

Oct. 21, 2002 — Study #471

# ◆◆◆◆ LOS ANGELES TIMES® POLL ALERT ◆◆◆◆

## HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

### Overview

This survey is the 471st in a series of *Los Angeles Times* opinion studies designed to measure public attitudes on a number of critical issues. It is the second *Los Angeles Times* survey of Roman Catholic priests in the United States. The study takes a look at the attitudes of priests in the Roman Catholic Church in America today, in a period when the Church is undergoing public and private scrutiny. Although Catholic-affiliated surveys of the attitudes of priests have been done recently, no independent survey of this population has been taken since the Times Poll surveyed priests and nuns over a period of months in 1993 and 1994 (LAT surveys 321 and 323).

For this survey, 1,854 active and retired priests in 80 dioceses across the U.S and in Puerto Rico returned mail-ballot questionnaires over the period June 27–Oct. 11. Diocesan and religious priests were included in the sample. Spanish language questionnaires were provided for priests in Puerto Rico.

### Sample Design and Coverage

The Times Poll selected 5,000 priests from a total population of 45,382 in the United States and Puerto Rico using a two-stage procedure. First, the *Official Catholic Directory* (OFCD), published by P.J. Kennedy & Sons, was used to compile a complete list of all the dioceses in the country as well as the total priest population in each diocese. The list was pre-stratified by regional geography. Eighty dioceses were randomly selected, proportional to priest population in each region.

For the second-stage sample selection, Times Poll researchers obtained directories for each of the sample dioceses wherever possible. When such directories were either unavailable or actively withheld, the OFCD was substituted as a source. In this way, a sample of 5,000 active and retired priests was drawn in proportion to priest population in each diocesan area.

At this point, two Tribune newspapers—the *Morning Call* in Allentown, Pa., and the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.—expressed an interest in oversampling dioceses in their areas for national comparison. In order to provide enough data for separate analysis of the three southern Pa. dioceses of interest to the *Morning Call* (Scranton, Allentown and Philadelphia, of which only Scranton and Philadelphia were in the first-stage sample pick) and the two dioceses of interest to the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (Miami and Palm Beach, neither of which was in the original first-stage sample pick), every priest in those five dioceses was contacted. Note that the data set under analysis here includes only the Times Poll's original selected priests in the Scranton and Philadelphia dioceses.<sup>1</sup>

The survey questionnaires were first mailed on June 27. This was after the Bishop's conference. Seven thousand two hundred and twenty-two questionnaires, cover letters and pre-paid return envelopes were sent. A second mailing of the same packet was sent to 5,878 non-responding priests on July 25. A reminder postcard was mailed to 5,707 non-responding priests on Aug. 5, and a final third set of 4,924 questionnaire packets was mailed to continuing non-responders on Sept. 4.<sup>2</sup> The end date of the survey was Oct. 11, making it a 16-week field period. In creating its design, the Times Poll followed the general guidelines for mail surveys found in Dillman's *Mail and Internet Surveys*.<sup>3</sup>

Research and field work for the 78 dioceses outside southern Pa. were completed by *Los Angeles Times* field staff<sup>4</sup> under the supervision of Times Poll Field Director Roger Richardson and Times Poll Director Susan Pinkus. Data collection in the dioceses of Philadelphia and Scranton, Pa., was overseen for the *Morning Call* newspaper by Chris Borick, assistant professor of political science at Muhlenberg College.

### Return Rates and Margins of Error

By the standard calculation for true random sample of a population of this size, one can say with 95% certainty that the margin of error for this sample is  $\pm 3$  percentage points. All population surveys, including this one, are subject to errors of many kinds. Bias may be introduced through coverage errors, survey non-response, question wording issues and other types of human error. Every attempt was made to reduce all of these through preliminary research and follow-ups on non-responders. Four attempts were made to convince priests to return their questionnaires.

Using a response-rate calculation that removes deceased, unqualified and reassigned priests from the sample, resulting in a total sample size of 4,965, the survey has a type A response rate of 37%. Additional removal of unavailable priests results in a sample size of 4,887 and a type B response rate of 38%. Type A response rates ranged from 30% among dioceses in the South to 44% in the Midwest.

Response rate on this survey may have been affected by a variety of issues. First, the Roman Catholic priest population has been subject to intense media scrutiny over the last few months. Many non-responding priests indicated that their refusal to cooperate was due to a concern that their answers would be sensationalized by the press. There were various negative publications about this survey in the Catholic community. Despite the negative publicity, response rates were acceptable in all dioceses and outstanding in some.

In addition to response rate issues, undetected flaws in the way the sampling and interviewing procedure were carried out could

have a significant effect on findings. Changing the wording of questions and the sequence in which they are asked can produce different results. Sometimes questions are inadvertently biased or misleading and people who respond to surveys may not necessarily replicate the views of those who refuse to participate. Moreover, while every precaution has been taken to make these findings completely accurate, other errors may have resulted from the various practical difficulties associated with taking any survey of public opinion.

Some of the best data available for comparison on this survey are surveys of priest populations conducted by Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). Comparing numbers of active and retired priests nationwide<sup>5</sup> to those in our survey, one can see that this survey slightly overrepresents active diocesan priests and underrepresents religious priests.

	All US <sup>5</sup> Priests	LA Times Priests Poll 2002
Diocesan, Active	48%	54%
Diocesan, Retired	15	14
Religious, Active	31	28
Religious, Retired	6	4

Comparing sample population to the figures taken from the *Official Catholic Directory*, the sample slightly underrepresents priests in the East and Midwest and overrepresents those in the South. The sample figures have been adjusted slightly to account for this difference.

	All US Priests*	Unweighted LA Times Priests Poll 2002
East	38%	36%
Midwest	17	13
South	30	35
West	15	16

\* Figures calculated from population totals in *Official Catholic Directory* 2001.

The Los Angeles Times Poll is directed by Susan Pinkus under the general supervision of Los Angeles Times Managing Editor Dean Baquet. Jill Darling Richardson is Associate Director, Roger Richardson is Field Director, Claudia Vaughn is Data Management Supervisor, and Ray Enslow is Publications Coordinator.

Further information regarding this study is available by writing to the Los Angeles Times Poll, 202 West 1st Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-4105, by calling (213) 237-2027 or by e-mailing [timespoll@latimes.com](mailto:timespoll@latimes.com).

This report conforms to the standards of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

1. Only the dioceses originally selected in the first stage and priests originally selected in the second stage of the sampling process are included in this data set. No interviews conducted in the dioceses of Allentown, Miami or Palm Beach have been included and the interviews with non-sampled priests are excluded as well.

2. Fifty-five percent of the total completed and refused questionnaires

had been returned by the date of the second mailing, 68% by the date of the reminder postcard mailing, and 88% by the date of the third and final mailing.

3. *Mail and Internet Surveys, The Tailored Design Method*, by Dillman, Don A., John Wiley & Sons, 2000 (2nd ed.)

4. The Times Poll would like to acknowledge supervisor Art Dodd and editors Walter Boxer, Debra Birgen and Cynthia Kirk for their diligence and hard work on this survey.

5. National study of priests conducted by CARA in 1999 for the Committee for Priestly Life and Ministry of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## NOTES

All answer frequencies are given in percentages.

Totals may exceed 100% in questions where more than one response was accepted. Totals may be less than 100% where some answer categories are not shown.

“ - ” indicates less than 0.5%.

The wording of some questions has been abridged.

## SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TIMES POLL SURVEY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS June 27–October 11, 2002

(A full summary of results will be available at a later date through the Los Angeles Times Poll)

### GUIDE TO COLUMN HEADINGS

ALL	All Roman Catholic Priests in U.S. & Puerto Rico
<21	In priesthood 20 years or less
21–30	In priesthood 21 to 30 years
31–40	In priesthood 31 to 40 years
>40	In priesthood more than 40 years
LIB	Liberal on religion & morals, self-described
MOD	Moderate on religion & morals, self-described
CON	Conservative on religion & morals, self-described

### Q1: Your age is:

	ALL	<21	21–30	31–40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
21–40	8	35	–	–	–	5	8	12
41–50	14	46	20	–	–	12	17	14
51–60	20	13	70	26	–	24	21	16
61–70	22	3	7	65	16	28	22	15
71–80	21	1	1	7	50	20	20	22
Over 80	12	–	–	–	31	9	10	18
Refused	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3

**Q2: The last grade of education you completed is:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Two-year college	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Four-year college	7	2	5	5	11	5	6	8
Master's degree	54	72	57	47	45	53	55	54
Doctoral degree	14	11	19	16	12	17	15	11
Post-graduate work	24	14	19	30	30	25	23	25
Refused	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2

**Q4: Are you a diocesan priest or are you a member of an order?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Diocesan priest	68	79	70	64	62	63	68	72
Member of order	32	21	30	36	38	37	32	28

**Q5: Which of the following best describes your principal assignment as a priest?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Retired, semi-retired	18	1	3	9	40	19	16	19
Pastor of a parish	43	40	55	52	33	42	46	41
Curate, assistant pastor	13	28	9	8	9	12	13	15
Some other parish assignment	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	1
Administration	8	9	9	9	6	7	9	7
Education, teaching	14	15	15	16	13	16	13	14
Chaplain	9	8	7	8	10	7	9	8
Itinerant preacher	2	1	3	2	1	1	2	1
Other	6	7	6	7	6	7	7	6

**Q7: Were you raised in the United States or in some other country?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
United States	89	86	89	88	92	89	88	89
Western Europe	6	3	3	9	6	7	6	4
Eastern Europe	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Latin America/Caribbean	2	6	3	-	1	2	2	3
Africa	1	1	3	-	1	1	1	2
South Pacific	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mideast	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Asia	1	2	2	1	-	1	2	-

**Q8: If you were raised in another country, how long have you been living in the United States?**

	ALL*
5 years or less	16
6-10 years	13
11-15 years	9
16-20 years	7
More than 20 years	53
Refused	2

\* Base for this question is too small to break out subgroups.

**Q11: What are the greatest joys that you receive in your life and work as a priest today? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Effective ministry/Helping others	37	36	33	41	37	37	41	34
Giving the sacrament	31	40	38	31	23	28	32	34
Offering Mass	21	19	16	17	27	14	20	30
Preaching	21	21	25	25	17	24	20	19
Helping laity find God/Restoring faith/Absolution	19	23	26	18	15	18	21	19

**Q12: What are the greatest challenges you face in your life and work as a priest today? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FOUR RESPONSES SHOWN)**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Workload/Burnout	15	23	23	15	7	16	13	19
Secularism of laity	12	15	9	13	12	10	13	13
Effective ministry/Helping others	10	8	9	13	10	10	11	9
Ill health/Aging/Retirement	8	1	2	5	17	9	9	8

**Q13: All things considered, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way your life as a priest is going these days?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Satisfied (Net)	91	92	90	89	92	86	94	93
Very satisfied	70	70	64	62	77	58	74	78
Somewhat satisfied	21	22	26	27	15	28	20	15
Dissatisfied (Net)	6	7	8	9	4	11	4	4
Somewhat dissatisfied	5	6	7	7	3	9	3	3
Very dissatisfied	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
Refused	3	1	2	2	4	3	2	3

**Q14: Has your life as a priest turned out:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Better than expected	61	58	56	62	65	54	65	65
Worse than expected	7	9	11	9	4	10	6	4
About as expected	28	32	31	24	26	31	25	28
Refused	4	1	2	5	5	5	4	3

**Q15: If you had the opportunity to make the choice over again, would you:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Enter priesthood	90	91	87	88	92	84	91	94
Not enter priesthood	7	8	11	9	4	13	6	3
Refused	3	1	2	3	4	3	3	3

**Q16: If a promising young man came to you today for advice as to whether he should enter the seminary and become a priest, would you advise that young man to enter the priesthood today or not?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Enter priesthood	87	90	85	83	88	78	90	92
Not enter priesthood	8	8	12	11	5	16	5	4
Refused	5	2	3	6	7	6	5	4

**Q17: If you would not recommend that he enter the seminary, why not? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

	ALL*
Chastity/Celibacy	20
Problems with bishops/hierarchy	18
Operational structure of Church is dysfunctional	16
Not enough opportunity for individuality	10
Work load is too heavy/Burnout/Excessive demands	9

\* Base for this question is too small to break out subgroups.

**Q18: What are the chances that, in the next few years, you might leave the priesthood?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Likely	5	8	7	4	3	8	4	2
Unlikely	91	91	90	94	91	89	93	94
Refused	4	1	3	2	6	3	3	4

**Q19: How do you think Pope John Paul II will be remembered by history?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Above-average pope	87	92	88	83	86	75	91	95
Average pope	7	5	7	9	6	13	5	2
Below-average pope	3	1	3	5	3	7	1	1
Refused	3	2	2	3	5	5	3	2

**Q20: In your opinion, are Pope John Paul II's views on moral issues generally:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Too liberal	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Too conservative	33	27	40	46	27	67	28	8
About right	62	71	56	49	67	28	68	88
Refused	4	2	3	5	6	5	4	3

**Q21: Thinking now about Pope John Paul II's papacy, what accomplishments do you think he will be best remembered for? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

1. Most widely-travelled pope
2. Helped with the fall of communism
3. Intellectual revolution in Church/Ecumenical work/Catechism of Catholic Church/Renewal of Church's spiritual life
4. Relates to all people/Respected by Catholic and non-Catholics alike
5. Leadership/Moral and spiritual/Safeguarding faith and morals

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	40	35	45	45	38	46	42	32
2.	30	36	35	36	22	32	34	26
3.	19	23	23	17	16	17	21	21
4.	16	14	12	15	19	11	17	19
5.	15	17	15	15	13	8	16	19

**Q22: As you know, many of Pope John Paul II's accomplishments are admired by Catholics and non-Catholics around the world. Thinking now about the election of the next pope, are there any issues or characteristics commonly associated with Pope John Paul II's papacy that you would like the next pope to continue? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

1. Visits to laity all over the world
2. His holiness/Orthodoxy/Commitment to God
3. Relates to all people/other cultures/Compassion for all
4. Concern for poor/Social and economic justice/Justice for all
5. Ecumenicism

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	24	29	27	25	18	25	25	21
2.	18	22	16	15	17	8	16	30
3.	15	17	13	19	14	15	18	14
4.	15	18	21	18	9	20	16	9
5.	14	13	14	15	14	17	15	11

**Q23: Again, thinking about the election of the next pope, are there any issues or characteristics not commonly associated with Pope John Paul II's papacy that you hope the next pope will pursue? What are they?** (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)

1. Allow priests to marry/Allow ordination of married priests
2. Decentralize Church hierarchy
3. Ordination of women
4. Be open to dissent/discussion/dialogue
5. Bishops: Stricter guidelines for elections/Collegial aspect of college of bishops/Choice of bishops at local level

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	15	15	14	22	11	24	14	7
2.	15	10	17	22	13	25	14	5
3.	12	12	15	18	9	25	10	3
4.	12	11	16	14	8	19	12	5
5.	8	7	9	12	7	11	8	7

**Q24: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the bishop who presides in your diocese is handling his duties?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve	76	76	70	70	81	65	81	81
Disapprove	21	23	27	27	14	31	16	16
Refused	3	1	3	3	5	4	3	3

**Q25: In your opinion, are the views of the bishop of your diocese on moral issues generally:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Too liberal	3	5	3	3	2	1	2	7
Too conservative	18	15	21	28	14	38	12	5
About right	73	77	73	65	76	55	81	83
Refused	6	3	3	4	8	6	5	5

**Q26: When you need counsel and guidance, how comfortable do you feel about going to your bishop or to the superiors of your order?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Comfortable	68	67	59	63	75	58	72	72
Uncomfortable	28	31	39	34	18	37	25	24
Refused	4	2	2	3	7	5	3	4

**Q27: Would you favor or oppose direct democratic election of diocesan bishops by the diocesan clergy and laity in the U.S.?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor	46	38	44	56	46	73	44	22
Oppose	50	61	53	41	48	23	52	76
Refused	4	1	3	3	6	4	4	2

**Q28: What are the most important problems facing the Roman Catholic Church in the United States today?**

(ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)

1. Shortage/Aging of clergy and lack of vocations
2. Problems with bishops/hierarchy
3. Child abuse by clergy
4. Credibility/Restoring credibility to priests
5. Materialism/Individualism

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	25	26	26	26	22	27	25	24
2.	20	19	25	25	17	30	19	13
3.	18	21	23	17	16	19	19	18
4.	13	12	19	15	9	15	15	8
5.	9	12	9	10	7	6	13	8

**Q29: Overall, would you rate things in the Catholic Church in America today as:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Excellent/Good	59	62	57	50	63	47	64	65
Not so good/Poor	37	36	40	47	31	50	32	30
Refused	4	2	3	3	6	3	4	5

**Q30: Would you say things in the Catholic Church in America are generally:**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Getting better	35	41	33	25	38	25	38	42
Getting worse	27	25	28	37	22	40	21	21
Staying about the same	33	31	36	35	33	32	36	32
Refused	5	3	3	3	7	3	5	5

**Q31: How much confidence do you have in the Catholic Church in America today?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Great deal/Some	86	86	85	83	89	78	92	89
Not much/None	10	12	12	14	6	18	6	7
Refused	4	2	3	3	5	4	2	4

**Q32: Generally speaking, do you think younger priests in America are more theologically conservative—that is, more religiously orthodox—than their older counterparts, or are they more liberal, or are they just about the same?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
More conservative	73	82	84	82	59	85	68	70
About the same	13	11	9	9	17	7	17	11
More liberal	10	6	3	5	19	6	11	15
Refused	4	1	4	4	5	2	4	4

**Q33: Generally speaking, would you say that younger priests today are more theologically conservative than they were in the 1970s and 1980s, or are they more liberal, or have priests stayed about the same theologically?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
More conservative	75	86	84	85	60	86	73	71
About the same	12	9	10	9	17	8	15	11
More liberal	9	4	2	3	17	5	8	14
Refused	4	1	4	3	6	1	4	4

**Q34: Do you think the Catholic Church needs to be reformed in any way, or not? If you think the Church needs to be reformed, what kind of reform do you think is needed in the Catholic Church? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP SIX RESPONSES SHOWN)**

1. Reform is not needed
2. Increasing laity involvement/Empower laity/Shared authority with informed lay people
3. Church needs to be more democratic/Reform Church authority/Decentralization
4. Do away with celibacy requirement/Allow priests to marry/Allow ordination of married priests
5. Allow ordination of women priests
6. Orthodoxy/Established Church teachings

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	15	17	9	7	21	6	17	22
2.	19	16	24	26	15	28	20	9
3.	19	16	26	29	13	34	17	8
4.	14	15	16	20	11	27	12	6
5.	9	10	12	14	5	19	7	2
6.	8	12	6	7	8	2	7	15

**Q35: If you think the Church needs to be reformed, do you think reform should proceed quickly in the Church or should it proceed slowly?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Proceed quickly	43	38	47	44	44	53	36	41
Proceed slowly	45	51	44	46	42	38	53	47
Refused	12	11	9	10	14	9	11	12

**Q36: Do you think Roman Catholics must follow all of the Church's teachings to be faithful, or do you think they may disagree on some issues and still be considered faithful?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Must follow all teachings	35	37	21	19	48	6	33	64
May disagree and be faithful	58	57	75	74	44	91	59	28
Refused	7	6	4	7	8	3	8	8

**Q37: To what degree do you agree or disagree with the statement: "The sole path to salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ"?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Agree	68	74	66	61	70	51	72	82
Disagree	26	21	29	31	24	46	21	13
Refused	6	5	5	8	6	3	7	5

**Q38: What are the greatest problems that the laity you come into contact with face as practicing Catholics? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

1. Lack of faith/Lack of knowledge about faith
2. Materialism/Secularism
3. Resolving conflict between sacred/religious principles and secular word
4. Inadequate religious education in general, as opposed to religious education of youth
5. Apathy/Indifference/Alienation/Disillusion with Church/religion

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	14	17	14	12	14	10	14	19
2.	12	11	14	10	13	7	13	15
3.	12	15	17	13	9	12	14	13
4.	10	11	10	9	9	10	9	10
5.	10	8	13	13	9	10	11	9

**Q39: Do you think families in this country today are threatened more by:**

1. An economic climate that makes finding jobs and affordable health care difficult
2. A moral climate that hurts community standards and strong family units
3. Both equally
4. Something else
5. Refused

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	8	6	9	9	7	14	5	4
2.	43	43	36	39	48	28	42	59
3.	43	45	50	44	39	52	47	32
4.	4	6	4	4	2	5	4	3
5.	3	1	2	4	4	2	3	3

**Q40: Are the laity you come in contact with these days most in need of:**

1. Spiritual guidance and fulfillment
2. Guidance on moral issues
3. Help with temporal (family, job and economic) issues
4. I don't come into contact with the laity
5. Both spiritual and moral guidance
6. Refused

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	62	69	66	65	53	66	62	56
2.	19	16	16	16	25	12	18	30
3.	8	9	10	8	7	12	9	5
4.	3	-	-	1	6	2	2	4
5.	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	2
6.	6	5	5	7	6	6	7	3

**Q41: When it comes to moral issues, such as sexuality, marriage and reproduction, are most of the Catholic laity you come in contact with:**

1. Following the Church's teachings
2. Going their own way
3. I don't come into contact with the laity
4. Refused

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	27	27	22	20	31	15	27	37
2.	63	67	70	71	54	79	62	52
3.	2	-	-	2	6	1	2	4
4.	8	6	8	7	9	5	9	7

**Q42: In your opinion, what are the principal reasons laity are leaving the Church these days? (ACCEPTED UP TO FIVE REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)**

1. Lack of knowledge/Understanding/Ignorance of Church role
2. Lack of commitment/Laziness/Selfishness
3. Secularism
4. Materialism/Hedonism/Consumerism
5. Doctrinal disagreement/Resistance to Church moral teachings

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	15	16	12	11	17	9	15	21
2.	10	10	10	12	10	9	10	12
3.	9	5	7	9	11	6	11	8
4.	9	6	9	10	10	7	11	9
5.	9	8	9	8	10	8	10	10

**Q43A: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin for unmarried people to have sexual relations?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	53	57	41	39	64	21	57	81
Often	32	30	44	44	22	54	31	14
Seldom	7	7	9	10	6	16	6	1
Never	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
Refused	6	5	5	5	6	7	5	3

**Q43B: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin for a woman to get an abortion?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	71	75	66	63	75	50	75	89
Often	19	18	24	27	13	35	17	7
Seldom	3	2	4	3	3	7	1	-
Never	1	-	1	1	3	2	1	1
Refused	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	3

**Q43C: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin for married couples to use artificial methods of birth control?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	28	31	17	15	39	5	25	54
Often	25	32	21	23	23	16	30	30
Seldom	32	25	45	45	23	54	32	11
Never	8	6	11	11	7	20	5	2
Refused	7	6	6	6	8	5	8	3

**Q43D: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to use cloning—that is, copying DNA cells—in medical research that could result in a cure for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or cancer?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	45	51	39	33	51	23	46	66
Often	18	19	22	22	14	24	19	13
Seldom	16	15	18	22	11	26	15	7
Never	8	6	10	10	8	15	7	4
Refused	13	9	11	13	16	12	13	10

**Q43E: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to use stem cells of fetuses for medical research?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	57	66	53	48	57	34	58	77
Often	17	20	22	22	12	26	18	9
Seldom	10	6	12	14	9	18	8	3
Never	6	3	4	6	8	11	5	3
Refused	10	5	9	10	14	11	11	8

**Q43F: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to use condoms as a protection against AIDS?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	32	35	22	20	40	7	29	58
Often	17	21	15	13	18	12	21	19
Seldom	18	15	22	26	14	26	20	10
Never	25	23	34	33	18	49	20	7
Refused	8	6	7	8	10	6	10	6

**Q43G: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to engage in homosexual behavior?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	49	50	34	36	62	18	49	80
Often	25	26	28	32	18	35	27	13
Seldom	15	13	26	21	9	32	13	2
Never	4	5	5	4	4	7	3	2
Refused	7	6	7	7	7	8	8	3

**Q43H: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to take one's own life if one is suffering from a debilitating disease?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	59	63	53	49	64	38	60	79
Often	18	21	21	23	13	24	20	11
Seldom	13	9	15	18	10	25	11	4
Never	4	2	5	4	6	7	3	3
Refused	6	5	6	6	7	6	6	3

**Q43I: Do you think it is always, often, seldom or never a sin to masturbate?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Always	30	32	21	17	40	7	26	56
Often	21	24	16	19	21	14	24	24
Seldom	28	24	35	39	23	45	30	12
Never	14	15	22	19	8	28	13	4
Refused	7	5	6	6	8	6	7	4

**Q44A: Would you favor or oppose the ordination of women as deacons?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor	57	50	66	73	50	87	57	30
Oppose	40	49	32	25	46	11	40	68
Refused	3	1	2	2	4	2	3	2

**Q44B: Would you favor or oppose the ordination of women as priests?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor	46	38	54	62	40	81	43	17
Oppose	51	61	44	35	57	17	54	82
Refused	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	1

**Q44C: Would you favor or oppose the ordination of women as bishops?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor	40	35	49	54	33	73	36	14
Oppose	57	64	49	43	63	24	61	84
Refused	3	1	2	3	4	3	3	2

**Q45: Regardless of whether you favor or oppose it, which of the following statements do you think is the most compelling reason for ordaining women as priests?**

1. It would increase the number of priests/reduce the shortage
2. Women's equality is important to American society and the Church should reflect the society it serves
3. Women could provide an important voice in the Church's response to sexual abuse allegations
4. Women in the priesthood would reduce the instances of sexual abuse
5. Women's spiritual gifts would enhance the life and ministry of the Church
6. Refused

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	8	7	6	4	11	3	9	11
2.	6	4	5	8	8	10	6	4
3.	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
4.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5.	65	70	73	75	53	79	67	53
6.	21	18	15	13	28	8	17	32

**Q46: Would you favor or oppose the ordination of married priests in the Latin Rite?**

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor	69	61	81	83	62	91	73	45
Oppose	28	38	16	14	34	7	25	52
Refused	3	1	3	3	4	2	2	3

**Q47: Regardless of whether you favor or oppose the ordination of married priests in the Latin Rite, which of the following statements do you think is the most compelling reason for allowing the ordination of married priests?**

1. To help reduce the shortage of priests
2. It would make the priesthood more representative of the laity
3. It would help priests understand married and family life better
4. It would reduce instances of sexual abuse of minors
5. Refused

	ALL	<21	21-30	31-40	>40	LIB	MOD	CON
1.	36	34	38	30	40	24	40	47
2.	31	30	33	39	26	49	30	16
3.	15	17	14	16	13	17	15	14
4.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5.	18	19	15	14	21	10	15	23

**Q48: Do you think the Church will ever again allow the ordination of married priests in the Latin Rite or do you think that will never happen? (IF YES) When do you think that will happen?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>&lt;21</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>&gt;40</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Never again	17	20	9	11	21	4	15	33
Yes, in less than 20 years	38	34	47	51	30	59	37	21
Yes, in 20 years or more	35	39	38	33	34	35	40	35
Refused	10	7	6	5	15	2	8	11

**Q49: In your opinion, has the shortage of priests caused the Church to lower its standards in admitting men to the seminaries, or are standards higher, or are standards about where they have always been?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>&lt;21</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>&gt;40</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Lower	36	33	38	44	33	44	32	35
Higher	19	23	22	16	18	16	20	24
Same	40	42	38	36	42	37	46	38
Refused	5	2	2	4	7	3	2	3

**Q51: Would you describe your views on most matters having to do with religious beliefs and moral doctrines as:**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>&lt;21</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>&gt;40</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Liberal (Net)	30	24	35	43	26	100	-	-
Very liberal	4	2	4	4	4	12	-	-
Somewhat liberal	27	21	32	39	22	88	-	-
Middle-of-the-road	37	37	40	38	35	-	100	-
Conservative (Net)	28	35	22	17	32	-	-	100
Somewhat conservative	23	31	21	15	24	-	-	83
Very conservative	5	5	1	2	8	-	-	17
Refused	5	4	3	2	7	-	-	-

**Q52: Would you describe your views on most matters having to do with politics as:**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>&lt;21</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>&gt;40</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Liberal (Net)	34	28	39	47	28	77	20	9
Very liberal	5	4	4	5	4	13	1	1
Somewhat liberal	29	24	35	42	23	64	19	8
Middle-of-the-road	35	34	36	34	36	17	62	22
Conservative (Net)	28	36	24	17	31	6	17	67
Somewhat conservative	25	33	23	16	25	6	17	56
Very conservative	3	3	1	1	7	-	-	11
Refused	3	2	1	2	5	-	1	2

**Q58: As you know, intimacy may be defined as a basic human need that includes close non-sexual bonds with personal friends. How satisfied are you with the level of that type of intimacy in your life?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>&lt;21</u>	<u>21-30</u>	<u>31-40</u>	<u>&gt;40</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Satisfied	87	90	83	86	89	85	89	91
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	5	8	7	4	6	6	4
Dissatisfied	5	5	7	6	2	8	4	2
Refused	2	-	2	1	5	1	1	3

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW