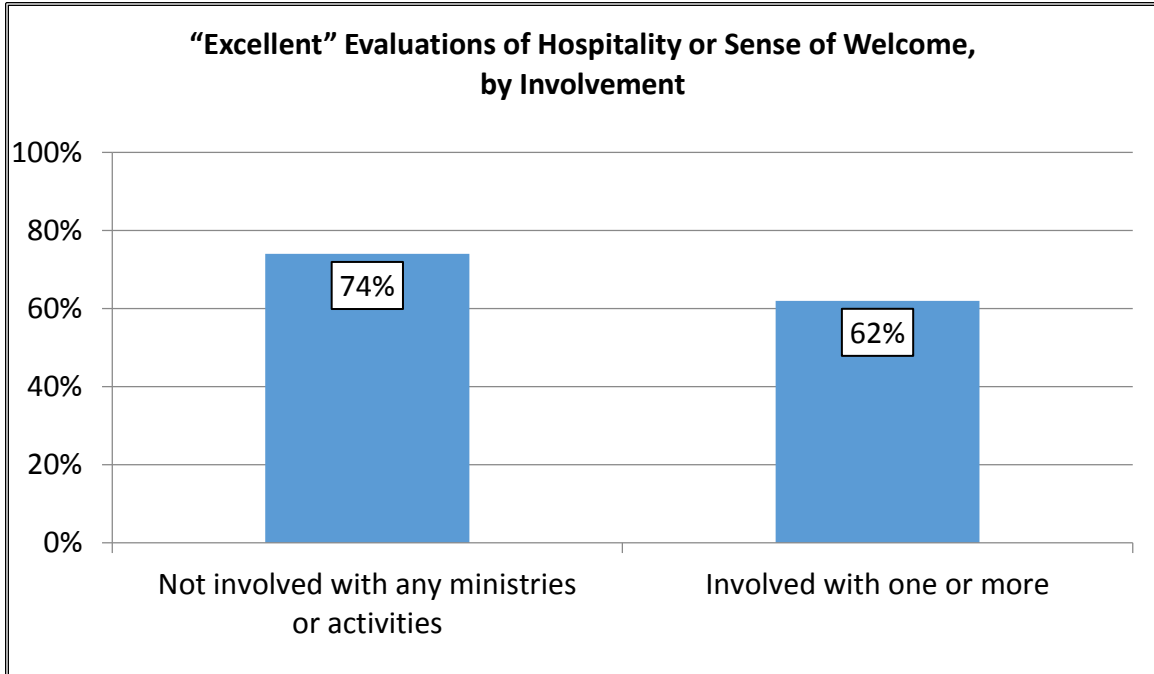
<b>“Excellent” Evaluations of Areas of Weekend Masses Overall, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Music	82	83	82	79	82
Liturgical decorations and environment	68	66	69	69	77
Hospitality or sense of welcome	67	68	70	69	82
Homilies	48	62	65	64	68

### Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week do *not* differ significantly from those who attend less frequently in their evaluations of the areas of weekend Masses measured.

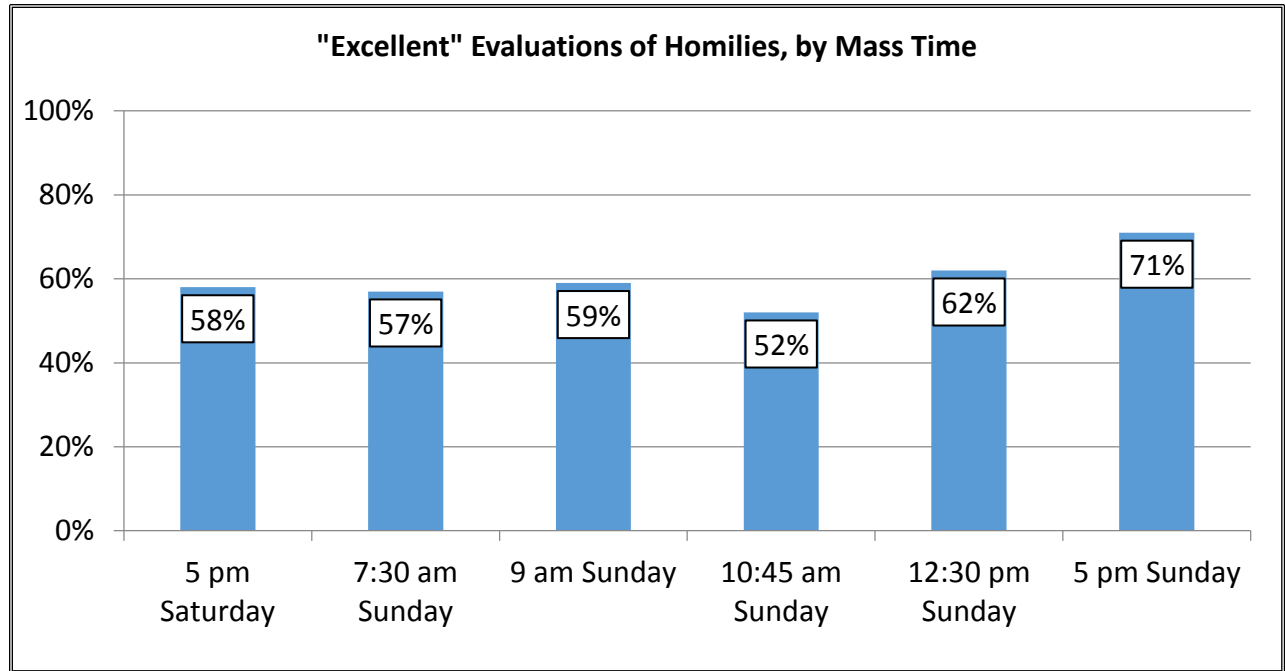
## Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses.



### Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass are especially likely to give the homilies at weekend Masses an “excellent” rating.



### Differences by Relationship to the Parish

Visitors at the parish (that is those who say the parish is not their primary place of worship) do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate the hospitality or sense of welcome at parish liturgies.

## Evaluation of Parish Efforts

With one exception, at least 87% of respondents give a positive evaluation to each of the parish efforts displayed in the table below.

<b><i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding "Good" or "Excellent" combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Manage parish finances	94	85
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	91	89
Foster spiritual growth	91	81
Communicate with parishioners	91	80
Meet people's spiritual needs	87	83
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	87	82
Encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service	78	–
 <i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 10 to 11 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a "good" or "excellent" evaluation to these parish efforts to:

- Communicate with parishioners (91% compared to 80%)
- Foster spiritual growth (91% compared to 81%)

## “Excellent” Evaluations

Six in ten (61%) rate the parish’s management of parish finances as “excellent.”

<b><i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Manage parish finances	61	40
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	56	47
Foster spiritual growth	53	35
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	50	39
Communicate with parishioners	48	37
Meet people’s spiritual needs	45	40
Encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service	38	–

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

- Parish efforts to nurture one’s relationship with Jesus Christ (56%) and to foster spiritual growth (53%) are given an “excellent” rating by just over half of respondents. Some 45% rate efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs as highly.
- Half or slightly fewer give an “excellent” rating to efforts to invite parishioners to participate in parish ministries (50%) and to communicate with parishioners (48%).
- Encouragement of parishioners to invite others to a parish worship service receives an “excellent” evaluation from 38% of respondents.

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 11 to 21 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to these parish efforts to:

- Manage parish finances (61% compared to 40%)
- Foster spiritual growth (53% compared to 35%)
- Invite you to participate in parish ministries (50% compared to 39%)
- Communicate with parishioners (48% compared to 37%)



## “Excellent” Evaluations by Generation

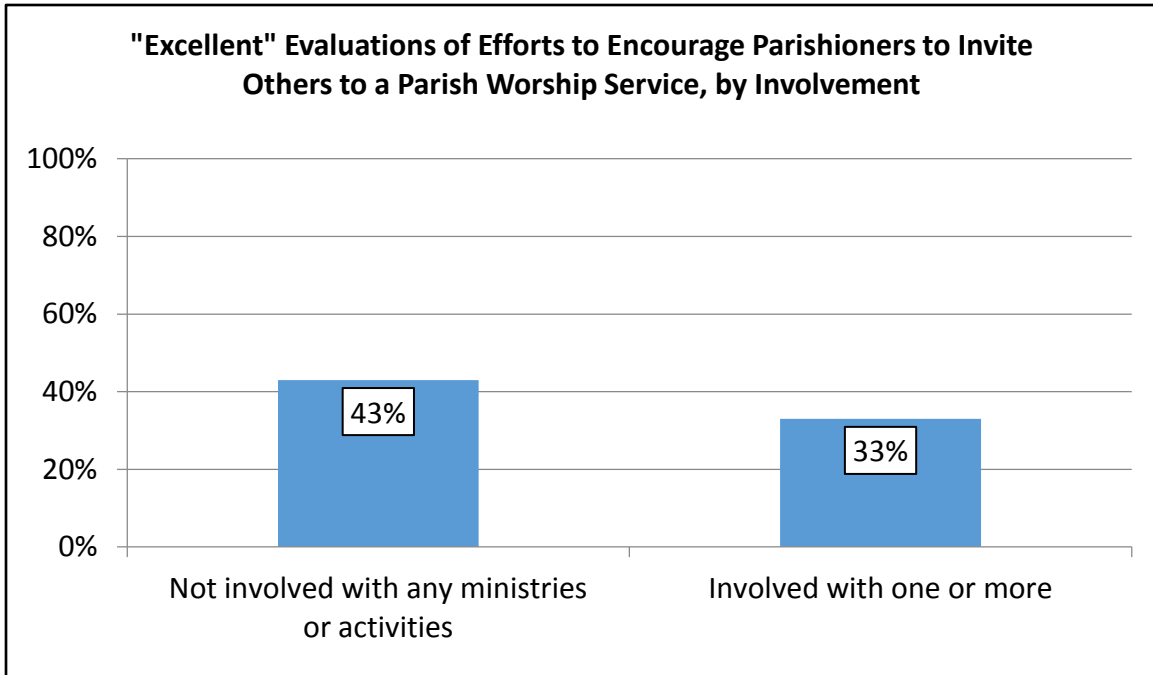
The young adults are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ, to foster spiritual growth, and to communicate with parishioners. In addition, both the young adults and youngest adults are most likely to rate as “excellent” efforts to encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service.

	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Manage parish finances	59	65	61	68	65
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	52	58	56	63	46
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	50	53	49	46	48
Foster spiritual growth	46	54	55	68	55
Communicate with parishioners	44	50	51	56	41
Meet people’s spiritual needs	40	44	49	47	48
Encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service	31	35	41	50	45

Members of the oldest generation are *least* likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to foster spiritual growth and to encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service.

## Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than those involved with at least one to give efforts to encourage parishioners to invite others to a parish worship service an “excellent” evaluation.



## Evaluation of Parish Outreach

More than eight in ten responding parishioners give a “good” or “excellent” rating to parish outreach to the following age groups: children (89%), senior citizens (85%), adults (82%), and teens (82%). Between six- to seven-tenths give a positive evaluation to outreach to married young adults (70%), young adults (64%), college-age youth (64%), and single young adults (60%).

***Please evaluate parish outreach to the following groups:***

*Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent” combined*

	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Those sick or homebound	92	80
Children (ages 4 to 12)	89	77
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	85	75
Those with physical disabilities	84	72
Those grieving	84	72
Visitors and guests	83	81
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	82	78
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	82	73
Married couples	80	72
New parishioners	80	70
Families in crisis	74	–
Those with developmental or intellectual disabilities	73	–
Those who need marriage or family counseling	72	–
Married young adults (ages 18 to 35)	70	70
Those in financial need	67	69
Those with mental health issues	67	–
Those divorced or separated	65	54
Single adults	65	53
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	64	67
Single parents	64	52
College-age youth	64	–
Those with addictions	64	–
Single young adults (ages 18 to 35)	60	64
Those who do not belong to a faith community	58	–
Inactive Catholics	54	54

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

- Parish outreach to the following groups in need or in crisis receives a positive evaluation from about six- to nine-tenths of respondents: those sick or homebound (92%), those with physical disabilities (84%), those grieving (84%), families in crisis (74%), those with developmental or intellectual disabilities (73%), those who need marriage or family counseling (72%), those in financial need (67%), those with mental health issues (67%), single parents (64%), and those with addictions (64%).
- At least eight in ten rate outreach to visitors and guests (83%) and new parishioners (80%) as “good” or “excellent.” Less than six in ten give that rating to outreach to those who do not belong to a faith community (58%) and inactive Catholics (54%).
- Outreach to married couples receives a positive evaluation from 82% of responding parishioners. About two-thirds give that same rating to outreach to single adults (65%) and those divorced or separated (65%).

### **Comparison to Parishes Nationally**

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 10 to 12 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to the following groups:

- Those sick or homebound (92% compared to 80%)
- Children (89% compared to 77%)
- Those with physical disabilities (84% compared to 72%)
- Those grieving (84% compared to 72%)
- Single adults (65% compared to 53%)
- Single parents (64% compared to 52%)
- Those divorced or separated (65% compared to 54%)
- Senior citizens (85% compared to 75%)
- New parishioners (80% compared to 70%)

### **Non-response Rate**

Perhaps due to being unfamiliar with parish outreach to some groups, non-response rates are around half for outreach to the following groups:<sup>10</sup>

- 51% for those with mental health issues
- 51% for those with addictions
- 50% for single parents
- 50% for those with developmental or intellectual disabilities
- 50% for those in financial need
- 49% for those who need marriage or family counseling

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<sup>10</sup> To view all of the non-response rates for the survey, see the appendix.

- 49% for those who do not belong to a faith community
- 48% for single young adults
- 48% for married young adults
- 47% for families in crisis

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

## “Excellent” Ratings

Between about four-tenths to half give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to the following age groups: children (53%), senior citizens (49%), teens (47%), and adults (42%). Less than a third give as high of an evaluation to outreach to married young adults (30%), college-age youth (29%), young adults (28%), and single young adults (25%).

***Please evaluate parish outreach to the following groups:***  
*Percentage responding “Excellent”*

	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Those sick or homebound	57	38
Children (ages 4 to 12)	53	33
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	49	34
Those with physical disabilities	48	32
Those grieving	47	31
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	47	30
Visitors and guests	45	39
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	42	31
New parishioners	41	29
Married couples	38	26
Those with developmental or intellectual disabilities	36	–
Families in crisis	34	–
Those who need marriage or family counseling	34	–
Those in financial need	30	28
Married young adults (ages 18 to 35)	30	26
College-age adults	29	–
Those with mental health issues	29	–
Those with addictions	29	–
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	28	27
Single adults	28	17
Those divorced or separated	27	19
Single parents	26	17
Single young adults (ages 18 to 35)	25	24
Those who do not belong to a faith community	25	–
Inactive Catholics	24	19

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

- Parish outreach to the following groups in need or in crisis receives an “excellent” evaluation from about half to six-tenths of respondents: those sick or homebound (57%), those with physical disabilities (48%), and those grieving (47%). Roughly three-tenths give as high an evaluation to outreach to those with developmental or intellectual disabilities (36%), families in crisis (34%), those who need marriage or family counseling (34%), those in financial need (30%), those with mental health issues (29%), those with addictions (29%), and single parents (26%).
- About four in ten rate outreach to visitors and guests (45%) and new parishioners (41%) as “excellent.” A quarter give that rating to outreach to those who do not belong to a faith community (25%) and inactive Catholics (24%).
- Outreach to married couples receives an “excellent” evaluation from 38% of responding parishioners. Just under three-tenths give that same rating to outreach to single adults (28%) and those divorced or separated (27%).

### **Comparison to Parishes Nationally**

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 11 to 20 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to the following groups:

- Children (53% compared to 33%)
- Those sick or homebound (57% compared to 38%)
- Teens (47% compared to 30%)
- Those with physical disabilities (48% compared to 32%)
- Those grieving (47% compared to 31%)
- Senior citizens (49% compared to 34%)
- New parishioners (41% compared to 29%)
- Married couples (38% compared to 26%)
- Those divorced or separated (27% compared to 19%)
- Adults (42% compared to 31%)
- Single adults (28% compared to 17%)

## “Excellent” Evaluations by Generation

Members of the two oldest generations are *least* likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to senior citizens.

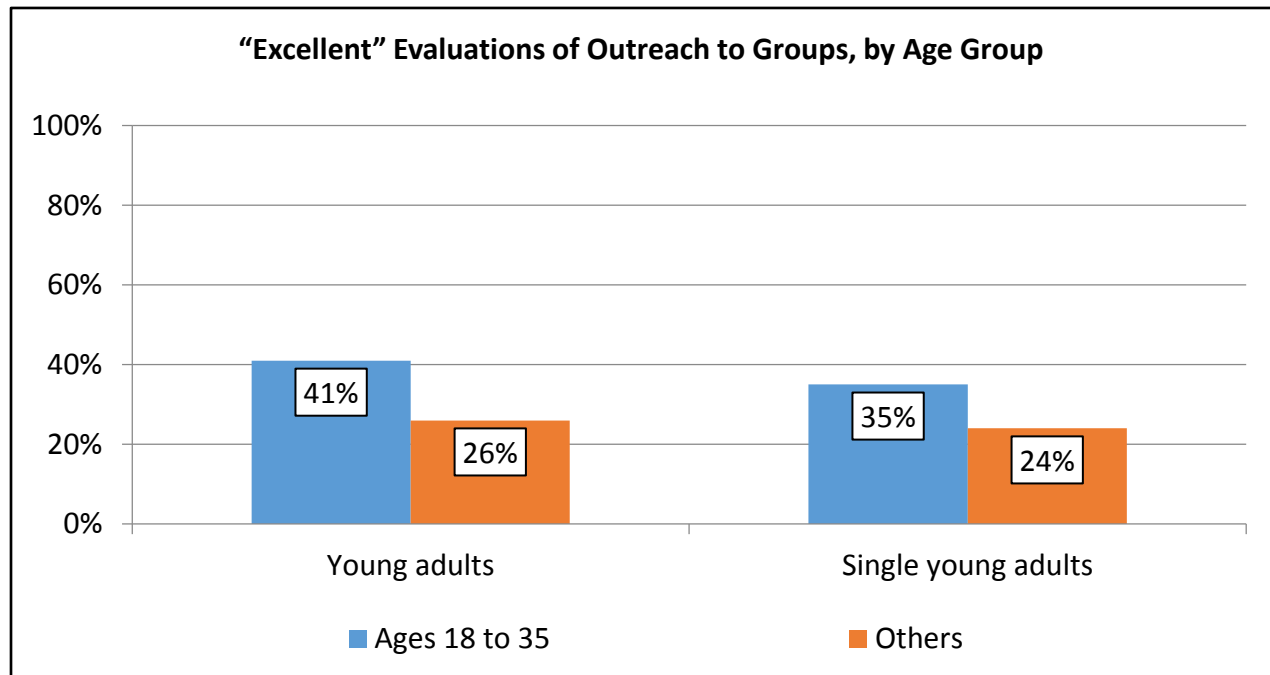
<b>“Excellent” Evaluations of Parish Outreach to Groups, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II</b>	<b>Vatican II</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>	<b>Youngest Adults</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Children (ages 4 to 12)	59	53	54	57	44
Those sick or homebound	56	58	57	64	56
Those with physical disabilities	49	48	47	58	50
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	48	49	45	53	33
Those grieving	46	49	46	46	50
Visitors and guests	44	43	46	50	63
New parishioners	40	38	42	46	63
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	40	37	40	55	50
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	38	43	58	68	53
Married couples	35	36	36	49	33
Families in crisis	34	34	32	49	60
Those with developmental or intellectual disabilities	34	33	39	52	36
Married young adults (ages 18 to 35)	31	29	27	39	18
Those who need marriage or family counseling	30	35	33	47	40
College-age adults	29	28	26	47	22
Those in financial need	28	31	28	45	38
Those with addictions	28	29	28	45	33
Those with mental health issues	28	27	29	47	29
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	27	28	23	49	25
Single young adults (ages 18 to 35)	24	25	23	43	18
Those divorced or separated	24	24	27	44	33
Single adults	24	23	27	49	38
Single parents	22	25	25	45	33
Those who do not belong to a faith community	21	24	25	41	38
Inactive Catholics	17	23	24	43	35



- The young adults are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to outreach to many groups, with these particularly notable: young adults, single young adults, married young adults, college-age adults, senior citizens, those sick or homebound, those with physical disabilities, married couples, those with developmental or intellectual disabilities, those who need marriage or family counseling, those in financial need, those with addictions, those with mental health issues, those divorced or separated, single adults, single parents, and inactive Catholics.
- The youngest adults are especially likely to give outreach to the following groups an “excellent” rating: visitors and guests, new parishioners, and families in crisis. The youngest adults are *least* likely, on the other hand, to rate outreach to the following groups as “excellent”: children, teens, and married young adults.
- Those of the two youngest generations are most likely to rate outreach to adults as “excellent.”

### Differences by Age Group

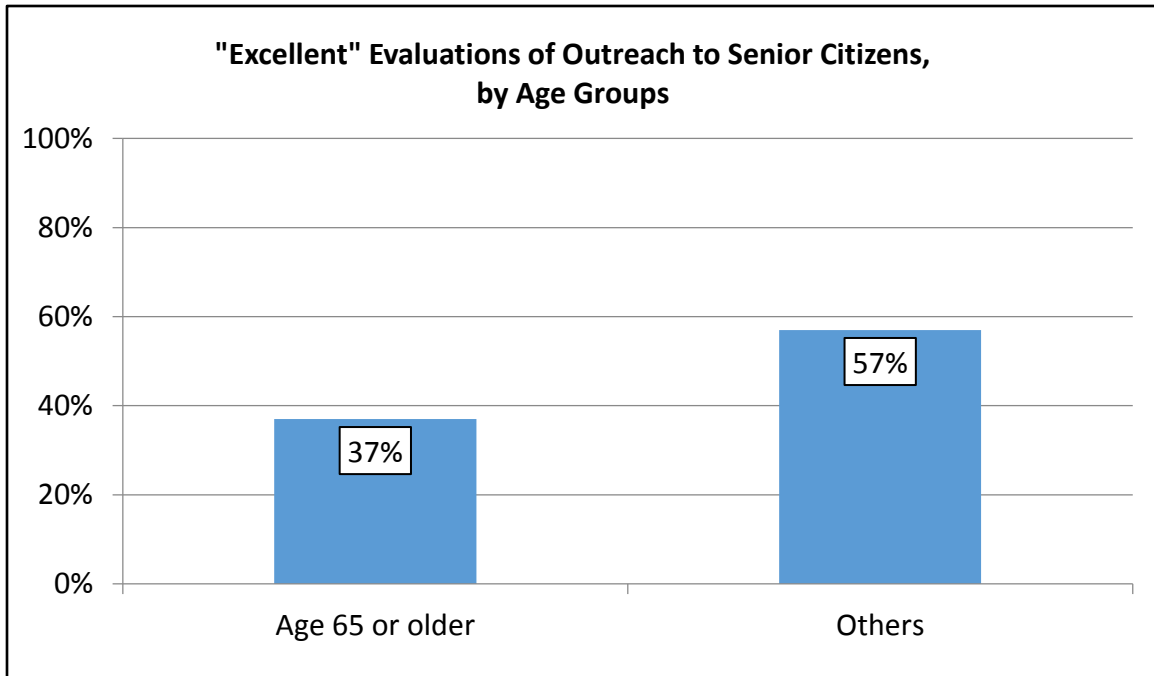
Those ages 18 to 35 are more likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to young adults and single young adults. There are *not* any significant differences between the two groups in their evaluations of married young adults.



Those ages 18 to 22 do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluations of parish outreach to college-age youth.

Similarly, respondents ages 36 to 64 do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluations of outreach to adults.

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

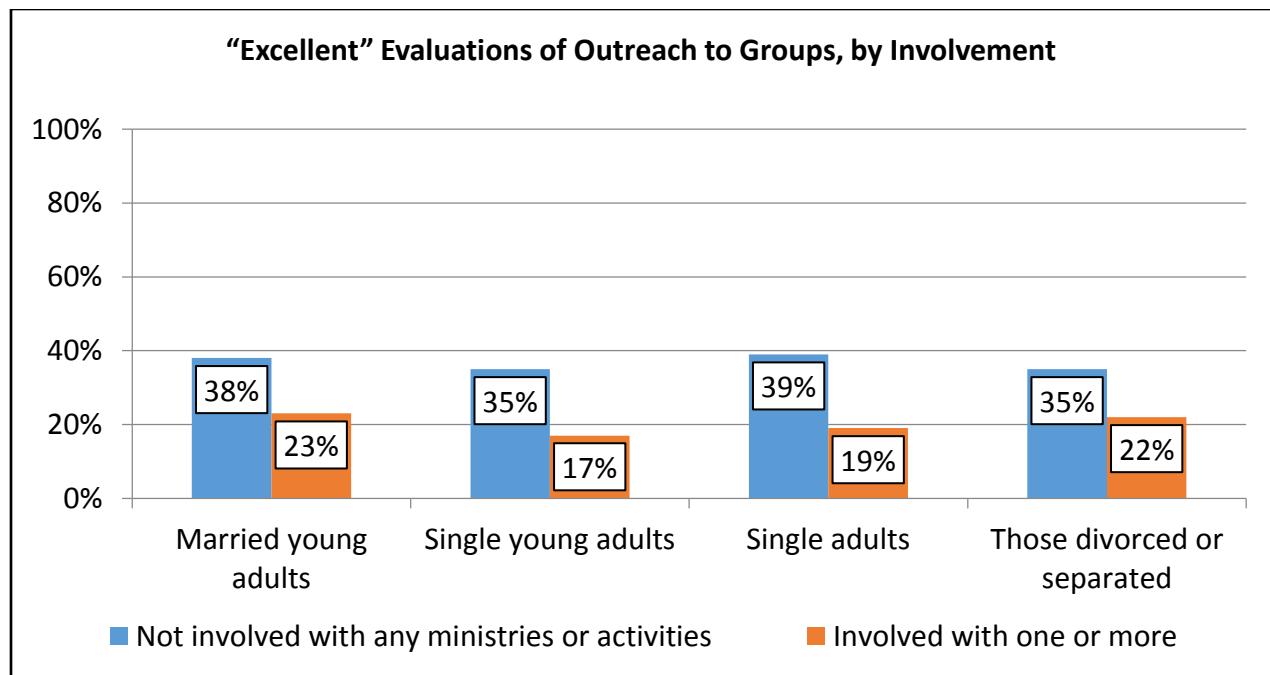
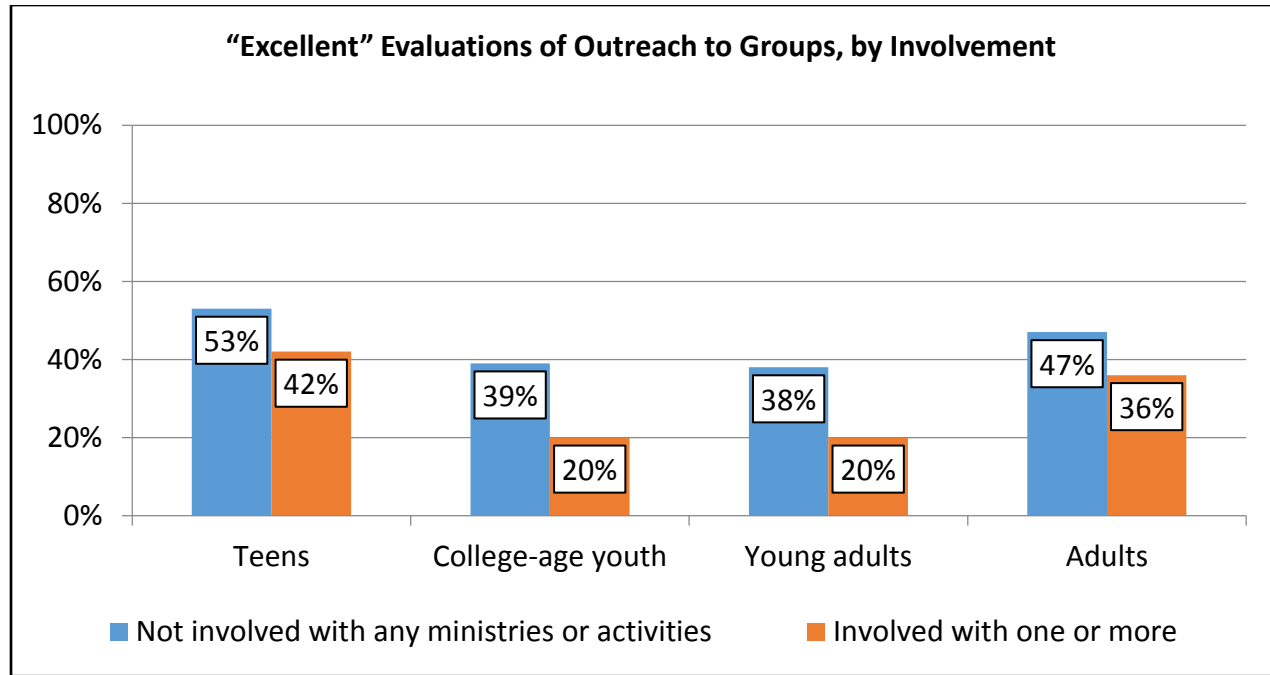


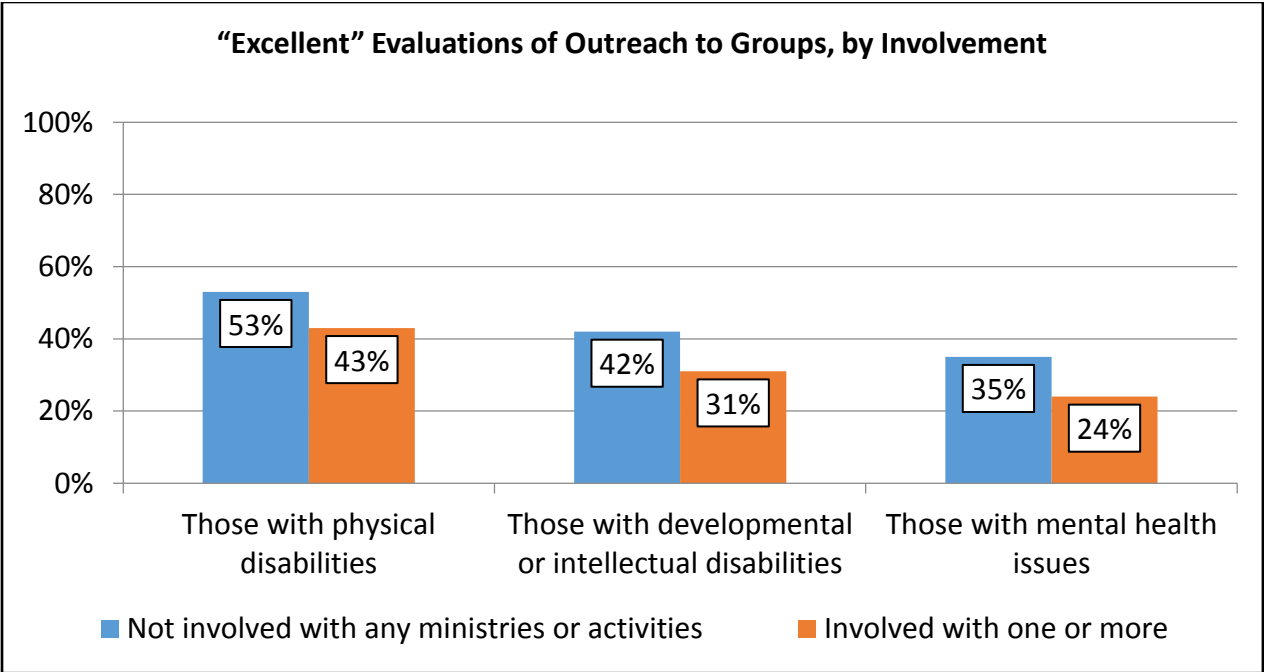
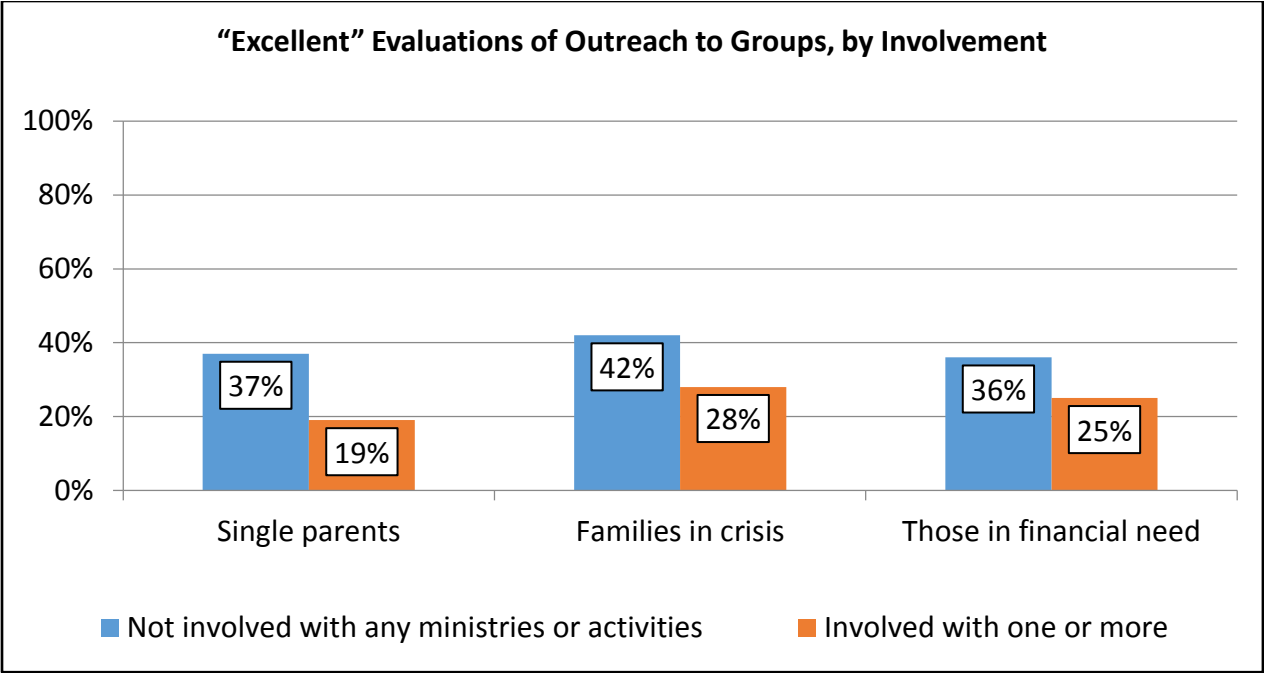
### Differences by Children Present in the Household

Respondents with children or stepchildren under age 18 living with them do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluations of the parish’s outreach to children and teens.

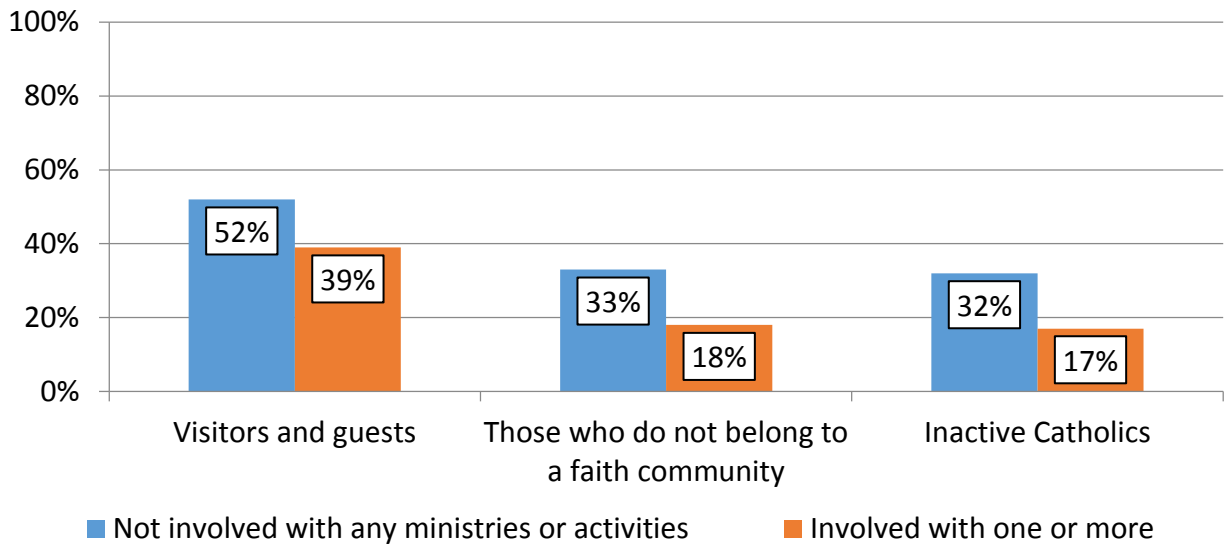
## Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than those involved with at least one to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to the groups presented in the five figures below.





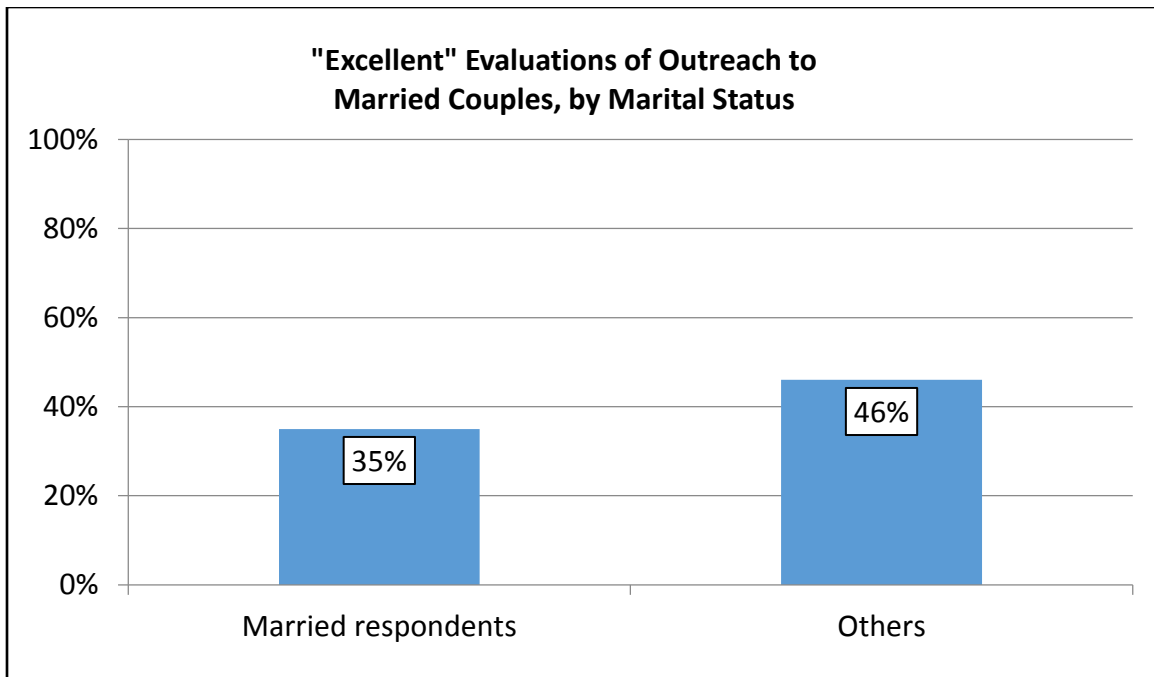
**“Excellent” Evaluations of Outreach to Groups, by Involvement**



### Differences by Marital Status

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

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



Divorced or separated respondents do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate parish outreach to those divorced or separated.

### Differences by Marital Status of Parent

Unmarried respondents with a child under age 18 living with them do *not* differ significantly from others in the evaluations they give to parish outreach to single parents.

### Differences by Relationship to the Parish

Visitors at the parish do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate parish outreach to visitors.

## Top Priorities for Parish Outreach

Respondents were asked to choose the three groups from the list in the previous section that the parish should give most priority to for outreach.<sup>11</sup> Outreach to teens is listed as a top priority by 36% of respondents. Two-tenths or less list outreach to these other age groups among their top three: young adults (20%), college-age youth (18%), children (16%), senior citizens (15%), single young adults (11%), married young adults (10%), and adults (8%).

<b>Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach</b>	
	<b>One of the Top Three Priorities %</b>
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	36
Families in crisis	22
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	20
College-age youth	18
Inactive Catholics	18
Children (ages 4 to 12)	16
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	15
Those sick or homebound	12
Single young adults (ages 18 to 35)	11
Married young adults (ages 18 to 35)	10
Those divorced or separated	10
Those grieving	10
New parishioners	10
Married couples	9
Those with mental health issues	9
Those who need marriage or family counseling	9
Those with addictions	9
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	8
Those in financial need	7
Those who do not belong to a faith community	7
Single adults	6
Single parents	6
Those with physical disabilities	4
Those with developmental or intellectual disabilities	4
Visitors and guests	3

<sup>11</sup> 37 percent did not provide a response to this series of questions.

- Needs-based groups are listed by less than a quarter of responding parishioners among their top three priorities for parish outreach: families in crisis (22%), those sick or homebound (12%), those grieving (10%), those with mental health issues (9%), those who need marriage or family counseling (9%), those with addictions (9%), those in financial need (7%), single parents (6%), those with physical disabilities (4%), and those with developmental or intellectual disabilities (4%).
- Eighteen percent list inactive Catholics among their top three groups for priority. Ten percent or less list new parishioners (10%), those who do not belong to a faith community (7%), and visitors and guests (3%).
- One-tenth or less lists those divorced or separated (10%), married couples (9%), and single adults (6%).

### Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- Teens (31%)
- Senior citizens (25%)
- Families in crisis (20%)
- College-age youth (19%)
- Young adults (18%)

Those of the Vatican II Generation are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- Teens (36%)
- Inactive Catholics (23%)
- Young adults (22%)
- *Tie:* College-age youth *and* families in crisis (19% each)

Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- Teens (43%)
- Families in crisis (23%)
- Young adults (22%)
- Children (20%)
- College-age youth (18%)



The young adults are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- *Tie:* Families in crisis *and* those with addictions (28% each)
- Those with mental health issues (23%)
- *Tie:* Single young adults *and* senior citizens (18% each)

Youngest adults are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- *Tie:* Teens *and* college-age youth (42% each)
- Young adults (32%)
- *Tie:* Those with mental health issues *and* those grieving (12% each)

## Priority for Parish Needs

More than three-quarters give at least “somewhat” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below. At least nine in ten place priority on visitation of the sick and homebound (95%), children’s religious education or formation (94%), providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (94%), developing a parish sense of community (93%), adult faith formation (92%), ministry to those grieving (92%), the Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation (91%), and young adult ministry (90%).

<b><i>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much” combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	95	90
Children’s religious education/formation	94	91
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	94	87
Developing a parish sense of community	93	91
Adult faith formation	92	86
Ministry to those grieving	92	91
Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation	91	88
Young adult ministry	90	90
Ministry to the divorced and separated	82	82
Outreach to inactive Catholics	80	73
Providing retreat opportunities	77	71

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

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in how much priority they say they parish should give to the parish needs listed in the table above.

## “Very Much” Priority

Responding parishioners are particularly likely to place “very much” priority on needs in the areas of passing on the faith to the next generation, building community, and social justice. At least six in ten place “very much” priority on children’s religious education or formation (75%), a Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation (72%), developing a parish sense of community (69%), visitation of the sick and homebound (66%), providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (63%), young adult ministry (61%), and ministry for those grieving (60%).

<b>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Children’s religious education/formation	75	70
Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation	72	59
Developing a parish sense of community	69	60
Visitation of the sick and homebound	66	55
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	63	53
Young adult ministry	61	62
Ministry to those grieving	60	58
Adult faith formation	54	46
Ministry to the divorced and separated	46	40
Outreach to inactive Catholics	45	35
Providing retreat opportunities	36	31

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

- Adult faith formation is given “very much” priority by 54% of respondents. Some 36% place as much priority on providing retreat opportunities.
- Ministry to the divorced and separated and outreach to inactive Catholics receive “very much” priority from 45-46% of responding parishioners.

## **Comparison to Parishes Nationally**

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 10 to 13 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the parish should give the following “very much” priority:

- Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation (72% compared to 59%)
- Visitation of the sick and homebound (66% compared to 55%)
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (63% compared to 53%)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (45% compared to 35%)

## “Very Much” Priority by Generation

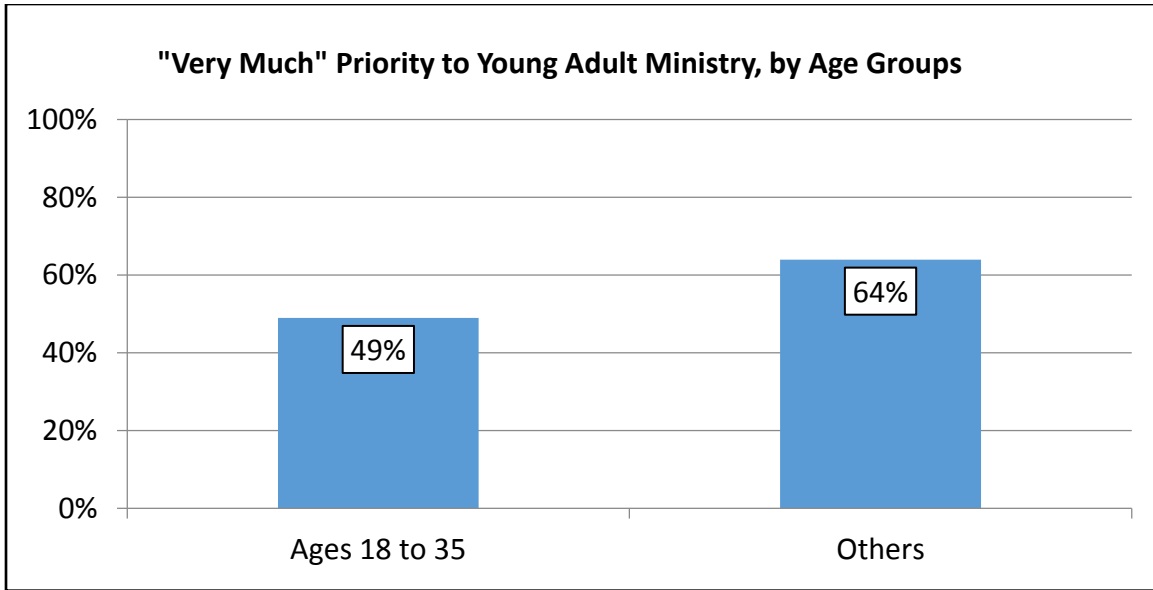
Members of the two oldest generations are most likely to place “very much” priority on a Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation, adult faith formation, and ministry to the divorced and separated.

<b>“Very Much” Priority Given to Needs, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Vatican II %</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Young Adults %</b>	<b>Youngest Adults %</b>
Children’s religious education/formation	79	78	78	64	45
Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation	79	78	71	65	65
Young adult ministry	69	67	59	48	53
Developing a parish sense of community	68	73	69	71	53
Visitation of the sick and homebound	67	72	63	66	67
Ministry to those grieving	65	65	57	61	56
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	60	65	62	76	65
Adult faith formation	60	61	48	51	39
Ministry to the divorced and separated	52	50	41	44	44
Outreach to inactive Catholics	49	49	42	41	44
Providing retreat opportunities	33	37	34	50	32

- The young adults are most likely to give “very much” priority to providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy and to providing retreat opportunities. They are *least* likely to give as much priority to young adult ministry.
- Youngest adults are *least* likely to place “very much” priority to children’s religious education/formation, developing a parish sense of community, and adult faith formation.

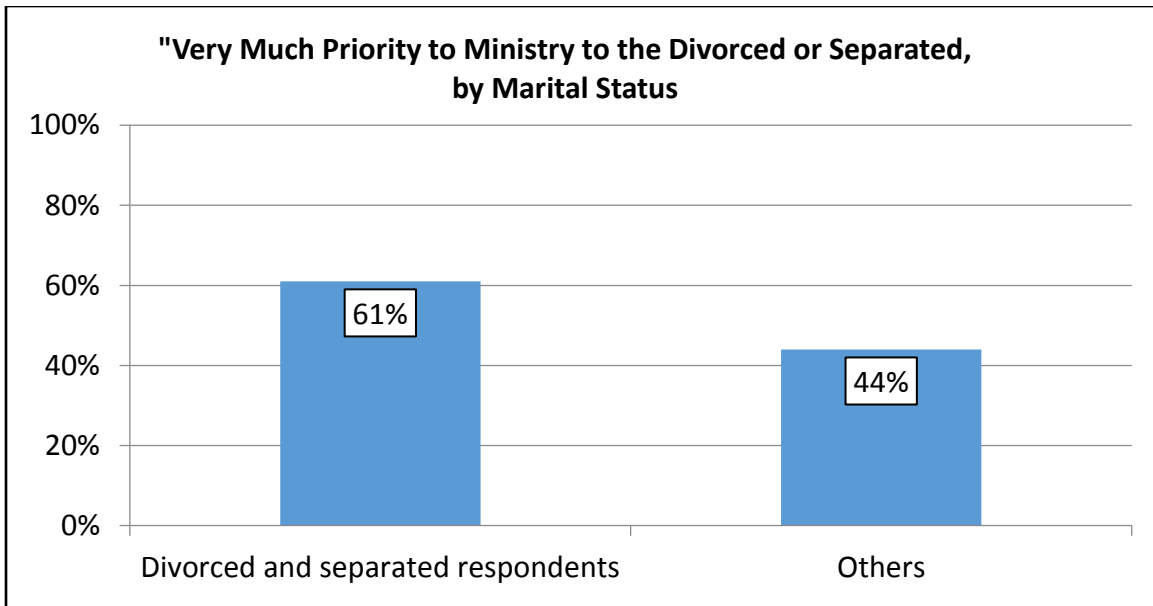
### Differences by Age Group

Those ages 18 to 35 are *less* likely than others to say the parish should give “very much” priority to young adult ministry. Still, half (49%) of young adults do give such ministry “very much” priority.



### Differences by Marital Status

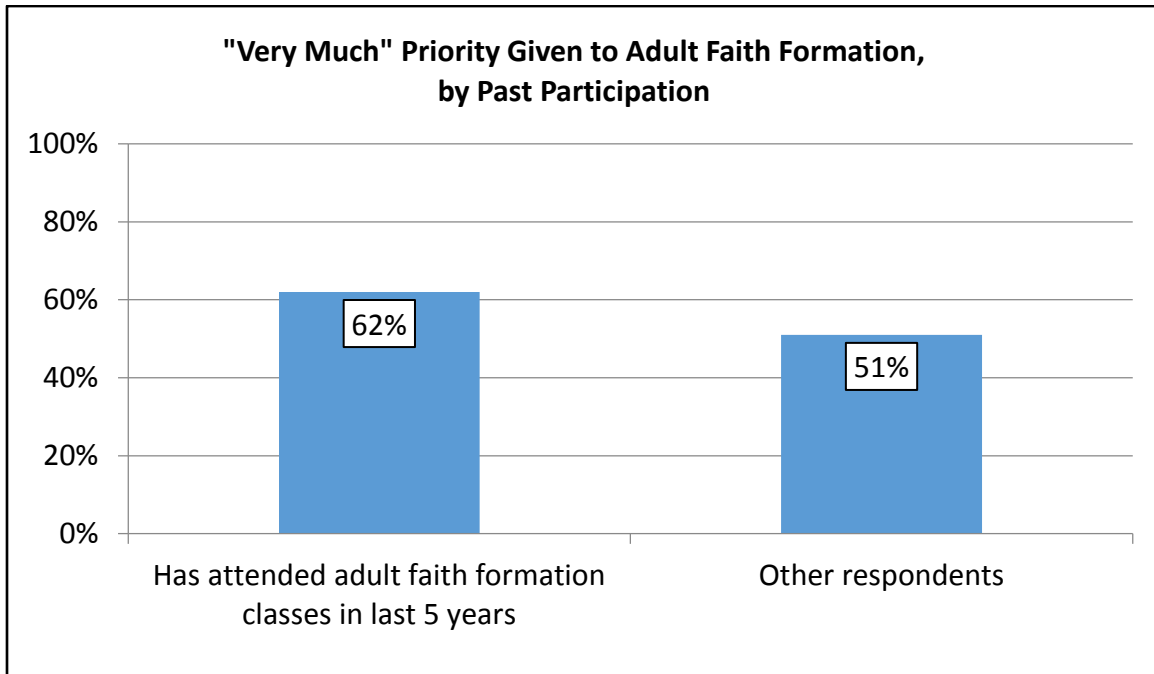
Divorced or separated respondents are more likely than others to say the parish should give “very much” priority to ministry to the divorced or separated.



## Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how much priority they say the parish should give to children's religious education/formation and to a Youth Ministry program for teens following Confirmation.

Some 62% of those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years say the parish should give "very much" priority to adult faith formation.



## Top Priorities for Parish Needs

Respondents were asked to choose the three needs from the list in the previous section that the parish should give most priority to.<sup>12</sup> Children’s religious education or formation (39%) and a Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation (37%) are most likely to be listed among respondents’ top three priorities.

<b>Needs Listed Among One’s Top Three Priorities</b>	
	<b>One of their Three Top Priorities %</b>
Children’s religious education/formation	39
Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation	37
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	30
Developing a parish sense of community	30
Young adult ministry	29
Outreach to inactive Catholics	24
Visitation of the sick and homebound	22
Ministry to those grieving	20
Adult faith formation	19
Ministry to the divorced and separated	15
Providing retreat opportunities	7

- About three in ten list the following among their top three priorities: providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (30%), developing a parish sense of community (30%), and young adult ministry (29%).
- Roughly two-tenths list the following needs among the top three for parish priority: outreach to inactive Catholics (24%), visitation of the sick and homebound (22%), ministry to those grieving (20%), adult faith formation (19%), and ministry to the divorced and separated (15%).
- Just over one in 20 lists providing retreat opportunities (7%) among their top priorities.

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<sup>12</sup> Some 37% did not provide a response to this series of questions.



## Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to list these five needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation (45%)
- Children's religious education/formation (36%)
- Young adult ministry (34%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (33%)
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (30%)

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

- Children's religious education/formation (38%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (35%)
- Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation (34%)
- Young adult ministry (32%)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (30%)

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

- Children's religious education/formation (48%)
- Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation (44%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (33%)
- Young adult ministry (31%)
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (29%)

The young adults are most likely to list these five needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (61%)
- Visitation of the sick and homebound (42%)
- Children's religious education/formation (34%)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (29%)
- Developing a parish sense of community (26%)

Youngest adults are most likely to list these five needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Young adult ministry (63%)
- *Tie:* Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy *and* Youth Ministry program for teens after Confirmation (38% each)
- *Tie:* Ministry to the divorced and separated *and* ministry to those grieving (31% each)

### Attraction to the Parish

With one exception, more than eight in ten say each of the elements shown in the table below attract respondents to the parish “somewhat” or “very much.”

<b><i>How much do the following attract you to the parish?</i></b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much” combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
The quality of the liturgy and music	95	–
Its open, welcoming spirit	90	86
The quality of the preaching	90	87
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	87	81
The sense of belonging you feel here	87	86
Its religious education of children and youth	83	74
Its faith formation for adults	83	66
Its commitment to social justice and peace	77	71

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

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 17 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to report that faith formation for adults “somewhat” or “very much” attracts them to the parish (83% compared to 66%).

## Elements That Attract “Very Much”

Nearly three-quarters of respondents report being attracted to the parish “very much” by the beauty of the liturgy and music (73%).

<b>How much do the following attract you to the parish?</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
The quality of the liturgy and music	73	–
Its open, welcoming spirit	59	57
The sense of belonging you feel here	57	62
The quality of the preaching	56	57
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	49	42
Its religious education of children and youth	48	40
Its faith formation for adults	43	28
Its commitment to social justice and peace	43	32

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

- Just under six in ten say the following attract them to the parish “very much”: its open, welcoming spirit (59%), the sense of belonging they feel (57%), and the quality of the preaching (56%).
- Less than half say they are attracted “very much” by its opportunities for spiritual growth (49%), its religious education of children and youth (48%), its faith formation for adults (43%), and its commitment to social justice and peace (43%).

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 11 to 15 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the following “very much” attracts them to the parish:

- Its faith formation for adults (43% compared to 28%)
- Its commitment to social justice and peace (43% compared to 32%)

## Elements That Attract “Very Much” by Generation

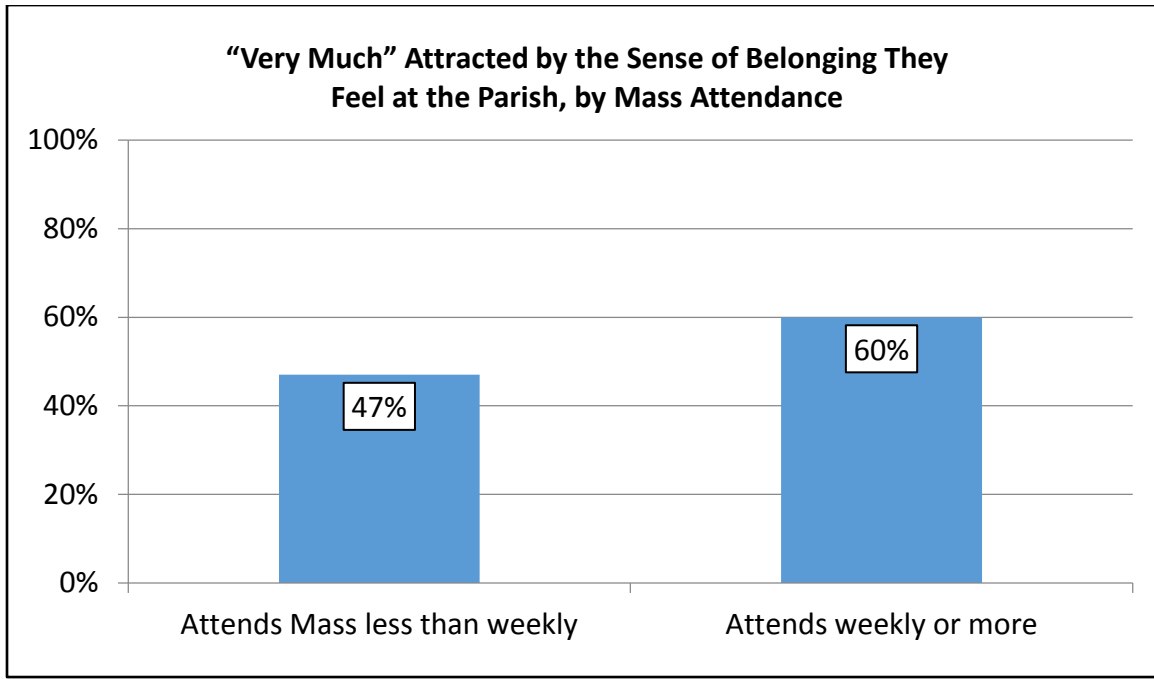
Young adults are most likely to say that the quality of the liturgy and music, the parish’s open and welcoming spirit, and its commitment to social justice and peace “very much” attract them to the parish. The youngest adults, on the other hand, are *least* likely to report being “very much” attracted to the parish by the quality of the liturgy and music, its open and welcoming spirit, and the sense of belonging they feel at the parish.

### Elements That Attract “Very Much,” by Generation

	Pre- Vatican II %	Vatican II %	Post- Vatican II %	Young Adults %	Youngest Adults %
The quality of the liturgy and music	76	75	71	84	64
Its open, welcoming spirit	61	60	58	67	50
The sense of belonging you feel here	63	55	57	57	45
The quality of the preaching	52	57	59	59	55
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	52	49	49	46	50
Its religious education of children and youth	49	45	53	47	53
Its faith formation for adults	45	44	44	43	42
Its commitment to social justice and peace	43	43	42	52	47

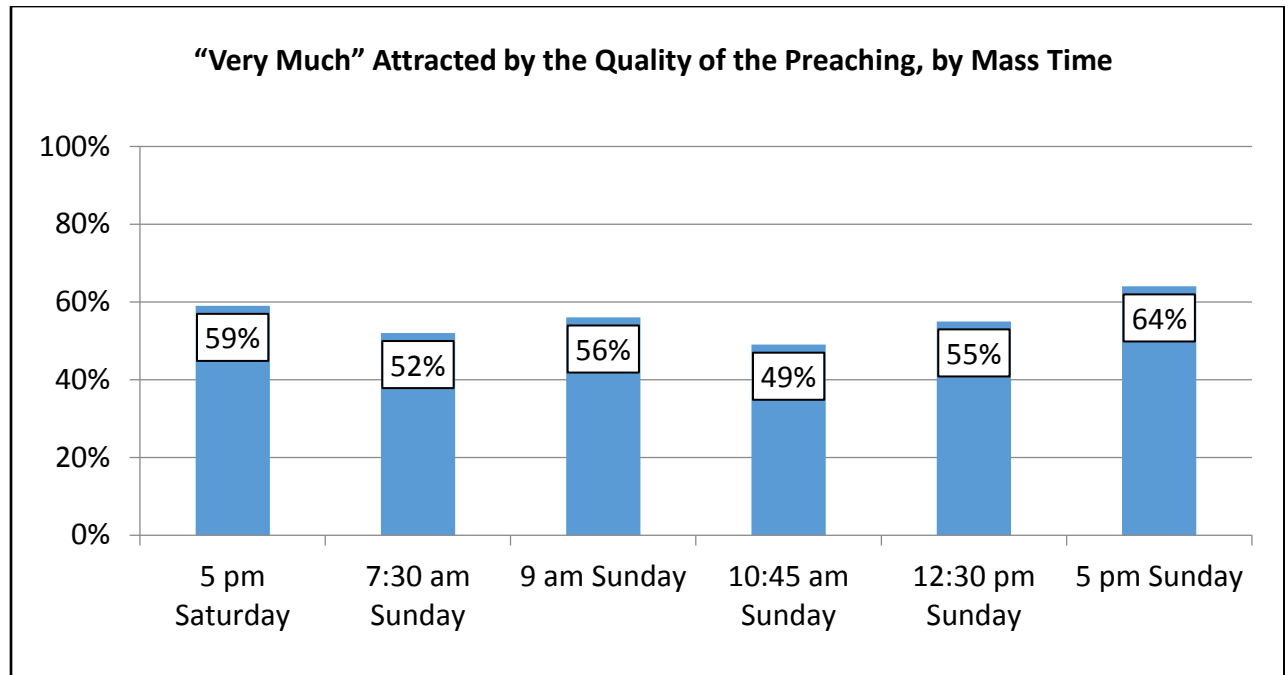
## Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely than those attending less frequently to say the sense of belonging they feel at the parish “very much” attracts them there.



### Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass are most likely to say the quality of the preaching “very much” attracts them to the parish.



### Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those who have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years or whose children have done so do *not* differ significantly from others in what they say attracts them to the parish.

## Likelihood of Future Behaviors

About eight in ten respondents say they are at least “somewhat” likely to do the following in the next year: contribute generously to the support of the parish (82%), attend a parish activity or function besides Mass (79%), and encourage someone to return to the practice of their faith (78%).

<b>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very” combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	82	85
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	79	–
Encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith	78	81
Volunteer for a parish ministry	67	57
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	50	42
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Some 67% report being “somewhat” or “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year.
- Half say they are likely to participate in a small faith-sharing group in the next year.

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 10 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say they are at least “somewhat” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year (67% compared to 57%).



## Strong Likelihood of Future Behaviors

Just under half say they are “very” likely to attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass (49%) and to contribute generously to the support of the parish (46%) in the next year.

<b>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very”</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	49	–
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	46	44
Volunteer for a parish ministry	38	34
Encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith	36	47
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	22	19

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

- Slightly more than a third report being “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry (38%) and encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith (36%) in the next year.
- Twenty-two percent report being “very” likely to participate in a small faith-sharing group (22%) in the next year.

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 11 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say they are “very” likely to encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith in the next year (36% compared to 47%).

## Strong Likelihood of Future Behaviors by Generation

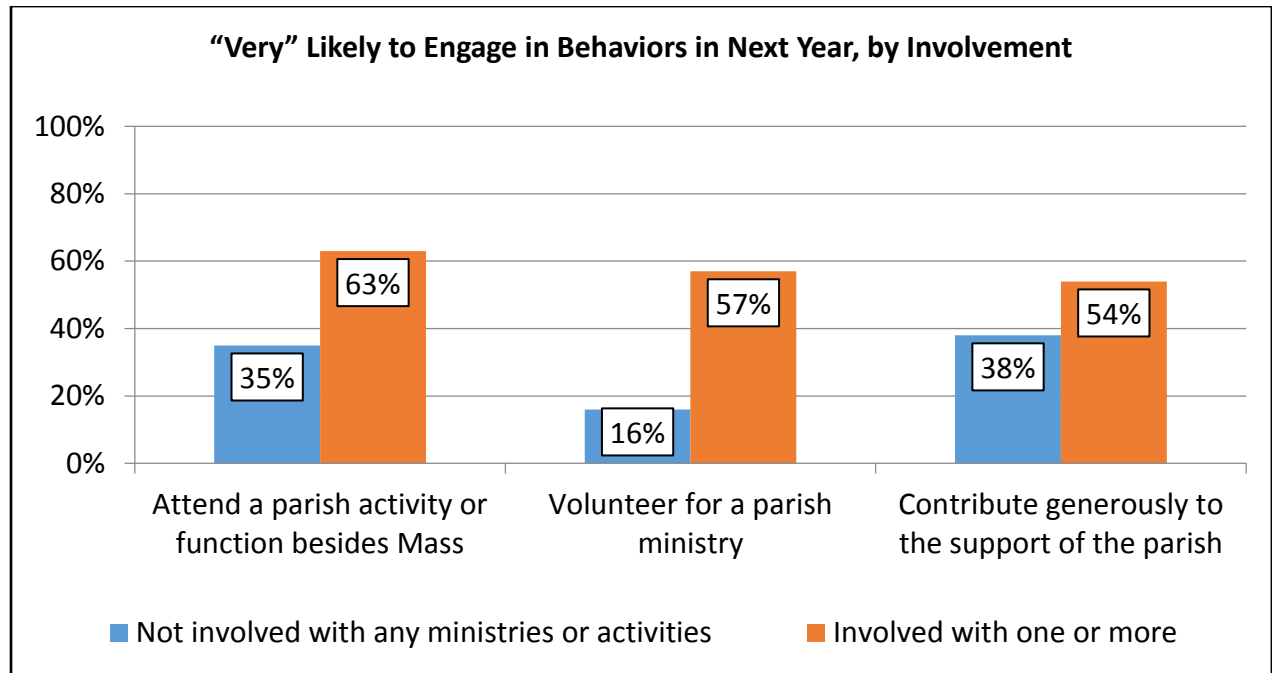
The youngest adults are most likely to report being “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry and to encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith in the next year.

<b>“Very” Likely to Do the Following in the Next Year, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Vatican II %</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Young Adults %</b>	<b>Youngest Adults %</b>
Contribute generously to the support of the parish	53	46	45	30	43
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	51	51	52	29	38
Volunteer for a parish ministry	49	40	33	22	57
Encourage someone to return to the practice of their Catholic faith	32	33	40	32	57
Participate in a small faith-sharing group	21	23	23	18	19

Young adults are *least* likely to indicate being “very” likely in the next year to contribute generously to the support of the parish, attend a parish activity or function besides Mass, and volunteer for a parish ministry.

## Differences by Level of Involvement

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



## Attitudes about Parish Life

Slightly less than nine in ten agree “somewhat” or “strongly” with these three statements concerning feeling included and informed about the parish: they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish (89%), they feel included in parish life (86%), and they feel adequately informed about parish finances (85%).

<b>Please respond to the following</b>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree combined</i>		
	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	%	%
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	89	83
I feel included in parish life	86	87
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	85	75
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	85	48
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	80	79
I want to volunteer more for the parish	70	75

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

- Eight in ten or more “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (85%) and that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish (80%).
- Seventy percent agree at least “somewhat” that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

### Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 10 to 37 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree with these statements:

- I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (85% compared to 48%)
- I feel adequately informed about parish finances (85% compared to 75%)

## “Strongly” Agree

About half “strongly” agree with these statements about leadership, communication, and belonging: they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (54%), they feel adequately informed about parish finances (51%), they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish (50%), and they feel included in parish life (48%).

	<b>St. John Fisher</b>	<b>Parishes Nationally*</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	54	21
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	51	37
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	50	38
I feel included in parish life	48	49
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	40	40
I want to volunteer more for the parish	26	25

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

- Forty percent agree “strongly” that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.
- Some 26% agree “strongly” that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

## Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. John Fisher Parish are 12 to 33 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to “strongly” agree with these statements:

- I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (54% compared to 21%)
- I feel adequately informed about parish finances (51% compared to 37%)
- I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish (50% compared to 38%)

### “Strongly” Agree by Generation

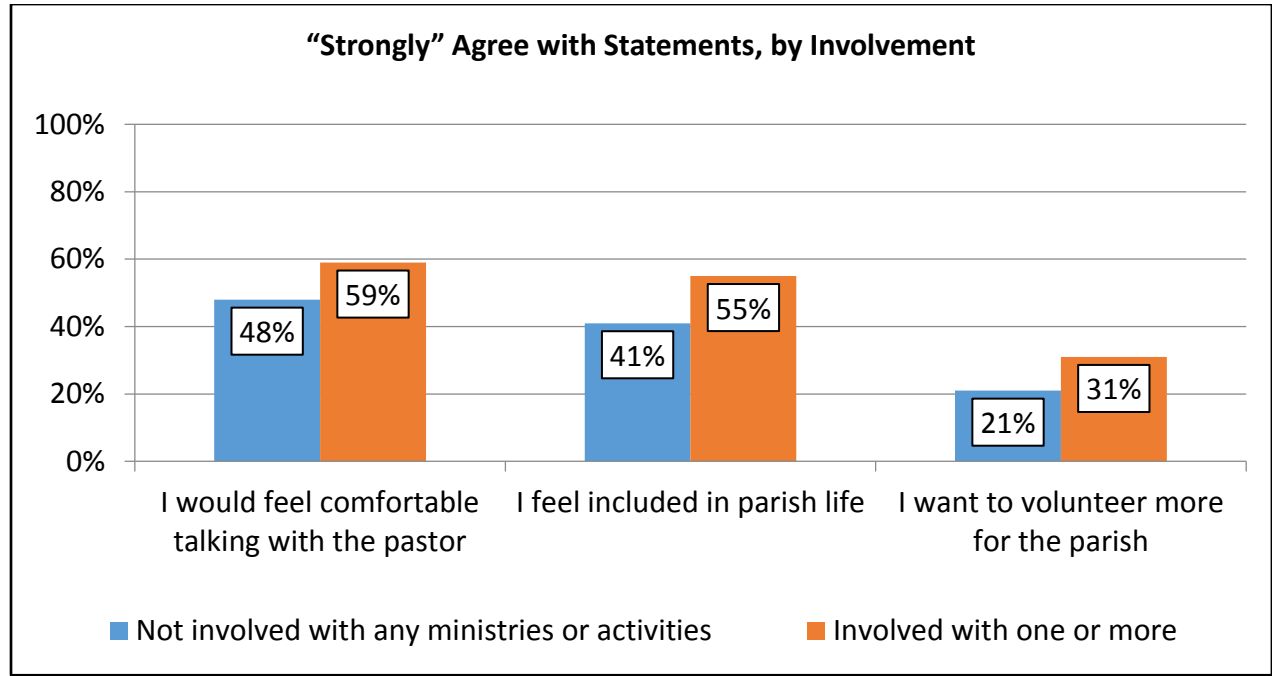
Members of the two oldest generations are especially likely to “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor, that they feel included in parish life, that they feel adequately informed about parish finances, and that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish. Those two generations are *least* likely to “strongly” agree, however, that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

<b>“Strongly” Agree with Statement, by Generation</b>					
	<b>Pre- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Vatican II %</b>	<b>Post- Vatican II %</b>	<b>Young Adults %</b>	<b>Youngest Adults %</b>
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	60	60	50	49	43
I feel included in parish life	59	50	44	41	32
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	53	56	50	43	36
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	53	52	49	47	29
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	44	45	35	36	42
I want to volunteer more for the parish	17	24	30	30	40

The youngest adults are most likely to agree “strongly” that they want to volunteer more for the parish. They are *least* likely, however, to agree as strongly that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor, that they feel included in parish life, that they feel adequately informed about parish finances, and that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish.

## Differences by Level of Involvement

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



## **Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions**