

Survey of U.S. Catholic Laity on the Real Presence



The U.S. Catholic Church is facing an unprecedented crisis of faith. According to a 2019 Pew Research survey, the vast majority of U.S. Catholics no longer believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, a central tenet of our faith.

U.S. bishops responded by launching a three-year Eucharistic Revival campaign which includes a National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024. This is also the year for the conclusion of the Synod on Synodality in which Pope Francis stated that “the synodal Church is a Church of listening.”

It is in this spirit of synodality that a group of Catholics has launched a survey to assist the bishops in understanding the root causes that have contributed to the loss of faith in the Real Presence.

We are inviting U.S. lay Catholics to take this survey. It should require approximately 5 minutes to complete. Your response is completely anonymous - the survey does not request your name, email, or phone number.

There is a limit of one survey submission per device to prevent an individual from making multiple submissions.

The final question of the survey allows you to make your top recommendation to the bishops on how to restore belief in the Real Presence.

Thanks in advance for your participation in this important initiative.

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1. Are you a lay Catholic residing in the United States?

Yes

No

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You will be now presented a series of three questions, each listing a number of potential issues as to why Catholics have experienced a loss of faith in the Real Presence. You will be asked to rate each issue on a scale from having NO IMPACT to having the GREATEST IMPACT. Please rate the importance of each issue *relative* to the other issues on the list, so that you limit the number rated as having the GREATEST impact to **one or two issues per question**.

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5. Are there any other issues we may have missed that you believe have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?

No

Yes

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6. Please describe the additional issue(s).

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7. In which dioceses do you reside?

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8. What is your sex?

Male

Female

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9. What is your race or ethnicity?

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Multiracial or Multiethnic
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Another race or ethnicity, please describe below

Self-describe below:

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10. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

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11. How long have you been Catholic?

- Since infancy.
- Over 10 years.
- Between 5 and 10 years.
- Less than 5 years.

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13. Do you personally believe in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist?

- Yes, completely.
- Yes, but with some reservations or doubts.
- No

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14. Do you ever attend the Traditional Latin Mass?

- Yes - exclusively.
- Yes - periodically.
- No

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15. When attending the *Novus Ordo* Mass, do you make a conscious effort to receive the Eucharist from a Priest or Deacon instead of a lay Extraordinary Minister?

Yes

No

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16. What is your **#1 RECOMMENDATION** to the bishops on how to improve people's belief in the Real Presence?

- Encourage the practice of receiving the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling.
- Catechize the faithful (e.g., transubstantiation, worthy reception, etc.)
- Encourage greater reverence for the Eucharist (e.g., genuflecting, kneeling, prayer of thanksgiving after Mass, etc.)
- Withhold the Eucharist from public officials who obstinately reject Catholic teaching ([Canon 915](#)).
- Increase Eucharistic events (e.g., Adoration, Processions, Benedictions, etc.)
- Eliminate Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Other (please specify)