

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

Parish Life Survey

**Saint Joseph Parish
Frackville, Pennsylvania**

August 2015



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction.....	8
Interpreting This Report.....	8
Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	10
Age and Generation.....	10
Gender and Marital Status.....	12
Level of Education	14
Employment Status	16
Level of Household Income	18
Internet Access	19
Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents.....	20
Relationship to the Catholic Church	20
Years at the Parish.....	21
Participation in Parish Ministries or Activities	22
Mass Regularly Attended.....	23
Frequency of Mass Attendance	24
Marriage and the Church.....	25
Formal Catholic Education.....	26
Catholic Education for Children	27
Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs.....	28
Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life.....	29
Evaluation of Parish Efforts	36
Impediments to Volunteering More for the Parish.....	41
Impediments to Contributing More Financially to the Parish.....	45
Likelihood of Future Behaviors	48
Importance of Religious Behaviors.....	55
Priority for Parish Needs.....	59
Top Priorities for Parish Needs	66
Most Important Needs on Which to Focus in the Next Three to Five Years	68
Ministry and Worship in a Time of Fewer Priests	73
Attitudes about Parish Life.....	76
Times of the Week Available.....	82
The Greatest Challenges Facing the Parish.....	84
Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions	89
Appendix II: Complete Transcription of Open-ended Comments.....	92
Q93: What is the greatest challenge facing St Joseph Parish, Frackville, today?	93
Q94: What is the most important need for St Joseph Parish to focus on in the next 3-5 years?	108



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey for Saint Joseph Parish Frackville, Pennsylvania

Executive Summary

The St. Joseph Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in June, 2015. In all, there were 502 valid responses, with two respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Respondent Demographics

- The average age of St. Joseph respondents overall is 60 years old. Half of all respondents are age 63 or younger.
- CARA divides Catholics into four generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other Catholic researchers. The most common generation at St. Joseph is the Vatican II Generation, ages 55 to 72.
- Six in ten are female and four in ten are male. About six in ten respondents to the survey are currently married or remarried. One in six has never married, one in ten is divorced or separated, and just over one in ten is widowed. Four in ten report having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.
- Four in ten have attained a high school diploma or less, two in ten have completed a trade or technical school or have an associate's degree. One in ten has attended some college and a quarter have a bachelor's or graduate degree. The generations differ educationally. Six in ten of those of the oldest generation have a high school degree or less, compared to a quarter of the youngest generation.
- Slightly less than half report being employed (employed full time or part time or self-employed). Four in ten identify as retired or semi-retired and one in 20 identifies as a homemaker or student.
- Half of respondents report total household annual incomes of \$60,000 or more. On the lower end of the scale, one in seven reports a household income of less than \$20,000. On the higher end, one in ten reports an income of \$100,000 or more. Eight in ten of those of

the oldest generation report annual household incomes of less than \$60,000, compared to half of those of the youngest generation.

- Eight in ten respondents report that they have Internet access. Almost all of those of the two youngest generations have Internet access, compared to almost six in ten of those of the oldest generation.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- On average, respondents have attended the parish for 35 years, half have attended 35 years or less.
- Seven in ten respondents say they currently attend Mass at least once a week, with about another three in ten saying they attend almost every week or once or twice a month. One in twenty attends less frequently than that. Those of the oldest two generations are most likely to attend at least once a week.
- When asked what Mass they usually attend, those most commonly reported are the 11:15 a.m. Sunday Mass and the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass, both celebrated at St. Joseph Parish.
- On average, respondents have nine years of formal Catholic religious education, with half having nine years or less. A third of the oldest generation has five years or less, compared to one in 20 of the youngest generation.
- Nearly nine in ten say they have been active Catholics since birth, one in 20 is a convert to Catholicism, and one in 20 identifies as a returned Catholic. Two percent identify as inactive Catholics and 2 percent as non-Catholics.
- Among those currently married, more than nine in ten say their spouse is Catholic and almost nine in ten say their marriage was blessed by the Catholic Church.
- On average, respondents have participated in two ministries or activities during the past year. Slightly less than half have not participated in any ministries or activities, two in ten have participated in one, and a little more than a third have participated in two or more.

Parish and Catholic Life

- Nine in ten respondents give St. Joseph Parish overall a positive evaluation, with almost half rating it as “excellent.”
- A little more than half rate efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs as “excellent.”
- Efforts to invite participation in parish life receive an “excellent” evaluation from over half of respondents. A little more than a quarter “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life.

- About four in ten say the programs and activities of the parish are “very” important to them. Nearly half report being “very” likely to attend a parish activity or function besides Mass in the next year. The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents currently are, the more likely they are to see the programs and activities as “very” important and to report being “very” likely to attend a parish function besides Mass.
- Half of parishioners are regularly most available to participate in parish activities during weekday evenings. One in four respondents are available during the weekend and one in four are available during weekday mornings or weekday afternoons. Those employed (either self-employed, employed full time or employed part time) and those retired or semi-retired report being regularly most available to participate during weekday evenings. Homemakers indicate being regularly most available during the day on weekdays, with students indicating that Sunday evenings are when they are regularly most available.
- Between two-thirds and three-quarters of St. Joseph respondents give “high” priority to these parish needs: visitation of the sick and homebound, children’s religious education or CCD, upkeep of parish facilities, nursing home ministry, welcoming persons with disabilities, and ministry to those grieving.
- Respondents were asked to choose their top three priorities from a list of parish ministries and programs. The three most commonly mentioned are upkeep of parish facilities, children’s religious education or CCD, and developing a parish sense of community.
- Respondents were asked to comment on the most important need for St. Joseph Parish to focus on in the next three to five years. They are most likely to mention consolidating parishioners into one parish, meeting the parish’s financial needs, maintenance and renovation of current parish properties, and better outreach to the people of the area.
- Asked to write in what the greatest challenge facing the parish is, respondents are particularly likely to mention the facilities-related needs of maintaining current facilities and renovating buildings so they are accessible for those with disabilities, better consolidating the parish and uniting the people as one parish, and meeting the parish’s financial needs.
- Almost nine in ten say being Catholic is “very” important to them and eight in ten state that living their faith in their daily life is “very” important. Members of the youngest generation are *least* likely to say these are “very” important.
- Fostering priestly or religious vocations receives “high” priority from half of respondents.

Sense of Community

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive evaluation from eight in ten respondents, with just over a third rating it as “excellent.” The more involved with parish ministries or activities, the *less* likely respondents are to rate the sense of community as “excellent,” however.
- Half “strongly” agree that they feel included in parish life. The more involved respondents are in parish ministries and activities, the more likely they are to “strongly” agree that they feel included.
- Parish efforts to provide social activities receive an “excellent” rating from just over four in ten respondents.
- About six in ten state that being a part of a parish community is “very” important to them. Moreover, six in ten “strongly” agree that their parish community is important in their lives. The younger respondents are, the *less* likely they are to “strongly” agree that their parish community is important in their lives.
- Developing a parish sense of community is given “high” priority by nearly two in three respondents. The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to place “high” priority on developing a sense of community.

Worship Life

- Weekend Masses in general receive a positive evaluation from almost all respondents. Two-thirds give them an “excellent” rating.
- Almost two-thirds rate the homilies in general as “excellent,” with half giving as high a rating to the music in general.
- Almost eight in ten state that attending Mass is “very” important to them.
- Nearly nine in ten report that they are “very” likely to attend Mass at least once a week in the next year. Two-thirds of those of the youngest generation report being “very” likely to attend Mass weekly in the next year, compared to about nine in ten of those of the other generations.
- Almost half report being “very” likely to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession in the next year. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to report being “very” likely to go to Confession in the next year.
- Four in ten give “high” priority to the parish providing more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration. The older respondents are, the more likely they are to give such opportunities “high” priority.

Ministry and Worship in a Time of Fewer Priests

- Respondents were asked how much they support three different ways of providing ministry and worship in a time of fewer priests. Half “very much” support consolidating parishes so that better programs can be provided.
- To provide for ministry or worship in a time of fewer priests, about four in ten each “very much” support sharing a priest with another parish and sharing paid staff with neighboring parishes.
- Just over four in ten “strongly” agree that the parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities. A third “strongly” agree that they would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity.

Parish Leadership

- Almost all respondents give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by the pastor. Seven in ten rate that vision as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to consult with parishioners before making important decisions receive an “excellent” rating from nearly half of respondents. Six in ten “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.
- Seven in ten “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- A third agree “strongly” that there is sufficient qualified parish staff (paid and volunteer) to meet the parish’s needs.
- Efforts to provide helpful office services receive an “excellent” evaluation from just over four in ten respondents.
- Slightly more than half rate efforts to communicate with parishioners as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to explain parish finances are rated as “excellent” by just under half of respondents.

Faith Formation

- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from nine in ten respondents, with six in ten rating these efforts as “excellent.” The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *less* likely they are to rate these efforts as “excellent” though
- Learning more about the Catholic faith is “very” important to just over half of respondents.

- Six in ten respondents give the parish’s efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ an “excellent” evaluation. Just under half give as high a rating to efforts to foster spiritual growth.
- Seven in ten give “high” priority to children’s religious education/CCD, with six in ten giving as much priority to youth ministry.
- Trinity Academy receives “high” priority from four in ten respondents.
- Four in ten give “high” priority to adult faith formation. Members of the youngest generation are *less* than half as likely as other respondents to give “high” priority to adult faith formation.
- Just over a quarter report being “very” likely to spend time learning more about the faith in the next year.

Stewardship

- Encouragement to share one’s time and talents with the parish receives a positive evaluation from more than nine in ten. Just over half give the parish an “excellent” rating in this area.
- Nearly four in ten “strongly” agree that the parish should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass.
- Three in ten “strongly” agree that the parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents.
- Almost a quarter report being “very” likely to offer their time and talent in volunteer opportunities. Those of the youngest generation are most likely to report being at least “somewhat” likely to do so.
- Just over one in ten says she or he is “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year.
- When asked what prevents them from volunteering more for the parish, nearly four in ten cite their busy schedule or lack of time as “very much” preventing them from doing so. About one in ten cites the impediments of not having been personally invited and not being aware of parish needs.
- Respondents were asked what prevents them from contributing more financially to the parish. More than half say that already contributing all they can afford “very much” prevents them from doing so. About one in ten cites the impediments of not being aware of how the parish spends its money and their lack of awareness of the parish’s financial needs.

Evangelization

- More than eight in ten evaluate parish efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize positively. Almost half rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to reach out to inactive Catholics in the area receive an “excellent” rating from three in ten respondents. The more involved respondents are with parish ministries or activities, the *less* likely they are to give these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Nearly half place “high” priority on outreach to inactive Catholics.
- Welcoming persons with disabilities is given “high” priority by seven in ten respondents.
- Young adult ministry and senior citizen programs receive “high” priority from about half of respondents. However, a third of those ages 18 to 35 give “high” priority to young adult ministry, compared to more than half of other respondents.
- Nearly half give “high” priority to ministry to the divorced and separated.
- Parish efforts to cooperate with non-Catholic churches are rated as “excellent” by almost half of respondents.

Social Justice

- More than eight in ten give a positive evaluation to the parish’s outreach to and advocacy for those in need. A little more than four in ten rate these efforts as “excellent.” The younger respondents are, the more likely they are to rate this aspect of parish life as “excellent.”
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receive “high” priority from six in ten respondents.
- About three in four give “high” priority to visitation of the sick and homebound and to nursing home ministry.
- Ministry to those grieving receives “high” priority from two in three respondents.
- Prison ministry receives “high” priority from almost four in ten respondents.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Parish Life Survey for St. Joseph Parish Frackville, Pennsylvania

Introduction

The St. Joseph Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. The questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending the parish liturgies over one weekend in June, 2015. In all, there were 502 valid responses, with two respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis.

Interpreting This Report

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

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

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

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

be treated as merely suggestive of real differences that may exist between the subgroups under consideration.

CARA regularly conducts parish surveys through its Parish Life Surveys. Parish Life Surveys are a series of dynamic survey instruments for pastoral planning, including survey data collection, analyses of key stakeholders and demographic groups, and user-friendly reports and products. From the aggregate data collected through the Parish Life Survey services over the past 15 years, CARA has a database of characteristics of parish life gathered from more than 800 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. Joseph current Parish Life Survey are compared to the aggregate responses from the Parish Life Survey National Database of Parish Life Surveys to put the parish results into a larger national context. Additionally, where available, comparisons are made to findings from a 2012 study of Catholics in-pew at 23 parishes across the country. Finally, comparisons are made to findings from CARA's nationally representative surveys of adult self-identified Catholics conducted since 2013.

In addition to the quantitative data analyzed in this report, two open-ended question on the survey collected qualitative data. For these data, respondents were prompted with one question and given an open box for written comments, rather than select from a set of response options. These comments are analyzed along with the quantitative data as well as in separate sections throughout this report. While these responses are not suitable for statistical analyses, they do add depth to the data that is not attainable through closed-ended questions only.

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

Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

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

Age and Generation

Valid respondents at St. Joseph surveyed in 2015 were born between 1912 and 1999. On average, respondents report an average age of 60; half say they are 60 or younger. Although not directly comparable as the national data comes from 2013, this is higher than the average age of 49 among all self-identified Catholics nationally.¹ The most common age range reported is 65 to 74.

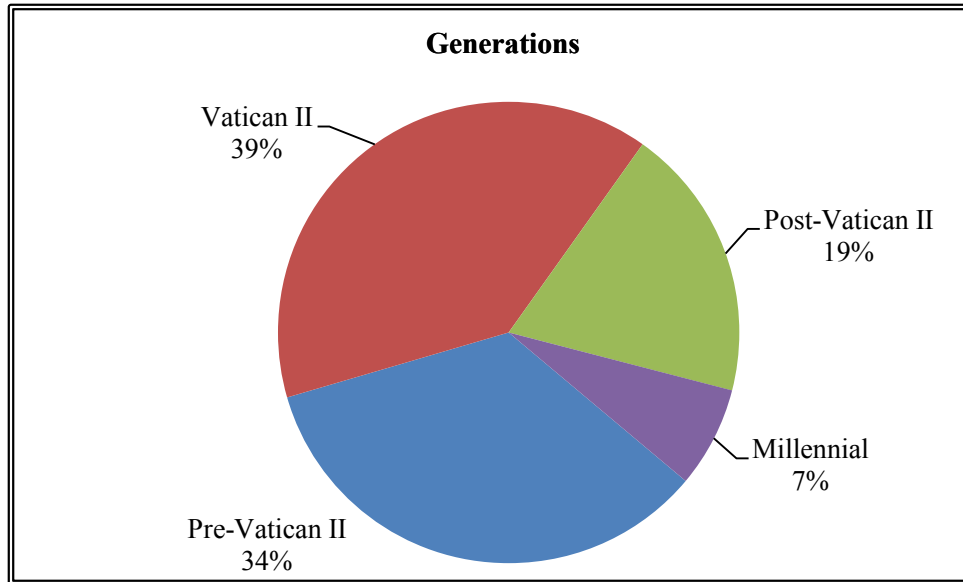
Age and Generation			
Age Range	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
16-17	2%	–	–
18-24	5	4%	9%
25-34	3	9	17
35-44	7	20	20
45-54	16	23	19
55-64	21	19	20
65-74	24	15	10
75 or older	22	10	5

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
**Source: CARA's 2013 Media Use study

St. Joseph respondents are significantly older than Catholics nationally. Around half (46 percent) of St. Joseph respondents are 65 or older while one in four Catholics in pew are 65 and older and one in seven self-identified Catholics nationally.

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

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



Compared to those at parishes nationally (53 percent) and to self-identified Catholics nationally (42 percent), St. Joseph respondents are more likely to be members of the older two generations (73 percent).

Generations	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Millennial (ages 18 to 29)	7%	8%	19%
Post-Vatican II (ages 30 to 50)	19	39	38
Vatican II (ages 51 to 68)	39	35	32
Pre-Vatican II (ages 69 and older)	34	18	10

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
 **Source: CARA's 2013 Media Use study

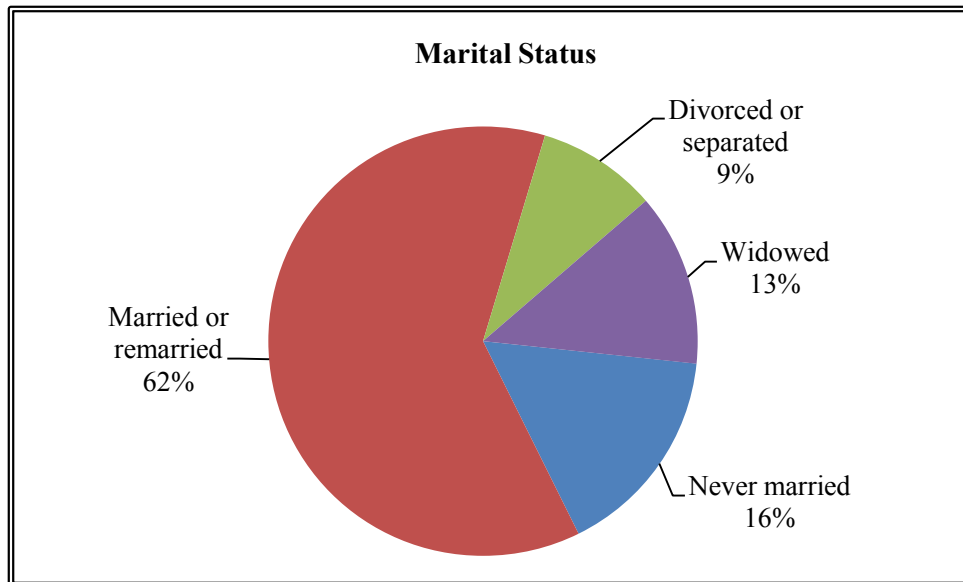
- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 73 and over in 2015.* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members came of age before the Second Vatican Council. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 34 percent of the respondents at St. Joseph. This is a significantly higher percentage than at parishes nationally (18 percent) and among Catholics nationally (10 percent).
- *The “Vatican II Generation,” ages 55-72 in 2015.* 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. Joseph represent 39 percent of respondents. This is similar to those at parishes nationally (35 percent) and to Catholics nationally (32 percent).
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation,” ages 34-54 in 2015.* 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. Nineteen percent of those at St. Joseph are members of this generation. This is about half the percentage at parishes nationally (39 percent) and of Catholics nationally (38 percent).
- *The “Millennial Generation,” ages 18-33 in 2015.* This generation, born in 1982 or later (up to 1997 among adults), has come of age primarily under the papacies of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Because some still live with their parents, their religious practice is often closely related to that of their families of origin. Some 7 percent of St. Joseph respondents belong to the Millennial Generation. This is similar to those at parishes nationally (8 percent) but lower than among self-identified Catholics nationally (19 percent).

Gender and Marital Status

Sixty percent of respondents identify as female. This is similar to the proportion of Catholics at parishes nationally (64 percent), but is greater than the proportion of self-identified Catholics nationally (51 percent).

Gender			
<i>Percent responding</i>			
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Female	60%	64%	51%
Male	40	36	49

*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study
 **Source: CARA’s 2013 Media Use study



About six in ten (62 percent) respondents are currently married or remarried. This is similar to Catholics nationally, where more than six in ten self-identified Catholics are married as are seven in ten of those responding in pew at parishes nationally.

Marital Status	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Never married***	16%	15%	24%
Married or remarried	62	70	62
Divorced or separated	9	8	9
Widowed	13	7	5

**Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA's 2013 Media Use study*
****The Media Use study includes those responding "living with a partner" in the "never married" category*

- One in seven St. Joseph respondents have never married, compared to about one in seven Catholics in pew nationally and a quarter of adult Catholics nationally.
- About one in ten are divorced or separated, similar to the almost one in ten nationally.
- Just over one in ten St. Joseph respondents overall have been widowed, compared to about one in 20 of those nationally.

Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation (93 percent) are particularly likely to have never married, those of the Vatican II and Post-Vatican II Generation (75 and 71 percent) are most likely to be married, and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (29 percent) are most likely to be widowed.

Marital Status, by Generation				
<i>Percent responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Single, never married	7%	8%	14%	93%
Married or remarried	58	75	71	7
Divorced or separated	6	10	15	0
Widowed	29	7	0	0

Level of Education

Four in ten (41 percent) have a high school diploma or less. Another one in ten (9 percent) attended trade or technical school. Slightly more than two in ten (22 percent) have attended some college or have an associate's degree. Three in ten (29 percent) report having a bachelor's or graduate degree.

Level of Education			
<i>Percent responding</i>			
Level of Education	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Some high school or less	3%	5%	}47%
High school diploma	38	14	
Trade/technical school	9	–	
Some college	12	19	}26
Associate's degree	10	9	
Bachelor's degree	17	33	}27
Graduate degree	12	20	

**Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA's 2013 Media Use study*

Comparison to Catholics Nationally

- Compared to those responding in pew nationally, St. Joseph respondents are about twice as likely to have a high school diploma or less (19 percent compared to 41 percent) and are *less* likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (53 percent compared to 29 percent).
- St. Joseph respondents are similar to Catholic adults nationally in their levels of education.

Differences by Generation

Level of education differs some by generation. The members of the Pre-Vatican II generation are particularly likely to have a high school diploma or less (59 percent), with those of the Post-Vatican II Generation most likely to have a bachelor's or graduate degree (55 percent).

Level of Education, by Generation				
<i>Percent responding</i>				
Level of Education	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Some high school or less	3%	0%	0%	0%
High school diploma	56	36	12	25
Trade/technical school	7	14	5	0
Some college	13	13	5	21
Associate's degree	7	8	24	7
Bachelor's degree	9	16	35	25
Graduate degree	5	14	20	21

Employment Status

Slightly less than half of respondents report being employed, either full time (37 percent), part time (6 percent), or as self-employed (4 percent). Four in ten identify as retired (40 percent) or semi-retired (2 percent), with one in 20 each saying she or he is a homemaker (5 percent) or a student (4 percent).

<i>Which best describes your employment status?</i>	
<i>Percent responding</i>	
Employed full time	37%
Employed part time	6
Self-employed	4
Unemployed	2
Semi-retired	2
Retired	40
Homemaker	5
Volunteer	0
Student	4
Other	2

Among those identifying an “other” employment status, two respondents describe themselves as disabled and one as homebound.

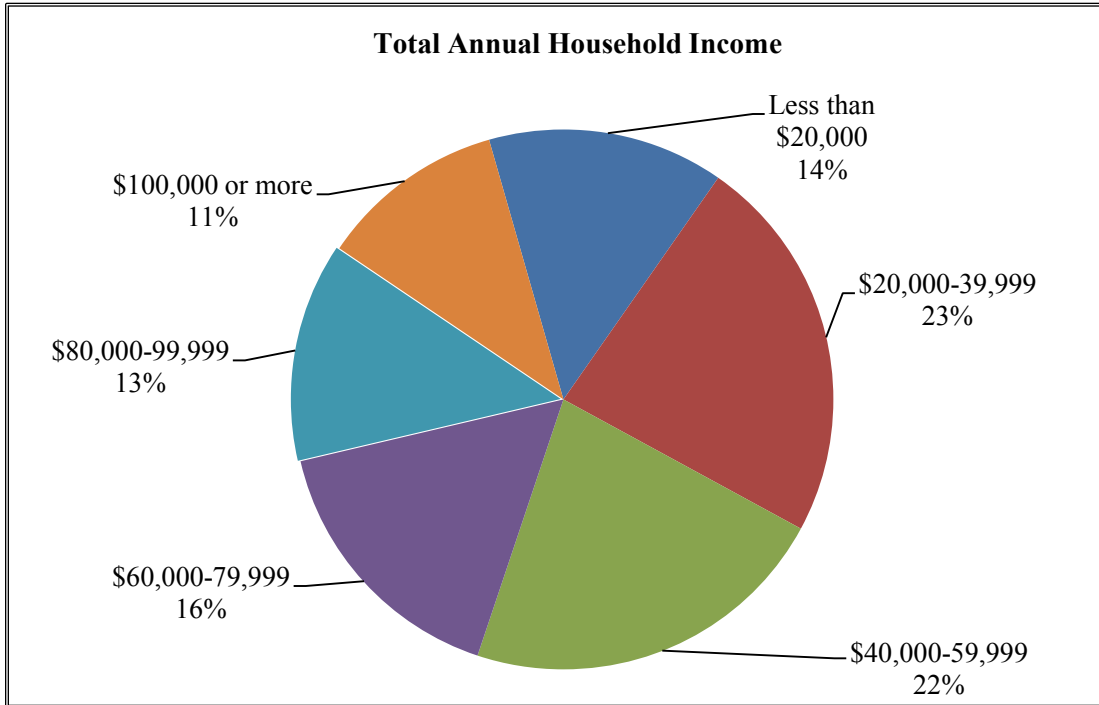
Differences by Generation

Employment status differs by generation. Slightly more than eight in ten members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are retired (82 percent) or semi-retired (2 percent), with those of the Post-Vatican II Generation most likely to be employed full time (83 percent). Millennials are most likely to be students (33 percent).

	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Employed full time	5%	42%	83%	47%
Employed part time	2	10	6	10
Self-employed	1	6	4	7
Unemployed	0	2	2	3
Semi-retired	2	3	0	0
Retired	82	30	0	0
Homemaker	11	5	2	0
Volunteer	0	0	0	0
Student	0	0	2	33
Other	1	2	1	0

Level of Household Income

St. Joseph respondents were asked to identify the category that best described their total annual household income, including all of those living with them. Six in ten (59 percent) report household incomes of less than \$60,000 and another three in ten (29 percent) report incomes between \$60,000 and \$99,999. Around one in ten (11 percent) say their household income is \$100,000 or more.



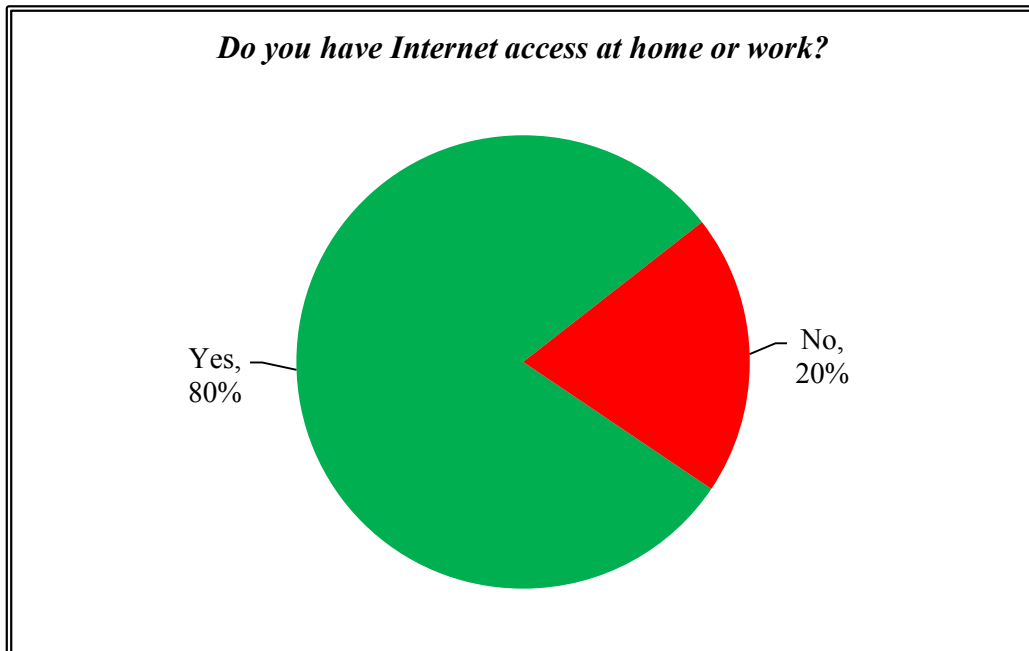
Differences by Generation

Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation (61 percent) are particularly likely to report incomes of \$60,000 or above, with those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (20 percent) *least* likely.

	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Less than \$20,000	28%	9%	1%	12%
\$20,00-\$39,999	43	18	5	15
\$40,000-\$59,999	18	25	28	23
\$60,000-\$79,999	5	21	26	8
\$80,000-\$99,999	15	19	14	7
\$100,000 or more	0	13	21	27

Internet Access

Eight in ten respondents report that they have Internet access at home or work.



All members of the Millennial Generation and almost all of those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (99 percent) have Internet access. Nearly nine in ten of those of the Vatican II Generation (88 percent) and almost six in ten of those of Pre-Vatican II Generation (56 percent) have Internet access.

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

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

Relationship to the Catholic Church

More than eight in ten (85 percent) St. Joseph respondents say they have been active Catholics since birth, with one in 20 saying they are returned Catholics and another one in 20 identifying as converts to Catholicism. Two percent say they are inactive Catholics and 2 percent are non-Catholics.

	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
<i>What best describes you?</i>		
<i>Percent responding</i>		
Active Catholic since birth	85%	74%
Returned Catholic	5	11
Catholic convert	6	11
Inactive Catholic	2	2
Non-Catholic	2	2

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

St. Joseph respondents are more likely than those responding in pew nationally to say they are active Catholics since birth (85 percent compared to 74 percent).

Years at the Parish

Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for 35 years. The median is also 35 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 35 years or less.

Years at Parish*	
<i>Percent responding</i>	
1 year or less	4%
2-5 years	7
6-10 years	8
11-15 years	5
16-20 years	8
21-25 years	6
26-30 years	8
31-35 years	7
36-40 years	7
41-45 years	7
46-50 years	11
51-55 years	6
56-60 years	6
61-70 years	7
71 or more years	4
Average	35
Median	35
Minimum	0
Maximum	88

* Those who do not regularly attend the parish were asked to write in "0." Those who have attended for less than a year were instructed to write "1."

Participation in Parish Ministries or Activities

Slightly less than half (45 percent) of St. Joseph parishioners have *not* been involved with any ministries or activities during the past year. Two in ten have been involved with one and just over a third have been involved with two or more.

<i>Number of parish ministries or activities you have participated in during the past year?</i>	
No ministries or activities	45%
One	19
Two to four	29
Five or more	7
Mean	1.5
Median	1

In the remainder of the report, comparisons are made among those with the following levels of involvement with parish ministries or activities:

- Involved with no ministries or activities (165 respondents or 45 percent)
- Involved with one ministry or activity (69 respondents or 19 percent)
- Involved with two or more ministries or activities (133 respondents or 36 percent)

Mass Regularly Attended

Respondents were invited to choose the one Mass they most regularly attend.² About a quarter each regularly attend the 11:15 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Joseph (25 percent) and the 4 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Joseph (24 percent). Three percent are visitors, that is they do *not* regularly attend Mass at the parish.

<i>Which Mass do you usually attend at this parish?</i>	
<i>Percent responding</i>	
4 p.m. Saturday, St. Joseph	24%
5:30 p.m. Saturday, Annunciation of the BVM	15
8:30 a.m. Sunday, St. Ann	18
10 a.m. Sunday, Annunciation of the BVM	15
11:15 a.m. Sunday, St. Joseph	25
I do <i>not</i> regularly attend Mass at this parish	3

Where relevant throughout the rest of the report, comparisons are made among those identifying their regular Mass time.

² For those checking more than one Mass time, the following methods were used to try to include as many responses as possible in the analyses that follow in the report. If they responded to the survey at one of the Mass times they checked, that Mass was selected. If they selected two or more Mass times but none of them were the Mass time where they responded to the survey, they were counted as non-respondents.

Frequency of Mass Attendance

Seven in ten (69 percent) report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional quarter (26 percent) attend almost every week and one in 20 attends less frequently than that.

<i>About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?</i>			
<i>Percent responding</i>			
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Self-identified Catholics Nationally**
Never or rarely	2%	<1%	32%
A few times a year	1	2	24
Once/twice a month	2	6	10
Almost every week	26	21	11
Every week	60	57	20
More than once a week	9	14	3

**Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA's 2013 Media Use study*

Comparison to Catholics Nationally

- St. Joseph respondents are about as likely to attend Mass at least once a week (69 percent) as those at parishes nationally (71 percent).
- St. Joseph respondents (69 percent) are considerably more likely to attend Mass at least once a week than self-identified Catholic adults nationally (23 percent).

Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (85 percent) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those of the Vatican II Generation (70 percent), Millennial Generation (48 percent), and Post-Vatican II Generation (44 percent).

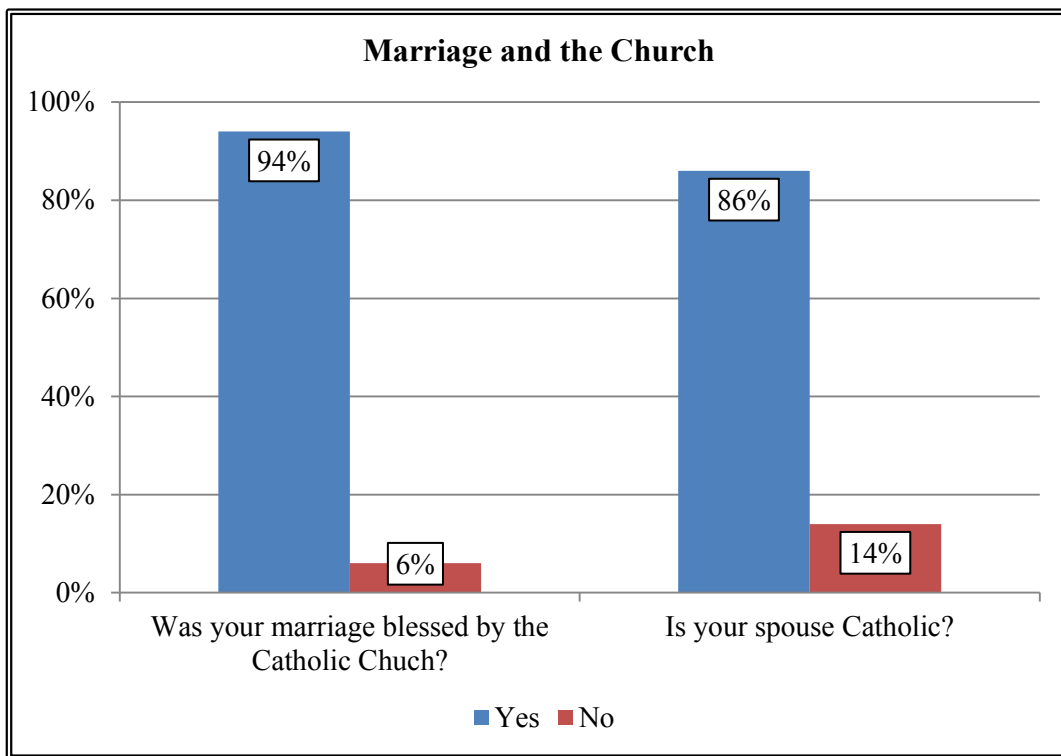
Those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (48 percent), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those of the Millennial Generation (42 percent), Vatican II Generation (26 percent), and Pre-Vatican II Generation (12 percent).

Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to attend Mass at least once a week. Some 62 percent of those *not* involved with any ministries or activities attend at least once a week, compared to 67 percent of those involved with one ministry or activity and 73 percent of those involved with two or more.

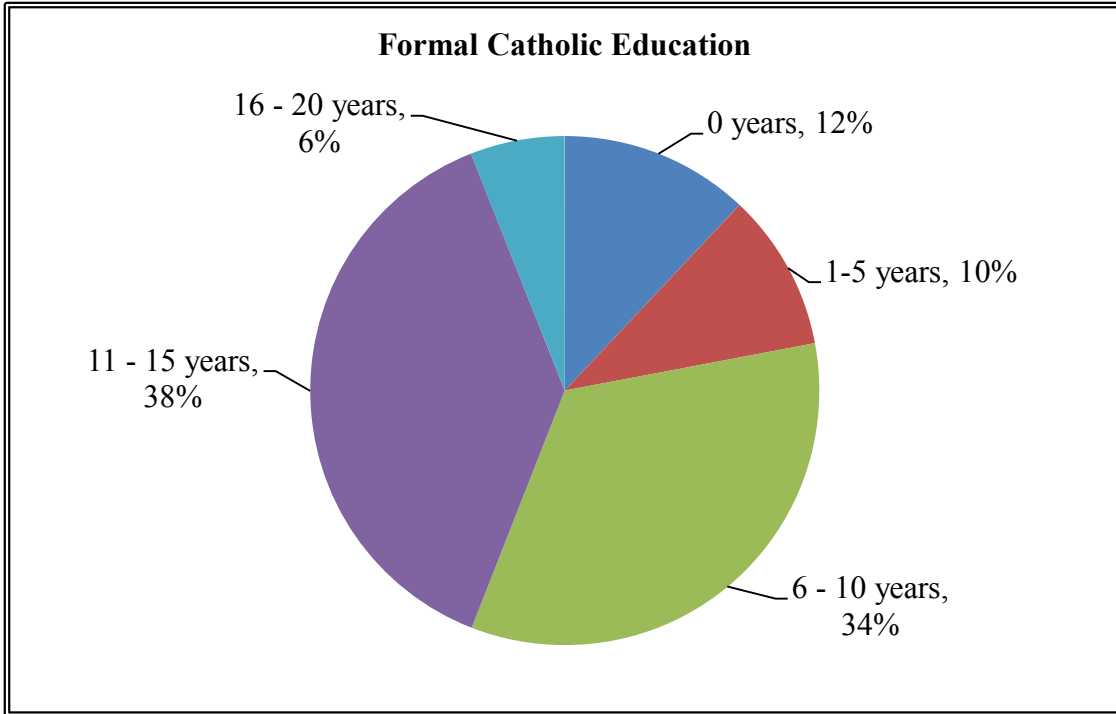
Marriage and the Church

More than nine in ten married respondents (94 percent) state their marriage was blessed by the Catholic Church, and almost nine in ten (86 percent) state that their spouse is Catholic.



Formal Catholic Education

On average, respondents report having almost nine years (8.7 years) of formal Catholic education. Just over one in ten respondents do not have any formal Catholic education. Slightly more than four in ten (44 percent) have one to ten years of formal Catholic education while an identical percentage (44 percent) reports having more than ten years of Catholic education.



Differences by Generation

The Post-Vatican II Generation is most likely to have more than ten years of formal Catholic education (45 percent) with the Pre-Vatican II Generation most likely to *not* have received any years of formal Catholic education.

Formal Catholic Education, by Generation				
Formal Catholic Education	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
0 years	22%	10%	8%	3%
1-5 years	10	9	10	3
6-10 years	33	29	36	55
11-15 years	33	45	37	29
16-20 years	3	7	8	10

Catholic Education for Children

One in ten say they have children ages 5 to 19 who have attended CCD classes at the parish in the past five years. One in 20 reports that their children ages 5 to 19 have attended Trinity Academy in the past five years, with 2 percent saying they plan to enroll a child ages 1 to 13 at Trinity Academy in the next five years.

Catholic Education Associated with the Parish

Percent responding "Yes"

<i>If you have children ages 5-19, have any of them attended CCD classes here in the past 5 years?</i>	10%
<i>If you have children ages 5-19, have any of them attended Trinity Academy in the past 5 years?</i>	5
<i>If you have children ages 1-13, do you plan to enroll them at Trinity Academy for the first time in the next 5 years?</i>	2

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the St. Joseph survey are very positive. Nine 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. These areas of parish life addressed are:

- Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Impediments to Volunteering More for the Parish
- Impediments to Contributing More Financially to the Parish
- Likelihood of Future Behaviors
- Importance of Religious Behaviors
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Top Priorities for Parish Needs
- Most Important Needs on Which to Focus in the Next Three to Five Years
- Ministry and Worship in a Time of Fewer Priests
- Attitudes about Parish Life
- Times of the Week Available
- The Greatest Challenges Facing the Parish

Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

More than eight in ten rate each of the aspects of parish life shown in the table below as “good” or “excellent.”

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Vision provided by the pastor	97%	90%
Weekend Masses in general	96	–
Homilies in general	96	–
Encouragement to share your time and talents with the parish	92	91
St. Joseph Parish overall	91	94
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	91	91
Music in general	89	–
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	86	–
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	85	88
Sense of community within the parish	81	87
 <i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

Nine in ten give a positive evaluation to St. Joseph Parish overall.

- Nearly all give a positive evaluation (“good” or “excellent”) to the vision provided by the pastor, weekend Masses in general, and homilies in general.
- The parish’s encouragement to share their time and talents with the parish, efforts to educate parishioners in the faith, and music in general receive a “good” or “excellent” rating from about nine in ten respondents.
- Just under nine in ten give a “good” or “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to and advocacy for those in need and efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize. The sense of community receives a positive evaluation from eight in ten respondents.

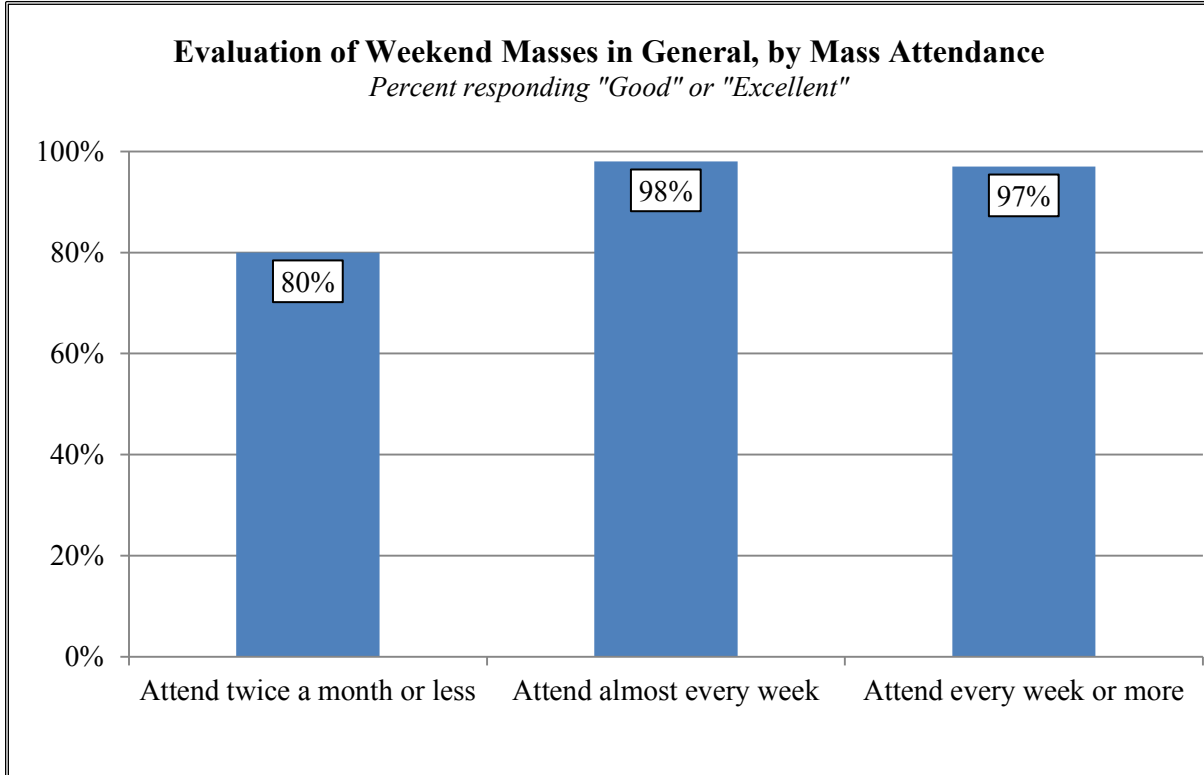
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph Parish respondents are similar to those at parishes nationally in their positive evaluations of aspects of parish life.³

³ As was discussed in the Introduction, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful ones.

Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass twice a month or less are *less* likely than those who attend more frequently to rate weekend Masses in general as “good” or “excellent.”



“Excellent” Ratings

Seven in ten give an “excellent” rating to the vision provided by the pastor.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Vision provided by the pastor	71%	50%
Weekend Masses in general	66	–
Homilies in general	65	–
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	60	55
Encouragement to share your time and talents with the parish	54	57
Music in general	50	–
St. Joseph Parish overall	46	58
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	46	45
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	42	–
Sense of community within the parish	35	46

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

Slightly fewer than half give an “excellent” rating to St. Joseph Parish overall.

- About two in three rate the weekend Masses in general and homilies in general as “excellent.” Half give as high a rating to the music in general.
- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith and to encourage parishioners to share their time and talents with the parish receive an “excellent” rating from six in ten or slightly fewer.
- More than four in ten give an “excellent” rating to efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize and to reach out to and be advocates for those in need.
- The sense of community within the parish receives an “excellent” evaluation from just over a third of respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

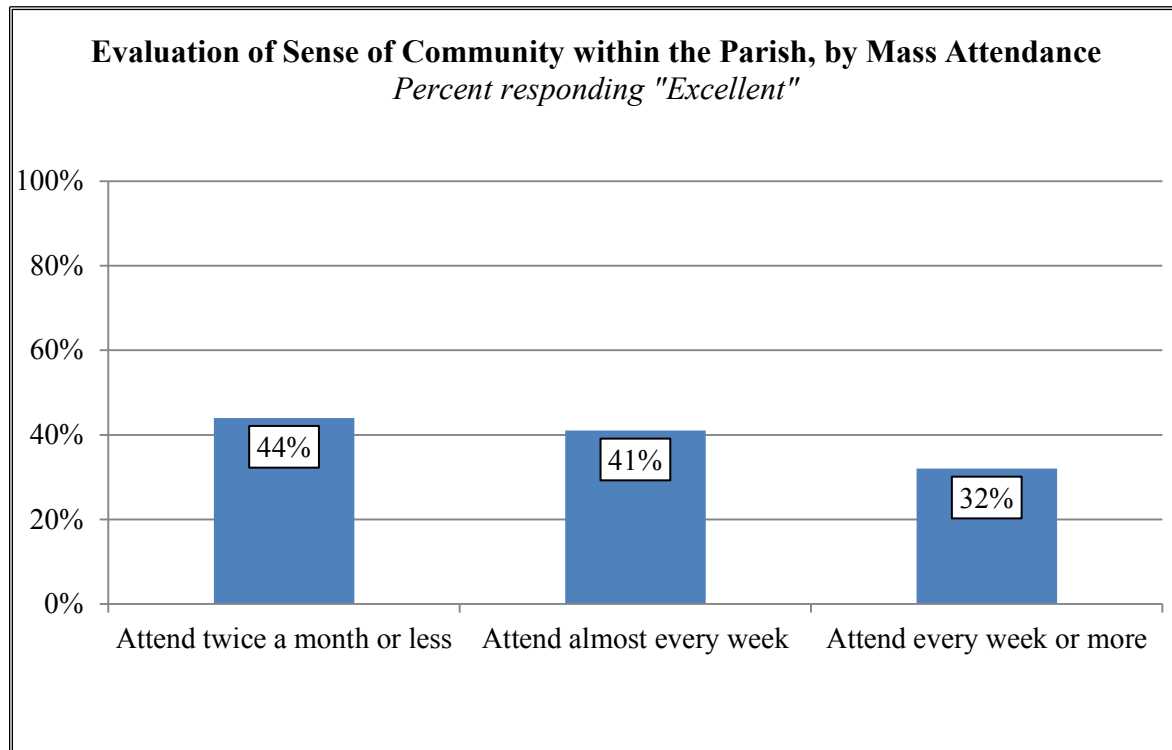
St. Joseph Parish respondents are more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the vision provided by the pastor (71 percent compared to 50 percent).

St. Joseph Parish respondents are 11 to 12 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following:

- Their parish overall (46 percent compared to 58 percent)
- Sense of community within the parish (35 percent compared to 46 percent)

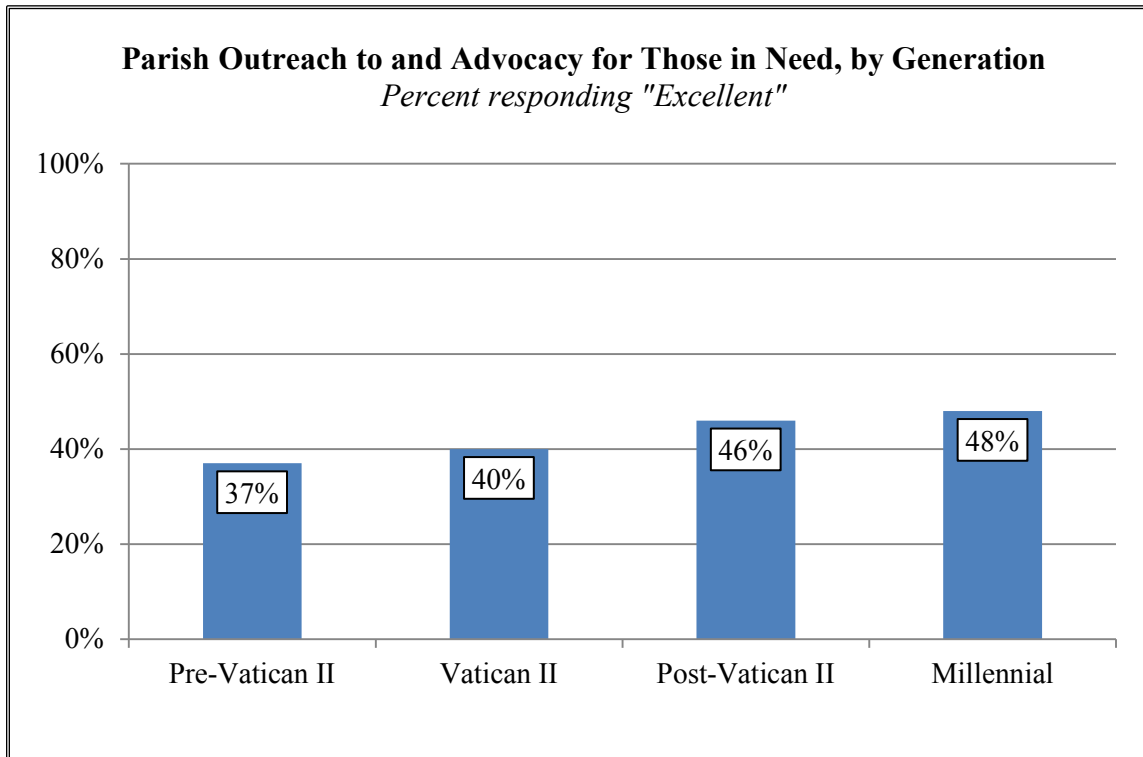
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are *least* likely to give the sense of community within the parish an “excellent” rating.



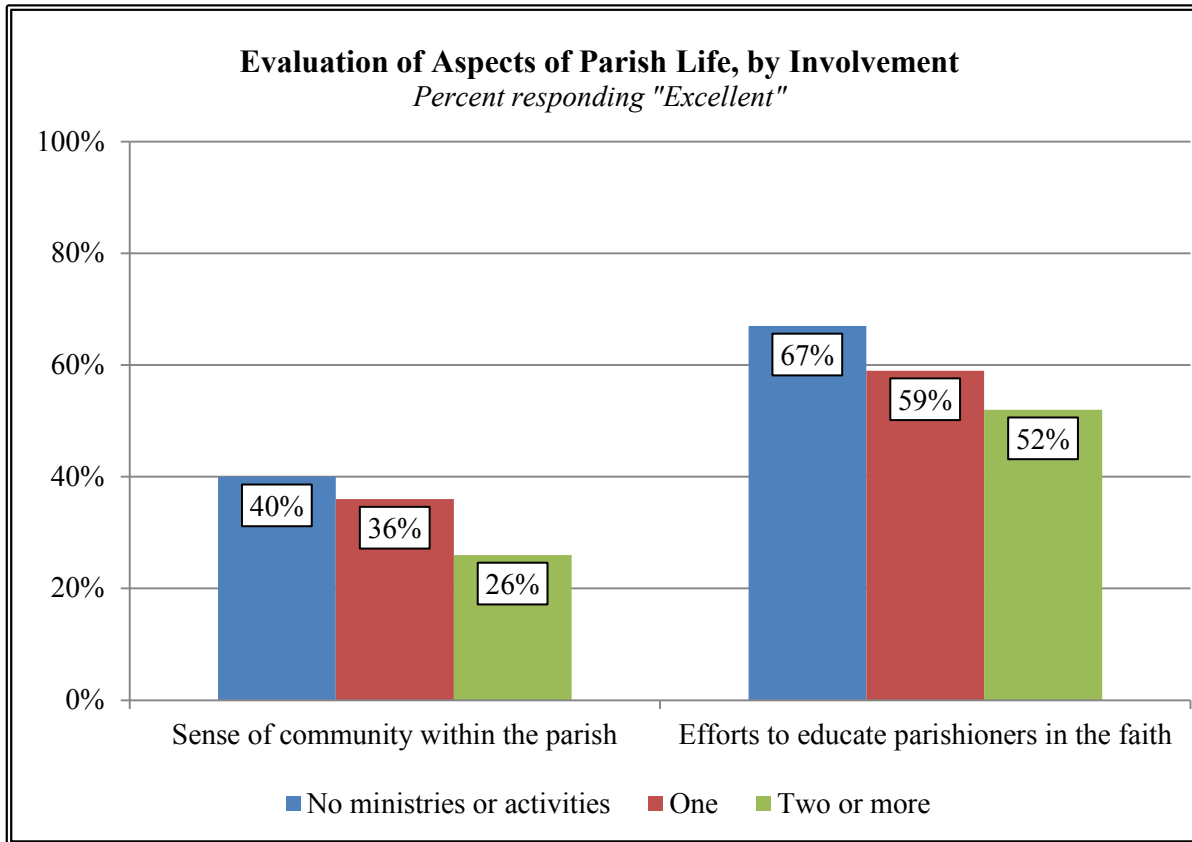
Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation are especially likely to rate outreach to and advocacy for those in need as “excellent,” with those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation *least* likely.



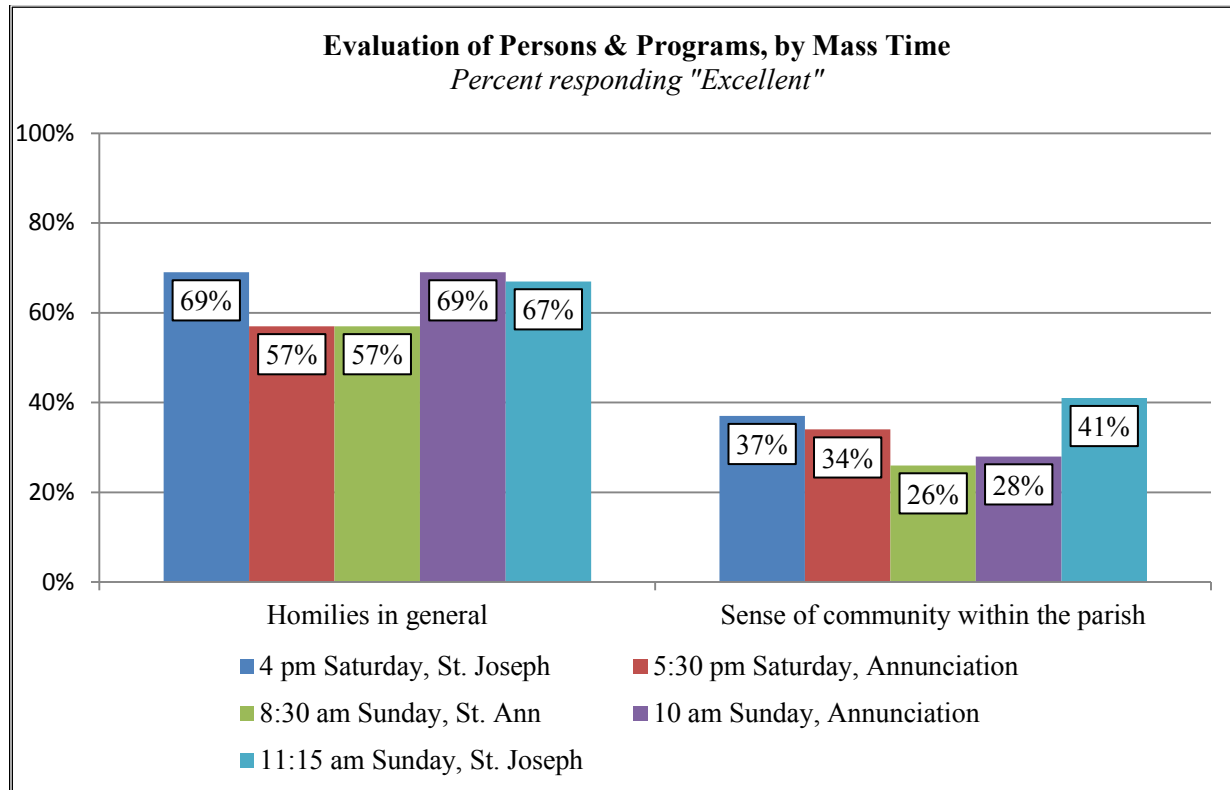
Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *less* likely they are to give an “excellent” evaluation to the sense of community within the parish and to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.



Differences by Mass Regularly Attended

Although the differences shown in the graphic below do *not* meet standards of statistical significance, they may be indicative of real differences. Those who regularly attend the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass at St. Joseph and those who attend the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Ann are *least* likely to give the homilies in general an “excellent” evaluation. Concerning the sense of community within the parish, those who regularly attend the 11:15 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Joseph and those who attend the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass at St. Joseph are most likely to rate it as “excellent.”



Differences by Past Participation in Religious Education Programs

Those whose children have attended CCD classes at the parish in the past five years are about as likely as other respondents to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Evaluation of Parish Efforts

With one exception, each of the parish efforts in the table below receives a positive evaluation from more than eight in ten respondents.

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	96%	89%
Meet people’s spiritual needs	94	83
Communicate with parishioners	93	80
Invite you to participate in parish life	93	82
Foster spiritual growth	92	81
Provide helpful parish office services	92	–
Cooperate with non-Catholic churches	91	–
Consult with parishioners before making important decisions	88	–
Provide social activities	88	–
Explain parish finances	86	–
Reach out to inactive Catholics in the area	69	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Almost all St. Joseph respondents (96 percent) state that parish efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ are “good” or “excellent.”

- More than nine in ten rate as “good” or “excellent” parish efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs, communicate with parishioners, invite participation in parish life, foster spiritual growth, provide helpful parish office services, and cooperate with non-Catholic churches.
- Nearly nine in ten give a positive rating to efforts to consult with parishioners before making important decisions, provide social activities, and explain parish finances.
- Efforts to reach out to inactive Catholics in the area receive a positive evaluation from seven in ten respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 11 to 13 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a positive evaluation of parish efforts to:

- Communicate with parishioners (93 percent compared to 80 percent)
- Meet people's spiritual needs (94 percent compared to 83 percent)
- Invite you to participate in parish life (93 percent compared to 82 percent)
- Foster spiritual growth (92 percent compared to 81 percent)

“Excellent” Ratings

Six in ten report that the parish’s efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ are “excellent.” Efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs and to foster spiritual growth receive as high an evaluation from about half of respondents.

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	60%	47%
Invite you to participate in parish life	55	29
Meet people’s spiritual needs	54	40
Communicate with parishioners	53	37
Foster spiritual growth	48	35
Consult with parishioners before making important decisions	47	—
Cooperate with non-Catholic churches	47	—
Explain parish finances	45	—
Provide helpful parish office services	44	—
Provide social activities	43	—
Reach out to inactive Catholics in the area	28	—

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

Efforts to invite participation in parish life and to communicate with parishioners receive an “excellent” rating from more than half of respondents.

- Half or slightly fewer give an “excellent” rating to efforts to consult with parishioners before making important decisions, to explain parish finances, and to provide helpful parish office services.
- Parish efforts to cooperate with non-Catholic churches receive an “excellent” rating from almost half of respondents.
- Just over four in ten give an “excellent” rating to efforts to provide social activities.
- Efforts to reach out to inactive Catholics in the area are rated as “excellent” by nearly three in ten respondents.

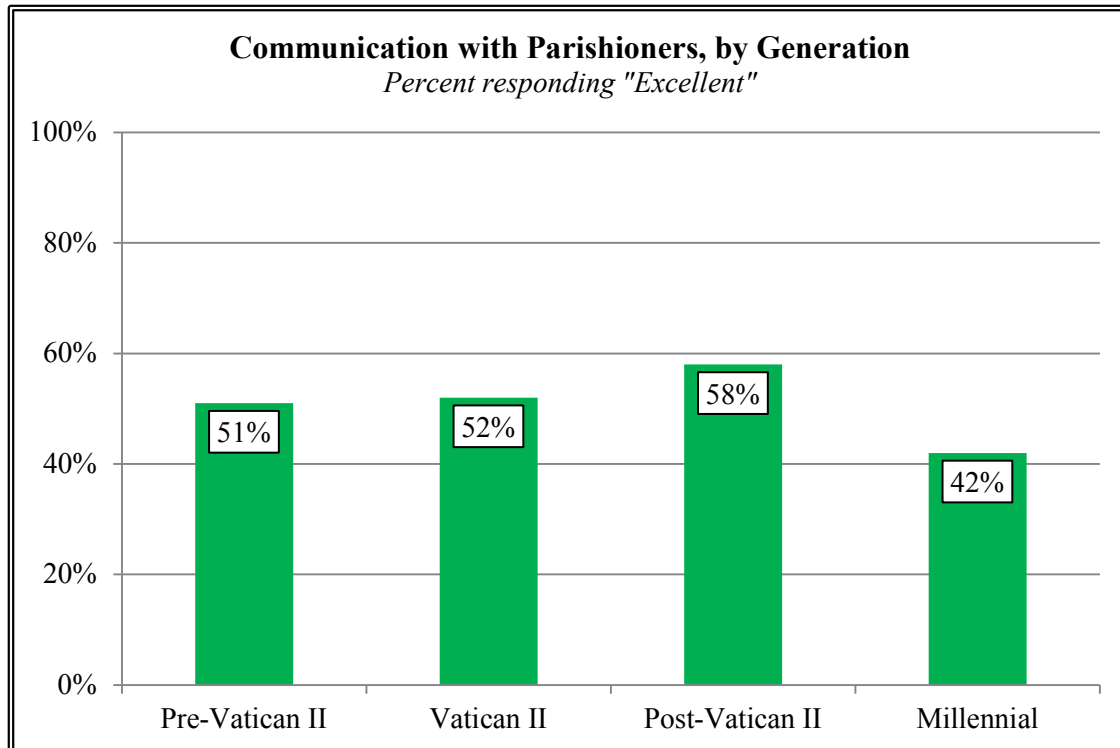
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 13 to 26 percentage points more likely than the average of those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to:

- Invite you to participate in parish life (55 percent compared to 29 percent)
- Communicate with parishioners (53 percent compared to 37 percent)
- Meet people’s spiritual needs (54 percent compared to 40 percent)
- Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ (60 percent compared to 47 percent)
- Foster spiritual growth (48 percent compared to 35 percent)

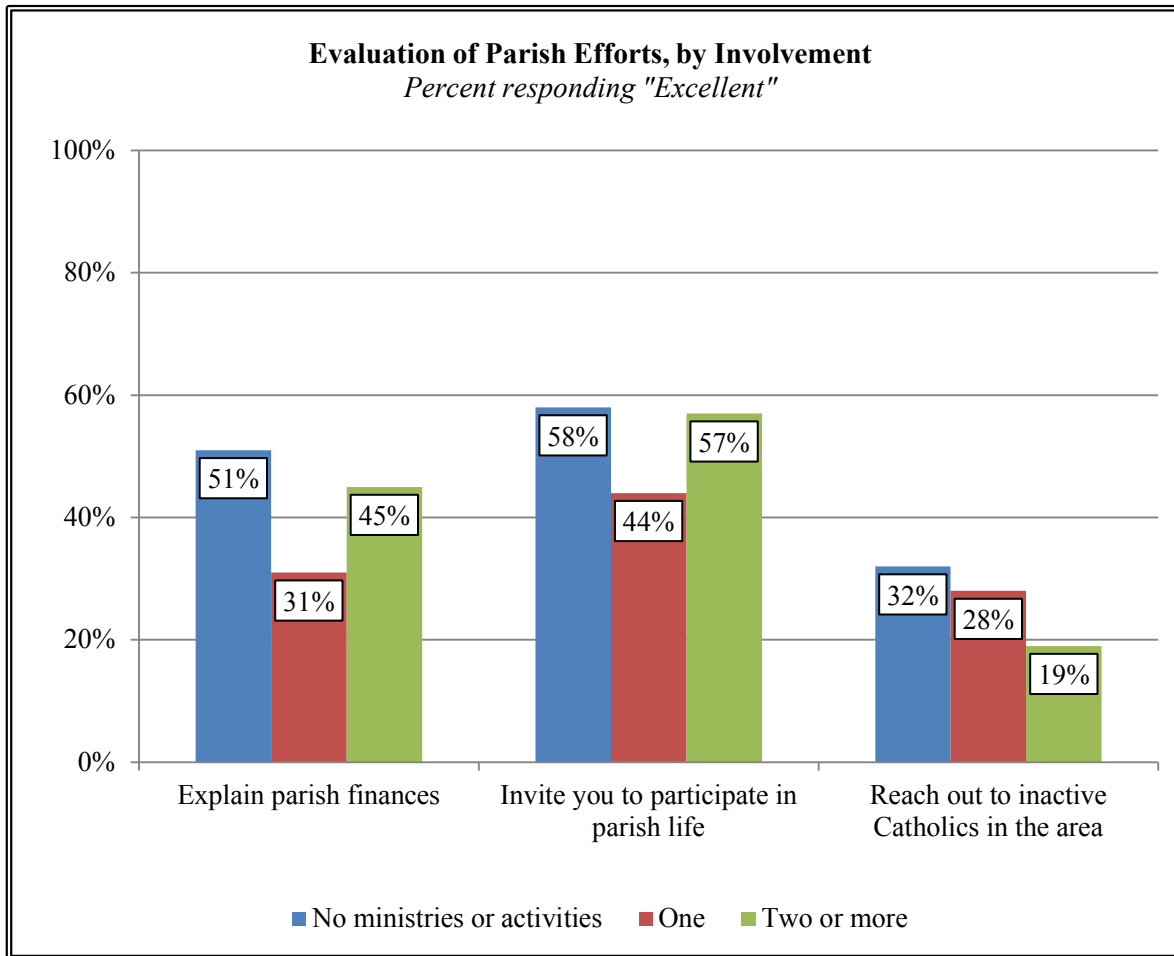
Differences by Generation

Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation are especially likely to rate communication with parishioners as “excellent,” with those of the Millennial Generation *least* likely.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are *least* likely to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to explain parish finances and to invite their participation in parish life. Concerning parish efforts to reach out to inactive Catholics, the more involved with parish ministries or activities respondents are, the less likely they are to give these efforts an “excellent” evaluation.



Impediments to Volunteering More for the Parish

Respondents were asked how much three factors prevent them from volunteering more for the parish. Three in four state their busy schedule or lack of time at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish.

<i>How much do the following prevent you from volunteering more for the parish?</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Your busy schedule or lack of time	77%	80%
Not being aware of parish needs	39	42
Not having been personally invited	31	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

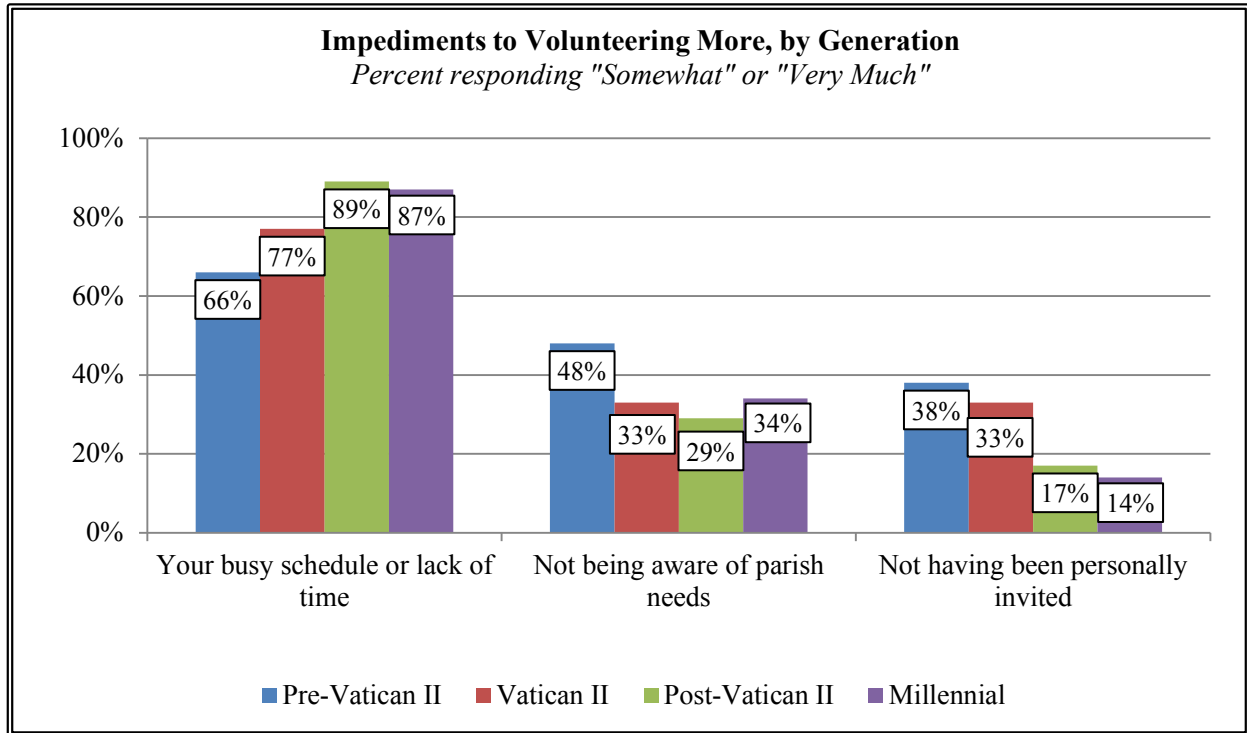
- Four in ten say that not being aware of parish needs “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from volunteering more at the parish.
- Three in ten state not having been personally invited to volunteer at least “somewhat” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are similar to those at parishes nationally in how they respond to questions about how much the factors in the table above prevent them from volunteering more for the parish.

Differences by Generation

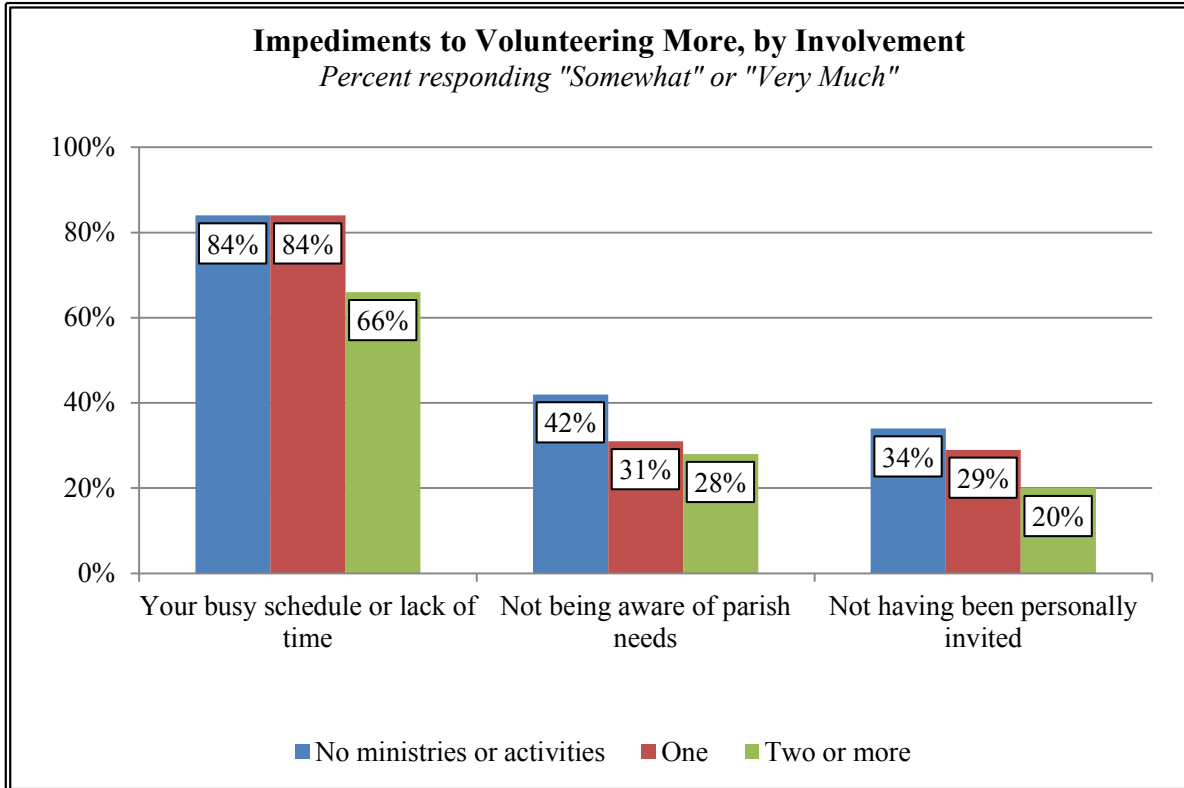
Members of the two youngest generations are especially likely to indicate that their busy schedule or lack of time “somewhat” or “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish.



- Members of the oldest generation are especially likely to indicate that their lack of awareness of parish needs at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more.
- Not having been personally invited is particularly likely to prevent those of the oldest two generations from volunteering more for the parish.

Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are *least* likely to say that the reasons listed in the graphic below “somewhat” or “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish.



Strong Impediments

Nearly four in ten respondents state that their busy schedule or lack of time “very much” prevents them from volunteering at the parish.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
<i>How much do the following prevent you from volunteering more for the parish? Percent responding “Very Much”</i>		
Your busy schedule or lack of time	38%	53%
Not having been personally invited	10	–
Not being aware of parish needs	7	16
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Around one in ten respondents state that not having been personally invited or not being aware of parish needs “very much” prevent them from volunteering for the parish

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 15 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say their busy schedule or lack of time “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish (38 percent compared to 53 percent).

Impediments to Contributing More Financially to the Parish

When asked how much three factors prevent them from contributing more financially to the parish, slightly less than nine in ten respondents (85 percent) state they are already contributing all they can afford.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
<i>How much do the following prevent you from contributing more financially to the parish?</i> <i>Percent responding "Somewhat" or "Very Much"</i>		
Already contributing all you can afford	85%	–
Not being aware of how the parish spends its money	36	–
Not being aware of the parish's financial needs	28	33%
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

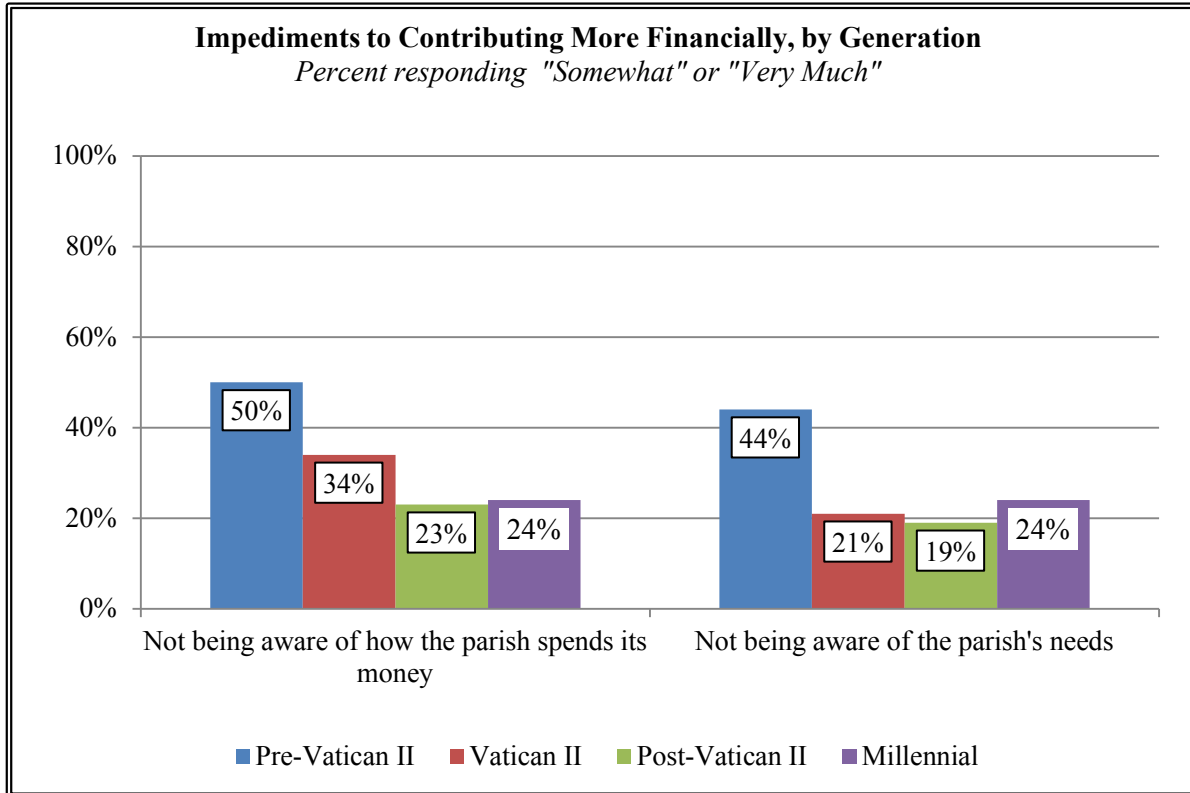
- Slightly more a third of respondents say not being aware of how the parish spends its money at least “somewhat” prevents them from contributing more financially to the parish.
- Almost three in ten report that them not being aware of the parish’s financial needs “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from contributing more financially to the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are similar to those at parishes nationally in how they respond to questions about how much not being aware of the parish’s financial needs prevents them from contributing more financially to the parish.

Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are especially likely to indicate that not being aware of how the parish spends its money and not being aware of the parish's needs "somewhat" or "very much" prevent them from contributing more financially to the parish.



Strong Impediments to Contributing More

Slightly less than six in ten respondents state that already contributing all they can afford “very much” explains why they do not contribute more financially to the parish.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Already contributing all you can afford	56%	–
Not being aware of how the parish spends its money	11	–
Not being aware of the parish’s financial needs	8	9%

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

Around one in ten respondents says that not being aware of how the parish spends its money (11 percent) and not being aware of the parish’s financial needs (8 percent) “very much” prevent them from contributing more financially to the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are similar to those at parishes nationally in how much they say not being aware of the parish’s financial needs prevents them from contributing more to the parish.

Likelihood of Future Behaviors

Almost all of the respondents say they are at least “somewhat” likely to attend Mass at least once a week in the next year. Eight in ten respondents say they are as likely in the next year to attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass.

<i>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Attend Mass at least once a week	97%	–
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	79	–
Participate in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation	72	–
Spend time learning more about your faith	70	75%
Offer your time and talent in volunteer opportunities	53	–
Volunteer for a parish ministry	26	57

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

Around seven in ten respondents say they are “somewhat” or “very” likely to participate in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation or spend time learning more about their faith in the next year.

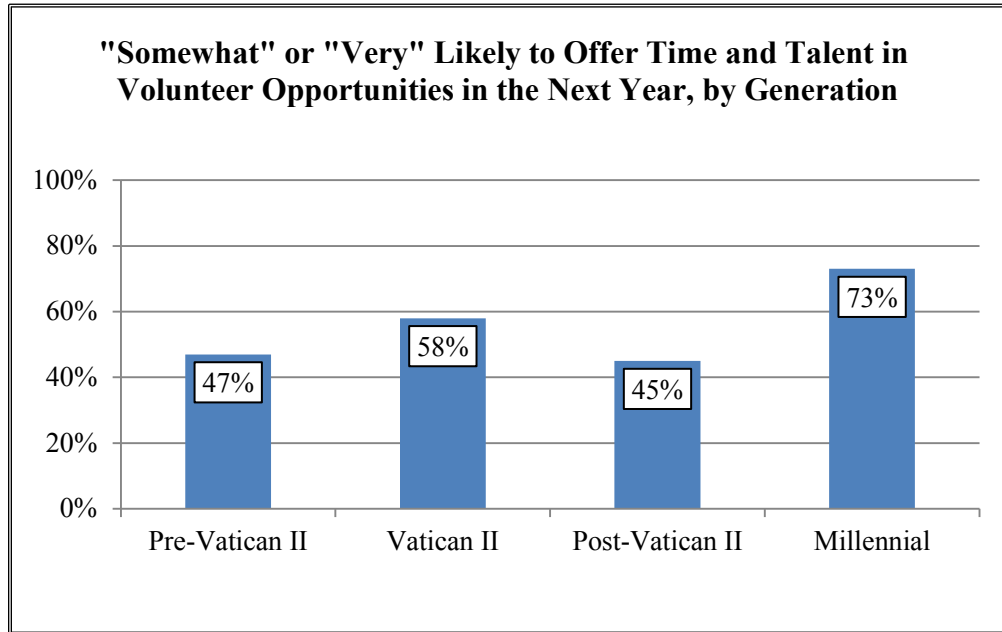
- Slightly more than half say they are at least “somewhat” likely in the next year to offer their time and talent in volunteer opportunities.
- A quarter say they are at least “somewhat” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 33 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to report being “somewhat” or “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year (26 percent compared to 57 percent).

Differences by Generation

Millennial Generation respondents are especially likely to report being “somewhat” or “very” likely to offer their time and talent in volunteer opportunities in the next year.



Strong Likelihood of Future Behaviors

Almost nine in ten respondents say they are “very” likely to attend Mass at least once a week in the next year. Less than half (45 percent) say they are as likely in the next year to participate in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation or to attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass.

<i>How likely are you to do the following in the next year?</i> <i>Percent responding “Very”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Attend Mass at least once a week	88%	—
Participate in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation	45	—
Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass	45	—
Spend time learning more about your faith	27	34%
Offer your time and talent in volunteer opportunities	23	—
Volunteer for a parish ministry	14	34

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

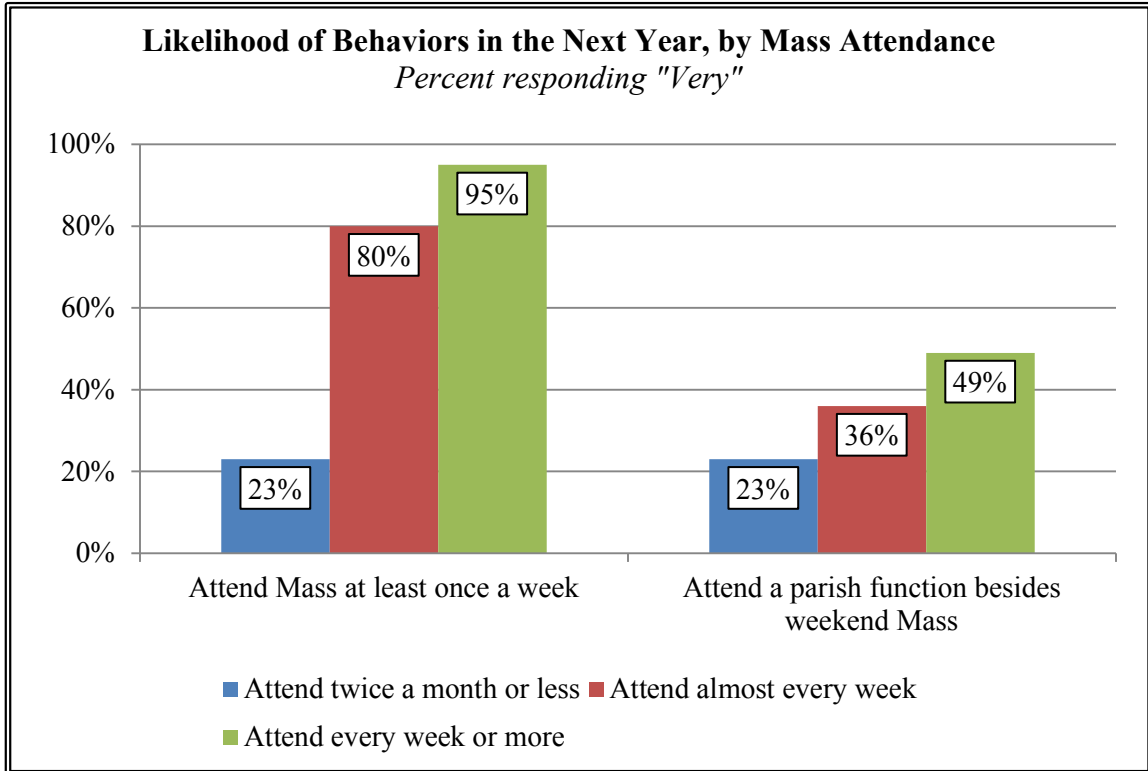
- Around a quarter of respondents are “very” likely to spend time learning more about their faith (27 percent) or offer their time and talent in volunteer opportunities (23 percent) in the next year.
- One in seven (14 percent) is “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 20 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to report being “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year (14 percent compared to 34 percent).

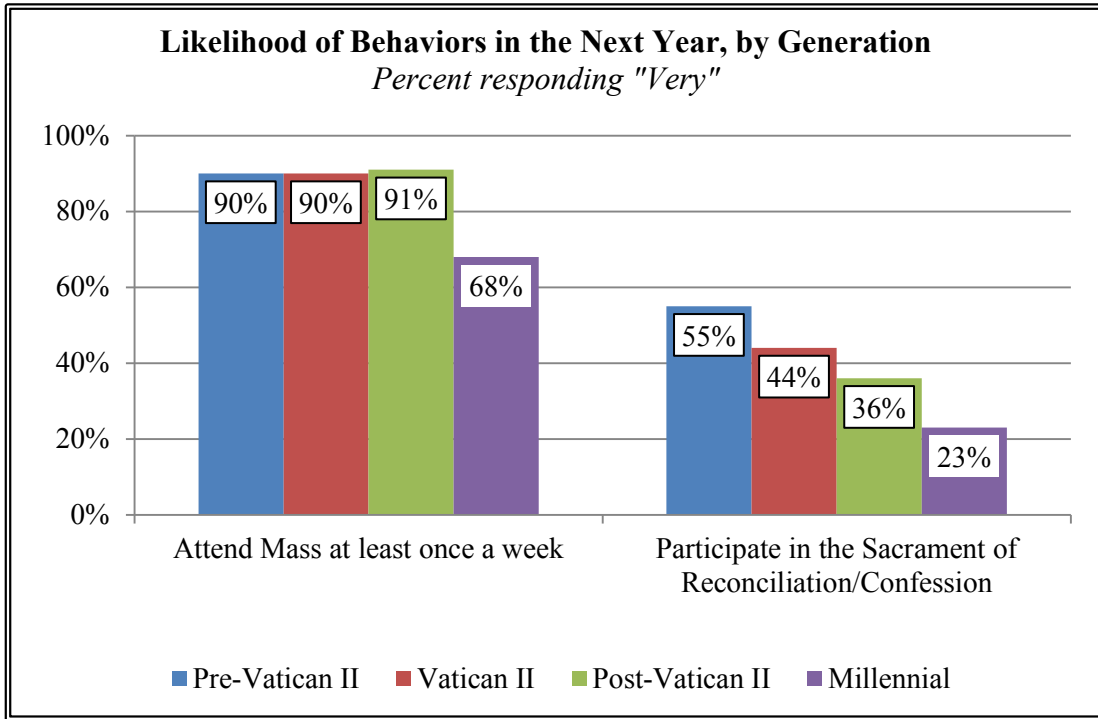
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

The more frequently respondents attend Mass, the more likely they are to report being “very” likely to attend Mass at least once a week and to attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass in the next year.



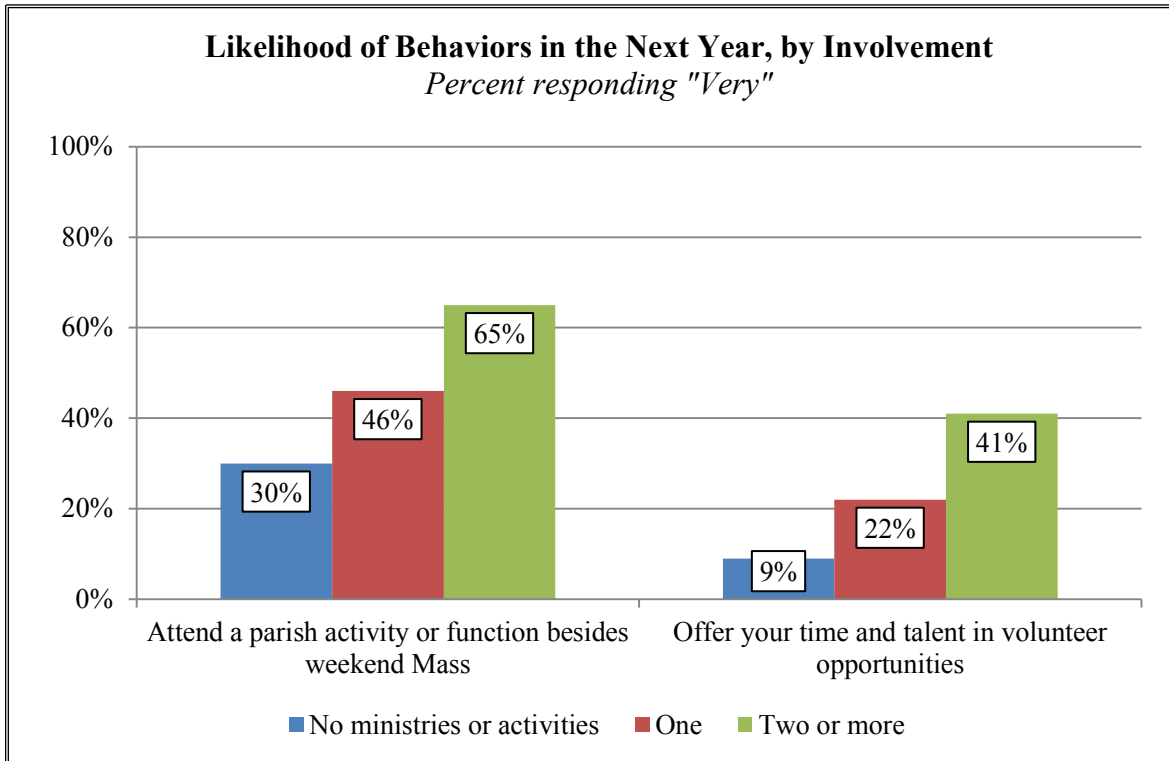
Differences by Generation

Millennial Generation respondents are *least* likely to report being “very” likely to attend Mass at least once a week in the next year. The older the generation respondents belong to, the more likely they are to report being “very” likely to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession in the next year.

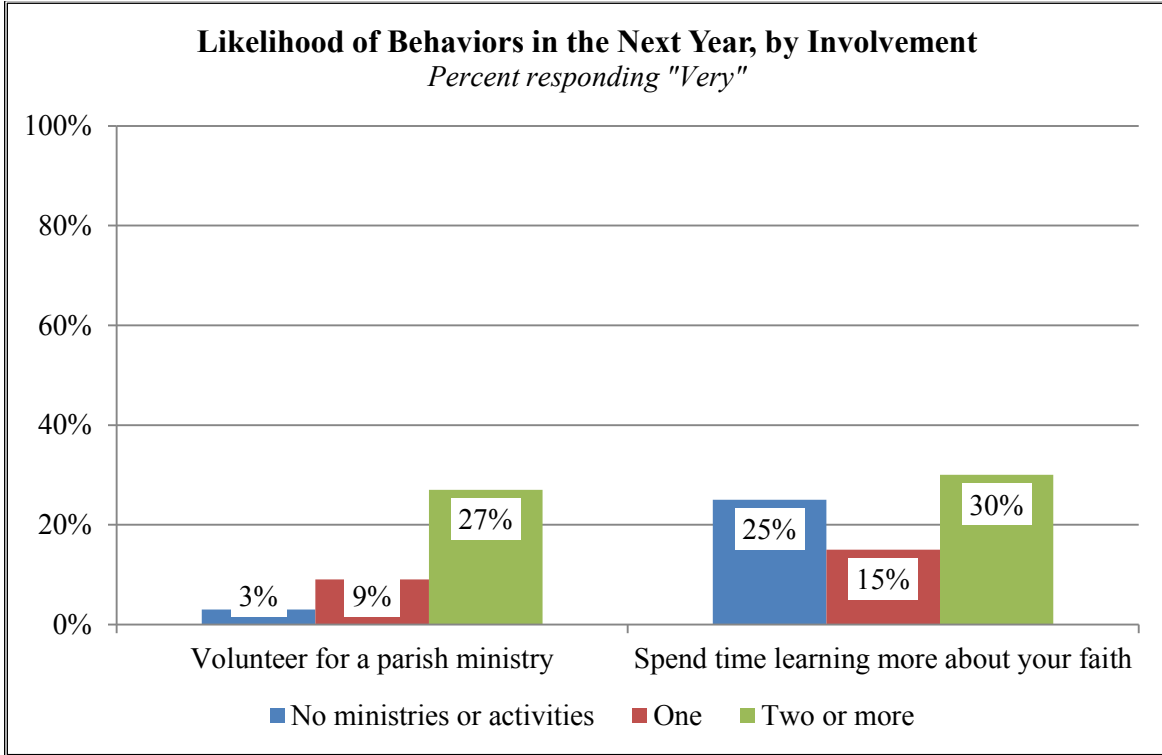


Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved with ministries or activities at the parish respondents are, the more likely they are to report being “very” likely in the next year to attend a parish activity or function besides Mass and to offer their time and talent in volunteer opportunities.



Those involved with at least two ministries or activities are most likely to say they are “very” likely to volunteer for a parish ministry in the next year. Those involved with one ministry or activity are *least* likely to report being “very” likely in the next year to spend time learning more about their faith.



Importance of Religious Behaviors

Almost all St. Joseph respondents say living their faith in their daily life, being Catholic, and attending Mass are “somewhat” or “very” important to them.

<i>How important are the following to you?</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Living your faith in your daily life	98%	97%
Attending Mass	97	97
Being Catholic	97	95
Learning more about the Catholic faith	90	91
Being part of a parish community	90	91
The programs and activities of the parish	84	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Nine in ten respondents say that learning more about the Catholic faith and being part of a parish community are “somewhat” or “very” important to them.
- Slightly more than eight in ten say that the programs and activities of the parish are “somewhat” or “very” important to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in the importance they place on any of the items in the table above.

“Very” Important Behaviors

Almost nine in ten St. Joseph respondents say being Catholic and attending Mass are “very” important to them.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Being Catholic	87%	81%
Attending Mass	86	83
Living your faith in your daily life	80	78
Being part of a parish community	62	63
Learning more about the Catholic faith	53	58
The programs and activities of the parish	42	—

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

Eight in ten respondents say that living their faith in their daily life is “very” important to them.

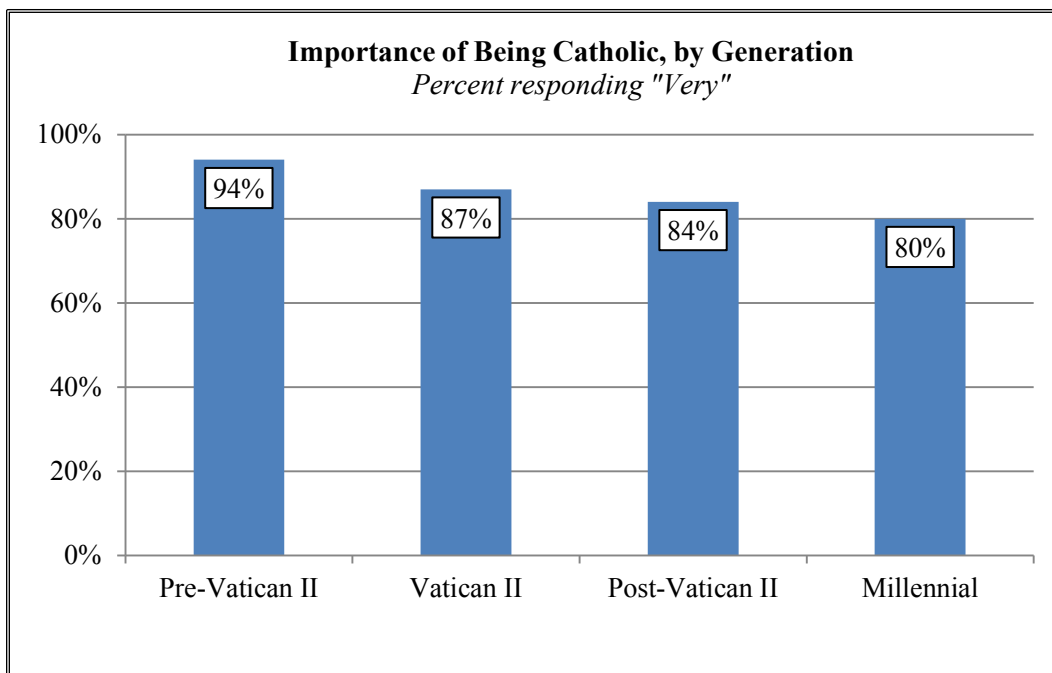
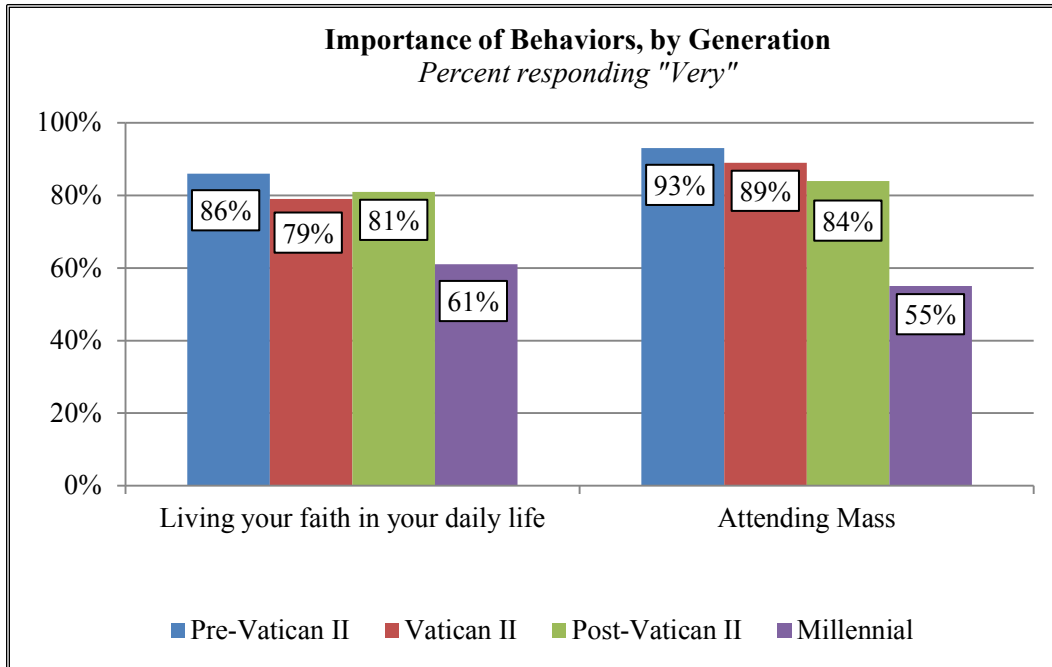
- About six in ten say being part of a parish community is “very” important to them.
- Learning more about the Catholic faith is “very” important to just over half of respondents.
- Slightly more than four in ten report that the programs and activities of the parish are “very” important to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

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

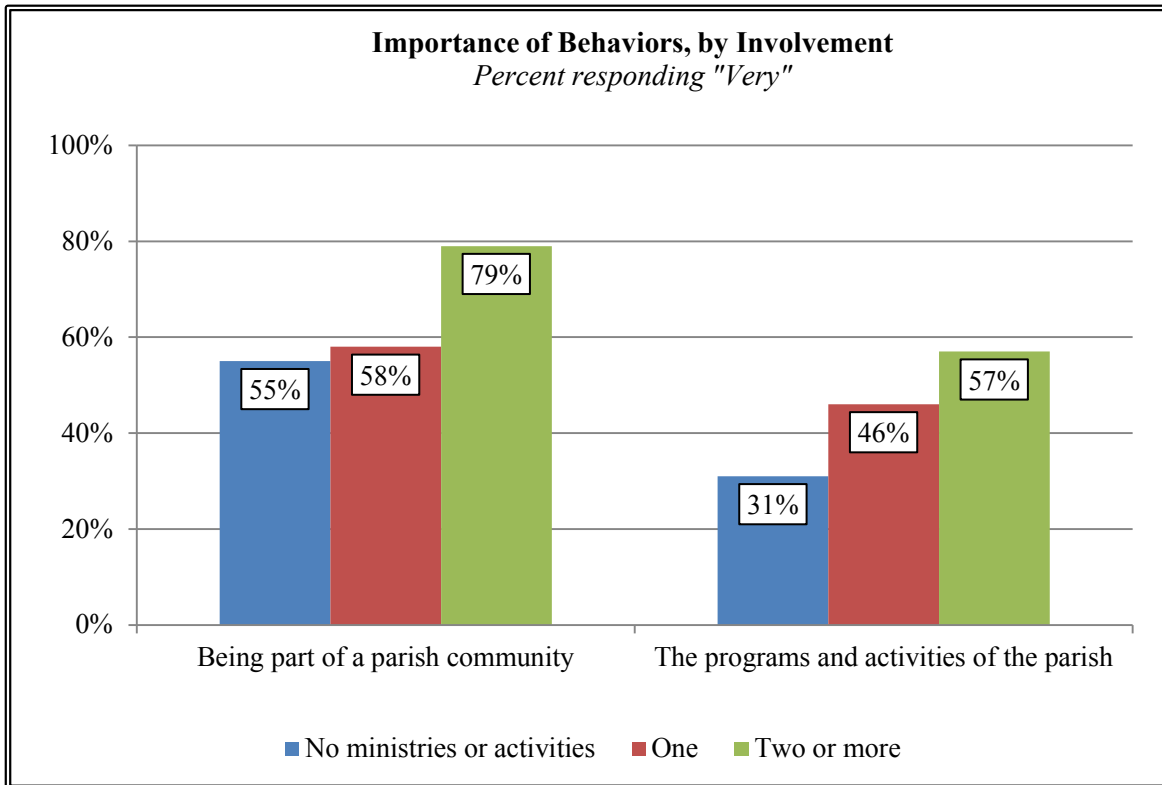
Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation are *least* likely to indicate that being Catholic, living their faith in their daily life, and attending Mass are “very” important to them. Moreover, the older respondents are, the more likely they are to say being Catholic is “very” important to them.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are most likely to say that being part of a parish community is “very” important to them. Further, the more involved respondents are with parish ministries or activities, the more likely they are to state that the programs and activities are “very” important to them.



Priority for Parish Needs

With just one exception, at least 86 percent of respondents give at least “some” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below.

<i>How much priority should the parish give to the following?</i> <i>Percent responding “Some” or “High”</i>	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Visitation of the sick and homebound	97%	90%
Nursing home ministry	97	–
Children’s religious education/CCD	96	91
Upkeep of parish facilities	96	87
Developing a parish sense of community	96	91
Ministry to those grieving	96	91
Youth ministry (ages 13-17)	95	88
Welcoming persons with disabilities	95	–
Young adult ministry (ages 18-35)	94	90
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	94	87
Fostering priestly or religious vocations	91	81
Senior citizen programs	91	87
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	89	80
Adult faith formation	89	86
Outreach to inactive Catholics	89	73
Ministry to the divorced and separated	87	82
Trinity Academy	86	81
Prison ministry	79	–

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

Nearly all respondents place at least “somewhat” priority on the following needs: visitation of the sick and homebound, nursing home ministry, children’s religious education/CCD, upkeep of parish facilities, developing a parish sense of community, ministry to those grieving, youth ministry, and welcoming persons with disabilities.

- Slightly more than nine in ten give “some” or “high” priority to the following: young adult ministry, providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy, fostering priestly or religious vocations, and senior citizen programs.

- Almost nine in ten give “some” or “high” priority to these needs: more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration, adult faith formation, outreach to inactive Catholics, ministry to the divorced or separated, and Trinity Academy.
- Prison ministry receives at least “some” priority from eight in ten respondents.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 10 to 16 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the parish should give at least “some” priority to the following:

- Outreach to inactive Catholics (88 percent compared to 73 percent)
- Fostering priestly or religious vocations (91 percent compared to 81 percent)

“High” Priority

Three in four respondents say the parish should give “high” priority to visiting the sick and homebound. About seven in ten give as much priority to nursing home ministry and ministry to those grieving.

<i>How much priority should the parish give the following?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “High”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Visitation of the sick and homebound	76%	55%
Children’s religious education/CCD	71	70
Upkeep of parish facilities	71	50
Nursing home ministry	71	–
Welcoming persons with disabilities	69	–
Ministry to those grieving	68	58
Developing a parish sense of community	64	60
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	60	53
Youth ministry (ages 13-17)	59	59
Young adult ministry (ages 18-35)	54	62
Fostering priestly or religious vocations	51	37
Senior citizen programs	50	47
Ministry to the divorced and separated	46	40
Outreach to inactive Catholics	46	35
Adult faith formation	42	46
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	41	39
Trinity Academy	41	50
Prison ministry	37	–

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

- Seven in ten respondents say the parish should give “high” priority to children’s religious education/CCD. Six in ten give as much priority to youth ministry, with just over four in ten giving as much priority to adult faith formation and Trinity Academy.
- Upkeep of parish facilities receives “high” priority from seven in ten respondents.
- Welcoming those with disabilities receives “high” priority from seven in ten. Almost two in three place “high” priority on developing a parish sense of community, with slightly less than half giving as much priority to ministry to the divorced or separated or to outreach to inactive Catholics.

- Six in ten respondents say the parish should give a “high” priority to providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy. Prison ministry receives as much priority from almost four in ten.
- Half or slightly more say the parish should give “high” priority to young adult ministry and senior citizen programs.
- Fostering priestly or religious vocations receive “high” priority from half of respondents.
- Four in ten say that the parish should give “high” priority to more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration.

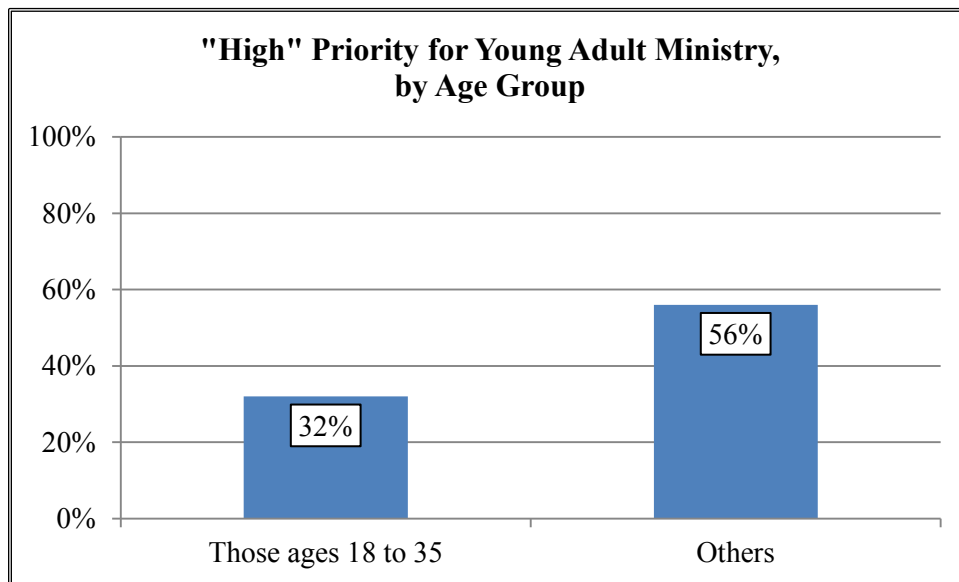
Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 11 to 21 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give “high” priority to the following needs:

- Visitation to the sick and homebound (76 percent compared to 55 percent)
- Upkeep of parish facilities (71 percent compared to 50 percent)
- Fostering priestly or religious vocations (51 percent compared to 37 percent)
- Outreach to inactive Catholics (46 percent compared to 35 percent)

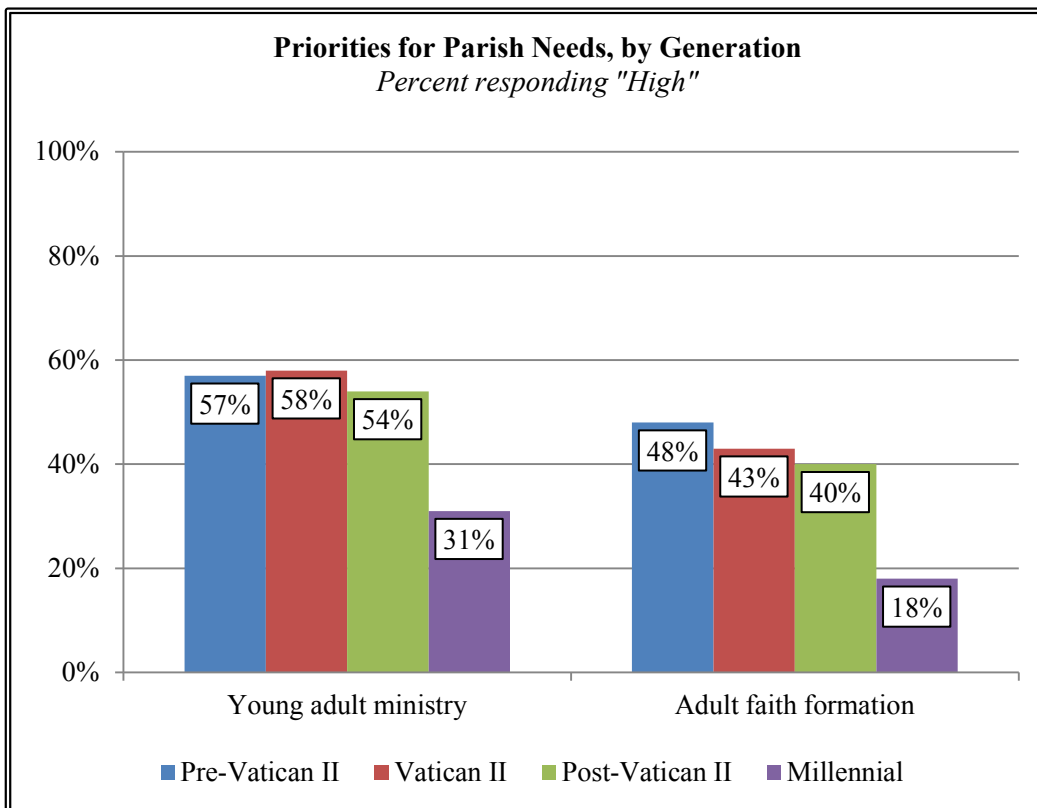
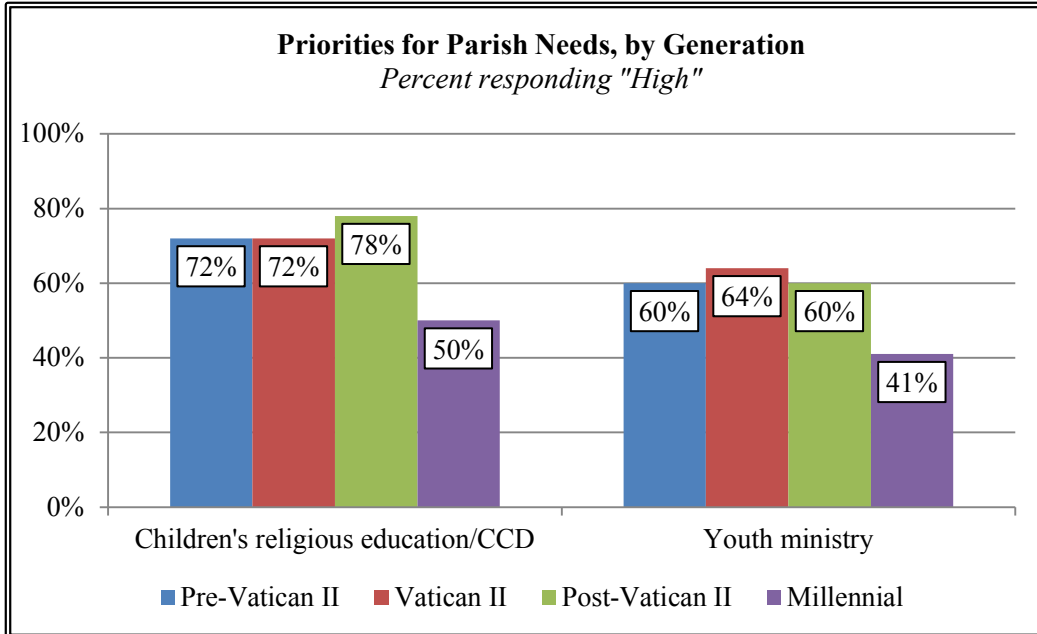
Differences by Age Group

Those ages 18 to 35 are *less* likely than others to give “high” priority to young adult ministry. Those ages 65 and older, on the other hand, do *not* differ significantly from others in the amount of priority they give to senior citizen programs (not shown in the graph below).

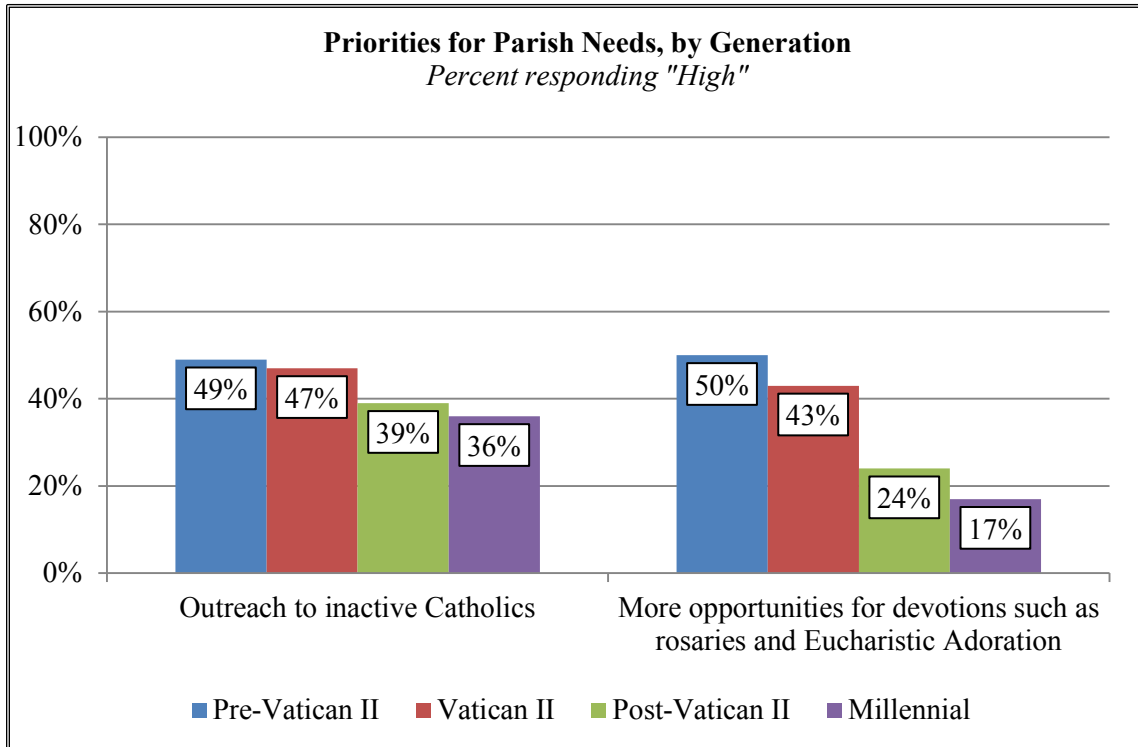


Differences by Generation

Millennial Generation respondents are *least* likely to give “high” priority to children’s religious education/CCD, youth ministry, young adult ministry, and adult faith formation.

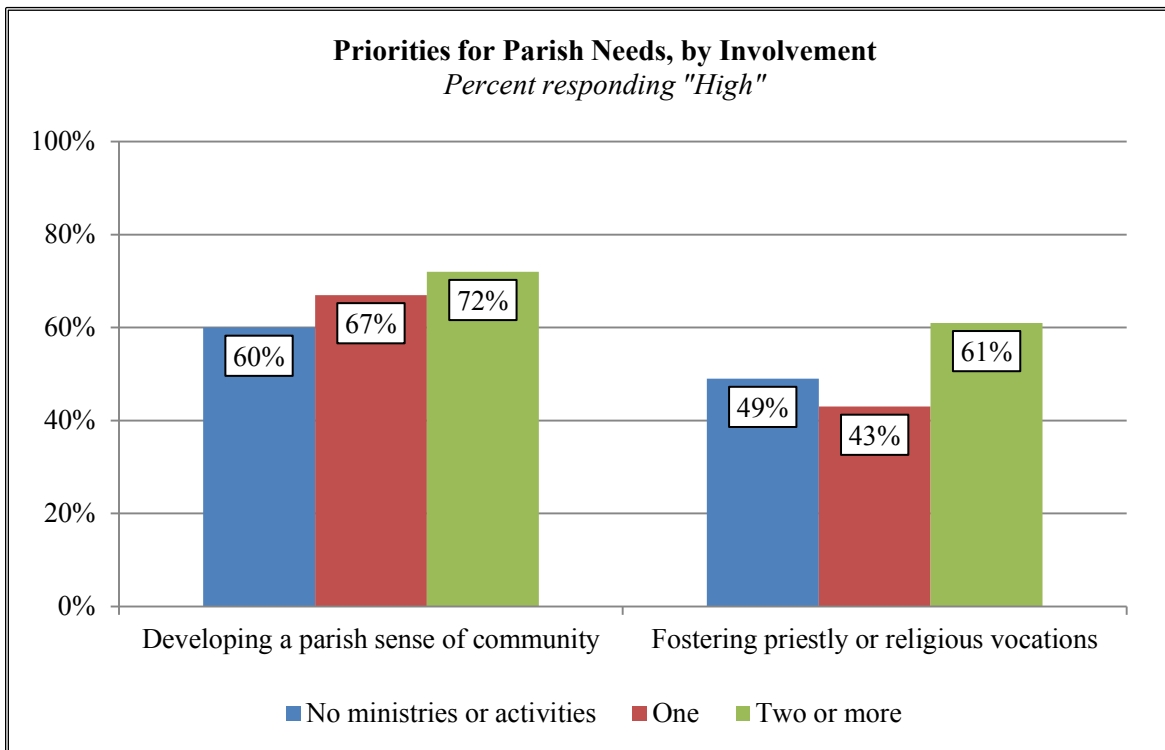


Those of the two older generations are particularly likely to place “high” priority on outreach to inactive Catholics and to having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Although the differences are *not* statistically significant, it is worth noting that the more involved respondents are with parish ministries or activities, the more likely they are to place “high” priority on developing a parish sense of community. Moreover, those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are most likely to give “high” priority to fostering priestly or religious vocations.



Differences by Marital Status

Although the difference is not a statistically significant one, those respondents who are divorced or separated are more likely than other respondents to give “high” priority to ministry to the divorced or separated (54 percent compared to 45 percent).

Top Priorities for Parish Needs

Examining the list of parish needs in the previous section, respondents were asked to choose the three needs to which the parish should give most priority. Upkeep of the parish facility (39 percent) and children’s religious education/CCD (34 percent) are listed as a top priority by more than one in three respondents.

Needs Listed Among One’s Top Three Priorities	
	One of their Three Top Priorities
Upkeep of parish facilities	39%
Children’s religious education/CCD	34
Developing a parish sense of community	27
Visitation of the sick and homebound	23
Trinity Academy	21
Outreach to inactive Catholics	19
Ministry to those grieving	18
Youth ministry (ages 13-17)	17
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	14
Nursing home ministry	14
Senior citizen programs	12
Young adult ministry (ages 18-35)	11
Welcoming persons with disabilities	11
Fostering priestly or religious vocations	10
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	7
Adult faith formation	7
Ministry to the divorced and separated	6
Prison ministry	1

- A third list children’s religious education or CCD as a top priority, with two in ten listing Trinity Academy, one in six listing youth ministry, and about one in 20 listing adult faith formation.
- Developing a parish sense of community is listed as a top priority by just over a quarter of respondents. Outreach to inactive Catholics is listed by two in ten, one in ten lists welcoming persons with disabilities, and one in 20 lists ministry to the divorced and separated.
- About a quarter list visitation of the sick and homebound as one of their top three priorities for the parish. Ministry to those grieving is listed by nearly two in ten, with just over one in ten listing nursing home ministry.

- Providing opportunities to help the needy is listed by just over one in ten respondents. One percent lists prison ministry as a top priority.
- Just over one in ten lists senior citizen programs and young adult ministry among their top three priorities.
- One in ten lists fostering priestly or religious vocations among their top three priorities, with just over one in 20 listing more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration.

Most Important Needs on Which to Focus in the Next Three to Five Years

Respondents were asked to write a response to this question: *What is the most important need for St Joseph Parish to focus on in the next 3-5 years?* Some 342 wrote in a response to that question. Appendix II presents the complete transcription of all open-ended responses to this question.

Responses can be grouped into the six broad categories below. A discussion of each category follows, with example comments lightly edited for grammar and spelling.

- Consolidating the parish
- Financial stability
- Unifying the parish and developing a stronger sense of community
- Facilities maintenance and renovation
- Evangelization and parish outreach to groups
- Other needs

Consolidating the Parish

One in four respondents writes that consolidating the parish is the most important need for St. Joseph Parish to focus on in the next three to five years. Examples include:

Consolidate to one building.

Pick one building.

Really consolidating all churches.

Selecting one church.

Single church building. Create a sustainable economic structure by consolidating facilities.

Closing one of the churches (St. Joseph).

Combining all parishes in Frackville into one church.

Building to accommodate all parishioners under one roof.

Combining all three parishes into the best location and making the church flourish.

To build a new church with items from all three F-Ville parishes.

One church and different name.

Unite all parishes.

Choosing one parish.

Close two churches and make one really good.

Financial Stability

Nearly two in ten respondents write about the finances of the parish, mainly creating a sustainable system for the future. Examples include:

Financial planning.

Financial support to keep the parish thriving.

Fundraising.

Goal to lower cost, energy savings, etc.

Keeping stable financially.

Meeting the financial need of our Church.

Raising money.

Getting money to renovate parish facilities.

Cut expenses.

Getting rid of some non-essential property to cut expenses.

Saving money by closing one church.

Debt paid off.

Unifying the Parish and Developing a Stronger Sense of Community

Almost two in ten write about the community in the parish. This includes coming together as parishioners or getting more parishioners to participate. Some examples include:

Banding together to get through the challenges we face.

Building the overall faith community - it's not just about dropping the kids off for CCD etc. Adults need to be more involved.

Being one church.

Getting everyone involved.

Join together as parishioners.

Keeping all involved from all parishes and continued to form one parish family. One of my biggest wishes is to get married in the St. Ann's church building which has many memories for me. I will be crushed if I do not have this opportunity!

Keeping the parish unity. I fear consolidation or elimination of a physical location will hurt feelings and people will leave. We need to remind people - a building is not the Church - we are the people of the "Church."

The community.

Work together and build a sense of community.

Unity, one parish, one name, mission statement that reflects all the parts of the community. Flexibility to attract families. Volunteers to assist in pastoral efforts. Our priests are overwhelmed and need dedicated volunteers to lessen the burden.

Facilities Maintenance and Renovation

Nearly two in ten comment about the maintenance and/or renovation of the parish's buildings. Examples include:

Building repairs.

Repair the ceiling.

Infrastructure of the churches.

Maintenance to keep church open and parishioners from going out of Frackville.

Downsizing buildings and repair to existing churches.

Regional church! Expecting Father Finlan to take care of three churches plus the other buildings is expecting too much!

Improve facilities and church programs.

Building a new church with handicap accessibility room.

Putting in a handicap ramp.

Repairs.

Raze St. Joseph Church. Rebuild church/hall on property. Incorporate altars and statins/statues from all three churches.

A single parish center to bring all people together as "one" entity.

Taking care of all of the properties.

Upkeep of the buildings.

Facilities management, maintenance and closures.

Taking care of the churches' graveyards.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach to Groups

Slightly more than one in ten respondents state that the parish should focus on evangelizing and should work to bring in new people and inactive Catholics. They also would like to see the parish focus on outreach to parish groups, with a special focus on bringing in younger people and getting them more involved in parish life. Some examples include:

Bring inactive Catholics and their children back to Church involvement.

Continued growth in our faith and outreach ministry.

Evangelization.

New parishioners.

Recruit more parishioners.

Outreach to non-practicing Catholics/seniors.

Bring inactive Catholics and their children back to church involvement.

To bring the people back to Church who used to go.

To increase membership to the point where all the Churches are full during masses.

Educating youth about the faith.

Keeping up with the wonderful job on the children's programs and getting the young adults/parents to also participate in support of these programs.

More activities for the youth of churches.

Stay small, don't expand, and focus on youth, not adults.

More young people.

Teaching teens about Jesus.

Young and mid adult involvement and ministry.

Young people to attend mass more often.

The family, keeping them together and following the Church.

Other Needs

One in 20 writes something that does not easily fit into the categories above. Some examples include:

Survival.

To keep going.

Education of faith.

Be more conservative.

Jesus, reverence (not run out the door as soon as Mass is ended).

Keeping Father Finlan as our priest.

Providing food and shelter to hungry and homeless.

Helping the needy.

Take some of the burden off Father Finlan.

The lack of religious vocations nationally – especially the way it impacts Schuylkill County.

Ministry and Worship in a Time of Fewer Priests

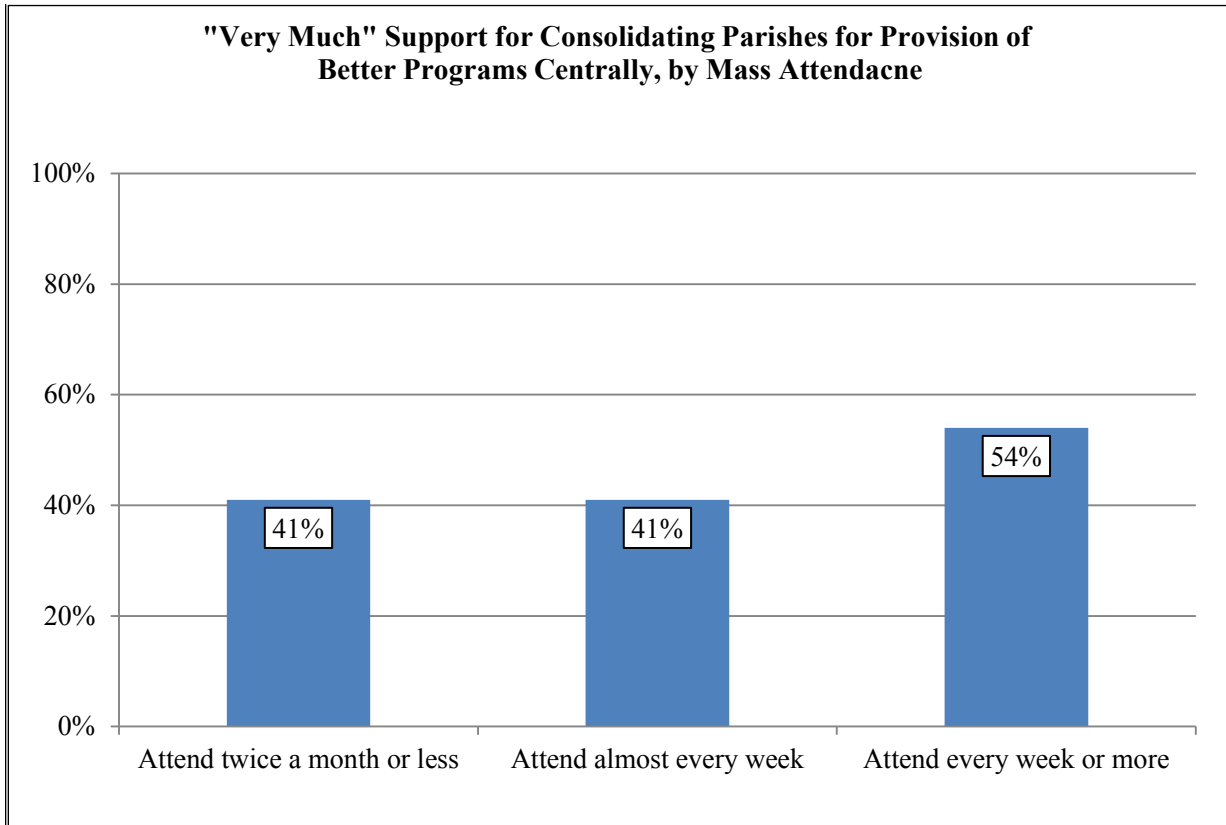
Respondents were asked how much they would support several ways of providing for ministry and worship in a time of fewer priests. About three-quarters say they at least “somewhat” support each of the three ways shown in the table below.

	“Somewhat” or “Strongly”	“Strongly” Only
Consolidating parishes so that better programs can be provided centrally	79%	50%
Sharing paid staff with neighboring parishes (such as a business manager)	79	38
Sharing a priest with another parish	75	40

To provide ministry and worship in a time of fewer priests, half of respondents would “strongly” support consolidating parishes so that better programs can be provided separately. About four in ten “strongly” support sharing paid staff (such as a business manager) and sharing a priest with another parish.

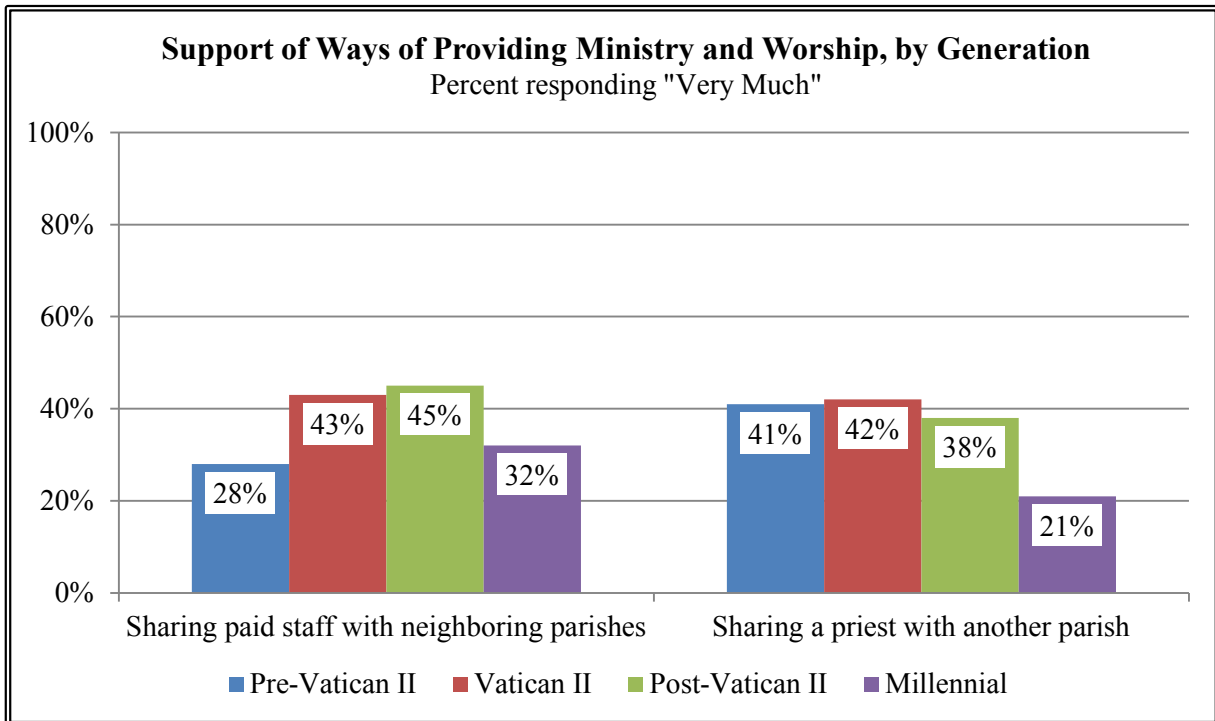
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are especially likely to say they “very much” support consolidating parishes so that better programs can be provided centrally as a way to provide for ministry and worship in a time of fewer priests.



Differences by Generation

Millennial Generation respondents are among the *least* likely to “strongly” support both of the ways of providing for ministry or worship listed in the figure below. Those of the oldest generation are *least* likely to support sharing paid staff with neighboring parishes.



Differences by Mass Regularly Attended

Those who regularly attend the different Masses offered at the parish do *not* differ significantly in their support for the various ways of providing ministry or worship in a time of fewer priests.

Attitudes about Parish Life

Almost all respondents at least “somewhat” agree that the parish community is important in their lives and that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

<i>Please respond to the following</i>		
<i>Percent responding “Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	95%	48%
My parish community is important in my life	95	–
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	94	79
I feel included in parish life	92	87
The parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities	90	87
I want to be more involved in parish life	87	–
The parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents	84	–
I think the parish should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass	81	84
There is sufficient qualified parish staff (paid and volunteer) to meet the parish’s needs	79	–
I would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity	76	71
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

More than nine in ten “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.

- Just over nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they feel included in parish life, with nearly nine in ten agreeing as strongly they want to be more involved in parish life.
- Nine in ten St. Joseph respondents at least “somewhat agree” that the parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities. Fewer, three in four, agree that they would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity.
- Slightly more than eight in ten “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that the parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents and should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass.

- Eight in ten agree at least “somewhat” that there is sufficient qualified parish staff to meet the parish’s needs.

Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 47 percentage points more likely than those parishes nationally to “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (95 percent compared to 48 percent).

St. Joseph respondents are also 15 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to at least “somewhat” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish (94 percent compared to 79 percent).

“Strongly” Agree

Seven in ten respondents “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor. This is considerably higher than the two in ten saying the same at parishes nationally.

<i>Please respond to the following</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	70%	21%
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	59	40
My parish community is important in my life	59	54
I feel included in parish life	51	49
The parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities	44	–
I think the parish should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass	38	45
There is sufficient qualified parish staff (paid and volunteer) to meet the parish’s needs	34	39
I would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity	34	31
The parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents	29	–
I want to be more involved in parish life	27	–

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

Six in ten “strongly” agree that their parish community is important in their life, with half “strongly” agreeing that they feel included in parish life.

- Six in ten agree “strongly” that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish. Fewer, just over a quarter, agree “strongly” that they want to be more involved in parish life.
- Slightly more than four in ten agree “strongly” that the parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities. A third agree “strongly” that they would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity.
- Nearly four in ten “strongly” agree that they think the parish should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass. Three in ten agree “strongly” that the parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents.

- A third “strongly” agree that there is sufficient qualified parish staff to meet the parish’s needs.

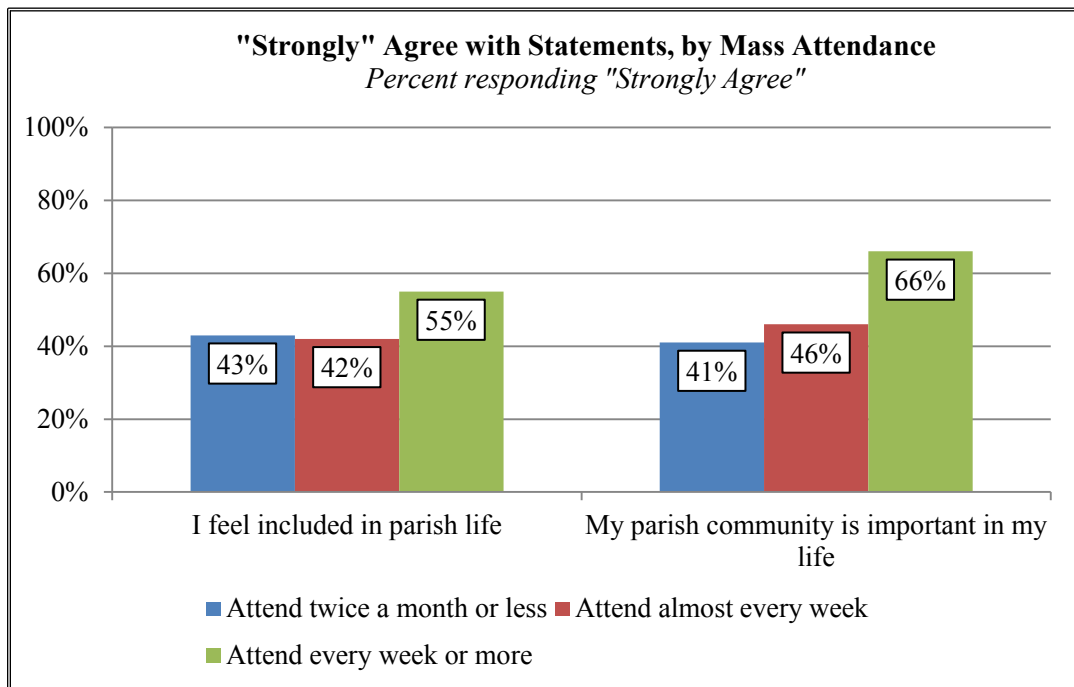
Comparisons to Parishes Nationally

St. Joseph respondents are 49 percentage points more likely than those in parishes nationally to “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (70 percent compared to 21 percent).

St. Joseph respondents are also 19 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to agree “strongly” that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish (59 percent compared to 40 percent).

Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

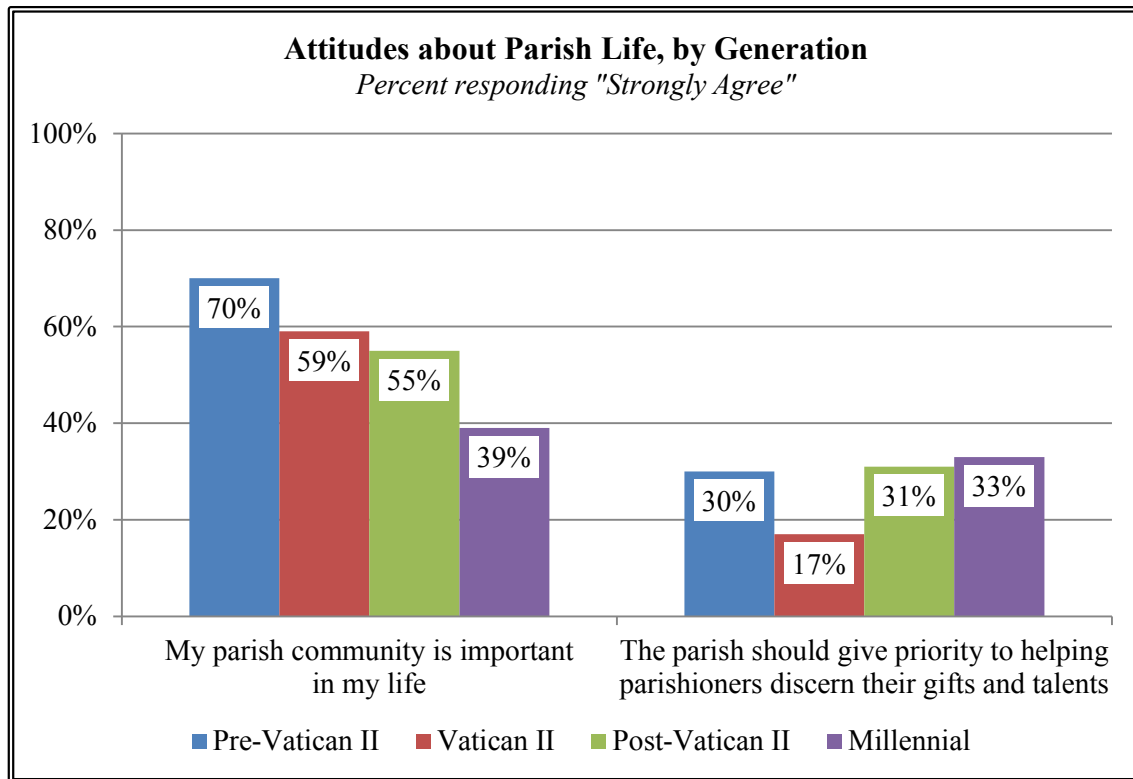
Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely than those attending less frequently to “strongly” agree that they feel included in parish life and that their parish community is important in their lives.



Although the differences do *not* meet tests of statistical significance, those who attend Mass twice a week or less (68 percent) are more likely than those who attend almost every week (39 percent) and those who attend every week or more (45 percent) to “strongly” agree that the parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and ministries.

Differences by Generation

The older the generation respondents belong to, the *less* likely they are to “strongly agree” that the parish community is important in their life. Vatican II Generation respondents, on the other hand, are *least* likely to “strongly agree” that the parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents.

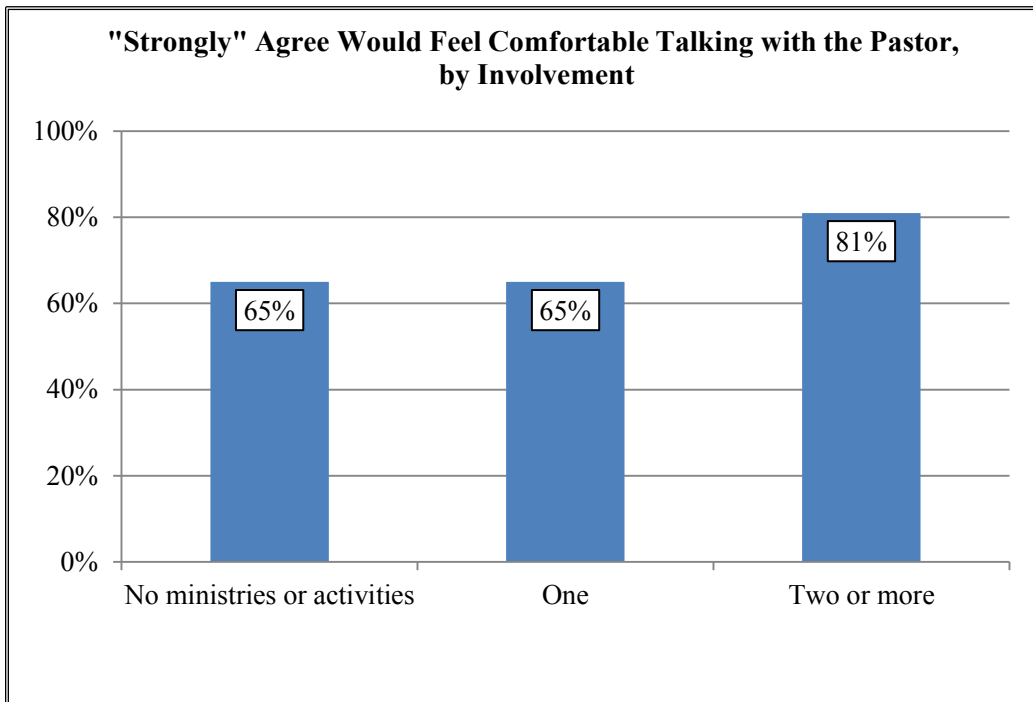
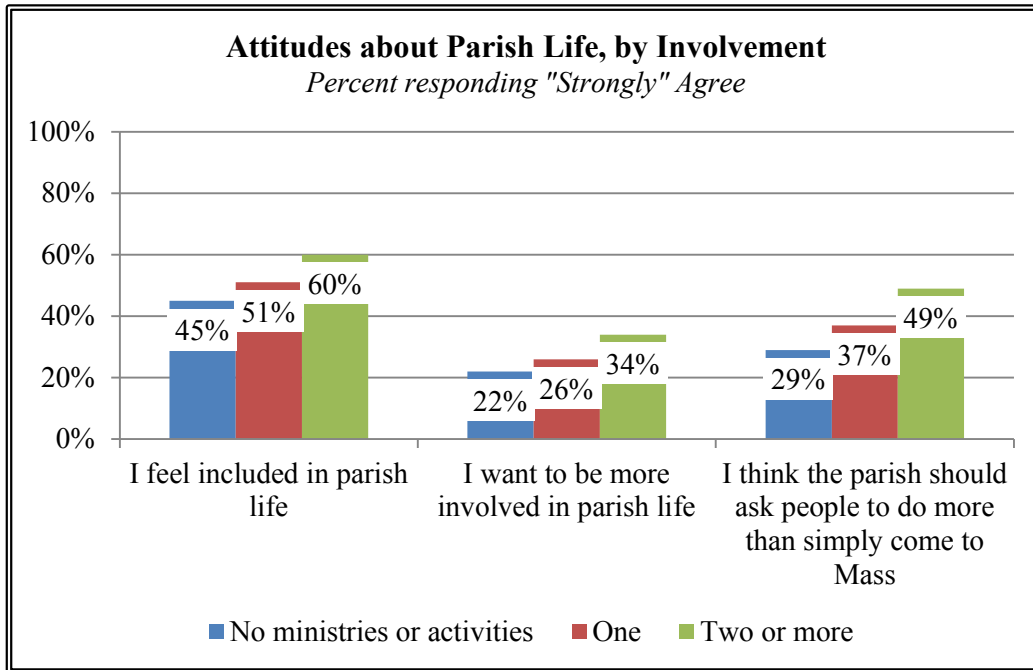


Differences by Mass Regularly Attended

Those who regularly attend the various Masses offered do *not* differ significantly in how much they agree that they would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity or that the parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities.

Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved with ministries or activities at the parish respondents are, the more likely they are to “strongly” agree the items listed in the first figure below. Those involved with at least two ministries or activities are especially likely to “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.



Times of the Week Available

The times of the week when respondents most commonly say they are available to participate in parish activities are weekday evenings, followed by weekday mornings. Respondents are *least* likely to identify Saturday evenings as a time when they are regularly most available.

<i>In a typical week, when are you regularly most available to participate in parish activities, such as committees and adult education?</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Weekday evenings	49%
Weekday mornings	15
Weekday afternoons	10
Saturday mornings	10
Sunday evenings	10
Saturday evenings	6

Those with a Strong Desire to Be More Involved in Parish Life

Those who “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life say they are most available to participate in parish activities at the following times of a typical week:

- Weekday evenings (57 percent)
- Weekday afternoons (13 percent)
- Weekday mornings (11 percent)
- Saturday mornings (10 percent)
- Sunday evenings (5 percent)
- Saturday evenings (4 percent)

Differences by Employment Status

Six in ten of those employed (self-employed, employed full time, or employed part time) state they are regularly most available to participate in parish activities on weekday evenings.

	Employed	Retired or Semi-Retired	Homemaker	Student
Weekday evenings	60%	39%	27%	36%
Weekday mornings	5	29	33	0
Weekday afternoons	1	21	33	0
Saturday mornings	13	6	0	18
Sunday evenings	14	1	7	46
Saturday evenings	7	4	0	0

- Four in ten retired and semi-retired respondents report being regularly most available to participate in parish activities on weekday evenings. Three in ten are most available on weekday mornings and two in ten on weekday afternoons.
- About three in ten homemakers are regularly most available to participate in parish activities on weekday mornings, weekday afternoons, and weekday evenings.
- Nearly half of students report being regularly most available to participate in parish activities on Sunday evenings, with just over a third most available on weekday evenings.

The Greatest Challenges Facing the Parish

Respondents were asked to write a response to this question: *What is the greatest challenge facing St Joseph Parish, Frackville, today?* Some 357 wrote in a response to that question. Appendix II presents the complete transcription of all open-ended responses to this question.

Responses can be grouped into the six broad categories below. A discussion of each category follows, with the examples lightly edited for grammar and spelling.

- Upkeep and renovation of parish facilities
- Consolidating the churches and uniting parishioners
- Financial stability
- Evangelization and better outreach to youth and young adults
- Retention of three parish sites
- Other challenges

Upkeep of and Renovation of Parish Facilities

Around four in ten of St. Joseph respondents write that the greatest challenge the parish faces is the maintenance and renovation of the current parish facilities. Examples include:

Caring for three church buildings, upkeep and maintenance.

Upkeep of church buildings.

None of the church buildings are large enough to consolidate.

Size of Church to accommodate everyone.

Structure of the Church - not handicap accessible, not well outward appearances (plaster curling, windows cracked, paint peeling, pews old).

Needs handicap accessibility.

Accessibility of facilities for aging parishioners.

Children with autism/special needs – our family has three children. We need to find a Mass within the county that has a crying room – currently St. Joseph's in Ashland is the only one.

Aging parishioners, three buildings to maintain.

Structure. Second floor condemned 27 years ago.

Churches in desperate need of major repairs – repairs to other church-owned properties.

Building repairs.

Closing buildings we don't need.

Choosing one parish church building to be part of with one priest.

Having enough money to take care of all the property we now have and use.

Trying to keep four buildings going with finances.

Keeping three churches open along with rectories and surrounding property. Keep Annunciation and St. Ann's open, close St. Joe's and sell property. St. Joe's is not handicap nor senior friendly.

Old facilities, finances, shortage of priests.

Consolidating the Churches and Uniting Parishioners

Three in ten parishioners write that consolidating the parishes is the biggest challenge the parish faces. This can include parishioners accepting that it needs to happen or the details of making it happen. Some examples include:

Getting together as a parish.

You can't keep three churches going.

Which church will be closed? Which church will remain open? Can we afford to build?

Consolidation of churches into one building.

Making parishioners realize some buildings must be closed/sold.

Parishioners accepting change. Do it already - keeping three churches open is CRAZY.

Some parishioners fail to see all three churches as one parish, ethnically some are biased.

Picking one church and one rectory.

Trying to make the best decision on consolidation as we know it is needed.

How to bring our separate factions together to function as "one" parish and "one" community.

Everyone working together as one parish community.

The unity of the three remaining churches and the upkeep of buildings.

Uniting three parishes to one church.

We need one church.

Pulling the combined parishes into one with one sense of community.

I don't think enough adults in my age bracket (30-60) see the importance of a parish family community.

People need to remember we are one.

Financial Stability

Around one in four respondents mentions financial challenges as the greatest challenge to the parish. Examples include:

Financial issues, not enough money for the things we need.

Assuring fiscal stability so that we can continue to maintain a worship site.

Becoming financially sound and much better organized. We must have the parish run as truly one body that operates and coordinates all efforts between one set of church groups/committees.

Financial security.

Lack of funds.

Money.

Meeting financial needs.

Raising money.

Fundraising.

Decreased attendance. Decreased donations. Aging volunteer population.

Financial support. Ways to help to increase finances.

The costs to keep the parish alive.

Consolidation, overhead reduction.

Stretching resources too thin, need to combine churches.

Threat of downsizing with economy.

Evangelization and Better Outreach to Youth and Young Adults

About two in ten respondents write about the need for better evangelization efforts to increase church attendance. Many comments focus on the need to have more youth and young adults come to the church and participate more. Examples include:

Evangelizing the active and inactive parishioners.

Evangelizing the faith.

Inactive Catholics.

More parishioners.

Retaining parishioners.

To increase membership.

Lack of welcome to new parishioners and inclusion into activities.

A need for more active members, especially youth.

Active young parishioners – not enough.

Youth attending Mass.

Young people leaving.

Children coming to Church.

Getting young people of parish (18-50) educated about Church traditions, history, and living a holier life.

Getting youth involved.

I would imagine younger married couples with children staying married long enough to raise their children. Divorce rate.

Our young parishioners are not involved, don't want to go to mass. Ages 18 - 20's.

Youth and young adult ministry.

Retention of All Three Parish Sites

About one in 20 writes about needing to retain all three parishes, or at least all three sites open. Examples include:

Being able to keep all three churches open.

Keeping it going and not closing the churches.

Caring for three church buildings, upkeep and maintenance.

Keeping three parishes open.

Opening all churches.

Not enough priests.

Shortage of priests.

Too much work for one priest.

Other Challenges

Less than one in 20 respondents writes about a challenge that does not fit easily into any of the above categories. Some examples include:

Continuing with the way things have been done.

Loss of traditions!

Need for enthusiasm.

The Diocese of Allentown.

Nothing, it is usually one of the better attended churches. And personally my favorite.

The inequality of the way parishes are treated.

Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions



St. Joseph Parish, Frackville, Pennsylvania

CARA – Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Some 502 respondents at the parish age 16 and over responded to the questionnaire. The percentage for each response is below or beside its respective number, calculated out of 100 percent (with some rows totaling 99 or 101 percent, due to rounding). The percentage of non-response (NR) follows, separately calculated out of 100 percent.

Please use these responses for the questions below.

- 1=Poor 3=Good
2=Fair 4=Excellent
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

Please evaluate these aspects of parish life.

- 1 2 3 4 NR
2 7 45 46 4 1. St. Joseph Parish overall
2 17 46 35 5 2. Sense of community within the parish
1 3 26 71 4 3. Vision provided by the pastor
2 7 31 60 5 4. Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith
1 7 38 54 7 5. Encouragement to share your time and talents with the parish
3 11 44 42 11 6. Outreach to and advocacy for those in need
3 12 38 46 8 7. Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing
1 3 30 66 3 8. Weekend Masses in general
2 10 38 50 4 9. Music in general
1 3 31 65 4 10. Homilies in general

Please evaluate parish efforts to:

- 1 2 3 4 NR
1 5 41 53 5 11. Communicate with parishioners
3 9 40 47 8 12. Consult with parishioners before making important decisions
1 6 38 55 5 13. Invite you to participate in parish life
1 11 45 43 6 14. Provide social activities
<1 8 49 44 10 15. Provide helpful parish office services
2 11 41 45 6 16. Explain parish finances
6 24 41 28 19 17. Reach out to inactive Catholics in the area
1 7 45 47 13 18. Cooperate with non-Catholic churches
1 5 41 54 7 19. Meet people's spiritual needs
1 7 45 48 8 20. Foster spiritual growth
1 3 37 60 5 21. Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ

Please use these responses for questions 22-63.

- 1=None 3=Some
2=Only a Little 4=High
Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

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

- 1 2 3 4 NR
11 12 39 38 14 22. Your busy schedule or lack of time
34 27 32 7 22 23. Not being aware of parish needs
53 16 21 10 24 24. Not having been personally invited

How much do the following prevent you from contributing more financially to the parish?

- 1 2 3 4 NR
50 22 20 8 22 25. Not being aware of the parish's financial needs
41 24 24 11 22 26. Not being aware of how the parish spends its money
9 6 30 56 9 27. Already contributing all you can afford

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

- 1 2 3 4 NR
1 2 9 88 3 28. Attend Mass at least once a week
11 17 27 45 9 29. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession
5 17 35 45 6 30. Attend a parish activity or function besides weekend Mass
5 25 42 27 9 31. Spend time learning more about your faith
47 27 12 14 12 32. Volunteer for a parish ministry (such as lector)
19 27 31 23 11 33. Offer your time and talent in volunteer opportunities

How important are the following to you?

- 1 2 3 4 NR
1 2 10 87 3 34. Being Catholic
1 1 18 80 4 35. Living your faith in your daily life
3 7 37 53 7 36. Learning more about your Catholic faith
1 3 11 86 3 37. Attending Mass
2 8 28 62 6 38. Being part of a parish community
4 12 43 42 7 39. The programs and activities of the parish

How much priority should the parish give to the following?

- 1 2 3 4 NR
3 12 44 41 9 40. Trinity Academy
1 3 25 71 7 41. Children's religious education/CCD
1 4 26 59 8 42. Youth ministry (ages 13-17)
1 5 40 54 9 43. Young adult ministry (ages 18-35)
1 10 47 42 10 44. Adult faith formation
2 8 41 50 7 45. Senior citizen programs
2 9 43 46 8 46. Outreach to inactive Catholics
2 3 26 69 7 47. Welcoming persons with disabilities
1 5 34 60 8 48. Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy
4 10 41 46 9 49. Ministry to the divorced and separated
1 3 28 68 8 50. Ministry to those grieving
1 2 21 76 7 51. Visitation of the sick and homebound
1 2 27 71 10 52. Nursing home ministry
5 16 42 37 13 53. Prison ministry
1 10 48 41 12 54. More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration
1 8 40 51 11 55. Fostering priestly or religious vocations
1 3 33 64 11 56. Developing a parish sense of community
1 3 25 71 9 57. Upkeep of parish facilities

Using the numbers for items 40-57 above, to which three needs should the parish give most priority?

- 58. _____ 59. _____ 60. _____

How much would you support these ways of providing ministry and worship in a time of fewer priests?

- 1 2 3 4 NR
9 12 41 38 15 61. Sharing paid staff with neighboring parishes (such as a business manager)
9 16 35 40 12 62. Sharing a priest with another parish
10 12 29 50 10 63. Consolidating parishes so that better programs can be provided centrally

Please use these responses for the questions below.

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

Please **respond** to the following.

1 2 3 4 NR

- 2 6 41 51 6 64. I feel included in parish life
- 1 4 36 59 6 65. My parish community is important in my life
- 1 12 60 27 13 66. I want to be more involved in parish life
- 2 14 55 29 13 67. The parish should give priority to helping parishioners discern their gifts and talents
- 2 17 43 38 10 68. I think the parish should ask people to do more than simply come to Mass
- 1 4 25 70 9 69. I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor
- 2 4 36 59 8 70. Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish
- 5 16 45 34 17 71. There is sufficient qualified parish staff (paid and volunteer) to meet the parish's needs
- 3 8 45 44 11 72. The parish should collaborate with other parishes in programs and activities
- 7 17 42 34 13 73. I would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity

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

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

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

- 2 1. Never or rarely 26 4. Almost every week
- 1 2. A few times a year 60 5. Every week **NR=4**
- 2 3. Once or twice a month 9 6. More than once a week

76. Which Mass do you *usually* attend at St. Joseph Parish, Frackville? **Please select only one. NR=4**

- 24 1. Saturday 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- 15 2. Saturday 5:30 p.m., Annunciation of the BVM
- 18 3. Sunday 8:30 a.m., St. Ann
- 15 4. Sunday 10:00 a.m., Annunciation of the BVM
- 25 5. Sunday 11:15 a.m., St. Joseph
- 3 6. I do not regularly attend Mass at this parish

Avg NR

35 21 77. *Years* you have attended this parish (St. Ann, St. Joseph, and/or Annunciation of the BVM)?

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

9 18 78. *Years* of formal Catholic religious education you have received (such as at a Catholic school or a CCD program)? **Write "0" if none.**

2 27 79. Number of parish *ministries or activities* you have participated in during the past year?

Yes No NR

- 27 73 62 80. *If you have children ages 5-19*, have any of them attended CCD classes here in the past 5 years?
- 15 85 65 81. *If you have children ages 5-19*, have any of them attended Trinity Academy in the past 5 years?
- 8 92 74 82. *If you have children ages 1-13*, do you plan to enroll them at Trinity Academy for the first time in the next 5 years?

Yes No NR

- 94 6 38 83. *Respond only if married*: Was your marriage blessed by the Catholic Church?
- 86 14 40 84. *Respond only if married*: Is your spouse Catholic?
- 80 20 19 85. Do you have Internet access at home or work?

86. In a typical week, when are you *regularly most available* to participate in parish activities, such as committees and adult education? **Please select only one time period. NR=36**

- 15 1. Weekday mornings 10 4. Saturday mornings
- 10 2. Weekday afternoons 6 5. Saturday evenings
- 49 3. Weekday evenings 10 6. Sunday evenings

87. Year you were *born*: 19____. **Avg=1955 NR=40**

88. Gender: 40 1. Male 60 1. Female **NR= 7**

89. What *best* describes your current marital status? **NR=5**

- 16 1. Single, never married 9 3. Divorced or separated
- 62 2. Married or remarried 13 4. Widowed

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

- 3 1. Some high school or less 10 5. Associate's degree
- 38 2. High school diploma 17 6. Bachelor's degree
- 12 3. Some college 12 7. Graduate degree
- 9 4. Trade/technical school **NR= 7**

91. Which *best* describes your current employment status?

Please select only one. NR=5

- 37 1. Employed full time 40 6. Retired
- 6 2. Employed part-time 5 7. Homemaker
- 4 3. Self-employed 0 8. Volunteer
- 2 4. Unemployed 4 9. Student
- 2 5. Semi-retired 2 10. Other _____

92. Which category *best* represents your total annual household income, including all those living with you? **NR=21**

- 14 1. Less than \$20,000 16 4. \$60,000-79,999
- 23 2. \$20,000-39,999 13 5. \$80,000-99,999
- 22 3. \$40,000-59,999 11 6. \$100,000 or above

NR= 21

93. What is the greatest challenge facing St. Joseph Parish, Frackville, today?

94. What is the most important need for St. Joseph Parish to focus on in the next 3-5 years?

Thank you for completing this survey.

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Appendix II: Complete Transcription of Open-ended Comments

Q93: What is the greatest challenge facing St Joseph Parish, Frackville, today?

1) Aging population, lack of cash flow/financial support, poor wages. 2) Young families, lack of cash flow. 3) Volunteers committed to a schedule of chosen activities. 4) Flexibility. 5) 5 p.m. Mass ON Sunday for those younger families playing sports, etc.? St. Eleanor's in Collegeville has a musical group and its crowded, attracting young and old alike.

A need for more active members, especially youth.

Accessibility of facilities for aging parishioners.

Active young parishioners - not enough.

Aging parishioners puts future of church in jeopardy.

Aging parishioners, three buildings to maintain.

All the people belong to the Parish, but don't attend regularly or at all.

Assuring fiscal stability so that we can continue to maintain a worship site.

Attendance at church.

Attendance at mass.

Attendance youth.

Attendance.

Becoming financially sound and much better organized. We must have the parish run as truly one body that operates and coordinates all efforts between one set of church groups/committees.

Becoming one - cost for opening three churches not practical. Becoming one - just like in cities - church/hall use for a lot of parishioners.

Becoming one parish not three, and communication at St. Joe's.

Being able to keep all three churches open.

Being able to keep St. Joseph's open.

Being handicap accessible.

Being one - very expensive keeping all of it.

Being one church.

Being three churches together.

Bring us all together - without people losing their faith, our buildings!

Bringing all parishioners to effectively become a community and to strive to be a parish. Closing buildings.

Bringing the three churches together as one.

Bringing young people to church.

Building and becoming ONE.

Building consolidation.

Building maintenance, financial.

Building maintenance.

Building needs repairs.

Building needs repairs.

Building repairs.

Building repairs.

Building upkeep and consolidation of all the buildings.

Building upkeep, recruiting.

Caring for three church buildings, upkeep and maintenance.

Change in residents. #73 - only if handicap accessible. [Editor's note: Q73 reads: "I would travel to a neighboring parish for a shared program or activity"].

Change of priest.

Children coming to church.

Children with autism/special needs - our family has three children. We need to find a mass within the county that has a crying room - currently St. Joseph's in Ashland is the only one.

Choosing one parish church building to be part of with one priest.

Choosing the best facilities to use for the parish. Getting the great minds of a three to work together.

Churches in desperate need of major repairs - repairs to other Church-owned properties.

Closing buildings we don't need.

Closing of one of the parishes and people to keep attending mass.

Closing of parishes.

Closing one church!

Closing one of the church buildings.

Closure.

Combine parishes.

Combining churches.

Combining into one building, with one choir, etc.

Combining parishes and religious vocations.

Communication with parishioners. Too many favorites.

Completely join the parish community getting the physical facilities consolidated.

Conforming all three churches.

Consolidate the churches into one.

Consolidate to one church. People need to face change.

Consolidating all parishes in Frackville into one church.

Consolidating and making effort but with concession of full congregation.

Consolidating buildings.

Consolidating into one place of worship.

Consolidating of the parishes.

Consolidating parishes into one church building.

Consolidating the three original parishes - parishes accepting this.

Consolidating without losing more members.

Consolidating.

Consolidating.

Consolidation financially.

Consolidation of buildings.

Consolidation of churches into one building.

Consolidation of Frackville churches and making people happy.

Consolidation of parishes.

Consolidation of the three churches into a single parish physical plant.

Consolidation overhead reduction.

Consolidation to one Parish.

Consolidation! How!?

Consolidation, funds, few people participate in parish, and youth is not a focus.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Continuing funds to upkeep our churches, e.g. fund raisers.

Continuing with the way things have been done.

Convincing young people to practice their faith.

Deciding how to move forward as a parish and stay unified without losing our own parish building memories.

Decreased attendance. Decreased donations. Aging volunteer population.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Downturn in national economy.

Encouraging parishioners to attend mass.

Encouraging young people back.

Evangelizing the active and inactive parishioners.

Evangelizing the faith.

Everyone working together as one parish community.

Extend Eucharistic Adoration.

Facilities/involvement of parishioners.

Facility large enough for three combined parishes. Unifying three parishes as one.

Finances and the possibility the churches could close.

Finances due to demographic necessity, facility consolidation.

Finances, to combining all the churches. One profitable church (St. Joseph) combined with two non-protectable churches (St. Ann and Annunciation) does not work.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances.

Finances. Keeping churches open.

Financial issues - maintaining three buildings.

Financial issues, not enough money for the things we need.

Financial needs.

Financial security.

Financial security.

Financial stability.

Financial support. Ways to help to increase finances.

Financial.

Financial.

Financial.

Financial.

Financial.

Financial.

Forced consolidation of parish with neighboring parishes.

Full parish involvement.

Fundraising.

Get along.

Getting and keeping young adults involved.

Getting {Parishioner Name's} family out of parish activities! They keep many people away!

Getting more involvement in a cohesive way to come together.

Getting more people involved in Catholic schools.

Getting more people to attend mass, especially younger people.

Getting more people to attend/participate. I think that the newer kid's activities is greatly helping this - great job! - VBS, Choir, CCD, etc... kid's mass, activities.

Getting more people to participate in parish life.

Getting new members and getting the current members to get to church more often.

Getting new young people involved in Parish life. Women of status of each church in parish.

Getting people to come to church.

Getting together as a parish.

Getting young families to attend mass and bring their children.

Getting young people of parish (age 8-50) educated about Church traditions, history, and living a holier life.

Getting younger adults committed to parish community. Making young adults feel welcome and not intimidated by the old - "lifers" at the parish.

Getting younger people to attend mass.

Getting youth involved.

Getting youth to attend mass.

Government.

Has started but ridding of labels - Like Polish, Irish - sell off some properties.

Have parishioners believe we are one and not three.

Having enough money to take care of all the property we now have and use.

Having Father Finlan work all three churches.

Having three Catholic churches run by one priest.

Having three church buildings.

Having three churches.

Having three parishes to take care of.

Heat for winter. Cool for summer.

Helping, everyone of the same page.

How to bring our separate factions together to function as "one" parish and "one" community.

I don't think enough adults in my age bracket (30-60) see the importance of a parish family community.

I would imagine younger married couples with children staying married long enough to raise their children. Divorce rate.

Inability of the church and parish to house all Catholics.

Inactive Catholics.

Inclusion of all.

Joining parishes.

Joint church union.

Keep the faith.

Keeping a church in Frackville open.

Keeping a church together.

Keeping a young and vibrant priest who is willing to donate his ministry to the N. Schuylkill area.

Keeping all three Churches open = expense is too great to have them all open.

Keeping all three churches open.

Keeping church, maintenance of physical plant.

Keeping churches open.

Keeping everything stable until the whole consolidation.

Keeping it going and not closing the churches.

Keeping it together.

Keeping open.

Keeping our parishes together by combining our separate identities.

Keeping our church open.

Keeping parish intact.

Keeping the church up.

Keeping the churches going, all three.

Keeping three building open.

Keeping three churches going and upkeep.

Keeping three churches going.

Keeping three churches open along with rectories and surrounding property. Keep Annunciation and St. Ann's open, close St. Joe's and sell the property. St Joe's is not handicap nor senior friendly.

Keeping three parishes open.

Keeping three parishes open.

Keeping up with bad repairs.

Keeping up with the expenses of three church buildings.

Keeping young parishioners engaged in Catholic faith.

Keeping younger generation interested in participating.

Lack of attendance at mass.

Lack of available priests.

Lack of funds to upkeep all three churches.

Lack of funds.

Lack of participants.

Lack of priests.

Lack of priests.

Lack of priests.

Lack of welcome to new parishioners and inclusion into activities.

Lack of young Catholics participating in church liturgy and activities.

Living our faith on a daily basis.

Loss of traditions!

Maintaining three buildings, need to settle on one.

Maintaining three churches.

Maintaining three churches.

Making it one building.

Making parishioners realize some buildings must be closed/sold.

Making the decision to close a church to meet financial need.

Meeting financial needs.

Melding together.

Member of another parish.

Membership.

Merge/Consolidation.

Merger.

Merging three parishes into one.

Money and youth not being active and young adults not being active. Concern for future when I see handful of young people attending mass.

Money for care of the church.

Money, not enough people who aren't elderly.

Money, young parishioners.

Money.

Money.

Money.

Money.

Money.

Money.

Money.

Money/lack of priests.

Money?

More parishioners.

More people.

More young people.

N/A.

Need for enthusiasm.

Need more priests in community. Can't do it alone.

Need one large facility for all churches and handicap services.

Need to choose soon to close one or two churches to help with expenses.

Needing three existing parishes to realize we are one and more assistance from them with fundraising.

Needs handicap accessibility.

Needs remodeling.

No handicap, no restroom in main floor.

None

None of the church buildings are large enough to consolidate.

Not a parishioner. Parishioner in Ashland.

Not being here in the future (lack of people + funds).

Not enough priests.

Not enough priests.

Not having enough altar servers and lectors.

Nothing, it is usually one of the better attended churches. And personally my favorite.

Old facilities, finances, shortage of priests.

One permanent church. St. Ann's - best building, best Rectory, most spacious.

One priest - one church.

Only one priest and three churches.

Opening all churches.

Operating three parishes.

Our young parishioners are not involved, don't want to go to mass. Ages 18 - 20s.

Parish finances and attendance.

Parish pride, togetherness, consolidating buildings.

Parish unity.

Parishioner's personal financial challenges and lack of new Catholics coming into the faith.

Parishioners accepting change. Do it already - keeping three churches open is CRAZY.

Participation and community.

Participation in ministries and fundraising events.

Participation of parishioners.

Participation.

Participation.

Paying for three churches and facilities.

People coming to church.

People need to remember we are one.

People not attending, forgetting the excessed.

People.

Picking one church and one rectory.

Picking one church building instead of maintaining three. Annunciation has handicap accessible, hall, and school.

Priest shortage - finance.

Priest's time.

Pulling the combined parishes into one with one sense of community.

Raising money.

Repair and upkeep of parishes.

Repairs.

Retaining parishioners.

Rising expense and aging membership.

Rising expenses as well as older membership.

Running three churches.

Shortage of priests.

Size of church to accommodate everyone.

Size of churches.

Some parishioners fail to see all three churches as one parish, ethnically some are biased.

Stay focused on keeping church as best you can. Don't get distracted by surveys. Focus on youth not adults.

Stay viable to remain open.

Stretching resources too thin, need to combine churches.

Structural old buildings. One new church needed in Frackville.

Structure of the church - not handicap access, not well appearances (plaster curding, windows cracked, paint peeling, pews old).

Structure. Second floor condemned 27 years ago.

Successfully running three churches.

Survival

Team work.

The costs to keep the parish alive.

The Diocese of Allentown.

The greatest challenge we are facing is financial.

The inequality of the way parishes are treated.

The music is terrible. There is no consistency from one mass to the next.

The need to consolidate. We cannot maintain all these buildings.

The unity of the three remaining churches and the upkeep of buildings.

The youth.

Threat of downsizing with economy.

To be more united as one church.

To close down St. Joseph to meet financial needs.

To create community and to evangelize the church and unchurched.

To get all the parish's as one.

To increase membership.

To keep open.

Too many buildings and the expenses associated with them.

Too many buildings.

Too many buildings.

Too many buildings. Not enough young people.

Too many churches to take care of financially.

Too much work for one priest.

Trying to consolidate.

Trying to gather all three parishes and make one.

Trying to keep 4 buildings going with finances.

Trying to keep all three churches going.

Trying to keep three churches going.

Trying to make the best decision on consolidation as we know it is needed.

Unify community.

Uniting three parishes to one church.

Unity of the three churches to remain.

Unity.

Unity.

Up keeping (three parishes buildings). Father Finlan brought many youths back to the Church - we need him!

Updating structure/building and parking.

Upkeep and saving money.

Upkeep of all the parish buildings.

Upkeep of church buildings.

Upkeep of old churches. Combining three church families. Keeping young people in church.

Maintain "ethnic" differences.

Upkeep three churches - financial.

Upkeep.

Upkeep.

Upkeep.

Upkeep.

We need one church.

We need to keep one church open and close the other two NOW, not wait any longer!

Whether to fix old facilities or invest in one complex to handle future needs.

Which church to keep open.

Which church will be closed? Which church will remain open? Can we afford to build?

You can't keep three churches going.

Young adult ministry 18-35.

Young Catholics to attend mass.

Young people lack a religious need.

Young people leaving.

Young people.

Young people.

Youth and young adult ministry.

Youth attending mass.

Youth involvement.

Q94: What is the most important need for St Joseph Parish to focus on in the next 3-5 years?

A church to stay open and viable.

A single parish center to bring all people together as "one" entity.

Acceptance of consolidation.

Adding parishioners.

Adequate facilities for parish.

Aging parishioners puts future of church in jeopardy.

Aging population and depressed economic area. More interest in social media than personal interaction. Handicapped accessible.

Another priest.

As above becoming one, not divided. Having one church building with handicap ramp, air conditioning, heat.

As above: new facility for all churches.

Attendance, more money.

Attendance.

Attracting more parishioners, assigning more priests/nuns/deacons to the area.

Banding together to get through the challenges we face.

Be more conservative!

Beautiful churches with ample parking and should remain open for masses.

Becoming one - under one roof.

Becoming one church.

Being one - very expensive keeping all of it.

Being one church.

Being one.

Best grounds - Picnics and other Affairs - no stage is necessary.

Bring inactive Catholics and their children back to church involvement.

Bring young adults back to the church.

Bringing in young members.

Bringing parishioners together in a united parish.

Build a central church - using religious items for all three churches. Most if cost-efficient - handicapped accessible and welcoming.

Build a new church in the center of towns, finish it with the three church altars. Statues set and center to the young married adults and children.

Building a new church for a new beginning.

Building a new church with handicap accessibility room.

Building maintenance, financial.

Building repairs.

Building the overall faith community - it's not just about dropping the kids off for CCD etc. Adults need to be more involved.

Building to accommodate all parishioners under one roof.

Cemetery.

Central location.

Childhood religious upbringing.

Children interaction at mass.

Choosing one parish.

Close some parishes.

Close St. Joseph Church on Frack St. Fire Hazard! Not handicap accessible!

Close the St. Joseph's Church since it is a wreck.

Close two churches and make one really good.

Close.

Closing at least one church. Outreach to inactive Catholics.

Closing buildings.

Closing one of the churches (St. Joseph).

Combine St. Joseph parishioners into the other two churches.

Combined churches ASAP. Altar servers, only one needed per family.

Combining all parishes in Frackville into one church.

Combining all three parishes into the best location and making the church flourish.

Combining parishes and vocations.

Combining the parish into one building.

Combining three churches into one church in Frackville, being the bigger Church.

Coming together as one group.

Coming together as one parish.

Coming together in one place of worship, one church.

Communication with parishioners.

Community with all three parishes.

Consolidate churches in town - three to one, maybe two.

Consolidate one church.

Consolidate parishes. One church - better kept.

Consolidate the three churches.

Consolidate to one building.

Consolidate to one church.

Consolidate to one church. Church would be more cost effective to operate.

Consolidating buildings.

Consolidating buildings.

Consolidating efforts and educating our children so they become participating Catholics as adults.

Consolidating three churches into one building.

Consolidating to one church building.

Consolidating to one church building.

Consolidating to one church.

Consolidating to One church.

Consolidating.

Consolidation and improve the property.

Consolidation of building usages - unity among parishioners.

Consolidation of churches.

Consolidation of parishes.

Consolidation of parishes.

Consolidation of resources.

Consolidation of three parishes into one or two.

Consolidation of three parishes.

Consolidation to one building.

Consolidation to one Parish.

Consolidation, only one church.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Consolidation.

Consolidation. Central church of worship.

Consolidation. Eliminating unnecessary expenses. Disposing of unused buildings.

Continued growth in our faith and outreach ministry.

Costs.

Cut expenses.

Debt paid off.

Decide future church.

Developing a strong community/church bond. If the churches consolidate, people will need support from each other.

Different name.

Directly and indirectly growing parishioners, not moving out of town.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Don't know.

Downsizing buildings and repair to existing churches.

Educating youth about the faith.

Education of faith.

Eliminating excess buildings.

Eliminating some of the buildings would help financially - possible the rectories or one of the churches.

Encourage more young adults to become active members.

Encouraging our young people to come and participate in mass.

Enrollment.

Establish one body.

Establish one church and build the future through our youth.

Evangelization.

Facilities management, maintenance and closures.

Facility large enough for three combined parishes. Unifying three parishes as one.

Facility upkeep and consolidation.

Faith formation. As parents of two 20-year olds - they are losing their faith - we are devastated!

Finances as is everywhere. Care of cemeteries.

Finances.

Finances.

Financial issues.

Financial planning.

Financial security, working together as a family.

Financial security.

Financial stability, organization, education (young and adult), developing a better sense of community in the parish.

Financial support to keep the parish thriving.

Financial support.

Financial upkeep of buildings. To continue offering a variety of services.

Fix St. Joseph ceiling.

Fixing the church.

Frackville only needs one church.

Fundraising and combining churches. Annunciation BVM is best for the handicap, and with the Hall to raise funds and the graveyard for picnics. It needs air conditioning and expansion.

Fundraising and consolidation.

Fundraising.

Get more lectors, people involved in fundraising, close one or two churches.

Getting along with parishioners.

Getting bigger facility.

Getting close to parishioners.

Getting everyone involved.

Getting money to renovate parish facilities.

Getting new parishioners and the young people in the church. It is full of old people.

Getting of some non-essential property to cut expenses.

Getting one church building so expenses can go down.

Getting parishioners to come to church.

Getting young people to attend.

Getting younger people to attend mass.

Getting youth involved.

Goal to lower cost, energy savings, etc.

Government.

Greater acceptance. Less judgment.

Handicap access.

Have all realize being Catholic is more important than the building you worship in.

Having one complete and viable parish. We need one or we will have none.

Having one parish instead of three and keeping in Frackville.

Helping the needy.

Hoping to see recovery in failing economy.

How to consolidate into one building, church family.

How to survive as a parish with the shortage of Priests in our Diocese.

If necessary, consolidate with other parishioners.

If need to close a church to cut division effectiveness.

If they start getting young people involved at an early age they will want to stay in the church.

Improve facilities and church programs.

Improve facilities and church programs.

Inclusion of all.

Infrastructure of the churches.

Jesus, reverence (not run out the door as soon as mass is ended).

Join together as parishioners.

Just to continue doing what they're doing. The church is great the way it is.

Keep at least one church open in Frackville.

Keep church open in Frackville - help priest.

Keep it going?

Keeping a church open.

Keeping a priest here.

Keeping accessible and vibrant.

Keeping all involved from all parishes and continue to form one parish family. One of my biggest wishes is to get married in the St. Ann's Church building, which has many memories for me. I will be crushed if I do not have this opportunity!

Keeping all churches open.

Keeping all churches open.

Keeping churches open.

Keeping Father Finlan as our priest.

Keeping Fr. Finlan.

Keeping Frackville's faith, community alive and active. Keeping our buildings open for special events (example) weddings, baptism, funerals, etc.

Keeping information available.

Keeping interesting for all ages.

Keeping it together.

Keeping parish intact.

Keeping St. Joseph Parish.

Keeping St. Joseph's open or build a new church for all parishes.

Keeping stable financially.

Keeping the churches open - raising money.

Keeping the parish unity. I fear consolidation or elimination of a physical location will hurt feelings and people will leave. We need to remind people - a building is not the Church - we are the people of the "Church."

Keeping the younger parishioners educated and active in their faith.

Keeping three churches open. St. Joe's not handicap accessible and top floor condemned. Cost efficient?

Keeping three parishes open.

Keeping up with the wonderful job on the children's programs and getting the young adults/parents to also participate in support of these programs.

Keeping young people involved in parish life.

Lack of priests.

Let members know what is actually going on in the parish. Get a room for special needs.

Maintain building or renovate one building and sell two. Father Finlan best asset!

Maintain one church building.

Maintain the positive atmosphere and willingness of people to do what they are able for the church.

Maintaining 4 parish churches/buildings.

Maintenance to keep church open and parishioners from going out of Frackville.

Maintenance, the ethnicity of the three church groups - and the churches.

Making three parishes into one.

Meet financial goals, getting people involved in groups/volunteering.

Meeting financial needs, keeping priests healthy.

Meeting the financial need of our church.

Member of another parish.

Membership.

Merge/Consolidation.

Merging into one up to date building.

Merging three parishes into one.

Ministering to parishioners and cutting costs.

Money, getting young people to stay in the church.

Money, upkeep of parish, working with other parishes and school.

More activities for the youth of churches.

More children to attend mass.

More communication with parishioners.

More financial support.

More money for parish, more activities for youth.

More service for church.

More to attend mass.

More young people going to church.

More young people.

Narrowing to one building via remodeling one.

Need for disabled parishioners to be able to attend.

Needs remodeling.

New membership.

New parishioners.

New vocations to Priesthood: addressing the seemingly dwindling number of Catholics participating.

Not being hasty and close the churches.

Not enough priests. No young parishioners.

Nursing home ministry and consolidation of buildings.

One building - one church - new name.

One building and seeing all unneeded property that is too expensive to maintain.

One church - new name (St. John Paul II), St. Anthony (for lost souls), become one sooner than later!

One church and different name.

One church.

One church.

One location.

One) Create more of a community environment. Two) Upkeep facilities. Three) Create director of music.

Outreach to non-practicing Catholics/seniors.

Parish Life. Organizations. Bringing younger people into church.

Parish re-engineering, getting folks to move forward in thinking of changing needs.

Parishioners that are really Christians will accept this change and not have negative attitudes. A community is the people, the church is just the building.

Parishioners.

Parishioners.

People to come back to church.

People.

Pick one building.

Pick one church and sell the unused properties.

Picking one church and rectory.

Possibly build new church.

Property needs.

Providing convenient location for mass for those who walk to church.

Providing food and shelter to hungry and homeless.

Pulling the combined parishes into one, with one sense of community.

Putting in a handicap ramp.

Raising money.

Raze St. Joseph Church. Rebuild church/hall on property. Incorporate altars and statins/statues from all three churches.

Really consolidating all churches.

Reconfiguration of three churches with one pastor.

Recruit more parishioners.

Reducing the amount of overhead (buildings) that we currently support.

Regional church! Expecting Father Finlan to take care of three churches plus the other buildings is expecting too much!

Renovation of facilities and financial realities.

Repair the ceiling.

Repairs.

Repairs.

Revitalizing the faith and growth in knowledge of our faith.

Running of three churches.

Saving money by closing one church.

Saving souls.

Selecting one church.

Seniors and youth Catholic education. Ask more of us and pray.

Setting aside ethnic divides and coming together as a true parish family.

Single church building. Create a sustainable economic structure by consolidating facilities.

Stay active.

Stay in one parish.

Stay small, don't expand, and focus on youth, not adults.

Staying open.

Staying open. Fundraising.

Staying strong and together.

Stretching resources too thin, need to combine churches.

Survival of being a parish- financially and spiritually.

Survival.

Survival.

Take some of the burden off Father Finlan.

Taking care of all of the properties.

Taking care of existing churches. Eliminate churches that have a lot of problems.

Taking care of the churches' graveyards.

Talk about what is happening now.

Teaching children the Catholic faith and bringing back people to Catholic Church and mass.

Teaching teens about Jesus.

Team work.

The church.

The community.

The family, keeping them together and following the Church.

The lack of religious vocations nationally - especially the way it impacts Schuylkill country.

The needs of the Parish.

Three churches are draining funds with repairs, heat, etc.

To bring the people back to church who used to go.

To build a new church with items from all three F-Ville parishes.

To finally decide what church is going to stay open, and to stop beating around the bush.

To get all the parishes as one.

To get one church and make it as strong and nice as possible.

To increase membership to the point where all the churches are full during masses.

To keep going.

To keep our parish in Frackville.

To make better use of the buildings we have and what we actually need.

To merge into one parish.

To unite as one parish.

To work together as one parish.

Transition to new building and transition of groups - unified.

Unite all parishes.

Uniting as a people of faith. The people are the church. Eucharist is more important.

Uniting three parishes to one church.

Unity - outreach programs.

Unity, one parish, one name, mission statement that reflects all the parts of the community. Flexibility to attract families. Volunteers to assist in pastoral efforts. Our priests are overwhelmed and need dedicated volunteers to lessen the burden.

Unity.

Unity.

Updating structure/building and parking.

Upkeep of an old building.

Upkeep of buildings.

Upkeep of parish.

Upkeep of the buildings.

Use St. Ann's and Annunciation.

Very good get along.

Vocation.

Ways for all to help keep things going.

We need a church always.

Weather and stay green.

Work together and build a sense of community.

Young adult evangelization.

Young adult participation, upkeep facilities, visitation of homebound.

Young and mid-adult involvement and ministry.

Young people to attend mass more often.

Young people.

Young.