PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

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

N=15,843 Responses

PREPARED BY:

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Public Opinion Strategies

Real Presence Coalition

- Informal group of influential Catholics
- Mission: Assist U.S. Bishops in their endeavor to restore belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
- Conducted a national survey of U.S. lay Catholics to:
  - Identify the underlying issues contributing to the loss of faith.
  - Solicit recommendations from the laity on what steps should be taken to restore belief.
  - Identify the faith practices of lay respondents.
- Engaged Public Opinion Strategies to assist in this effort.

Public Opinion Strategies

- Who We Are
  - National political and public affairs research firm.
  - Founded in 1991, we have conducted over 11 million interviews with voters and consumers in all fifty states and over two dozen foreign countries.
  - Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, our nationwide presence is achieved through a strategically sited office, with twelve partners leading research efforts.
  - Clients include political candidates, government agencies, Fortune 500 corporations and industry associations throughout the country.
- Role In Project
  - Assistance in crafting the survey instrument.
  - Help interpret and present survey results.

Methodology

- Survey questions developed based upon extensive research of articles addressing the issue of faith in the Real Presence.
- Deployed via Survey Monkey, leading provider of online survey technology.
- Limited to U.S. lay Catholic respondents.
- Limited to one response per IP address.
- Response options randomly ordered to prevent bias.
- Promoted by members of the Real Presence Coalition.
- Promoted via geo-targeting to attendees of National Eucharistic Congress.
- One month in duration (July 2024).

79% of Respondents Primarily Attend the Novus Ordo Mass

Gender	Percent
Men	**37%**
Women	**63%**

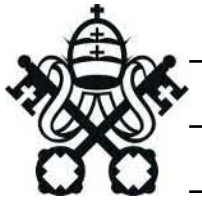
Age	Percent
<25	**6%**
25-44	**20%**
45-54	**12%**
55-64	**23%**
65-74	**24%**
75+	**16%**

Ethnicity	Percent
White	**85%**
Minority	**15%**
Hispanic	**6%**

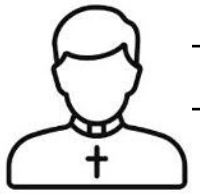
Indianapolis

NEC	Percent
Attendees	**6%**

FREQUENCY OF PARTICIPATION			
	Mass	**Confession**	**Adoration**
Daily	**16%**	**0%**	**3%**
Several Times a Week	**31%**	**0%**	**9%**
Weekly	**49%**	**11%**	**29%**
Monthly	**1%**	**47%**	**19%**
Every Other Month	**0%**	**24%**	**10%**
Annually	**0%**	**10%**	**8%**
Seldom	**2%**	**7%**	**22%**

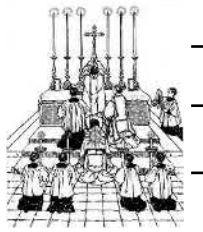


How Long Catholic	Percent
Since Infancy	**84%**
Over 10 Years	**11%**
5-10 Years	**2%**
<5 Years	**3%**



Receive from Priest	Percent
Yes	**65%**
No	**35%**

Belief in RP	Percent
Completely	**97%**
Reservations	**3%**
No	**<1%**



Type of Mass	Percent
Exclusively TLM	**21%**
Primarily NO, Occasional TLM	**43%**
Exclusively NO	**36%**

POS

Responses From All 178 Latin Dioceses

- Dioceses with no responses:
  - Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg
  - Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle of San Diego
  - Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford
  - St. Thomas Syro Malabar Diocese of Chicago
  - Syro-Malankara Eparchy
  - St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

Overall Observations

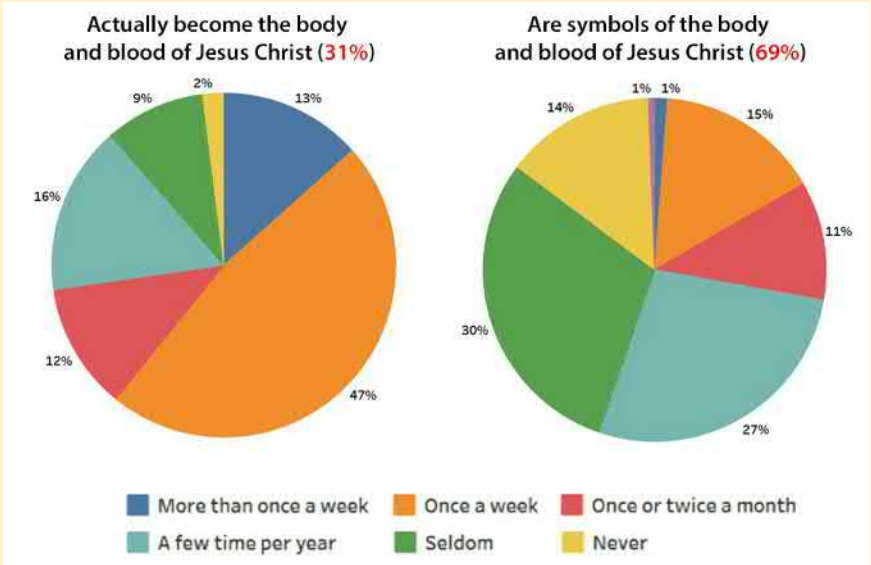
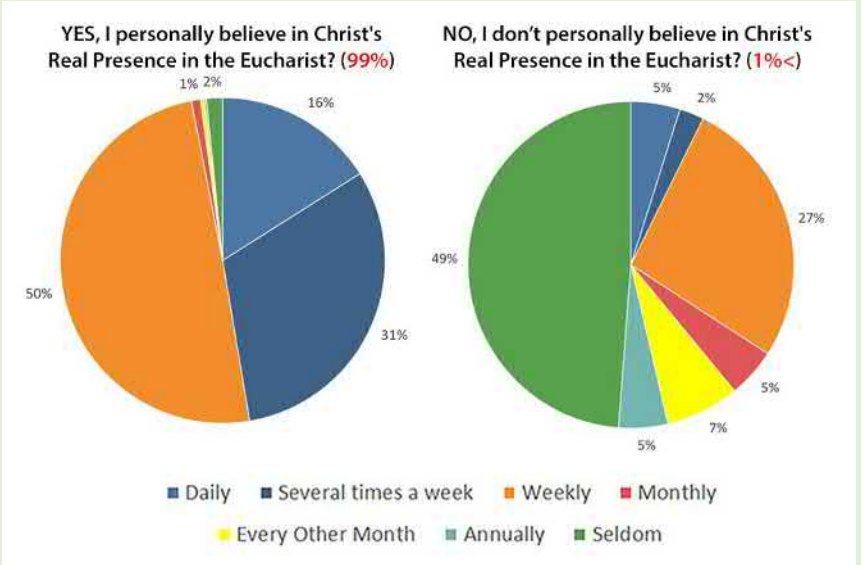
RPC Response Numbers

- **Amongst the largest surveys** of U.S. Catholics ever completed. N=15,834 with 80% completion yielding 12,680 complete responses.
- **Comparison** to other U.S. Catholic surveys:
  - ✓ Pew Religious Landscape Study (2014): N=7,202
  - ✓ Gallup Religious Service Attendance (2021-2023): N=6,934
  - ✓ Pew What Americans Know About Religion (2019): N=1,835
  - ✓ CARA Immigration Poll (2024): N=1,342
  - ✓ American National Election Studies (2016): N=631
  - ✓ World Values Survey (2017-2020): N=600

Catalyst for the Eucharistic Revival Campaign

- **Only survey** to probe underlying issues contributing to a loss of faith in the Real Presence.
- **Broad representation** across age, gender and dioceses.
- **Reliably represents** the opinions of engaged U.S. Catholics.
- **Key differences** compared to other surveys on the Eucharist (Pew and CARA):
  - Sample size.
  - More highly engaged Catholics.
  - Root causes for loss of faith in Real Presence.

Belief in Real Presence Corresponds to Frequency of Mass Attendance

Attribute	Pew Poll	RPC Survey
Question / Response	**Regardless of the official teaching of the Catholic Church, what do you personally believe about the bread and wine used for Communion? During Catholic Mass, the bread and wine…** 1. Actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ (31%) 2. Are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ (69%)	**Do you personally believe in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist?** 1. Yes, completely (97%) 2. Yes, but with some reservations (3%) 3. No (1%<)
Completed Responses	1,835	12,680
Demographics	**GENDER** Men: 45% Women: 55% **AGE** 18 – 29: 4% 30 – 49: 22% 50 – 64: 35% 65+: 39% **RACE** White: 43% Black: 3% Hispanic: 40% Other: 10% Refused: 4%	**GENDER** Men: 37% Women: 63% **AGE** < 25: 6% 25 – 44: 20% 45 – 54: 12% 55 – 64: 23% 65 – 74: 24% 75+: 16% **RACE** White: 85% Hispanic: 6% Other: 15%
At Least Weekly Mass Attendance	32%	96%
Beliefs vs. Frequency of Mass Attendance		
	82% of those who **don't believe** in the Real Presence sporadically or never attend Mass.	**66%** of those who **don't believe** in the Real Presence sporadically or never attend Mass.

QUESTION: What Issues Have Had Greatest Impact?

Rank	Issue	Category	None 0	Negligible 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Greatest 5	Weighted Average
1.	Receiving the Eucharist in the hand while standing.	Laity	5.31%	3.32%	5.34%	9.08%	19.22%	57.74%	4.07
2.	Scandal created by offering the Holy Eucharist to public sinners who obstinately reject Catholic teaching.	Clergy	1.87%	1.42%	2.76%	8.08%	29.66%	56.20%	4.31
3.	Lack of humility and reverence in the presence of the Eucharist.	Laity	1.49%	0.94%	1.84%	7.30%	33.86%	54.56%	4.35
4.	Clergy's casual attitude towards the Eucharist.	Clergy	2.17%	1.72%	3.06%	8.68%	33.06%	51.30%	4.23
5.	Failure to catechize the faithful on transubstantiation.	Clergy	1.23%	0.92%	2.72%	10.66%	35.00%	49.48%	4.26
6.	Failure to regularly remind the faithful they must be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist.	Clergy	1.50%	1.37%	2.87%	10.14%	36.08%	48.04%	4.22
7.	Removal of the tabernacle from the center of the sanctuary.	Liturgy	2.68%	2.10%	3.69%	9.12%	34.92%	47.50%	4.14
8.	Loss of emphasis of the Mass as a sacrifice.	Liturgy	2.25%	1.52%	3.67%	11.38%	35.78%	45.39%	4.13
9.	Failure to remind the faithful that the Eucharist is necessary for their salvation.	Clergy	1.76%	1.31%	3.51%	11.67%	36.39%	45.37%	4.16
10.	Loss of sense of supernatural transcendence.	Liturgy	2.44%	1.41%	3.32%	12.24%	38.32%	42.28%	4.09
11.	Homosexuality in the priesthood.	Clergy	3.34%	3.81%	6.78%	14.16%	30.43%	41.48%	3.89
12.	Use of Extraordinary Ministers results in a lost sense of the sacred and a distorted view of the lay apostolate.	Liturgy	5.10%	4.24%	6.98%	13.06%	32.75%	37.86%	3.78
13.	Clergy sexual abuse scandal.	Clergy	1.96%	3.67%	8.60%	18.93%	32.52%	34.31%	3.79
14.	Cessation of Ad Orientem worship where both the laity and the priest face God.	Liturgy	6.95%	5.09%	8.21%	15.49%	33.06%	31.19%	3.56
15.	Removal of the altar rails.	Liturgy	6.58%	3.91%	6.96%	15.54%	36.97%	30.04%	3.63
16.	Lack of Eucharistic events such as adoration, processions, benedictions, etc.	Clergy	1.74%	1.80%	5.20%	19.81%	43.07%	28.39%	3.86
17.	Socializing in the church.	Laity	4.21%	4.39%	8.72%	19.51%	38.93%	24.25%	3.57
18.	Failure to educate the faithful on Eucharistic miracles.	Clergy	1.64%	2.61%	9.42%	26.56%	36.68%	23.10%	3.63
19.	Loss of beauty in architecture and liturgy.	Liturgy	3.82%	3.37%	6.99%	21.37%	42.87%	21.58%	3.61
20.	Sacred music replaced with contemporary music.	Liturgy	4.53%	4.03%	7.78%	20.54%	41.74%	21.37%	3.55
21.	Failure to offer adequate thanksgiving in prayer after receiving the Eucharist.	Laity	2.18%	2.51%	7.03%	25.02%	43.26%	20.00%	3.65
22.	Loss of periods of silence.	Liturgy	3.52%	3.71%	9.60%	24.91%	38.84%	19.42%	3.5
23.	Presence of female altar servers.	Liturgy	11.14%	7.36%	12.89%	19.65%	30.12%	18.84%	3.07
24.	Abandoning the use of Latin.	Liturgy	8.56%	6.84%	12.83%	24.22%	28.84%	18.71%	3.14
25.	Failure to use Eucharistic Prayer #1.	Clergy	7.59%	7.85%	15.03%	26.07%	27.86%	15.61%	3.06
26.	Failure to wear clerical attire in public.	Clergy	6.11%	7.16%	13.31%	25.21%	32.67%	15.54%	3.18
27.	Belief there is a conflict between faith and science.	Laity	5.51%	7.87%	16.29%	28.42%	28.83%	13.09%	3.06
28.	Shortening the length of the fast prior to receiving the Eucharist.	Laity	6.63%	7.72%	17.64%	31.70%	26.57%	9.73%	2.93

While weighted average offers a balanced representation of opinions across all categories, the issues with the "GREATEST" percent score reflects the highest level of intensity.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

1. Receiving the Eucharist in the hand while standing.

- **Preference for Traditional Reception Practices:** Many respondents advocate for the reception of the Eucharist kneeling and on the tongue, as they believe this posture reflects greater reverence and respect for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. They feel this practice should be strongly encouraged in all parishes.
- **Concerns Over Communion in the Hand:** There is significant concern regarding the practice of receiving Communion in the hand. Many believe it leads to a loss of reverence and increases the risk of profaning the Eucharist, particularly if fragments of the host are lost or if recipients do not consume the host immediately.
- **Issues with Extraordinary Ministers:** Respondents express discomfort with the use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, suggesting that only priests and deacons should distribute the Eucharist. They believe this would emphasize the sacred nature of the sacrament and reduce instances of irreverence.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

2. Scandal of offering the Eucharist to public sinners who obstinately reject Catholic teaching.

- **Lack of Enforcement Against Public Figures:** Many respondents are frustrated with the failure of Church authorities to enforce Canon 915, particularly regarding Catholic politicians who publicly support abortion and other positions contrary to Church teachings, who continue to receive Communion.
- **Perceived Hypocrisy and Weak Leadership:** There is a strong perception that Church leaders, including bishops and the Pope, are inconsistent and weak in upholding Canon 915. This perceived leniency towards public figures who openly oppose Church teachings is seen as undermining the Church's moral authority and causing scandal among the faithful.
- **Impact on Faith and Trust:** Allowing public figures who defy core Catholic teachings to receive Communion has led to a loss of trust in Church leadership among the laity. Many feel that this failure to act according to Canon 915 diminishes the reverence for the Eucharist and sends a message that the Church's teachings are not taken seriously.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

3. Lack of humility and reverence in the presence of the Eucharist.

- **Lack of Reverence in Worship:** Many respondents expressed concern over a general decline in reverence during Mass, noting behaviors such as casual dress, loud talking, and treating the Mass as a social event rather than a solemn, sacred ceremony.
- **Clergy's Role in Diminishing Reverence:** There is significant criticism of the clergy's lack of reverence, with reports of priests rushing through liturgical prayers, failing to handle the Eucharist and sacred vessels with care, and not emphasizing the sacredness of the rituals, which sets a poor example for the laity.
- **Neglect of Traditional Practices:** The feedback highlights a move away from traditional reverential practices, such as genuflecting, kneeling, and maintaining silence in the church, contributing to a diminished sense of the sacred among both clergy and laity.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

4. Clergy's casual attitude towards the Eucharist.

- **Lack of Belief in the Real Presence:** Many respondents feel that a significant number of clergy do not genuinely believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This perceived lack of faith is evident in their casual behavior during Mass and their failure to convey the sacredness of the Eucharist, leading to a similar attitude among the laity.
- **Casual and Irreverent Conduct:** There is widespread concern about the casual and sometimes irreverent conduct of priests during liturgical celebrations. Examples include rushing through the Mass, making jokes, and failing to maintain a solemn atmosphere, which diminishes the sense of sacredness and reverence among the congregation.
- **Failure to Uphold Catholic Teachings:** Many respondents criticize the clergy for not adhering strictly to traditional Catholic teachings and practices. This includes a lack of emphasis on core doctrines, inadequate catechesis, and a perceived focus on political correctness over doctrinal integrity, which undermines the faith of the laity.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

5. Failure to catechize the faithful on transubstantiation.

- **Poor Catechesis Across Generations:** Many respondents noted that there has been inadequate catechesis for several decades, affecting both children and adults. This includes a lack of proper education on fundamental aspects of the Catholic faith, such as the Real Presence in the Eucharist and the significance of Mass.
- **Need for Improved Religious Education:** There is a strong call for better religious education in Catholic schools, CCD programs, and for adults. Suggestions include teaching the Catechism more thoroughly, focusing on the biblical basis of Catholic teachings, and providing ongoing catechetical education beyond childhood.
- **Inadequate Training and Resources:** The feedback indicates a lack of well-trained catechists and effective educational materials, leading to confusion and a diluted understanding of the faith among the laity. There is a demand for more comprehensive and engaging resources, as well as greater involvement from priests in teaching the faith.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

6. Failure to regularly remind the faithful they must be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist.

- **Lack of Emphasis on Being in a State of Grace:** Many respondents are concerned that there is insufficient emphasis on the need to be in a state of grace before receiving the Eucharist. They feel that the clergy often fail to remind the congregation about the importance of confession and being free from mortal sin to worthily receive Communion.
- **Inadequate Instruction for Non-Catholics:** There is a recurring issue with non-Catholics and those not properly disposed being allowed or encouraged to receive Communion, especially at weddings, funerals, and other special occasions. This lack of proper guidance undermines the sacredness of the sacrament and confuses both Catholics and non-Catholics about the Church's teachings on the Eucharist.
- **Poor Catechesis on the Eucharist and Sin:** Respondents highlighted a need for better catechesis regarding the Eucharist and the conditions for receiving it. This includes teaching about the Real Presence, the dangers of receiving unworthily, and the necessity of confession. The omission of scripture passages addressing unworthy reception in the Mass readings further contributes to this lack of understanding.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

7. Removal of the tabernacle from the center of the sanctuary.

- **Inappropriate Placement and Accessibility:** There are significant complaints about the tabernacle being moved from its central position on the altar to less prominent locations, such as side chapels or corners. This change is perceived as indicating a lack of importance and respect for the Eucharist, making it less accessible for worship and adoration.
- **Lack of Reverence for the Tabernacle:** Many respondents expressed concern over the lack of reverence shown to the tabernacle, such as failing to genuflect or bow when passing it, casual behavior around it, and laypeople accessing it. This behavior is seen as diminishing the recognition of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- **Locked Churches and Limited Adoration:** Respondents are frustrated with churches being locked outside of Mass times, which limits opportunities for prayer and adoration in the presence of the tabernacle. This practice is viewed as a lack of belief in the importance of Jesus's presence in the tabernacle and a failure to encourage devotion among the faithful.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

8. Loss of emphasis of the Mass as a sacrifice.

- **Shift from Sacrifice to Meal:** Many respondents are concerned that the Mass is increasingly being referred to as a "meal" rather than a "sacrifice," which diminishes the understanding of the Eucharist as the sacrificial offering of Christ. This shift in terminology and focus leads to a reduction in the recognition of the Mass's true nature as the unbloody representation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary.
- **Impact of Liturgical Changes:** There is significant criticism of liturgical changes that emphasize the communal and meal aspects of the Mass over its sacrificial elements. This includes the use of language and hymns that highlight "bread and wine" instead of the Body and Blood of Christ, and the positioning of the altar as a table rather than an altar of sacrifice, which can confuse the faithful about the true purpose of the Mass.
- **Need for Better Catechesis:** Respondents emphasize the need for better catechesis on the sacrificial nature of the Mass. They believe that many Catholics, including priests, have not been adequately taught about the Mass as a sacrifice, leading to misunderstandings and a diminished sense of reverence and worship during the liturgy.

Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

9. Failure to remind the faithful that the Eucharist is necessary for their salvation.

- **Neglect of Evangelization and Catechesis:** Many respondents feel that the Church has failed in its duty to evangelize effectively and teach the necessity of salvation through the Catholic faith. They believe there is a lack of emphasis on the Church's unique role in the salvation of souls and that the faithful are not adequately instructed on the importance of salvation and the requirements for attaining it.
- **Inconsistent Messaging and Actions:** There is concern over inconsistent messaging from Church leaders, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when churches were closed, and access to sacraments was restricted. This gave the impression that sacraments, essential for salvation, were not truly vital, undermining the Church's teachings on the necessity of the Eucharist and other sacraments for salvation.
- **Focus on Social Issues Over Spiritual Needs:** Many respondents criticize the Church's current focus on social justice issues at the expense of addressing the spiritual needs of the faithful, particularly regarding the salvation of souls. They feel that teachings on sin, repentance, and the importance of being in a state of grace for salvation are often neglected in favor of more secular concerns.

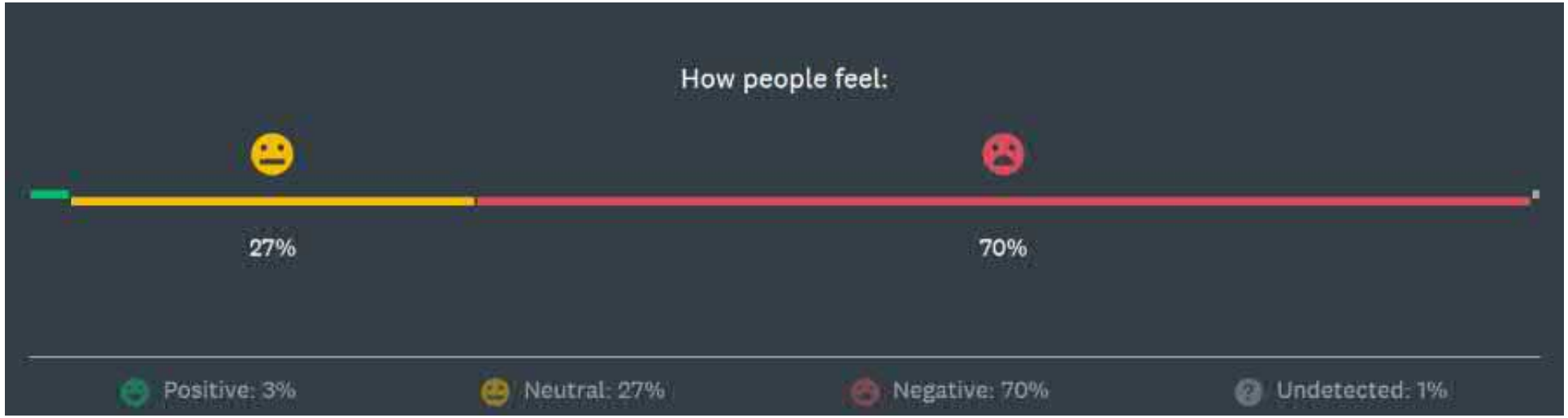
Top 10: Open-Ended Feedback by Issue

10. Loss of sense of supernatural transcendence.

- **Loss of Sense of Sacredness:** Many respondents expressed concern about a significant loss of sacredness in the liturgy and church environment. This includes a decrease in the use of traditional elements like incense, silence, and reverent behavior, as well as a general casual attitude toward the Eucharist and the church space, which undermines the sense of being in a sacred place.
- **Neglect of Supernatural Beliefs:** There is a strong sentiment that the Church has neglected teachings on the supernatural aspects of the Catholic faith, such as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the existence of angels and demons, and the importance of supernatural grace. This neglect has led to a diminished understanding and belief in these core aspects of Catholic doctrine among the laity.
- **Influence of Secular Culture:** Respondents noted that the assimilation of secular culture into church practices has contributed to a decline in the sense of sacredness and the supernatural. The focus on making the Mass more accessible and relatable has, in many cases, led to a loss of transcendence and mystery, making the sacred seem ordinary and diminishing the unique spiritual experience of the Mass.

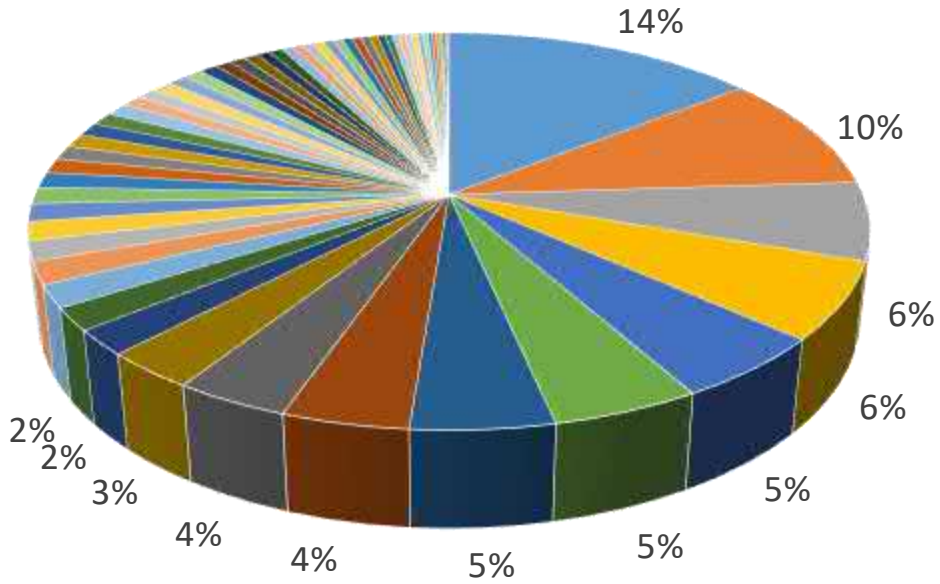
Details Regarding Open-Ended Feedback on the Issues

- Extraordinary percent of respondents (42%) elected to provide open-ended feedback which was highly consistent with ranking responses:
  - Total of 5,313 responses
  - Over 220,000 words of feedback.
- All open-ended feedback made available in two formats:
  - Online table with search and filtering capabilities.
  - Audio podcast with over 29 hours of comments on the issues.
- Sentiment analysis showed 70% of comments were critical in nature.



Topic Frequency of Open-Ended Feedback on the Issues

- Each of the over 5300 comments categorized using one or more of 60 different topic tags
- Top categories included:
  1. Catechesis
  2. Leadership
  3. Reverence
  4. Attire
  5. Eucharist Reception
  6. Liturgical Practice



- Catechesis
- Leadership
- Reverence
- Attire
- Eucharist Reception
- Liturgical Practice
- TLM
- Modernism
- Confession
- Homilies
- COVID
- Devotions
- Sin
- Silence/Distractions
- LGBTQ+ Issues
- Family
- Vatican II
- Fear/Cowardness
- Schools
- Availability/Access
- Other
- Abortion
- Extraordinary Ministers
- Lack of Faith
- Worthy Reception
- Ecumenism
- Persecuted Clergy
- Sign of Peace
- Scandals
- Music
- Lukewarmness
- Canon 915
- Confusion
- Politics
- Relationship with Jesus
- Role of Women
- Holiness
- Loss Sense of the Sacred
- Living the Faith
- Meal vs Sacrifice
- Community
- Priestly Formation
- Evangelization
- Applause
- Social Justice
- Beauty
- Lack of Discipline
- Liturgical Calendar
- Public Witness
- Division
- Fasting
- Sacraments
- Welcoming
- Judgmental
- Vocations
- Closures
- Priestly Duties
- Revelation
- Penance
- Lex Orandi/Lex Credendi

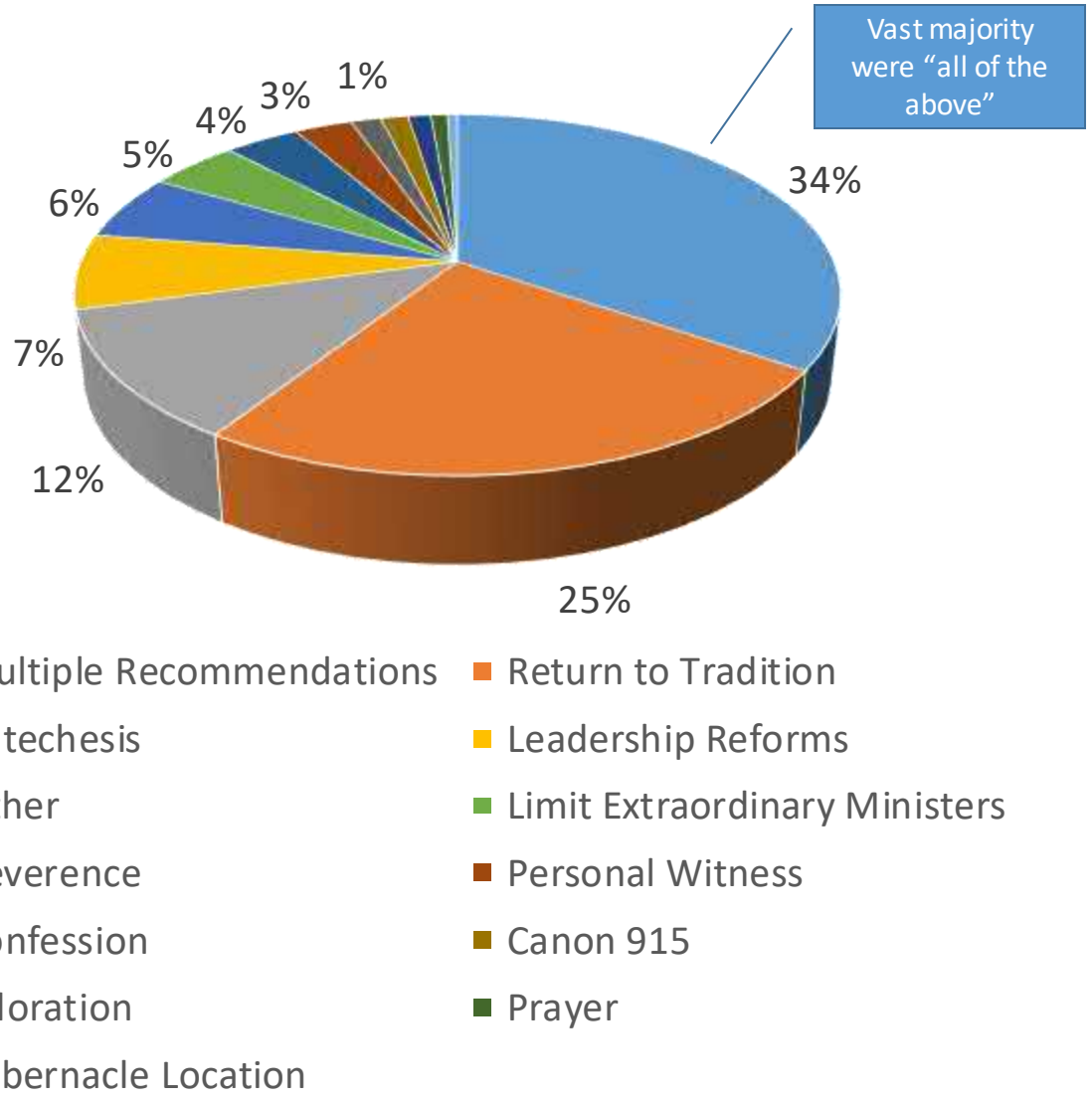
QUESTION: What Is Your #1 Recommendation to the Bishops?

Rank	Option	Percent
1.	Encourage the practice of receiving the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling.	29%
2.	Catechize the faithful (e.g., transubstantiation, worthy reception, etc.)	24%
3.	Encourage greater reverence for the Eucharist (e.g., genuflecting, kneeling, prayer of thanksgiving after Mass, etc.)	10%
4.	Eliminate Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.	10%
5.	Withhold the Eucharist from public officials who obstinately reject Catholic teaching (Canon 915).	9%
6.	Increase Eucharistic events (e.g., Adoration, Processions, Benedictions, etc.)	4%
7.	Other (please specify)	15%
	TOTAL	100%

- Top recommendation exceeds second highest by nearly 6%
- Second recommendation exceeds third highest by 14%

Recommendations: Open-Ended Responses

- 1,944 (15%) respondents selected “Other” from list of standardized recommendations.
- Open-ended responses classified by assigning topic to each response.
- Results available in two formats:
  - Online table providing ability to filter responses by topic.
  - Audio podcast of over 4 hours of recommendation comments.



Summary of Open-Ended Recommendations for Top 4 Categories

1. Multiple Responses

- The overwhelming majority of respondents believe that all suggested actions are important and should be implemented together rather than selecting just one. Many express that a comprehensive approach is necessary to improve belief in the Real Presence.

Summary of Open-Ended Recommendations for Top 4 Categories

2. Return to Tradition

- **Strong Preference for Traditional Latin Mass (TLM)**: Many respondents advocate for a return to the Traditional Latin Mass, emphasizing its role in fostering reverence and a deeper sense of the sacred. There is a call to make TLM more accessible.
- **Desire for Increased Reverence and Traditional Practices**: Participants express a desire for the restoration of traditional practices, such as receiving Communion on the tongue while kneeling, the use of altar rails, and the priest facing Ad Orientem during Mass. These changes are seen as essential for promoting a greater respect for the Eucharist.
- **Concerns about Vatican II Reforms**: There is significant criticism of the changes brought about by Vatican II, with many calling for a return to pre-Vatican II norms and liturgical practices. This includes a strong opposition to modernist clergy and liturgical innovations.

Summary of Open-Ended Recommendations for Top 4 Categories

3. Catechesis

- **Emphasis on Catechesis**: Many respondents highlight the importance of catechizing the faithful about the Eucharist, focusing on its sacredness, the concept of transubstantiation, and Eucharistic miracles. They believe better education will lead to a stronger belief in the Real Presence and proper reception of the Eucharist.
- **Need for Reverence and Proper Conduct**: There is a strong call for greater reverence in the Church, including the behavior of both clergy and laity. Respondents suggest actions like promoting silence before and after Mass, educating on proper posture during Mass, and ensuring that Eucharistic practices reflect the sanctity of the sacrament.
- **Withholding Communion from Those Opposed to Church Teachings**: Some feedback suggests withholding Communion from individuals, particularly public figures, who openly reject or contradict Catholic teachings. This is seen as a way to uphold the sanctity of the Eucharist and reinforce Church doctrine.

Summary of Open-Ended Recommendations for Top 4 Categories

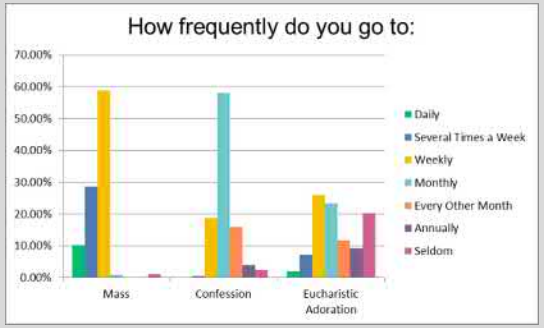
4. Leadership Reforms

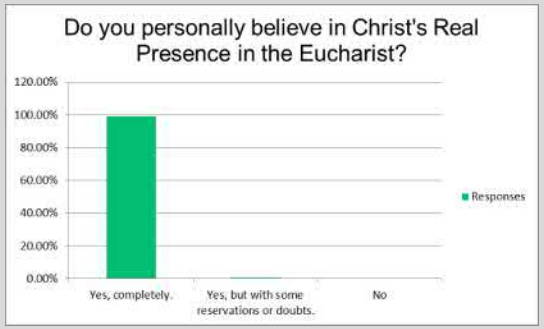
- **Call for Accountability and Reform**: Many respondents emphasize the need for the Church to address and take strong action against abuses, both sexual and financial, within its leadership. There is a demand for more transparency, accountability, and stricter consequences for those who have been involved in or have covered up misconduct.
- **Desire for Authentic Leadership and Faith**: There is a strong call for clergy, including bishops and priests, to lead by example in both belief and action. Respondents urge Church leaders to demonstrate a genuine commitment to Catholic teachings and the Real Presence, advocating for leadership that reflects holiness, courage, and integrity.
- **Rejection of Modernism and Clericalism**: A significant portion of feedback expresses dissatisfaction with perceived modernist influences within the Church. Respondents call for a return to traditional values and practices, rejecting what they see as compromise with contemporary culture and advocating for a more orthodox, uncompromising approach to Church teachings.

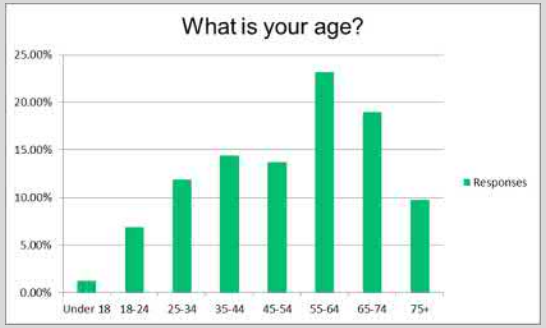
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS: Traditional Latin Mass vs Novus Ordo

- TLM attendees more frequently attend weekly Mass (8%)
- TLM attendees more frequently attend confession (13% weekly and 21% monthly)
- TLM attendees have greater belief in the Real Presence (5%)
- TLM attendees are decidedly younger than the NO (18% more under the age of 55)

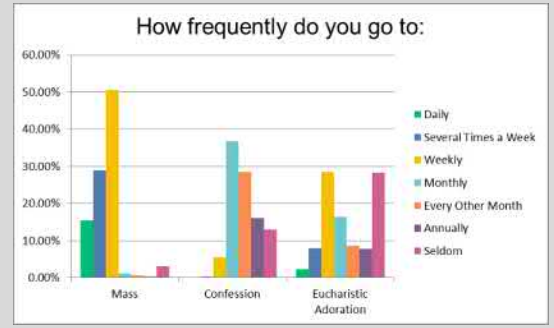
Exclusive TLM Attendees (21%)

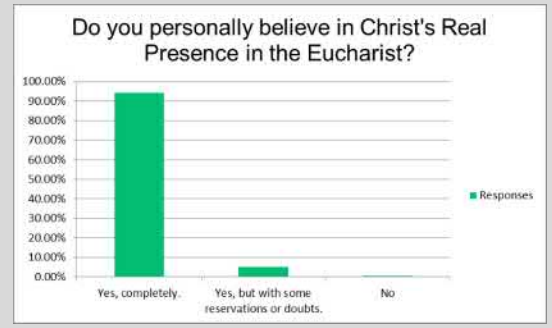


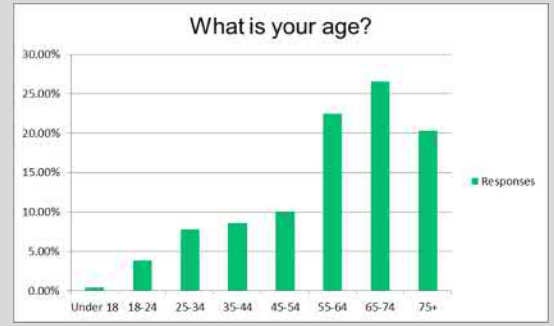




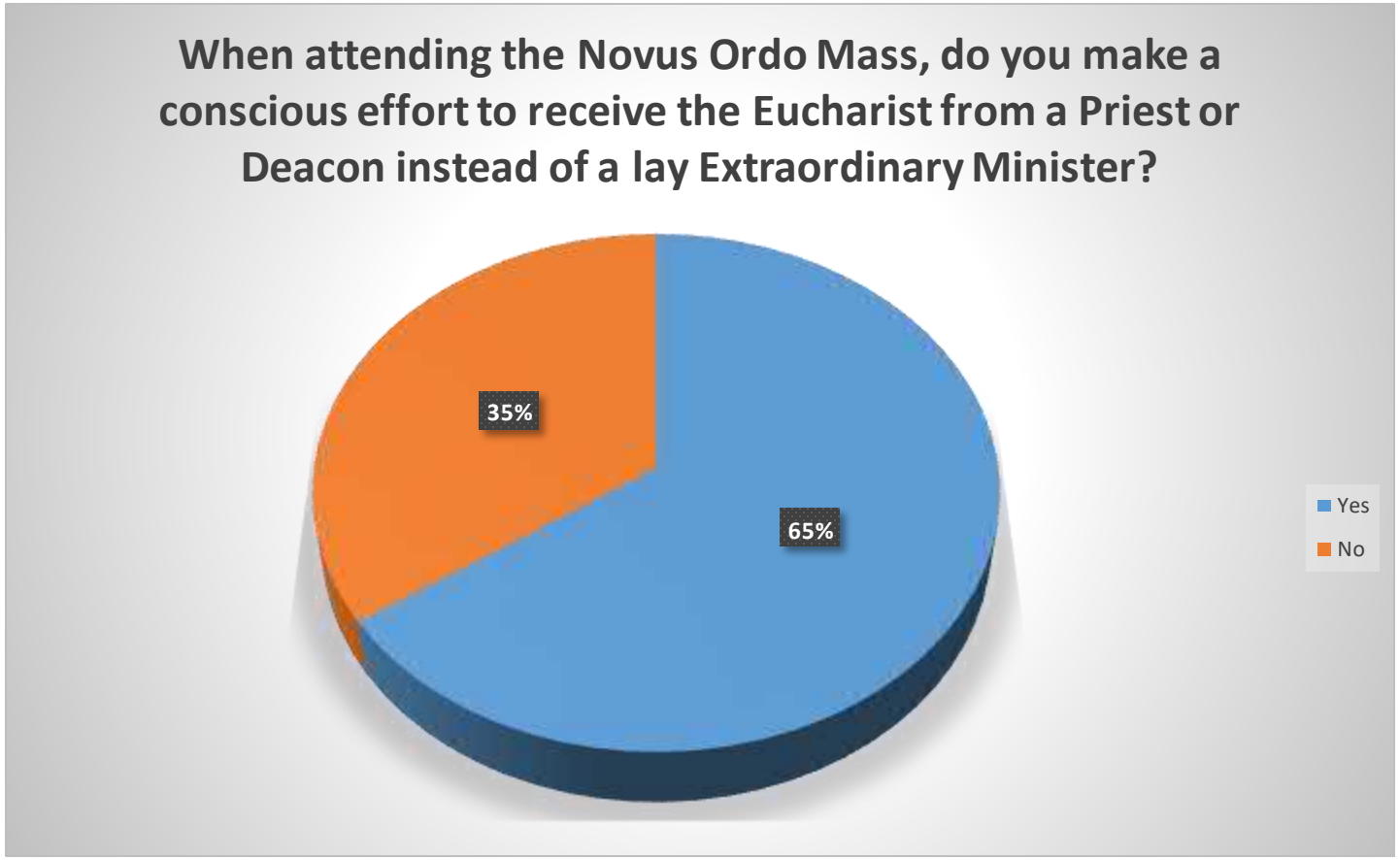
Exclusive NO Attendees (36%)







ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS: Most NO Attendees Seek to Receive the Eucharist from a Priest or Deacon.



ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS: Young Catholics Attend Confession More Frequently

Young (under 18 - 34)			
	At Least Weekly	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month
Mass	97.88%	98.67%	99.46%
Confession	20.51%	69.03%	89.78%
Adoration	30.40%	54.78%	70.67%

Middle Age (35-64)			
	At Least Weekly	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month
Mass	96.73%	97.82%	98.12%
Confession	11.41%	60.21%	84.68%
Adoration	37.71%	58.25%	69.03%

Elderly (65+)			
	At Least Weekly	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month
Mass	96.18%	96.94%	97.32%
Confession	7.62%	52.53%	78.36%
Adoration	48.35%	63.72%	69.99%

Young to Compared to Middle Age			
	At Least Weekly	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month
Mass	1.15%	0.85%	1.34%
Confession	9.10%	8.82%	5.10%
Adoration	-7.31%	-3.47%	1.64%

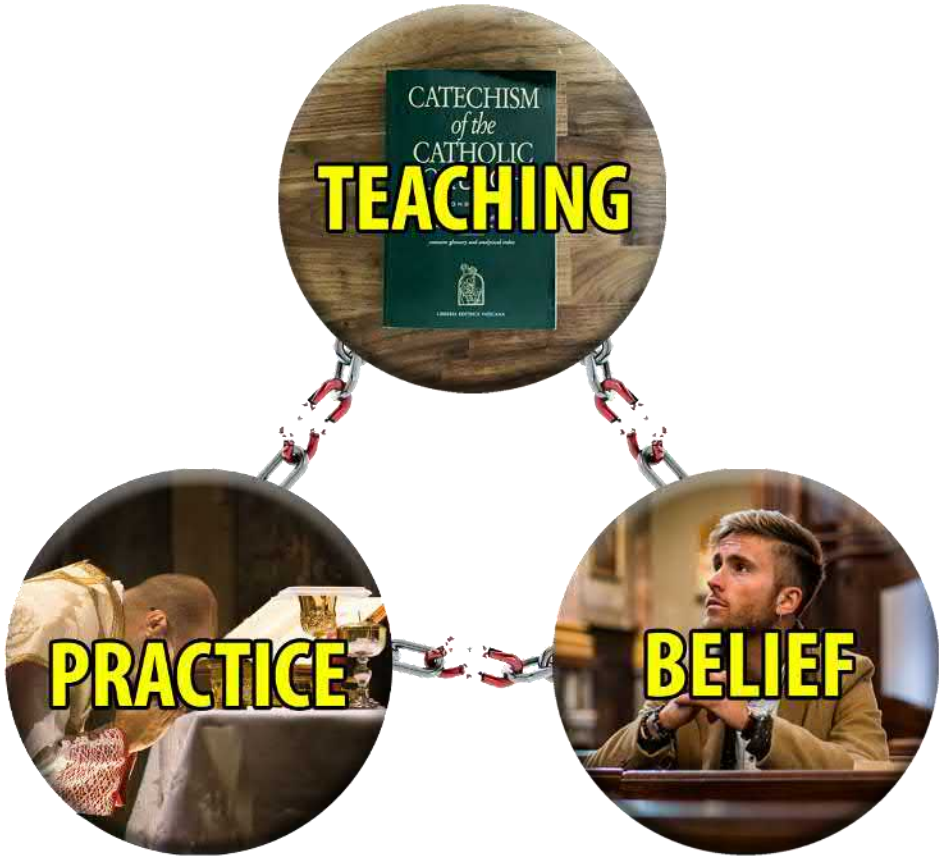
Young Compared to Elderly			
	At Least Weekly	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month
Mass	1.70%	1.73%	2.14%
Confession	12.89%	16.50%	11.42%
Adoration	-17.95%	-8.94%	0.68%

Related Findings from U.S. Regional Synod Reports

- **Centrality of the Eucharist**: Across all regions, the Eucharist is emphasized as the "source and summit" of Catholic life. Participants highlighted its role in fostering personal faith and community unity, but there is a widespread concern about declining understanding and reverence for the Real Presence.
- **Need for Catechesis**: Many regions expressed the need for renewed and deeper catechesis on the Eucharist, especially to address misunderstandings among younger generations and reemphasize the theological significance of the Real Presence.
- **Declining Mass Attendance**: A major concern in nearly every region is the decline in regular Mass attendance, particularly among young people. The pandemic exacerbated this trend, with many parishes struggling to bring people back to in-person worship.
- **Reverence and Liturgy**: Participants called for more reverent and meaningful liturgical celebrations. This includes calls for better homilies, music, and preparation to restore the sense of sacredness and improve engagement in the Eucharistic celebration.
- **Traditional Latin Mass**: Some regions noted tensions regarding preferences for the Traditional Latin Mass versus the Novus. Participants expressed frustration over the limitations on celebrating the Latin Mass.

Conclusion

- Overall findings best summarized by the ancient Latin maxim: "Lex Orandi, Lex Credenda"
  - Catholics recognize a disconnect between faith and worship.
  - This disconnect has been **the major contributor** to a loss of faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
  - Bishops must repair this connection to restore belief in the Real Presence.
  - There's No single "silver bullet" answer: the solution will require an integrated, multifaceted approach.
- Results available at https://realpresencecoalition.com
  - Executive Summary
  - This Presentation
  - Tables of Open-Ended Feedback on Issues and Recommendations
  - Podcast of all Open-Ended Feedback (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.)
  - Original Survey Instrument



Questions and Answers

Appendix

*"**REGARDING THE LITURGY**: To what extent do you believe the following issues have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?"*

Ranked by % Greatest	None	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Greatest	Mean
Removal of the tabernacle from the center of the sanctuary.	3%	2%	4%	9%	35%	48%	4.14
Loss of emphasis of the Mass as a sacrifice.	2%	2%	4%	11%	36%	45%	4.13
Loss of sense of supernatural transcendence.	2%	1%	3%	12%	38%	42%	4.09
Use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion results in a lost sense of the sacred and a distorted view of the lay apostolate.	5%	4%	7%	13%	33%	38%	3.78
Cessation of Ad Orientem worship where both the laity and the priest face God.	7%	5%	8%	15%	33%	31%	3.56

*"**REGARDING THE LITURGY**: To what extent do you believe the following issues have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?"*

Ranked by % Greatest	None	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Greatest	Mean
Removal of the altar rails.	7%	4%	7%	16%	37%	30%	3.63
Loss of beauty in architecture and liturgy.	4%	3%	7%	21%	43%	22%	3.61
Sacred music replaced with contemporary music.	5%	4%	8%	21%	42%	21%	3.55
Loss of periods of silence.	4%	4%	10%	25%	39%	19%	3.50
Presence of female altar servers.	11%	7%	13%	20%	30%	19%	3.07
Abandoning the use of Latin.	9%	7%	13%	24%	29%	19%	3.14

*"**REGARDING THE LAITY:** To what extent do you believe the following issues have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?"*

Ranked by % Greatest	None	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Greatest	Mean
Receiving the Eucharist in the hand while standing.	5%	3%	5%	9%	19%	58%	4.07
Lack of humility and reverence in the presence of the Eucharist.	1%	1%	2%	7%	34%	55%	4.35
Socializing in the church.	4%	4%	9%	20%	39%	24%	3.57
Failure to offer adequate thanksgiving in prayer after receiving the Eucharist.	2%	3%	7%	25%	43%	20%	3.65
Belief there is a conflict between faith and science.	6%	8%	16%	28%	29%	13%	3.06
Shortening the length of the fast prior to receiving the Eucharist.	7%	8%	18%	32%	27%	10%	2.93

*"**REGARDING THE CLERGY**: To what extent do you believe the following issues have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?"*

Ranked by % Greatest	None	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Greatest	Mean
Scandal created by offering the Holy Eucharist to public sinners who obstinately reject Catholic teaching.	2%	1%	3%	8%	30%	56%	4.31
Clergy's casual attitude towards the Eucharist.	2%	2%	3%	9%	33%	51%	4.23
Failure to catechize the faithful on transubstantiation.	1%	1%	3%	11%	35%	49%	4.26
Failure to regularly remind the faithful they must be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist.	2%	1%	3%	10%	36%	48%	4.22
Failure to remind the faithful that the Eucharist is necessary for their salvation.	2%	1%	4%	12%	36%	45%	4.16
Homosexuality in the priesthood.	3%	4%	7%	14%	30%	41%	3.89

*"**REGARDING THE CLERGY**: To what extent do you believe the following issues have negatively impacted people's belief in the Real Presence?"*

Ranked by % Greatest	None	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Greatest	Mean
Clergy sexual abuse scandal.	2%	4%	9%	19%	33%	34%	3.79
Lack of Eucharistic events such as adoration, processions, benedictions, etc.	2%	2%	5%	20%	43%	28%	3.86
Failure to educate the faithful on Eucharistic miracles.	2%	3%	9%	27%	37%	23%	3.63
Failure to use Eucharistic Prayer #1.	8%	8%	15%	26%	28%	16%	3.06
Failure to wear clerical attire in public.	6%	7%	13%	25%	33%	16%	3.18

Frequency of Participation

	Mass	Confession	Adoration
Daily	16%	0%	3%
Several Times A Week	31%	0%	9%
Weekly	49%	11%	29%
Monthly	1%	47%	19%
Every Other Month	0%	24%	10%
Annually	0%	10%	8%
Seldom	2%	7%	22%

Recommendations (*Overall vs Primarily NO*)

Recommendation	All Responses	Primarily NO
Encourage the practice of receiving the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling.	29%	26%
Catechize the faithful (e.g., transubstantiation, worthy reception, etc.)	24%	26%
Encourage greater reverence for the Eucharist (e.g., genuflecting, kneeling, prayer of thanksgiving after Mass, etc.)	10%	11%
Withhold the Eucharist from public officials who obstinately reject Catholic teaching (Canon 915).	10%	10%
Eliminate Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.	9%	9%
Increase Eucharistic events (e.g., Adoration, Processions, Benedictions, etc.)	4%	4%
Other (please specify)	15%	14%

Issues (*Overall vs Primarily NO*)

Rank	Issue	Category	Overall	Primarily NO
1.	Receiving the Eucharist in the hand while standing.	Laity	57.74%	51.18%
2.	Scandal created by offering the Holy Eucharist to public sinners who obstinately reject Catholic teaching.	Clergy	56.20%	54.05%
3.	Lack of humility and reverence in the presence of the Eucharist.	Laity	54.56%	51.72%
4.	Clergy's casual attitude towards the Eucharist.	Clergy	51.30%	47.47%
5.	Failure to catechize the faithful on transubstantiation.	Clergy	49.48%	44.66%
6.	Failure to regularly remind the faithful they must be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist.	Clergy	48.04%	44.66%
7.	Removal of the tabernacle from the center of the sanctuary.	Liturgy	47.50%	48.27%
8.	Loss of emphasis of the Mass as a sacrifice.	Liturgy	45.39%	41.08%
9.	Failure to remind the faithful that the Eucharist is necessary for their salvation.	Clergy	45.37%	43.30%
10.	Loss of sense of supernatural transcendence.	Liturgy	42.28%	40.35%
11.	Homosexuality in the priesthood.	Clergy	41.48%	39.75%
12.	Use of Extraordinary Ministers results in a lost sense of the sacred and a distorted view of the lay apostolate.	Liturgy	37.86%	32.13%
13.	Clergy sexual abuse scandal.	Clergy	34.31%	34.66%
14.	Cessation of Ad Orientem worship where both the laity and the priest face God.	Liturgy	31.19%	25.85%
15.	Removal of the altar rails.	Liturgy	30.04%	26.82%
16.	Lack of Eucharistic events such as adoration, processions, benedictions, etc.	Clergy	28.39%	26.37%
17.	Socializing in the church.	Laity	24.25%	21.74%
18.	Failure to educate the faithful on Eucharistic miracles.	Clergy	23.10%	22.71%
19.	Loss of beauty in architecture and liturgy.	Liturgy	21.58%	19.04%
20.	Sacred music replaced with contemporary music.	Liturgy	21.37%	18.14%
21.	Failure to offer adequate thanksgiving in prayer after receiving the Eucharist.	Laity	20.00%	18.30%
22.	Loss of periods of silence.	Liturgy	19.42%	16.94%
23.	Presence of female altar servers.	Liturgy	18.84%	14.48%
24.	Abandoning the use of Latin.	Liturgy	18.71%	13.60%
25.	Failure to use Eucharistic Prayer #1.	Clergy	15.61%	12.13%
26.	Failure to wear clerical attire in public.	Clergy	15.54%	13.07%
27.	Belief there is a conflict between faith and science.	Laity	13.09%	12.13%
28.	Shortening the length of the fast prior to receiving the Eucharist.	Laity	9.73%	7.74%