

# SACRAMENTAL PRACTICE, FAITH FORMATION, AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION

CONSTRUCTING CATHOLICS

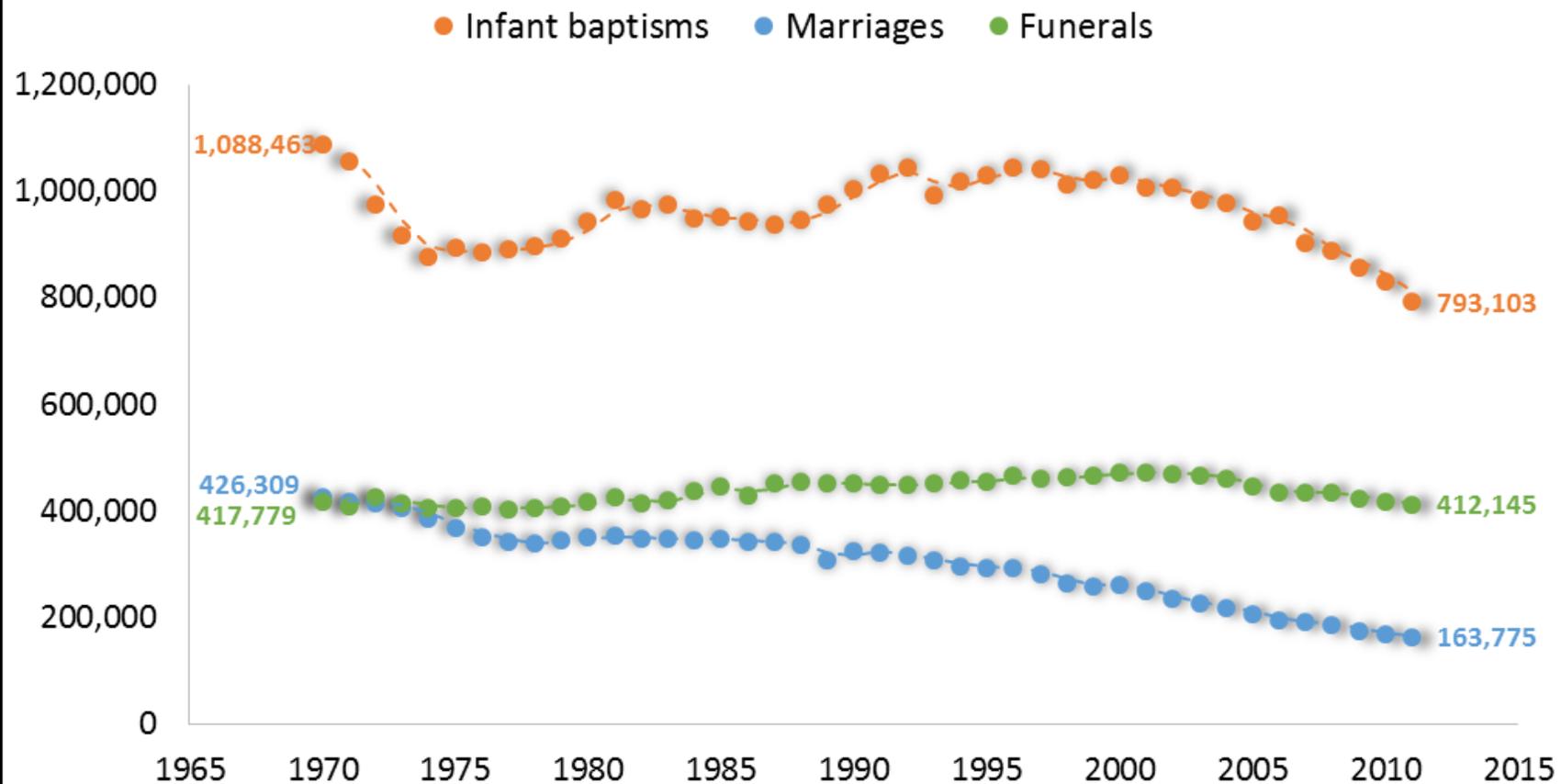


**How meaningful for you are each of the Catholic sacraments listed below? This includes celebrating, receiving, or living the sacrament yourself or in witnessing someone else close to you experience this sacrament.**

Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very” meaningful

	<b><u>By Mass Attendance</u></b>		
	<b>Weekly or more</b>	<b>Less than weekly but at least once a month</b>	<b>A few times a year or less</b>
Baptism	99%	96%	80%
Eucharist	98	97	73
Marriage	97	97	83
Confirmation	97	96	72
Anointing of the Sick	97	88	66
Holy Orders	93	84	57
Reconciliation	90	80	51

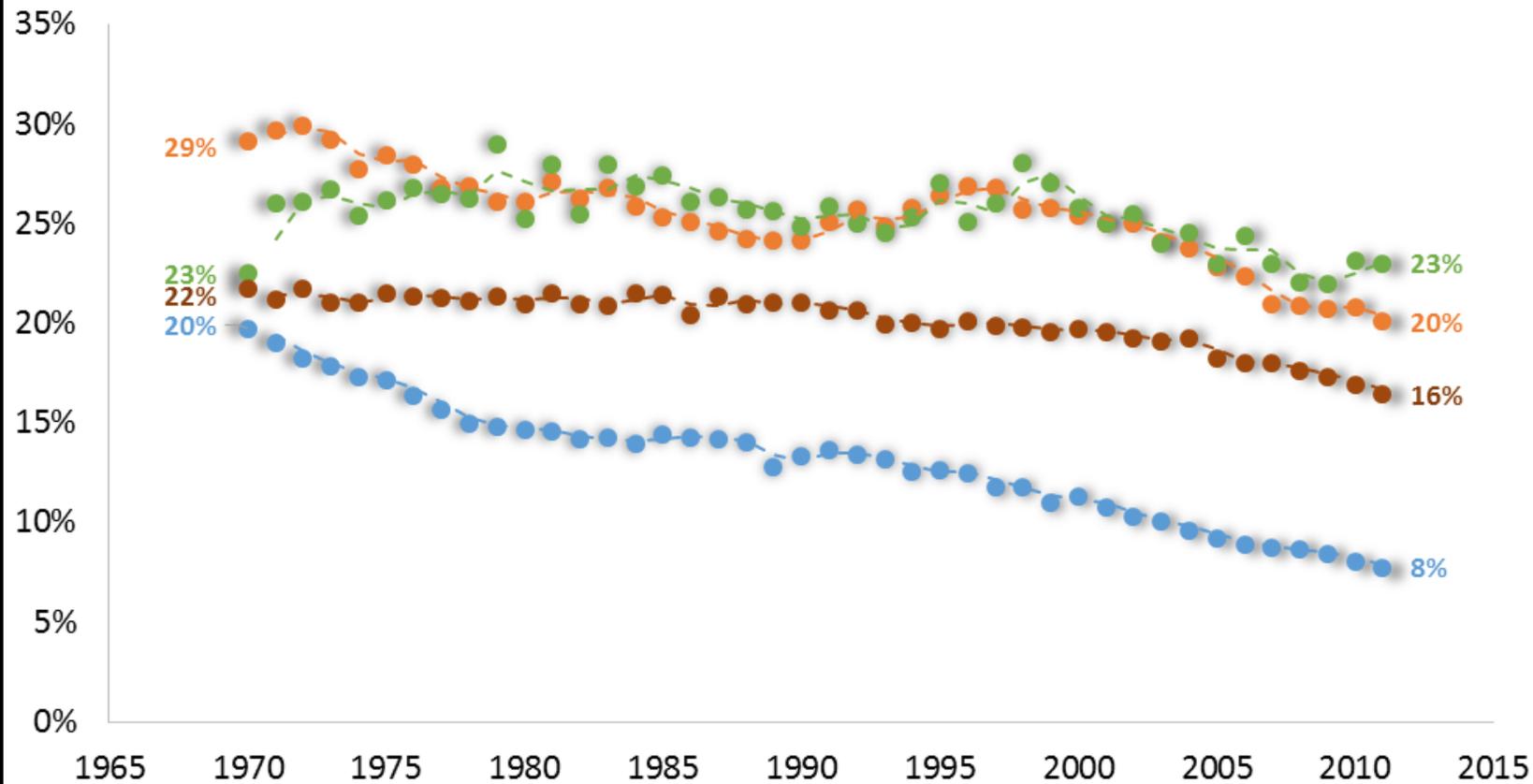
## Infant Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals in U.S. Catholic Parishes, 1970-2011



Source: *The Official Catholic Directory*

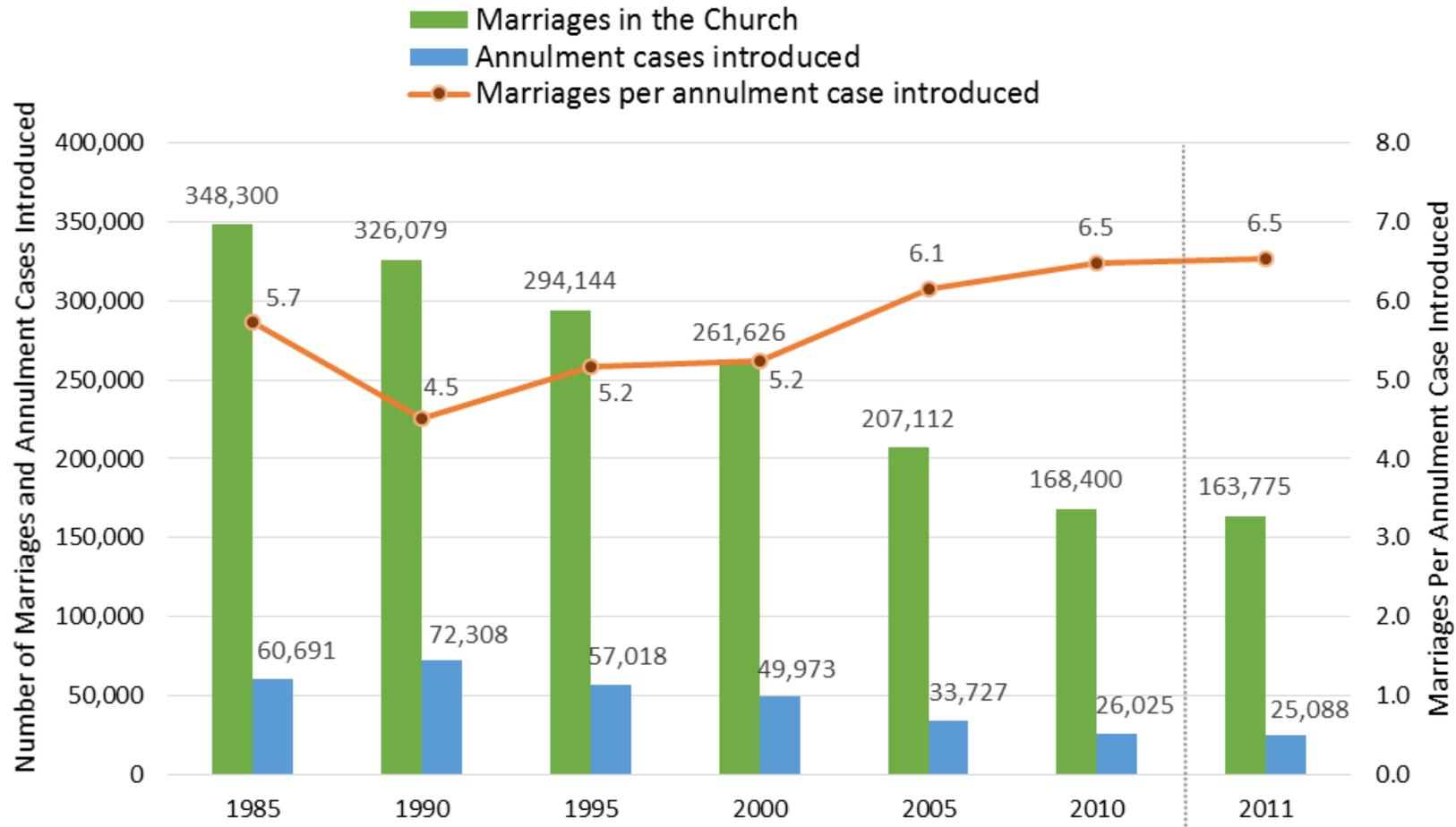
## Measures of the American Catholic Lifecycle, 1970-2011

- Infant baptisms as a % of all U.S. live births
- Church marriages as a % of all U.S. marriages
- Adult Catholic population %
- Funerals as a % of all U.S. deaths



Sources: *The Official Catholic Directory, National Vital Statistics, General Social Survey, Gallup, American National Election Study*

## Marriages Celebrated in the Catholic Church and Annulment Cases Introduced in the United States



Sources: Official Catholic Directory (OCD) and Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae (ASE)

<b>Catholic population 2007 (25% of U.S.)</b>	<b>74,849,500</b>
---	-------------------

Infant Baptisms	878,922
Adult Baptisms	42,898
Received into Full Communion	78,298
Catholic immigrants (unauthorized)	216,200
Catholic immigrants (authorized)	198,429
<i>Unaccounted (coming home?)</i>	<i>316,979</i>
<b>Additions</b>	<b>1,731,726</b>

Total Deaths	605,928
<b>Leaving estimate</b>	<b>570,009</b>
<b>Losses</b>	<b>1,175,937</b>

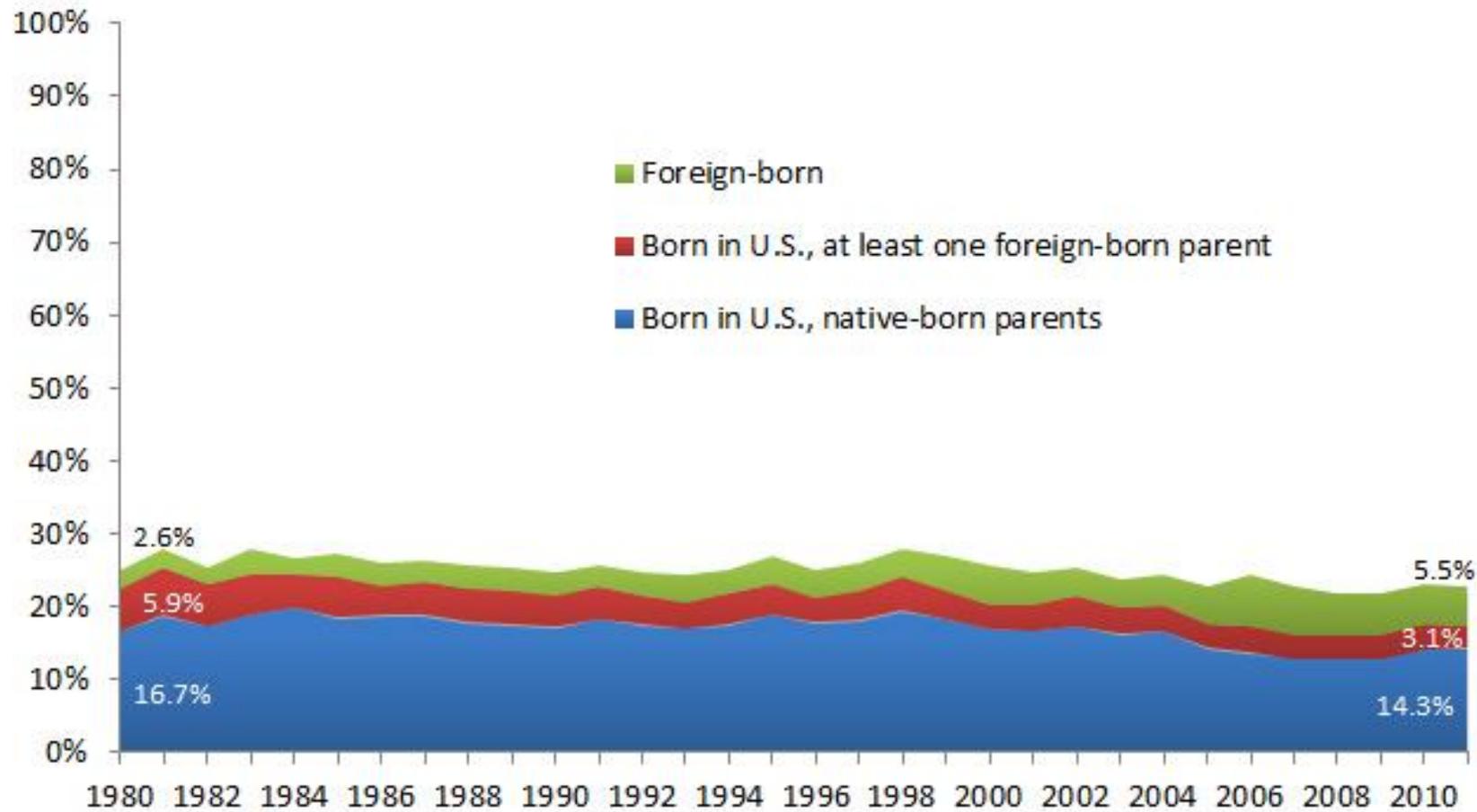
<b>Catholic population 2008 (25% of U.S.)</b>	<b>75,405,289</b>
---	-------------------

**Growth 2007 to 2008:** **555,789**

## Baptisms and the Catholic Population

- 58% of “new” U.S. Catholics in a given year are new entries (Baptism, RCIA)
- 24% come to the U.S. after being baptized in another country (i.e., immigration)
- 18% are “reverts,” people who left and have come back
- The Catholic Church is growing *without* immigration (e.g., +0.2% in 2007)

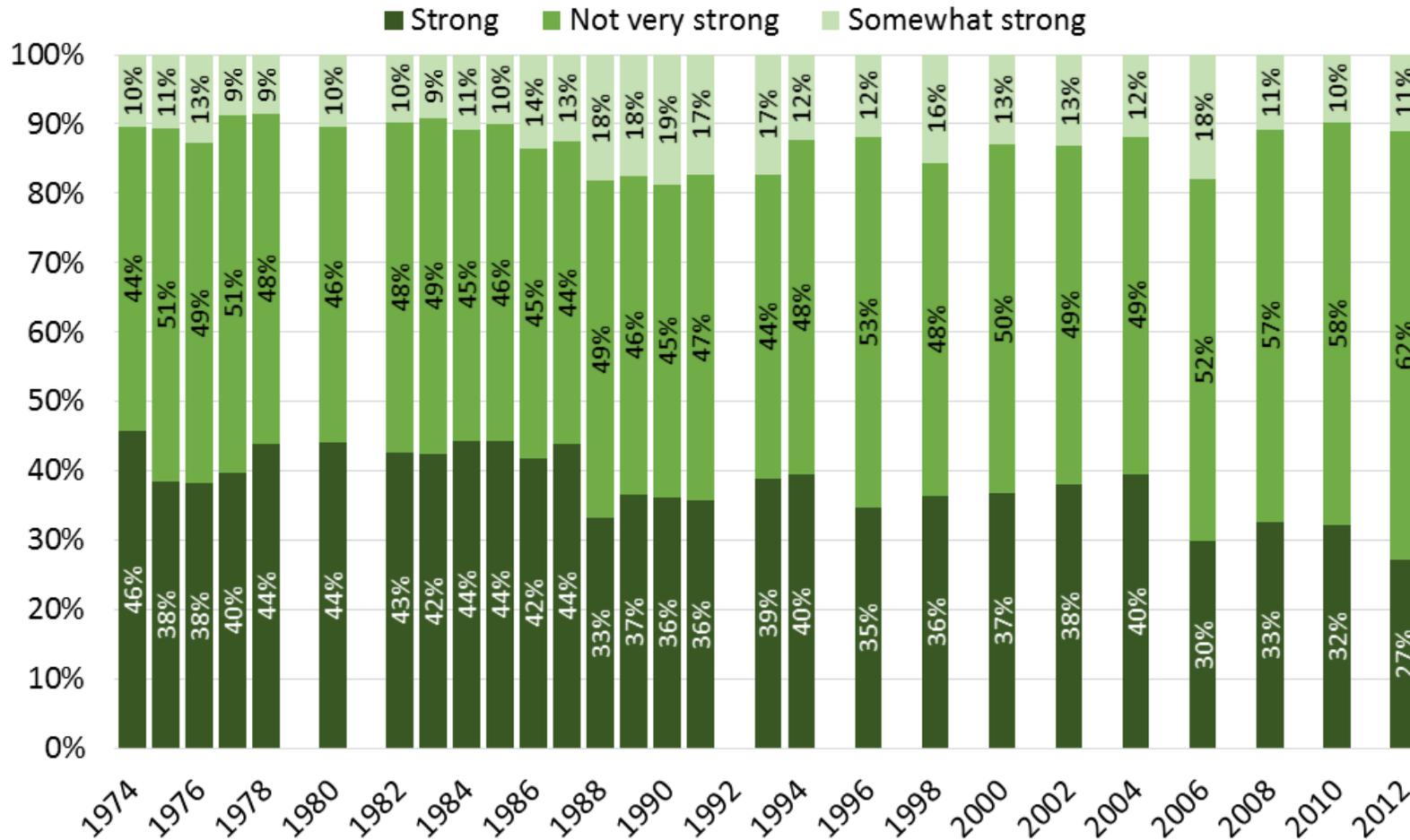
### U.S. self-identified adult Catholics by place of birth as a percentage of the U.S. adult population, 1980-2011



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, General Social Survey, Pew Social and Demographic Trends

## Would you call yourself a strong Catholic or a not very strong Catholic?

U.S. Adult Catholics, 1974-2012



Source: General Social Survey

**A Growing Population with Weakening Ties?**

**Is the decline in sacramental practice linked to weakening religiosity?**



# CARA PARISH SURVEY, 2013

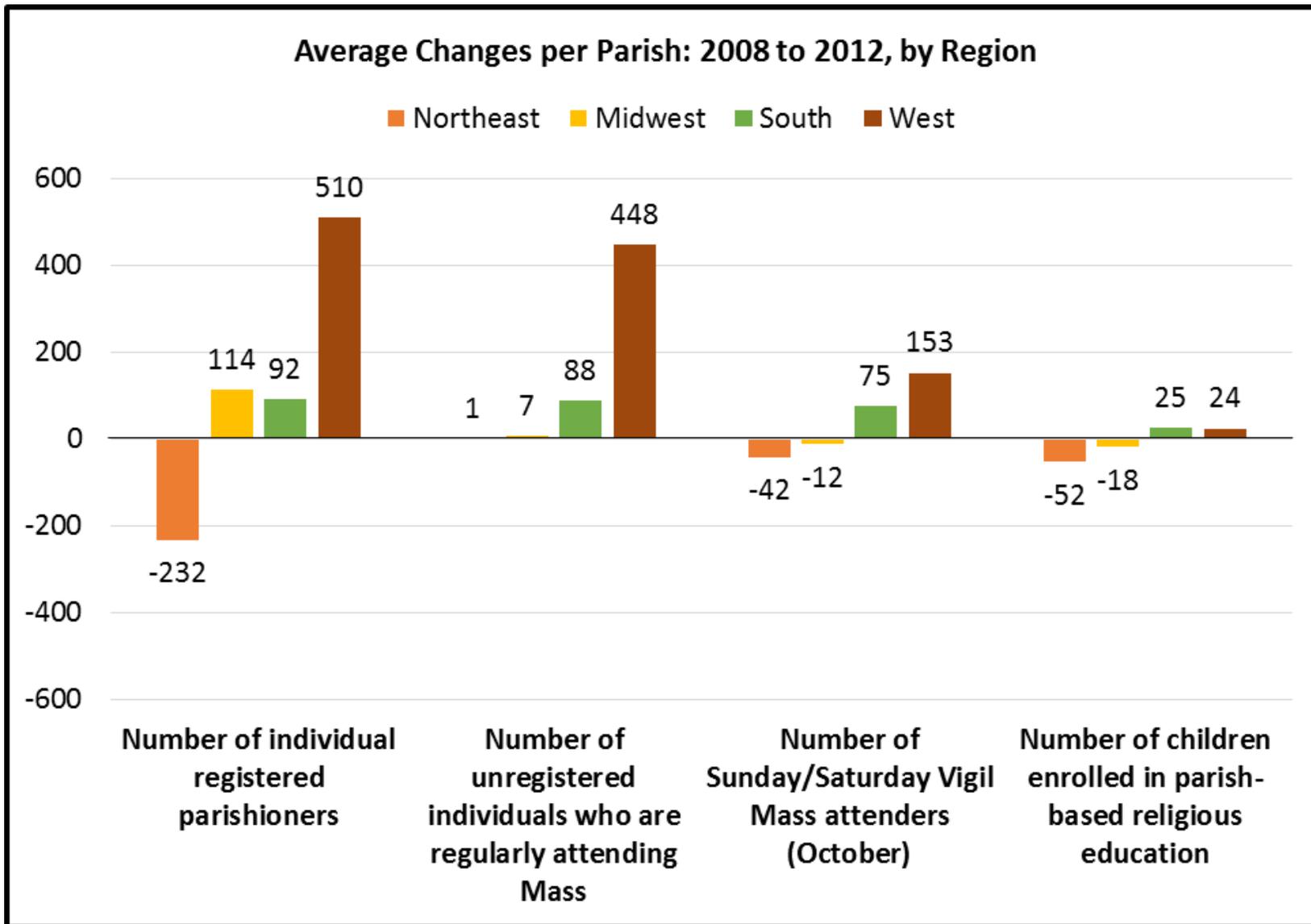
PRELIMINARY SACRAMENTS RESULTS



### Average Numbers of Parishioners, Mass Attendees, and Children in Parish-based Religious Education

	2008	2012	Change	
Number of individual registered parishioners	2,494.0	2,597.7	+103.7	+4.2%
Number of unregistered individuals who are regularly attending Mass	333.2	428.1	+94.9	+28.5%
Number of Sunday/Saturday Vigil Mass attenders (typical October weekend)	973.5	1,003.9	+30.4	+3.1%
Number of children enrolled in parish-based religious education	241.7	232.4	+9.3	-3.8%

*Approximately 1/3 of parishioners attend a weekend Mass in an avg. week...*



## A Tale of Two Churches

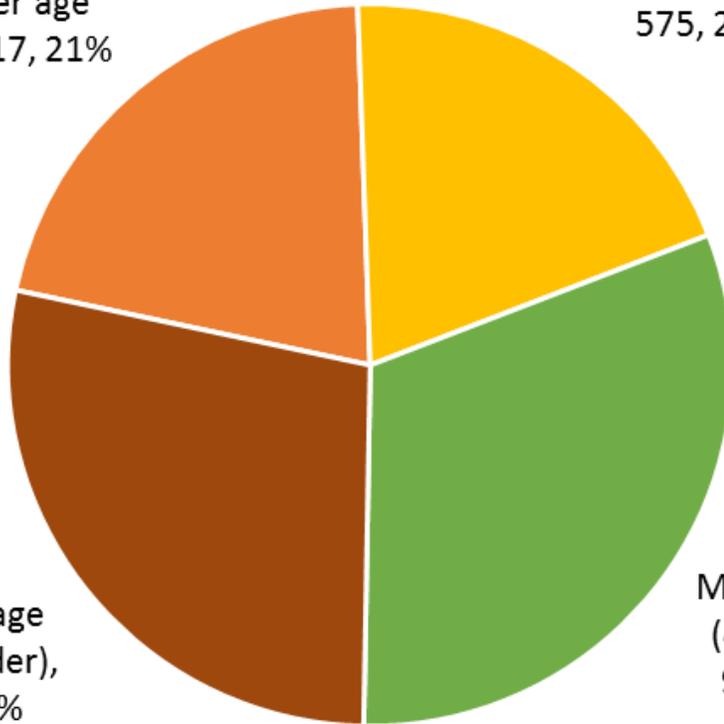
In the Northeast and Midwest parishes likely feel they are growing smaller and that Mass attendance is in decline

Yet, in the South and West many likely feel just the opposite

**Average Number of Parishioners (Registered and Unregistered Attendees) by Age**

Children and adolescents (under age 18), 617, 21%

Young adults (age 18 to 39), 575, 20%



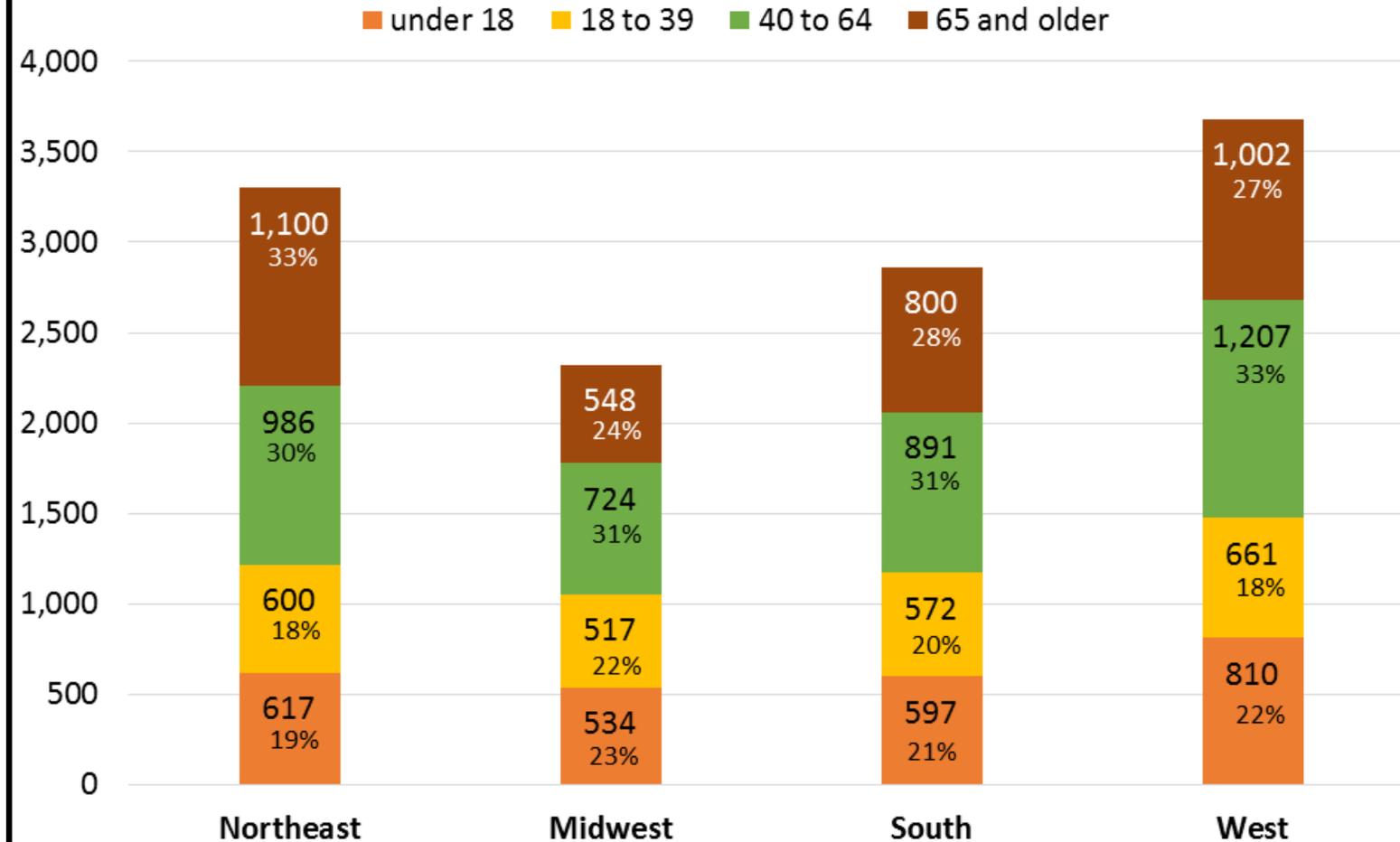
Seniors (age 65 and older), 820, 28%

Middle aged (40 to 64), 911, 31%

59% of parishioners are age 40 or older

Children, under age 18, represent 21% of parishioners.

**Average Number of Parishioners (Registered and Unregistered Attendees)  
by Age Group and Region, 2012**

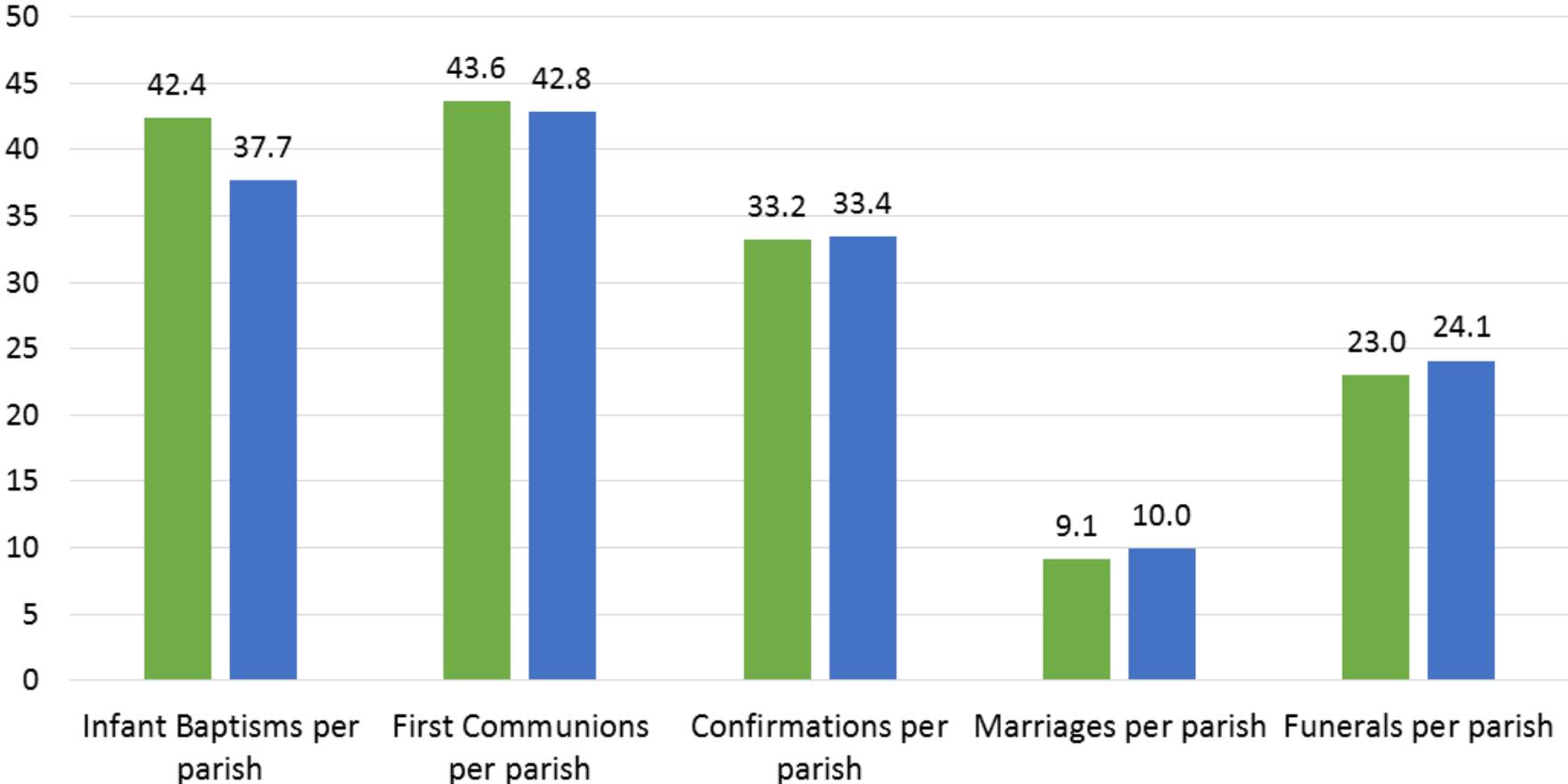


## Average Annual Numbers of Sacraments and Rites Celebrated per U.S. Catholic Parish

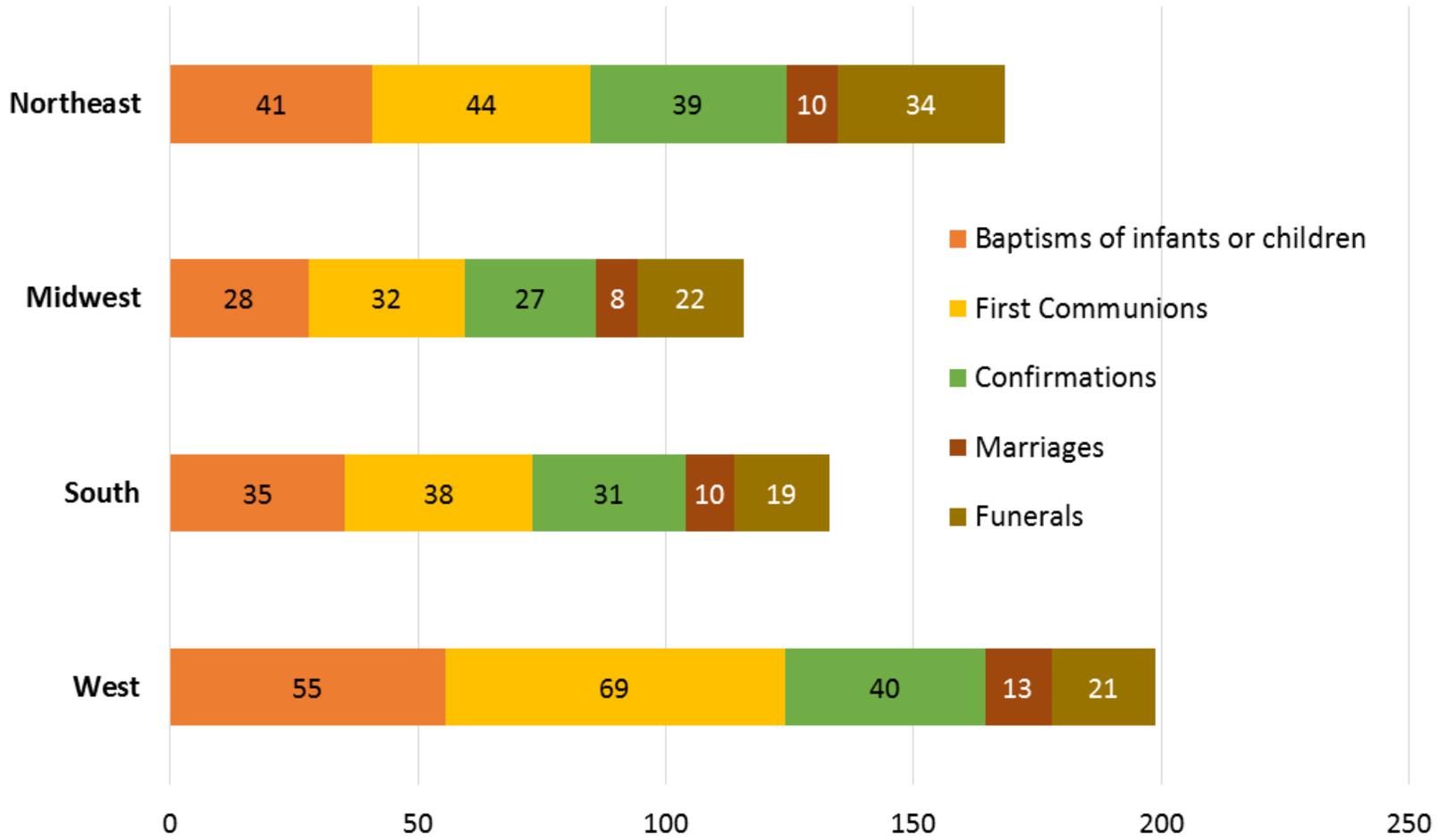
	2008	2012	Change	
Baptisms of infants or children (up to 7 years of age)	34.7	37.7	+3.1	+8.8%
Baptisms of youth (between 7 and 17 years of age)	2.7	3.5	+0.8	+30.8%
Baptisms of adults (ages 18 and older)	2.1	2.5	+0.4	+18.8%
Receptions into full communion (those baptized in another Christian faith)	3.1	3.5	+0.4	+11.8%
First Communion	39.5	42.8	+3.3	+8.5%
First Reconciliations	33.4	38.1	+4.6	+13.9%
Confirmations	29.2	33.4	+4.2	+14.3%
Marriages between two Catholics	5.9	6.9	+0.9	+15.9%
Marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0%
Funerals	20.0	24.1	+4.1	+20.7%
Average Reconciliation attenders in a week	11.0	14.4	+3.4	+30.8%

Data Check: Comparing to the 2012 in the *OCD*

Official Catholic Directory (OCD)      CARA Parish Survey



Average Annual Number of Sacraments and Rites Celebrated per U.S. Catholic Parish by Region, 2012

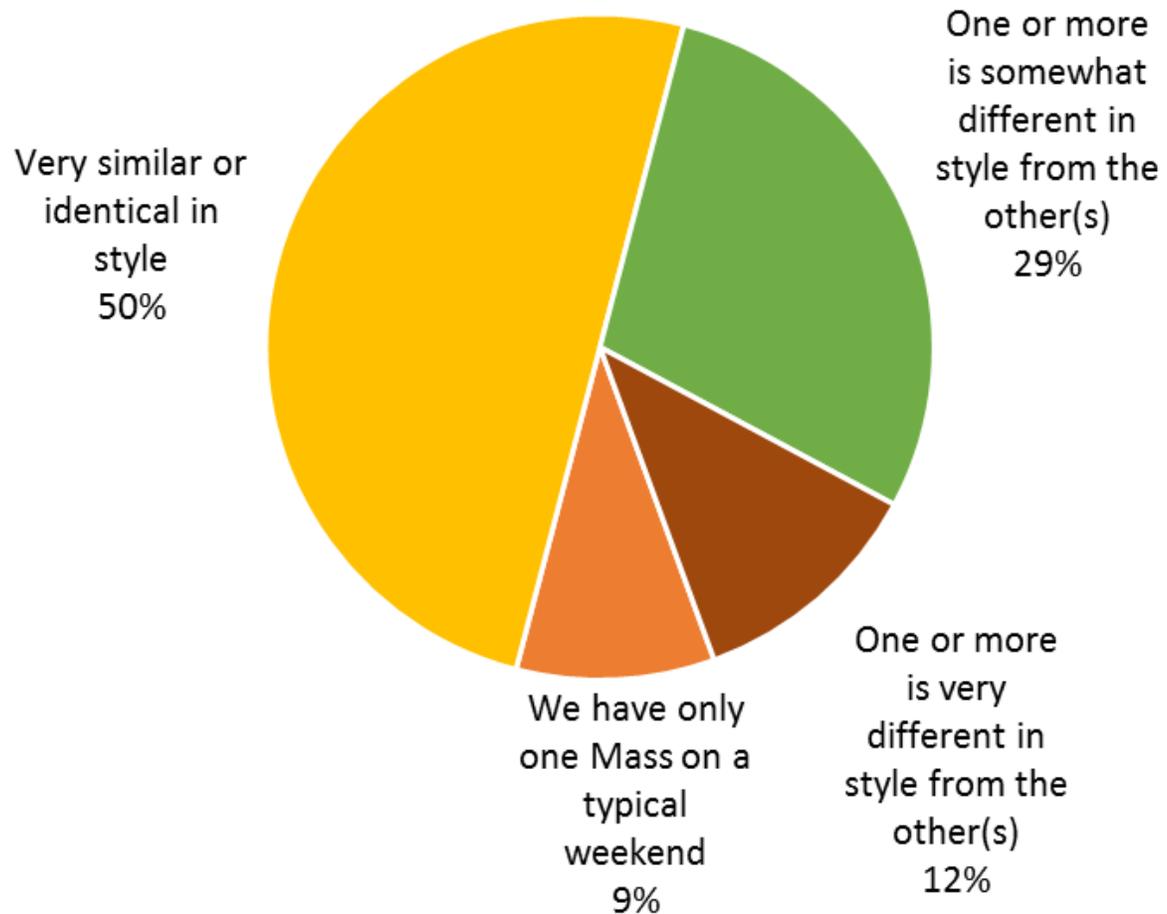


## Number of Parishioners (Registered and Unregistered Attendees) Per Sacrament or Rite Celebrated, 2012

First Communion	87.5
Baptisms of infants or children (up to 7 years of age)	96.9
Confirmations	106.0
Funerals	126.2
Average Reconciliation attenders in a week	337.5
Marriages between two Catholics	491.0
Marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic	1,016.4
Receptions into full communion (those baptized in another Christian faith)	1,039.9
Baptisms of youth (between 7 and 17 years of age)	1,066.8
Baptisms of adults (ages 18 and older)	1,351.6

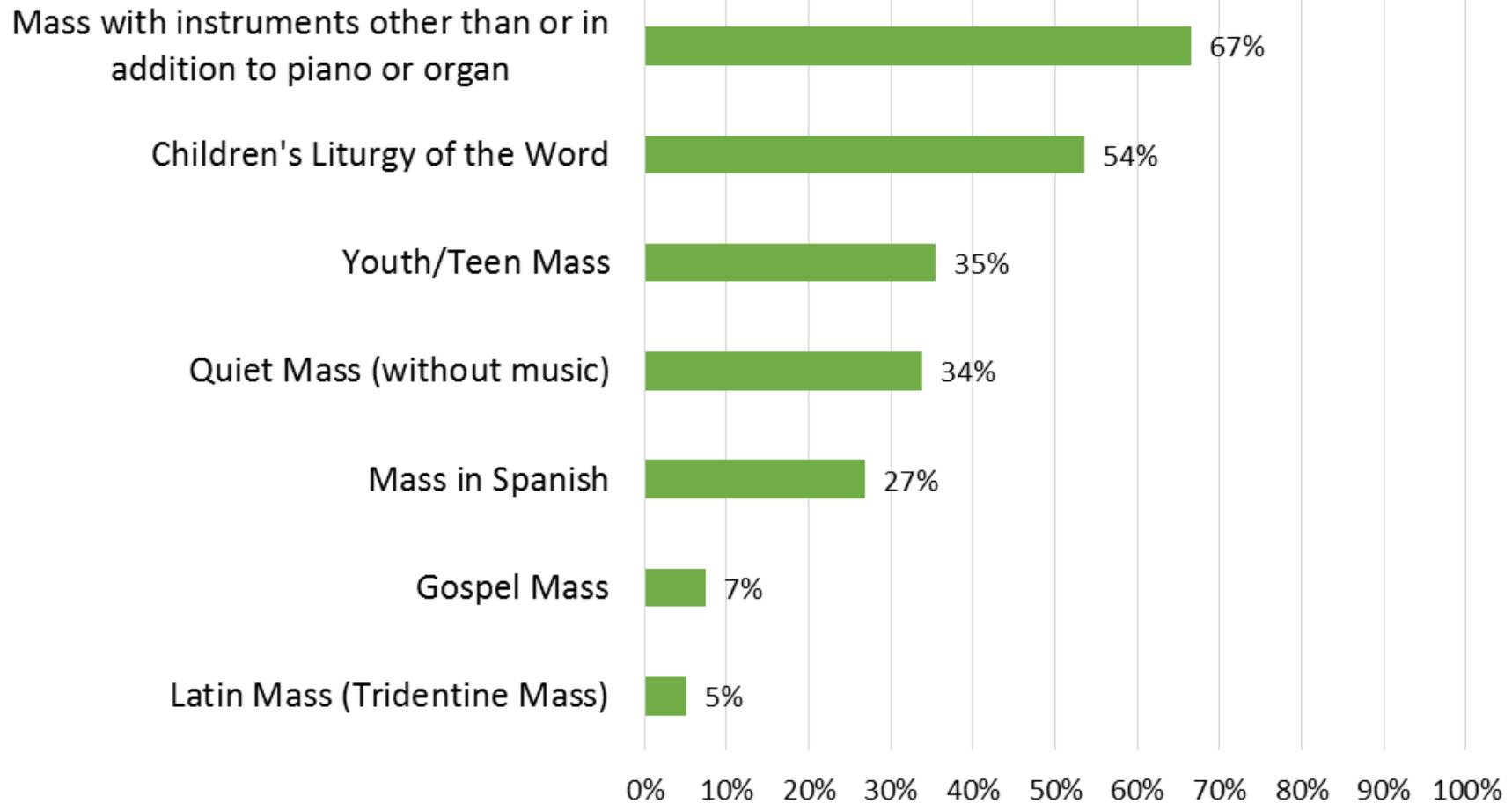
More common

*If you hold more than one Mass on a weekend, how different are the Masses from each other?*



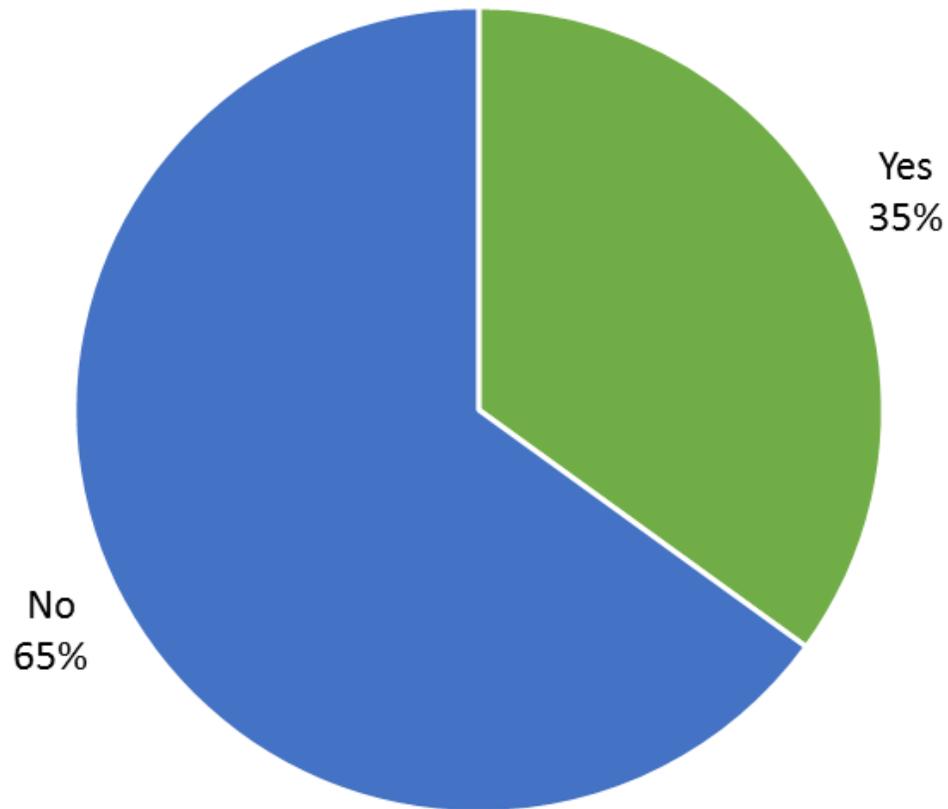
The average parish has 3 to 4 weekend Masses

*Does your parish celebrate any of the following types of liturgies at least once per month? Percentage responding "yes"*



### *Do you currently live closer to another parish?*

Catholic adults surveyed in-pew

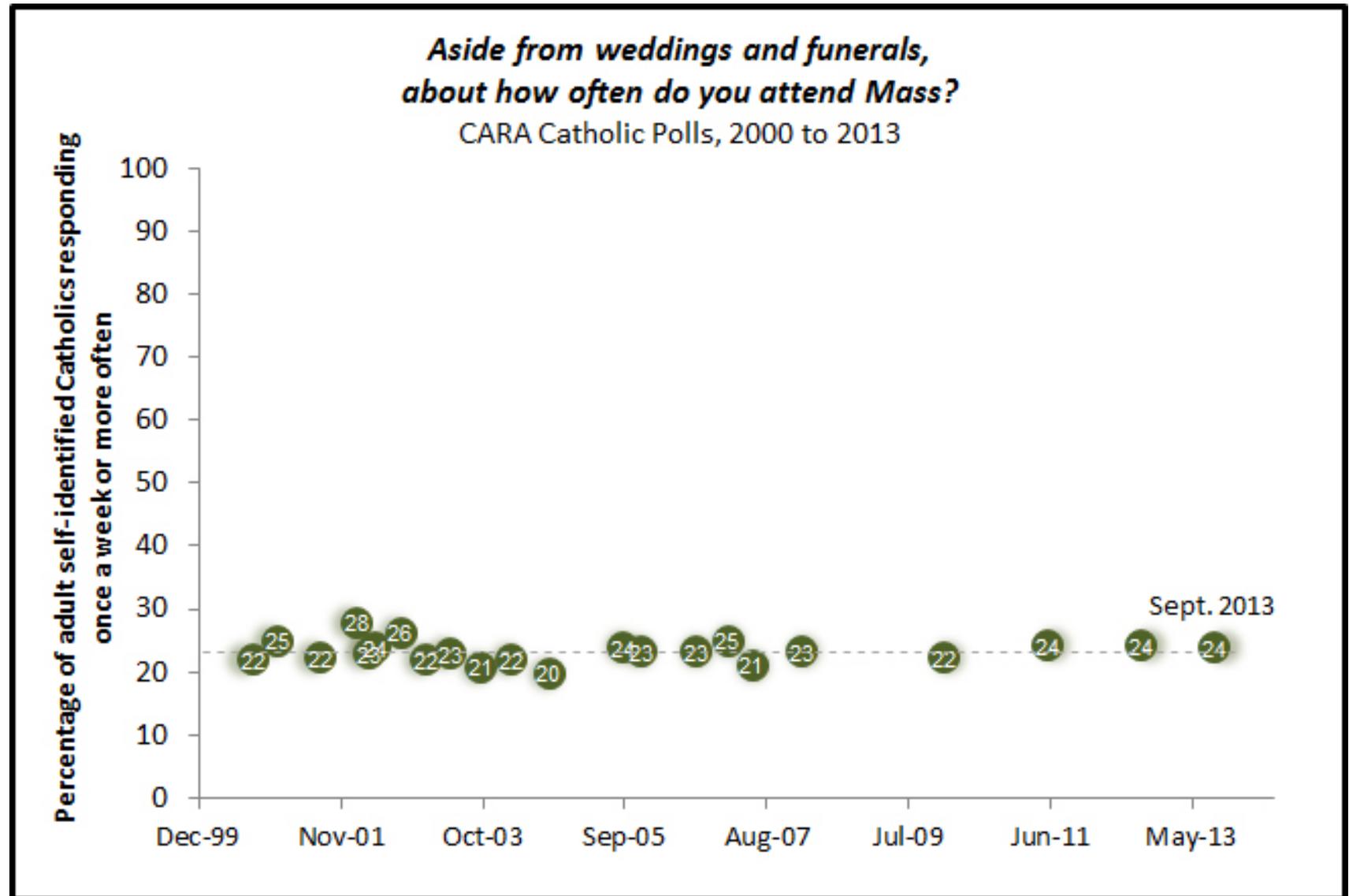


Source: *Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership*/CARA

### **Emerging Models:**

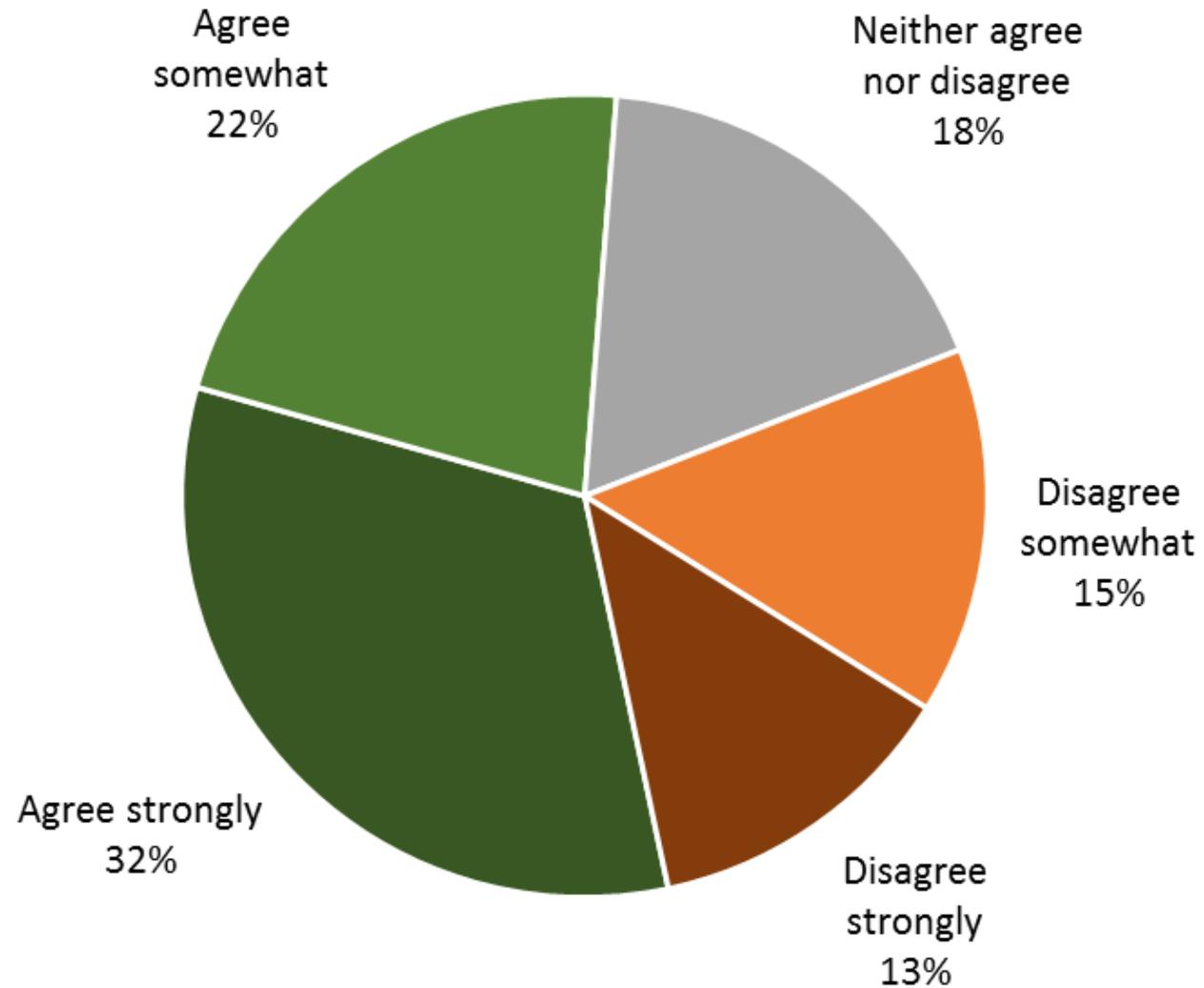
- More than a third of adult Mass-attending Catholics drive-by their territorial parish to attend one of their choice
- This is most common among Millennials born 1982 or later (39%), Hispanics (43%), Asian and Pacific Islanders (45%), and African Americans (42%)
- 79% of regular Mass attenders are registered with the parish they attend (55% of all adult Catholics are registered with a parish)

## CARA Catholic Poll (CCP):

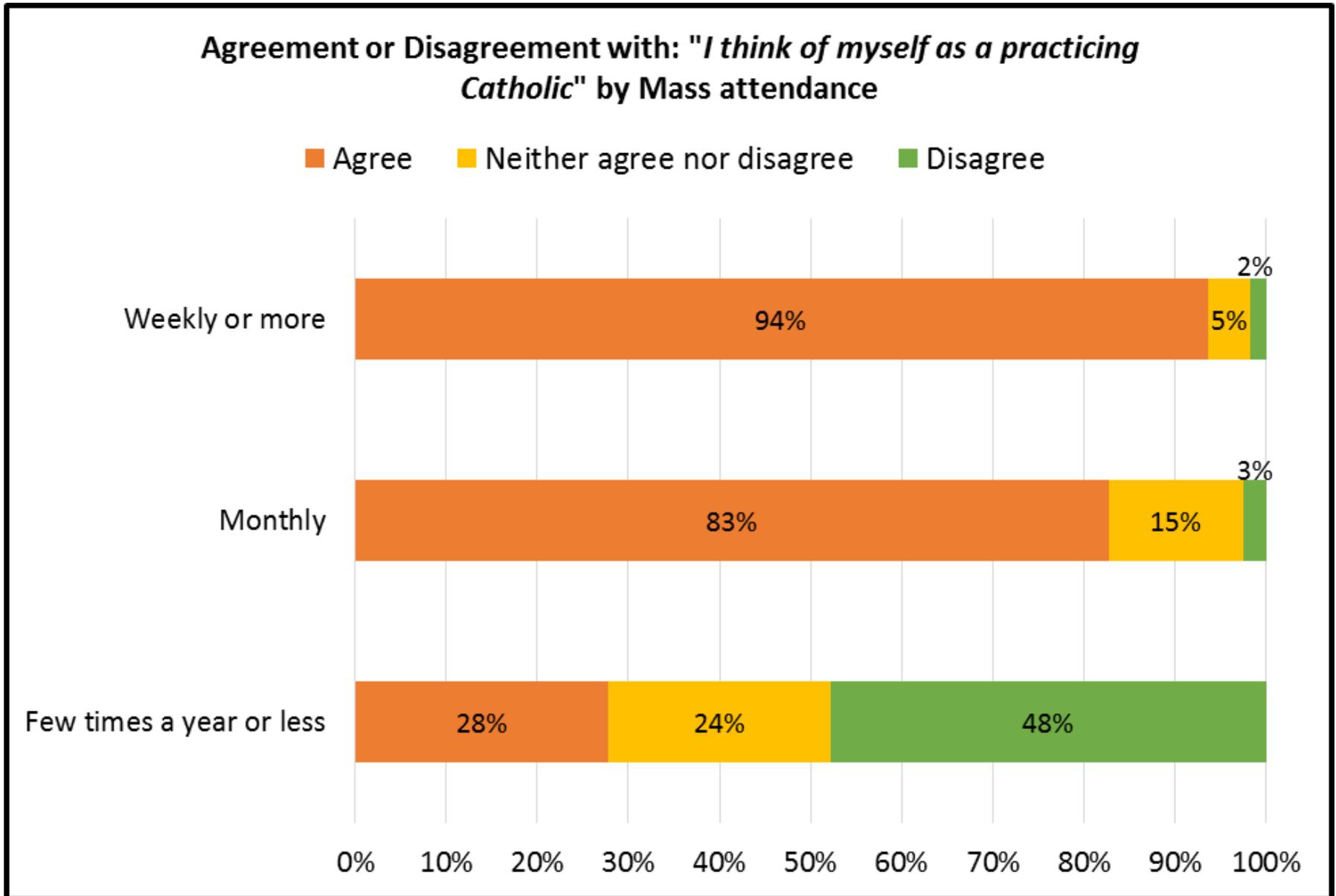


**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**

*How much do you agree... "I think of myself as a  
practicing Catholic."*

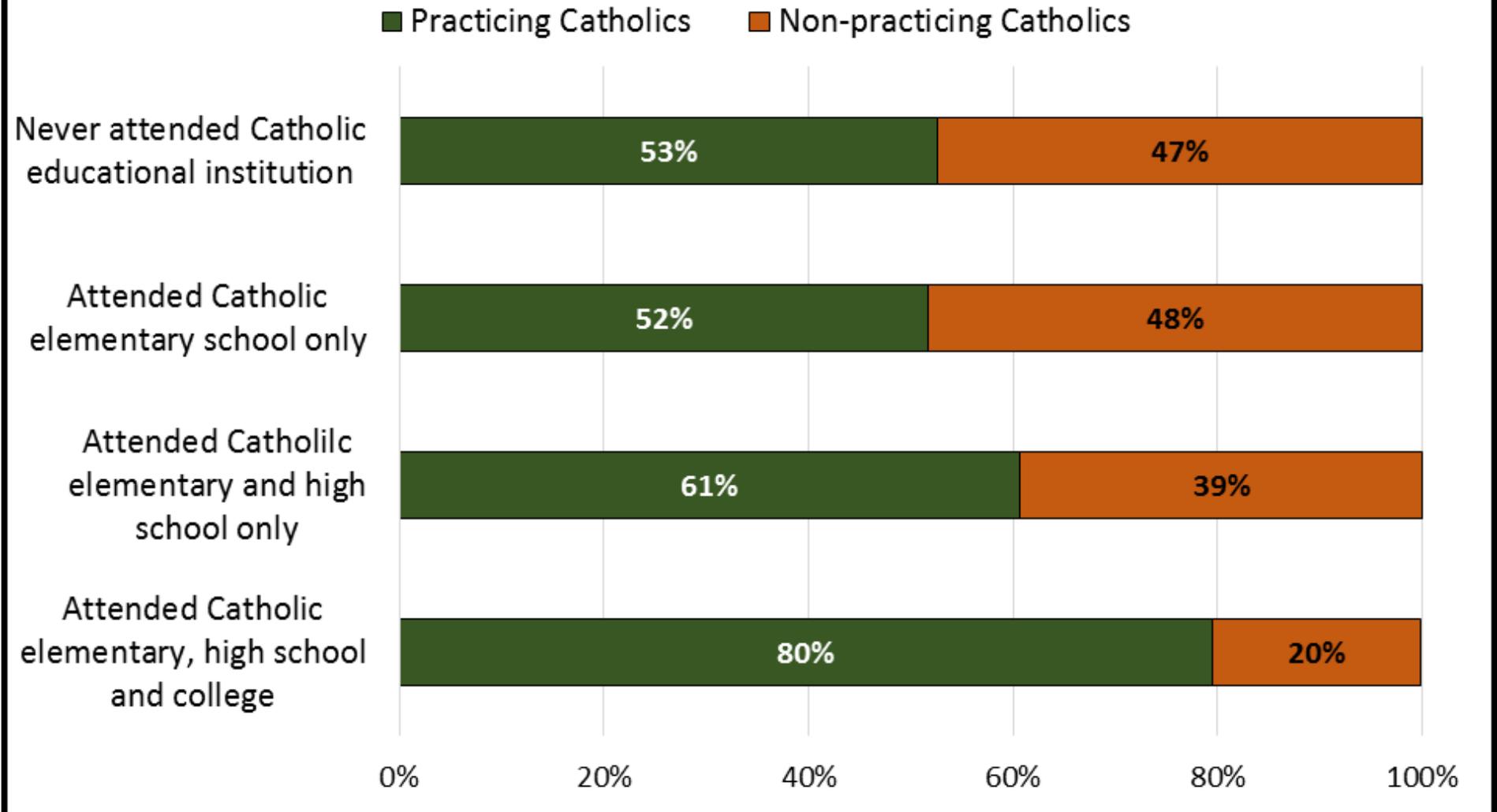


**CARA Catholic Poll  
(CCP):**

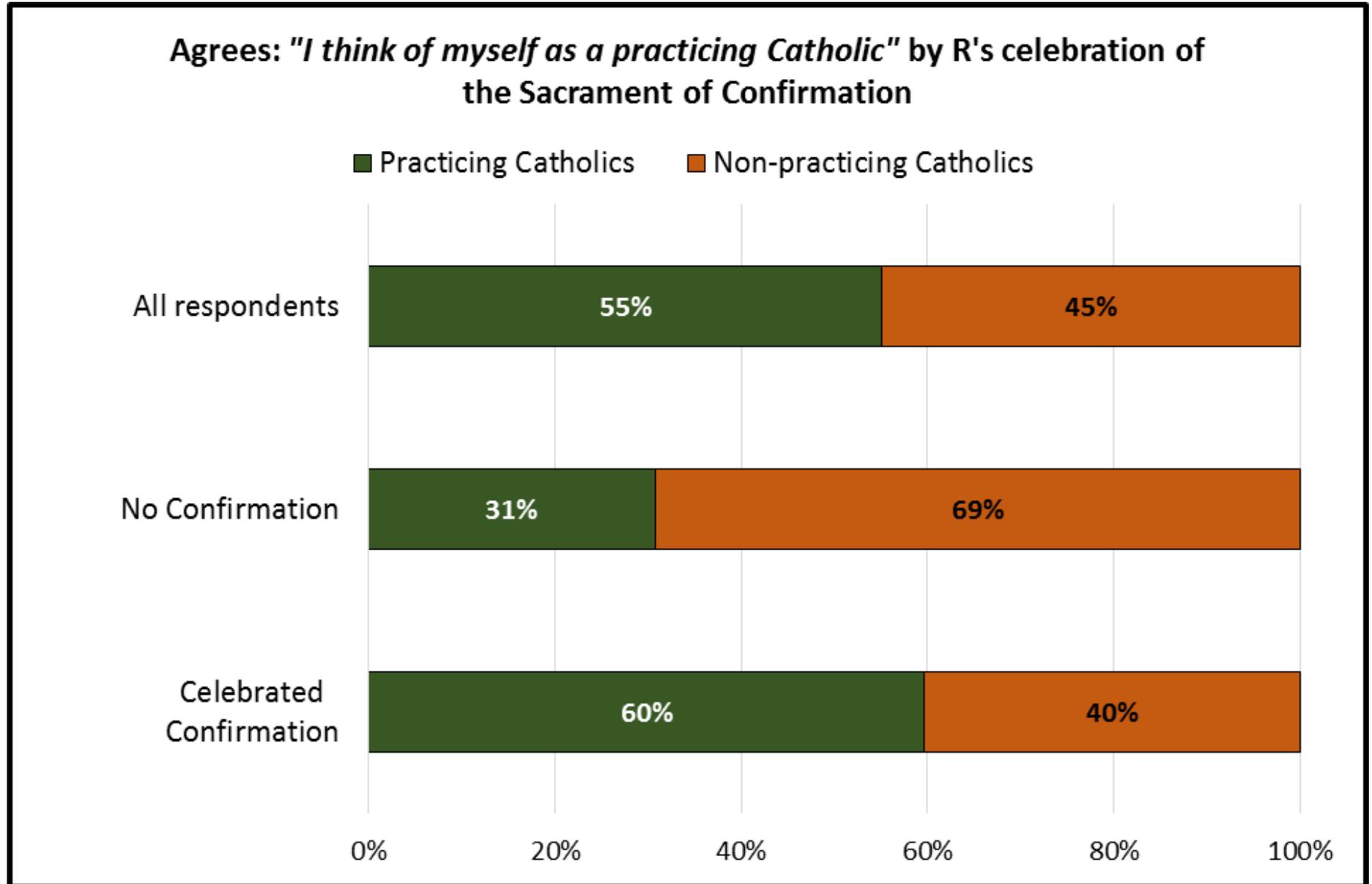


**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**

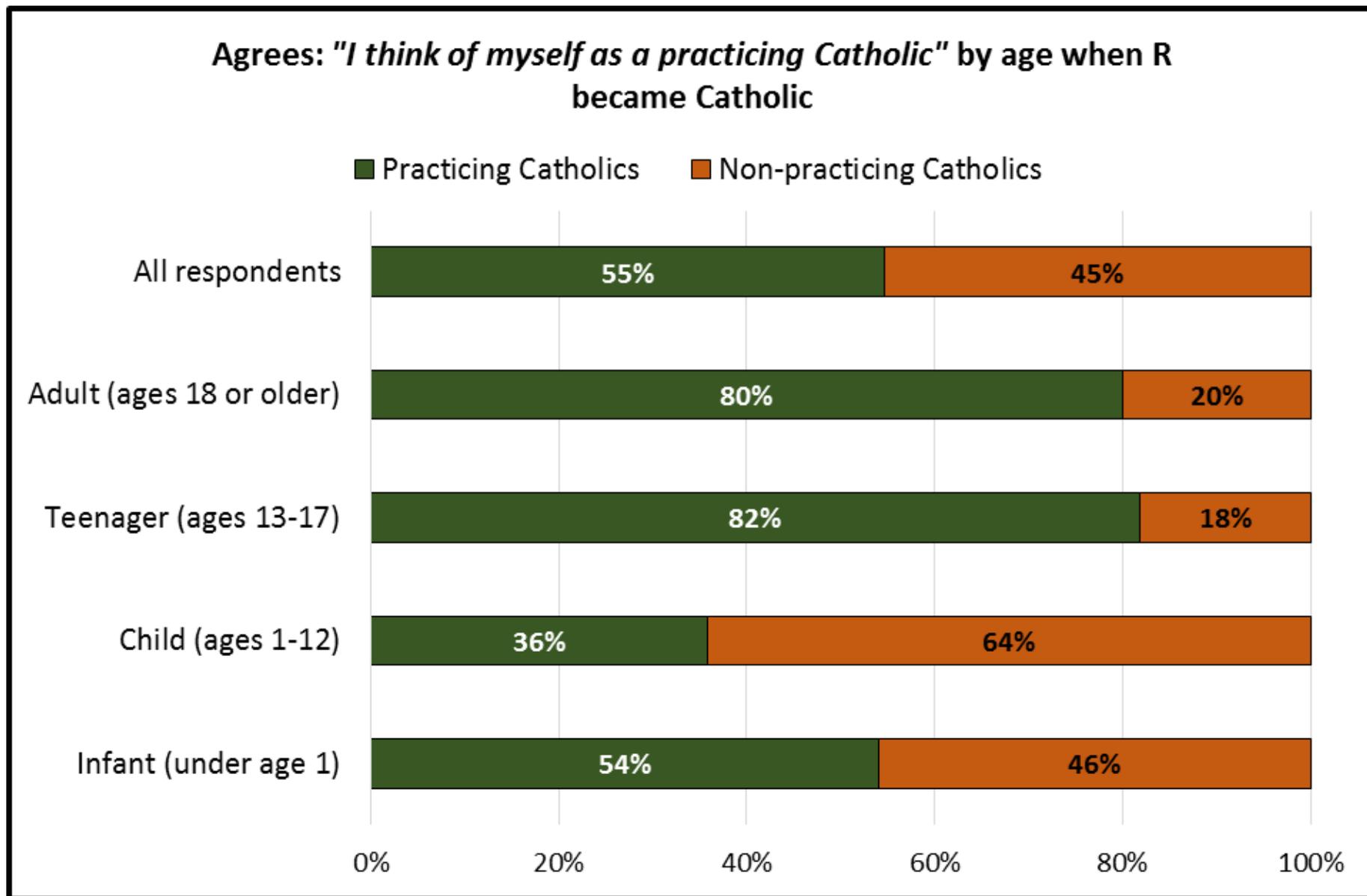
**Agrees: "I think of myself as a practicing Catholic" by R's enrollment in  
Catholic education**



**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**



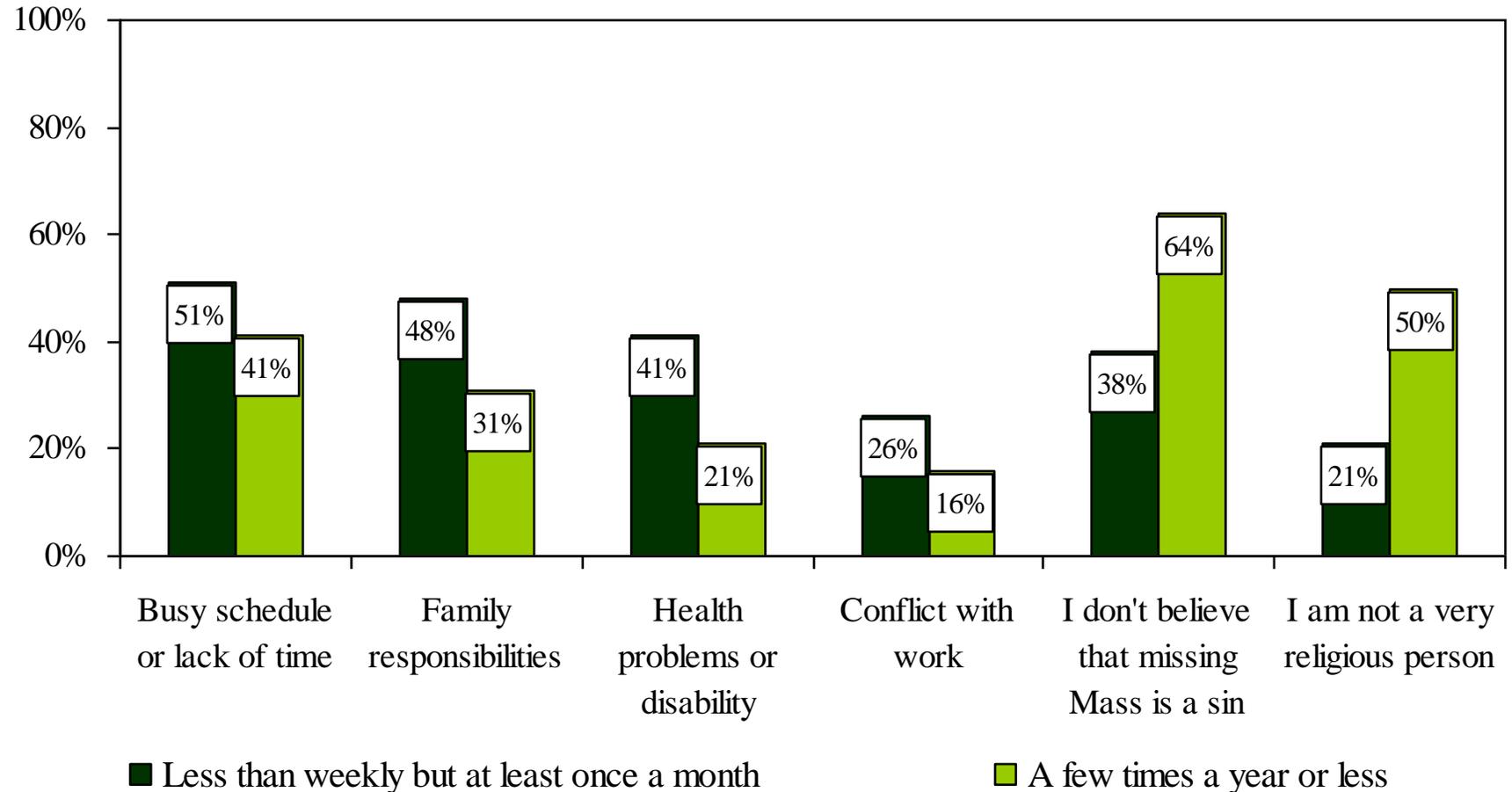
**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**



## CARA Catholic Poll (CCP):

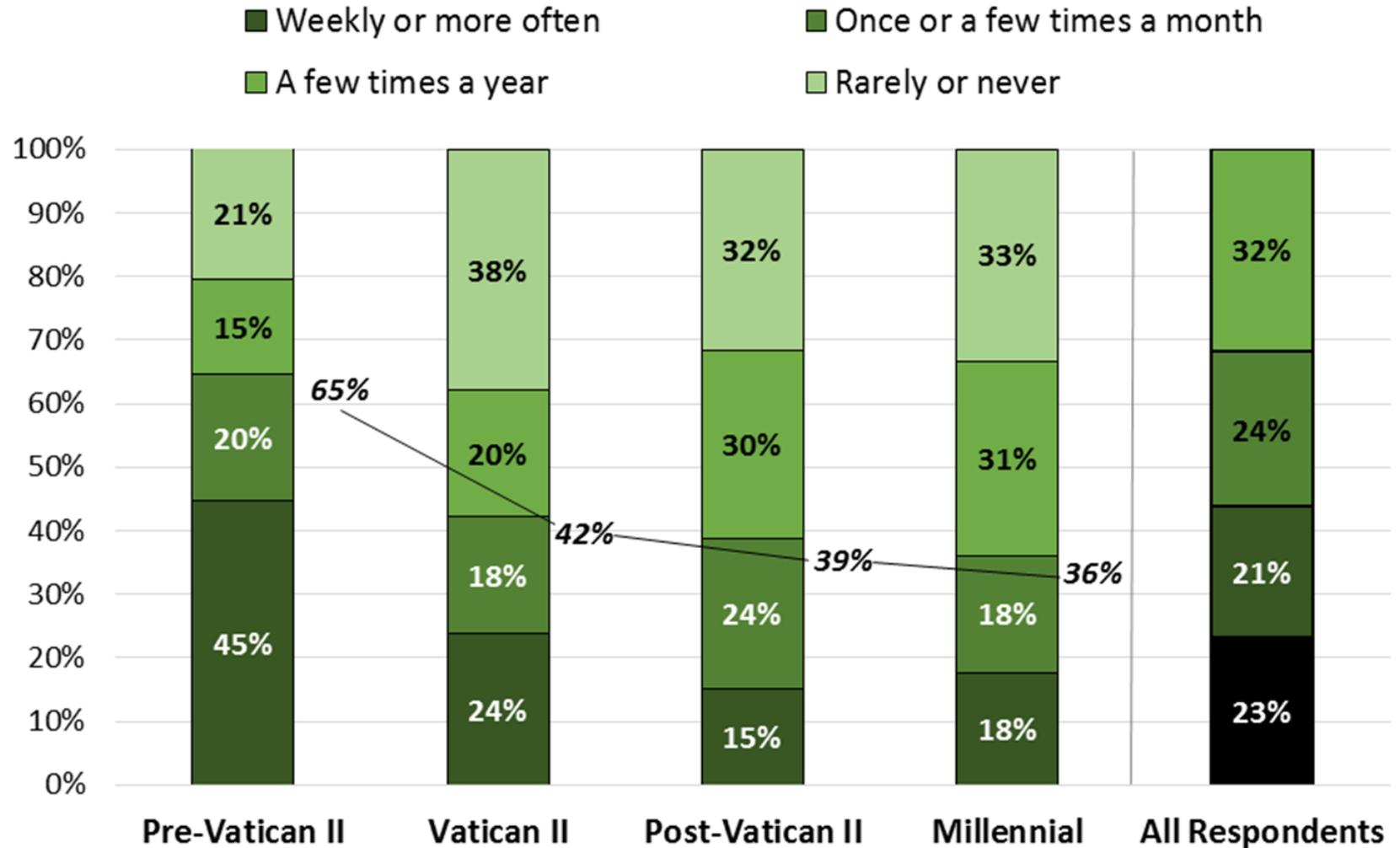
*If you missed Sunday Mass at least once in the last six months, how well do each of the following explain, if at all, why you missed Mass?*

Percentage responding at least "Somewhat" by Mass attendance



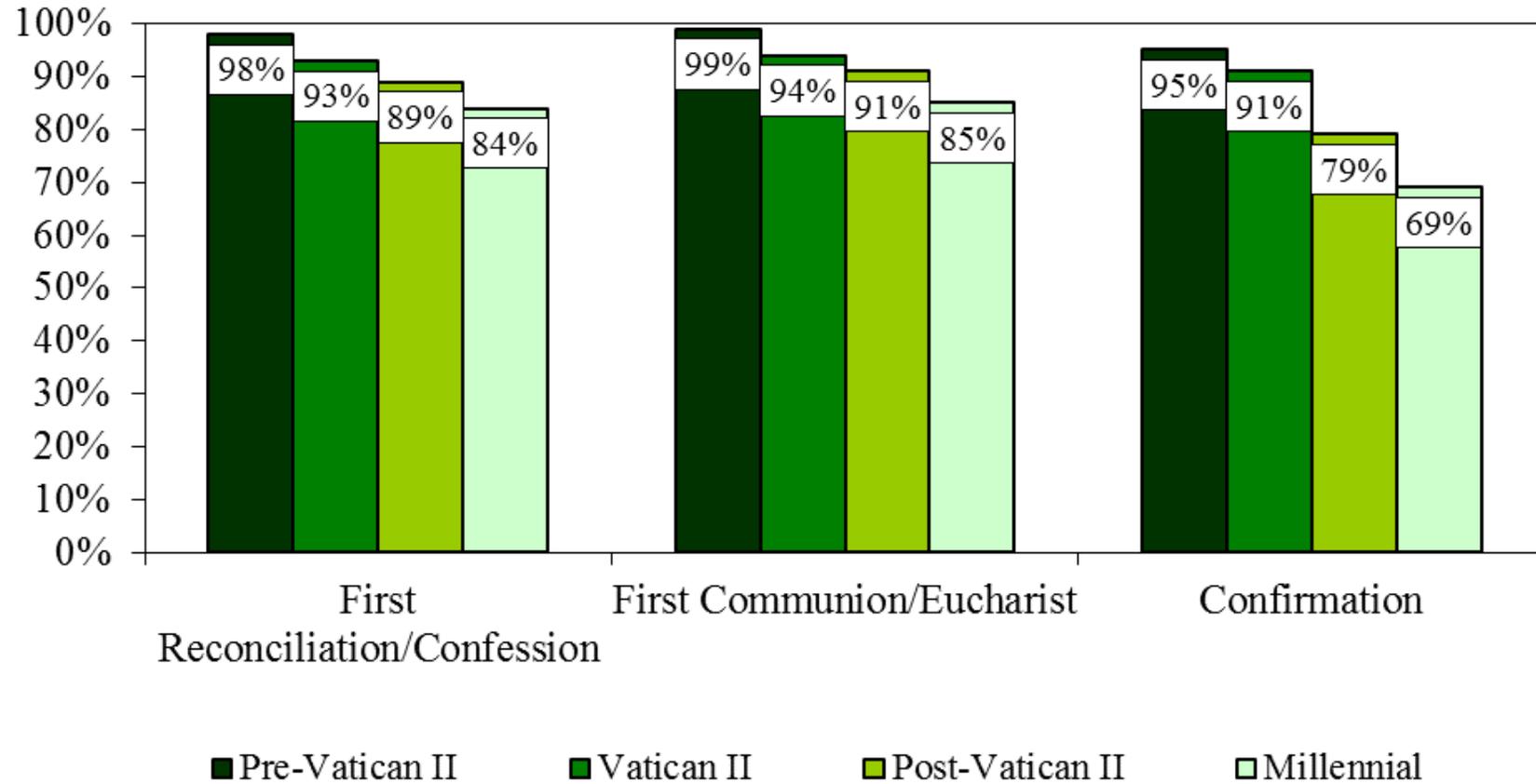
**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**

*Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?*



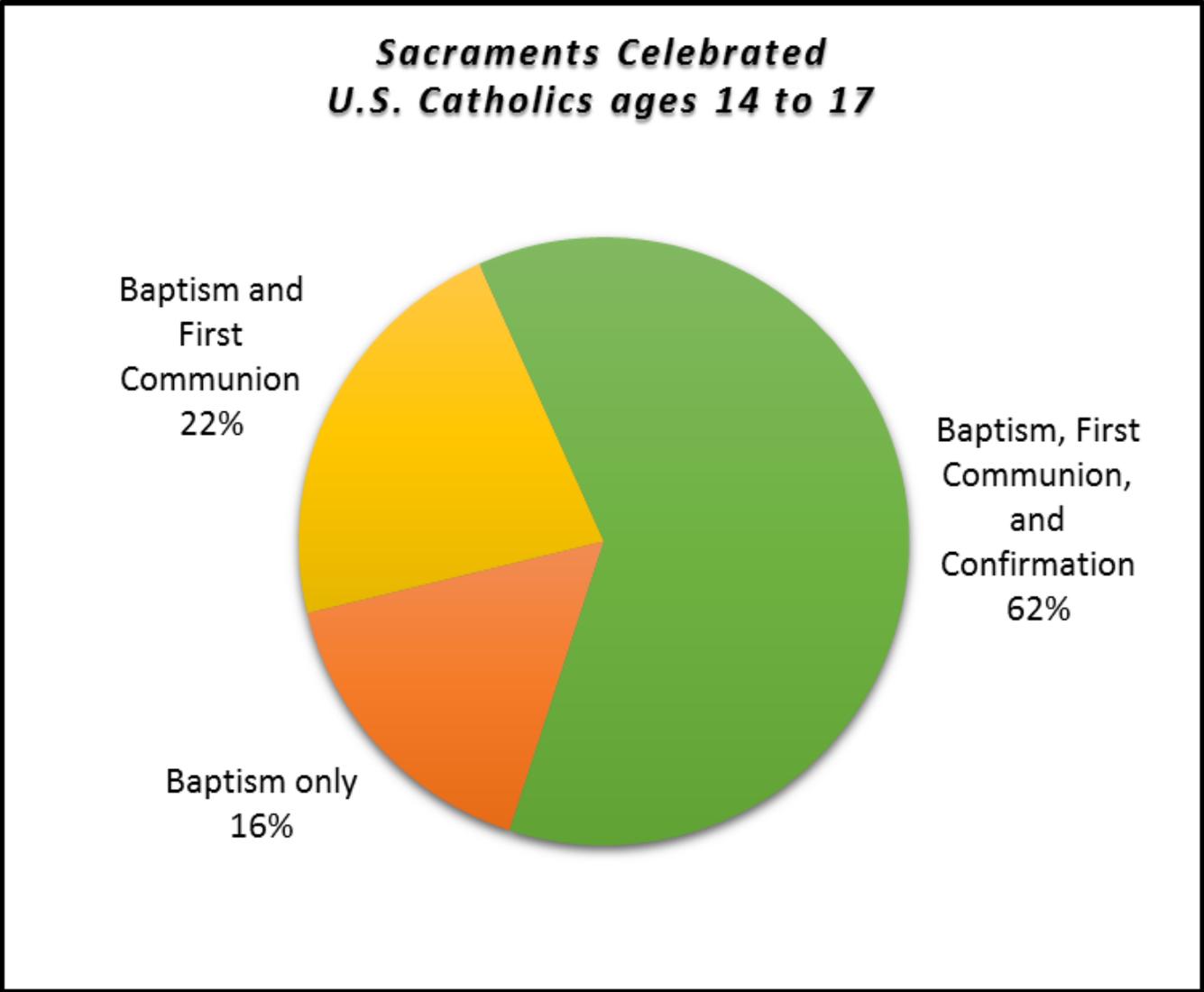
**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP):**

*Which of the following have you celebrated?*  
Percentage responding "yes" by Generation



**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP)**

**Teen oversample:**



# CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND THE CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS BY GENERATION

	First Eucharist	Confirmation
<b>Attended a Catholic primary school</b>		
Pre-Vatican II	99%	99%
Vatican II	98%	95%
Post-Vatican II	99%	89%
Millennial	100%	82%
<b>Did not attend a Catholic primary school</b>		
Pre-Vatican II	99%	91%
Vatican II	89%	85%
Post-Vatican II	87%	73%
Millennial	80%	66%

# ENROLLMENT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- More than half of Pre-Vatican II (55%) and Vatican II Catholics (56%) attended a Catholic school or college at some point.
- Only 40% of Post-Vatican II Catholics 29% of Millennial Generation Catholics have been enrolled at a Catholic educational institution.

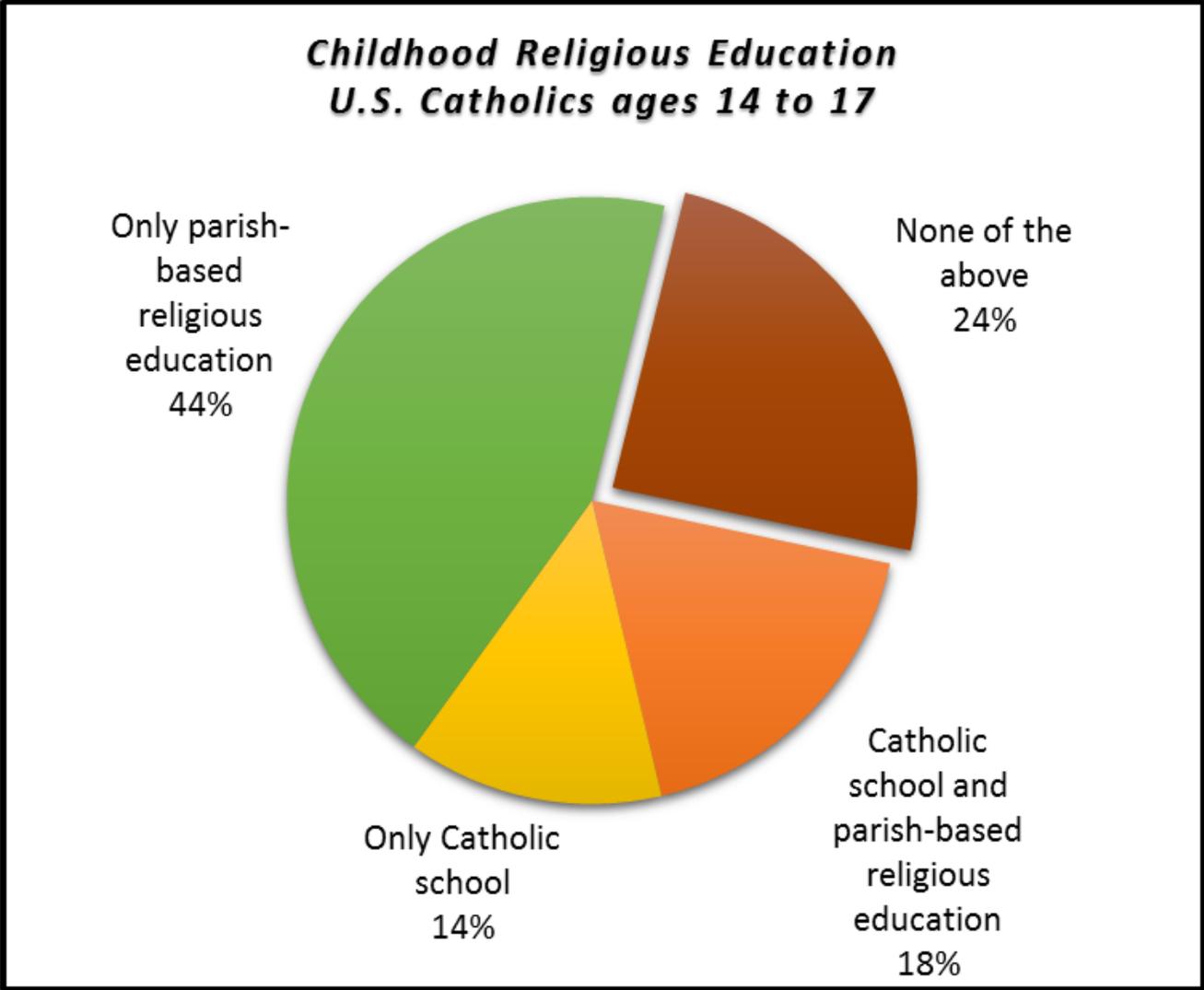
## ***Did you attend a Catholic...***

Percentage responding "yes"

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Elementary, middle, or junior high school | 42% |
| • High school                               | 22% |
| • College or university                     | 7%  |
| • All of the above                          | 3%  |
| • None of the above                         | 54% |

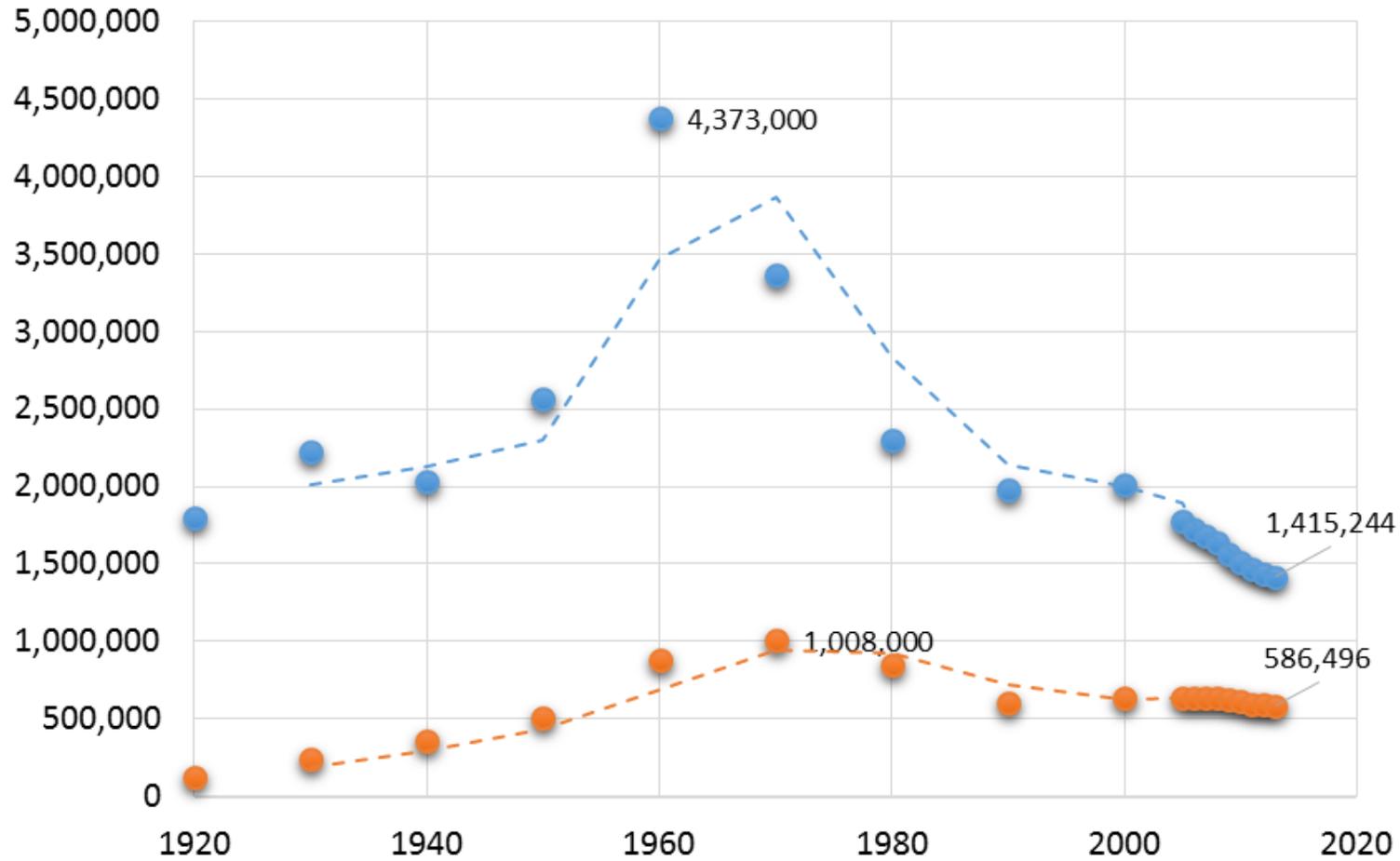
**CARA Catholic  
Poll (CCP)**

**Teen oversample:**



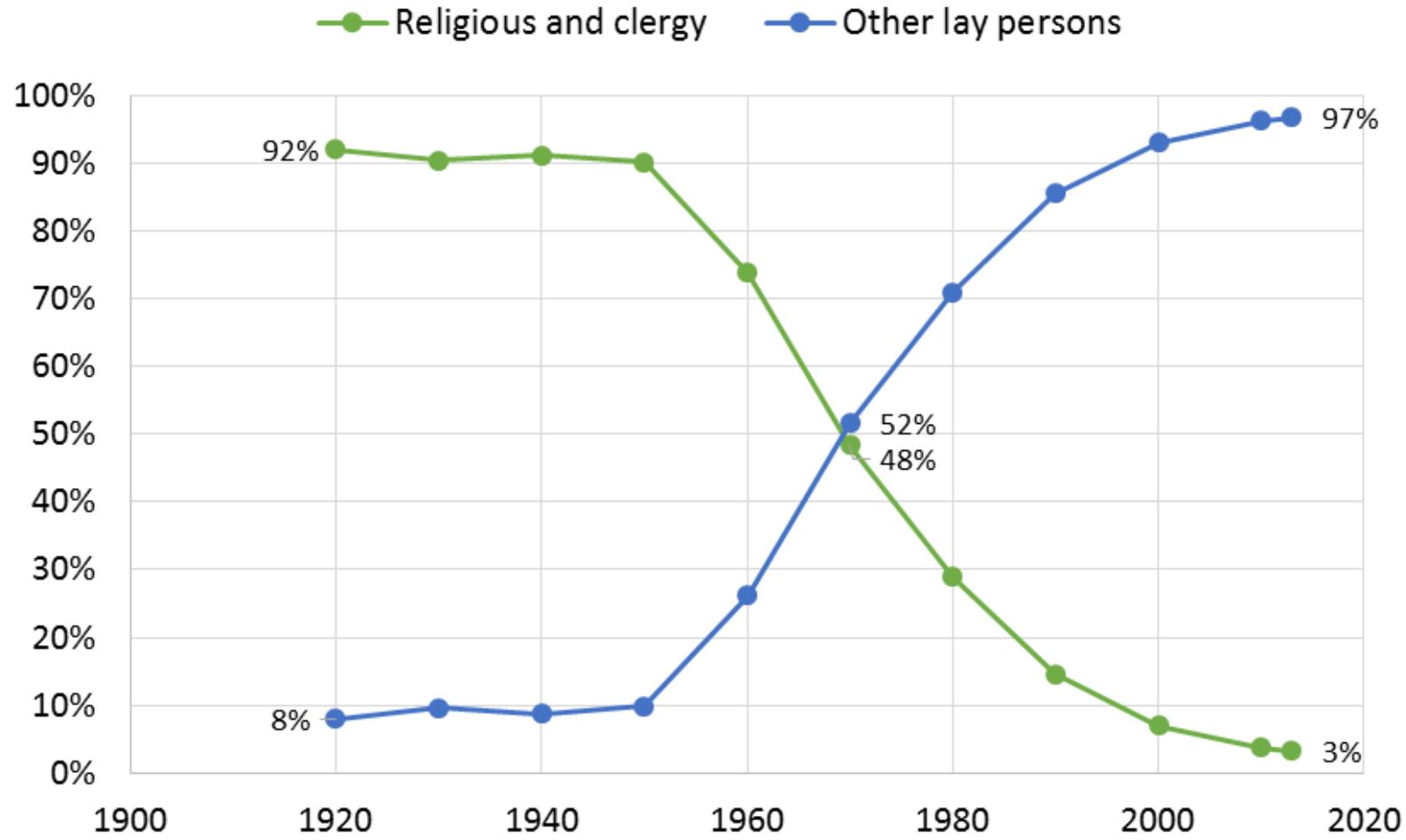
### Students Enrolled in U.S. Catholic Schools, 1920 to 2013

● Primary ● Secondary



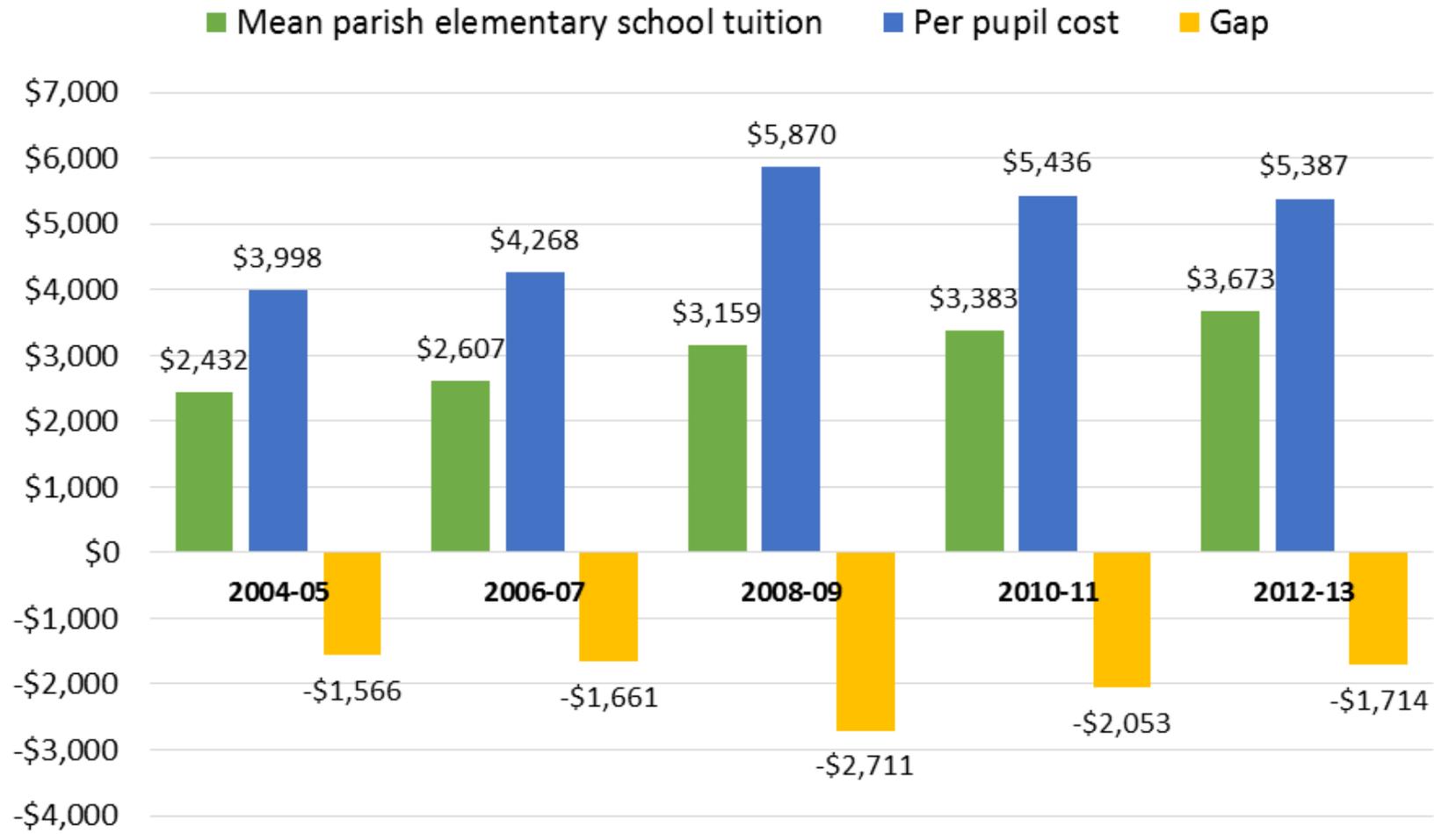
Source: National Catholic Educational Association

### Catholic School Staffing, 1920 to 2013



Source: National Catholic Educational Association

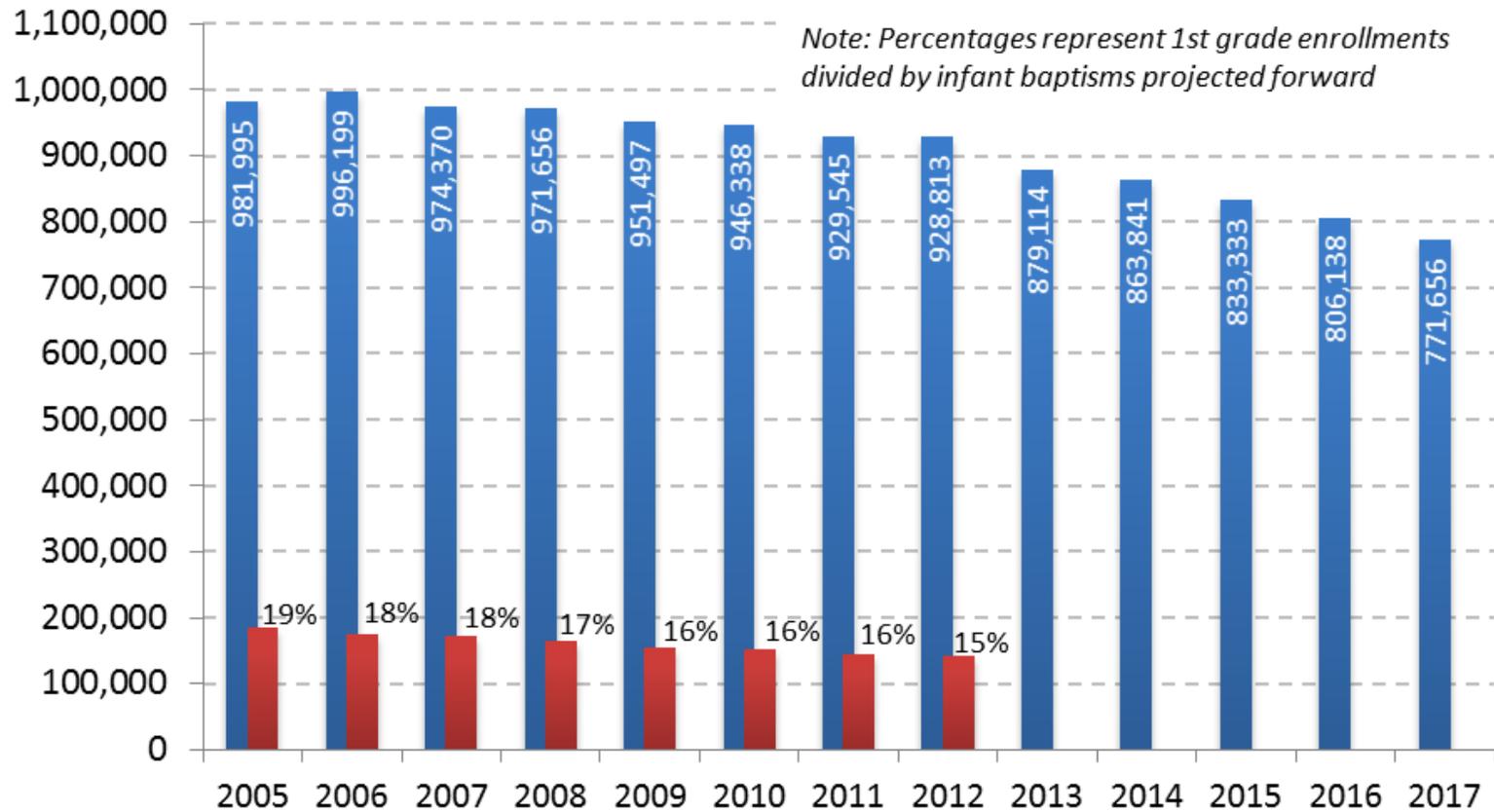
### Catholic Elementary School Tuition and Per Pupil Cost, 2004-2013



Source: National Catholic Educational Association

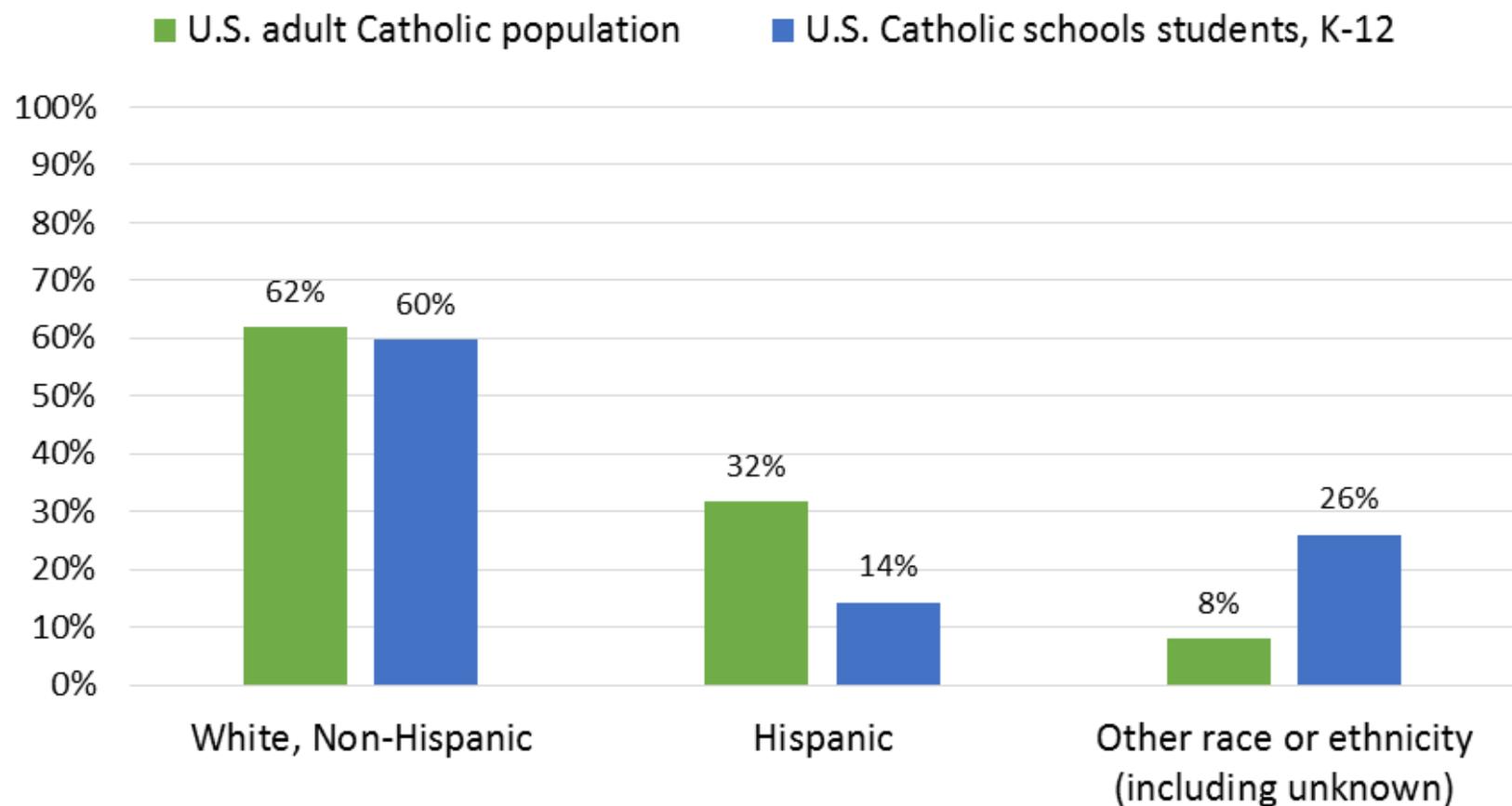
## Enrollment Expectations?: U.S. Catholic Baptisms Projected 6 Years Forward and 1st Grade U.S. Catholic School Enrollments

- Catholic infant baptisms projected 6-years forward
- 1st graders enrolled in Catholic Schools



Sources: CARA, The Official Catholic Directory, National Catholic Educational Association

### Race and Ethnicity: Adult Catholic population and Students enrolled in U.S. Catholic Schools, 2012



Source: CARA Catholic Poll (CCP), 2012, National Catholic Educational Association

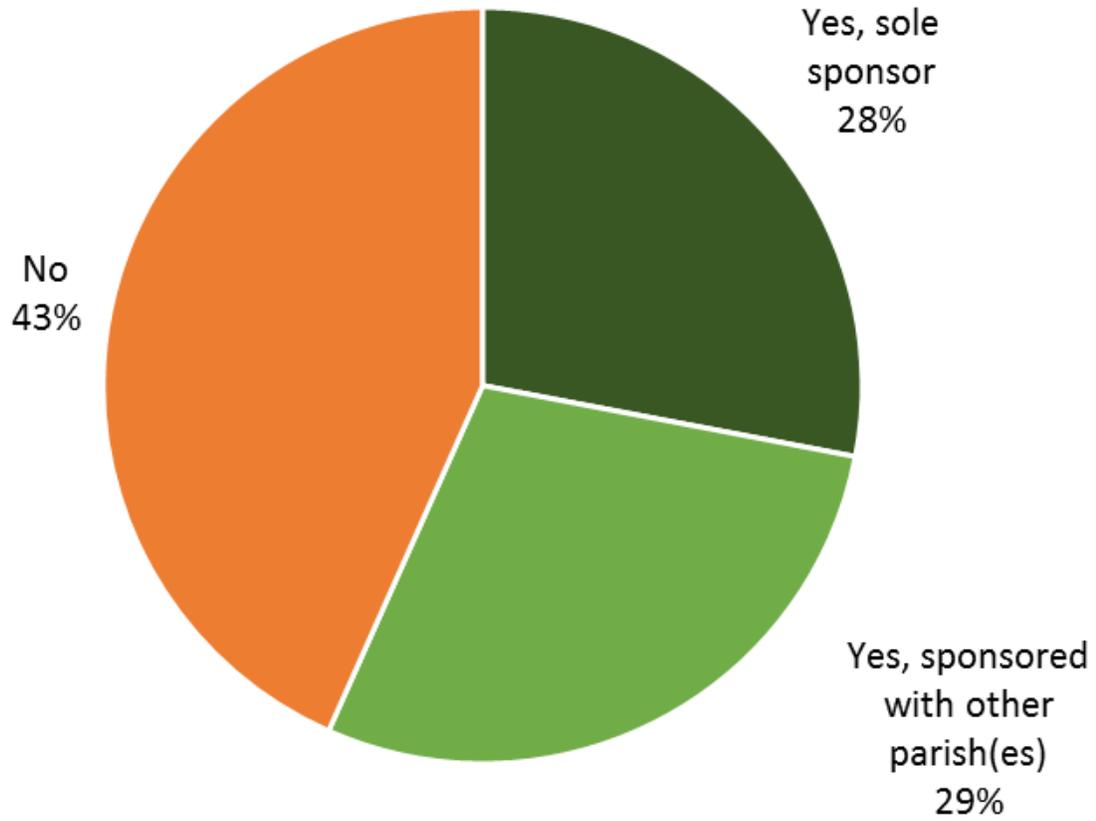


# CARA PARISH SURVEY, 2013

PRELIMINARY SCHOOL RESULTS

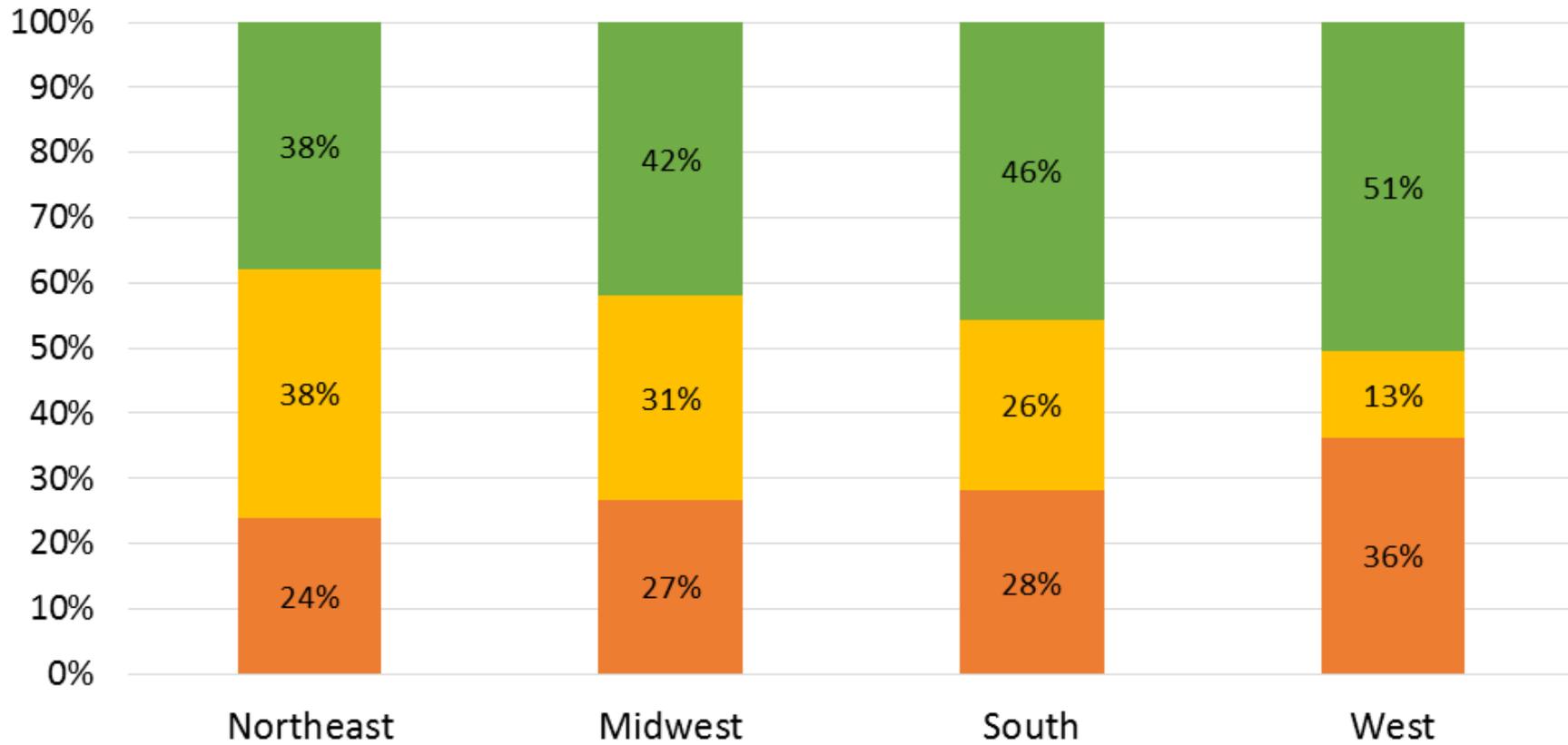


*Does this parish sponsor or support a Catholic elementary school, either by itself or with other parishes?*



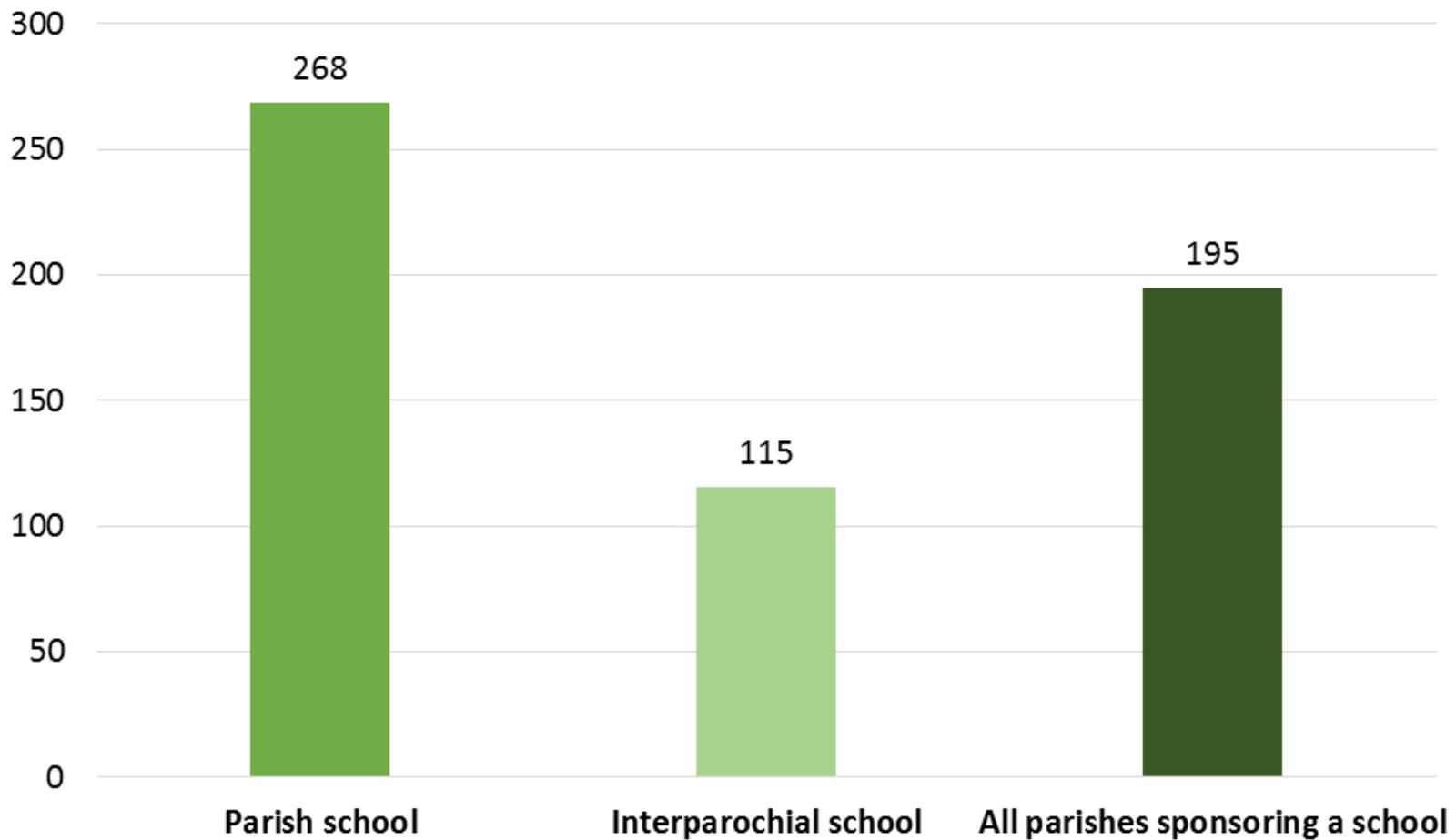
*Does this parish sponsor or support a Catholic elementary school, either by itself or with other parishes?*

Yes, sole sponsor    Yes, sponsored with other parish(es)    No



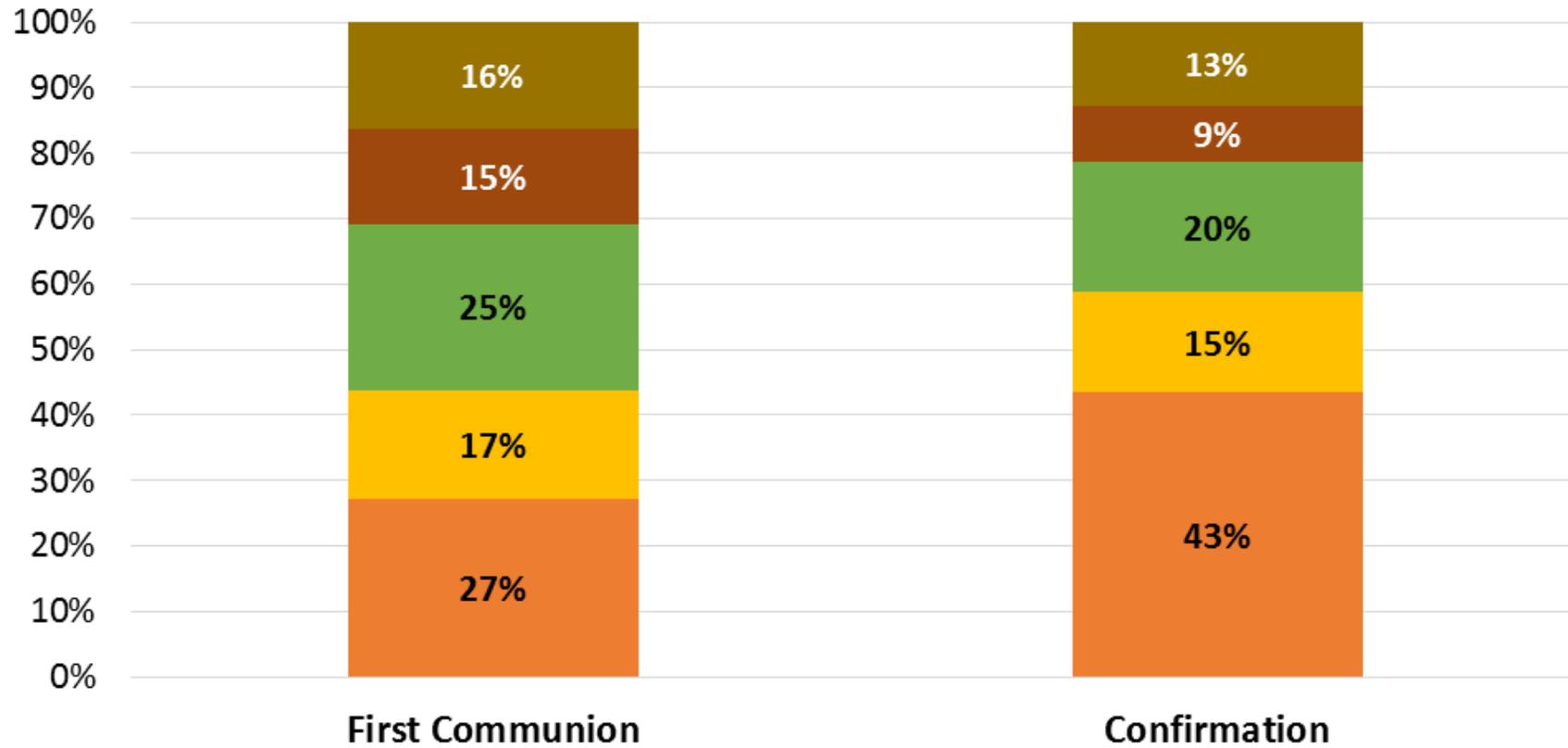
*Approximate total number of children (K-12) in this parish enrolled in a Catholic school associated with this parish:*

Average per parish:



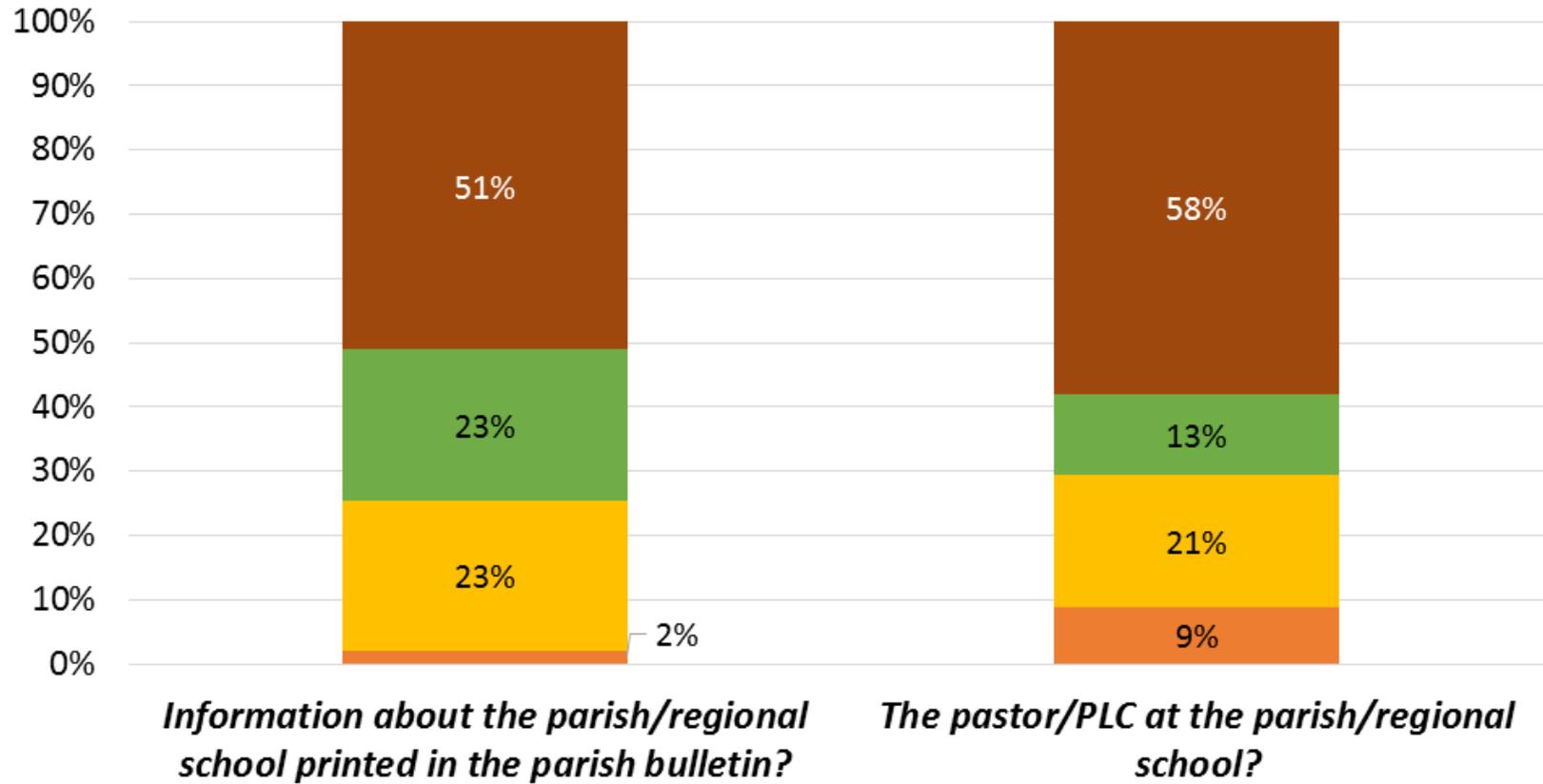
*Percentage of children celebrating First Communion/Confirmation at your parish this year who were also enrolled in your parish/regional school?*

None 1% to 10% 11% to 49% 50% to 74% 75% to 100%

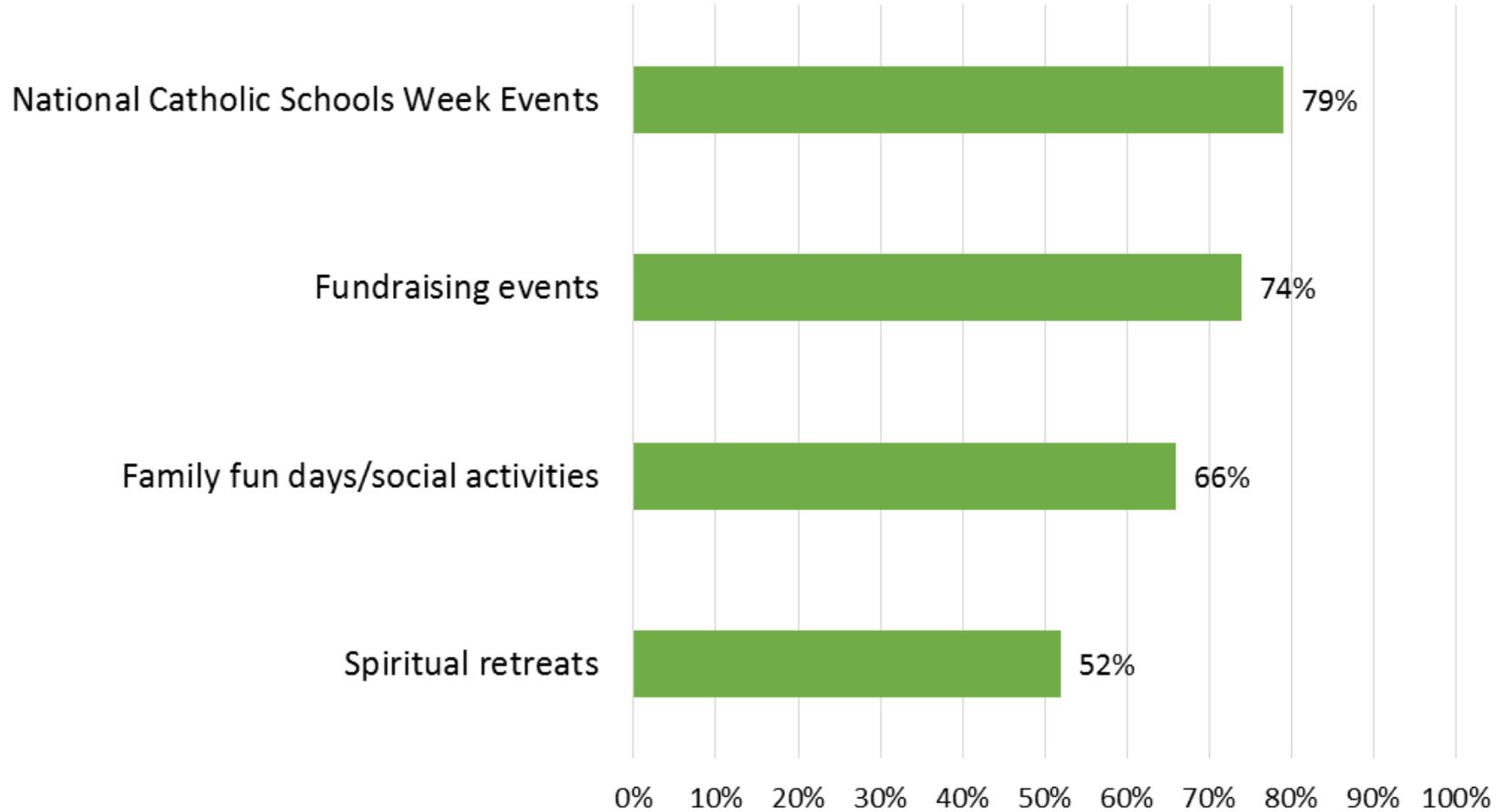


*How frequently is...*

Never   Occasionally   At least once a month   At least once a week



*Does the parish/regional school and the parish jointly sponsor any of the following activities? Percentage responding "yes"*

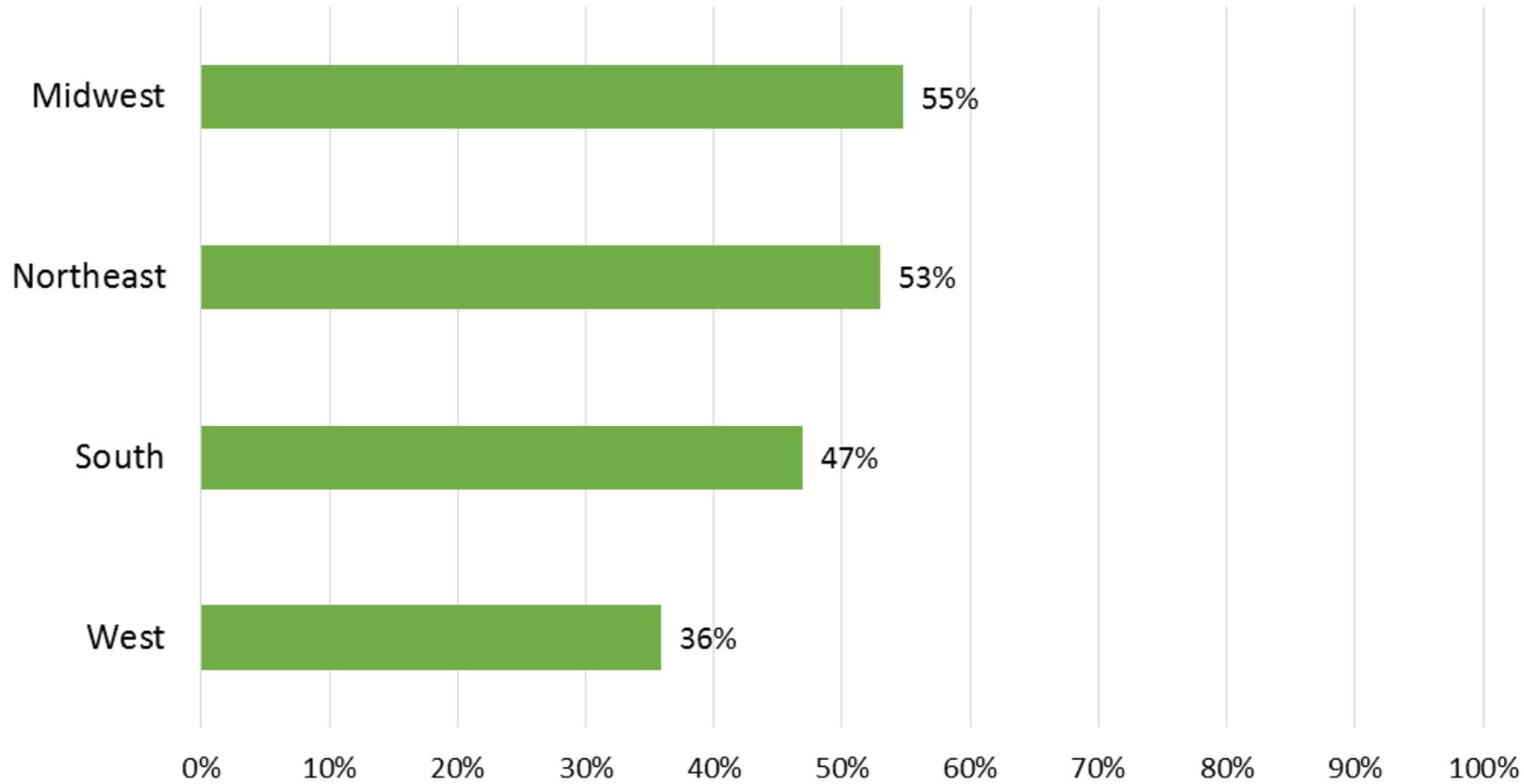


*For the 2012-2013 school year, did the parish/regional school run a deficit? That is, did the school cost more than it brought in?*



Among schools with deficits, an average of \$165,000 was provided last year by parishes to defray the deficit.

*For the 2012-2013 school year, did the parish/regional school run a deficit?  
That is, did the school cost more than it brought in? Percentage responding  
"yes" by region*



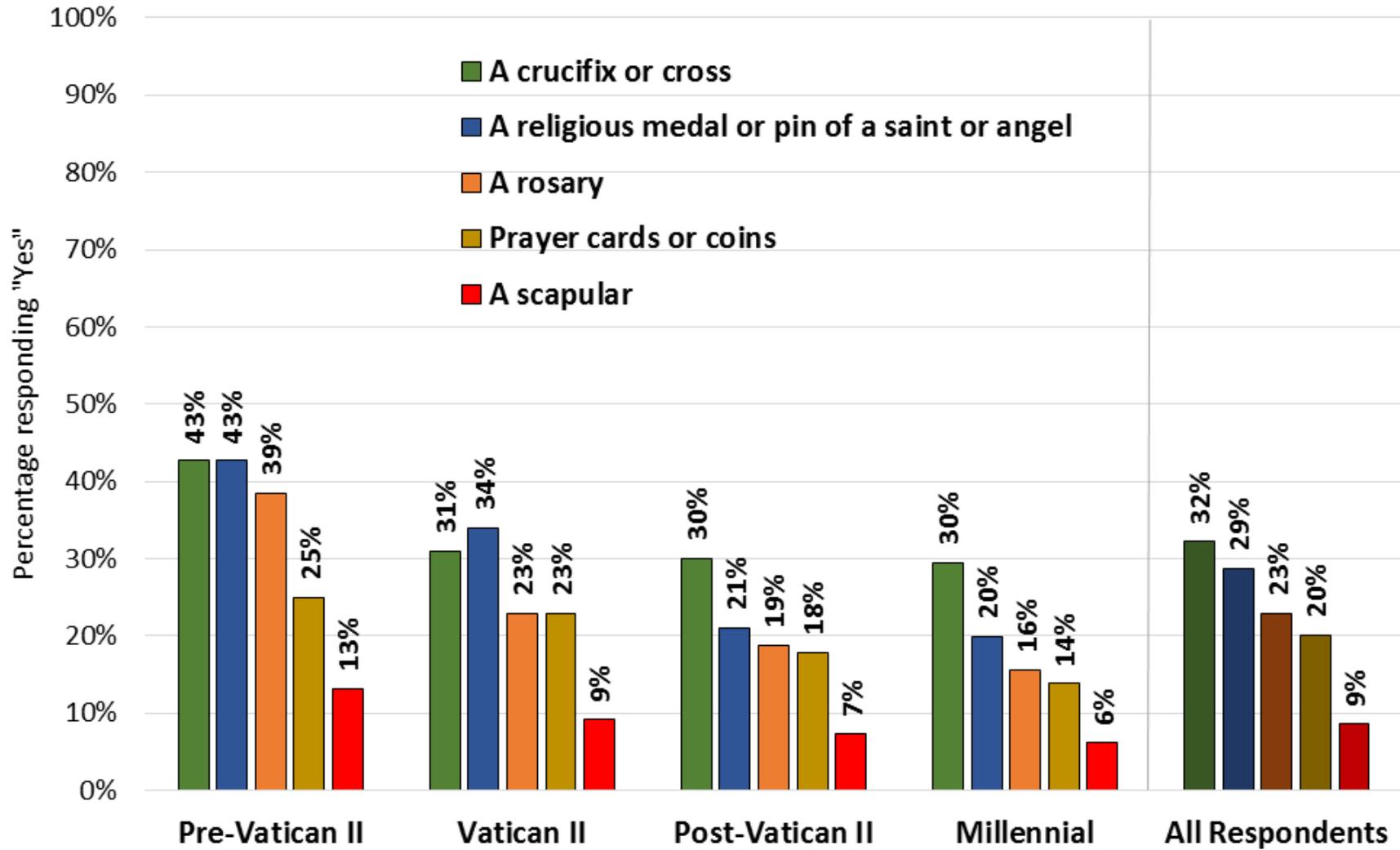


# A BRIGHTER TOMORROW?

LITERALLY....



*Do you typically wear or carry any of the following with you?*

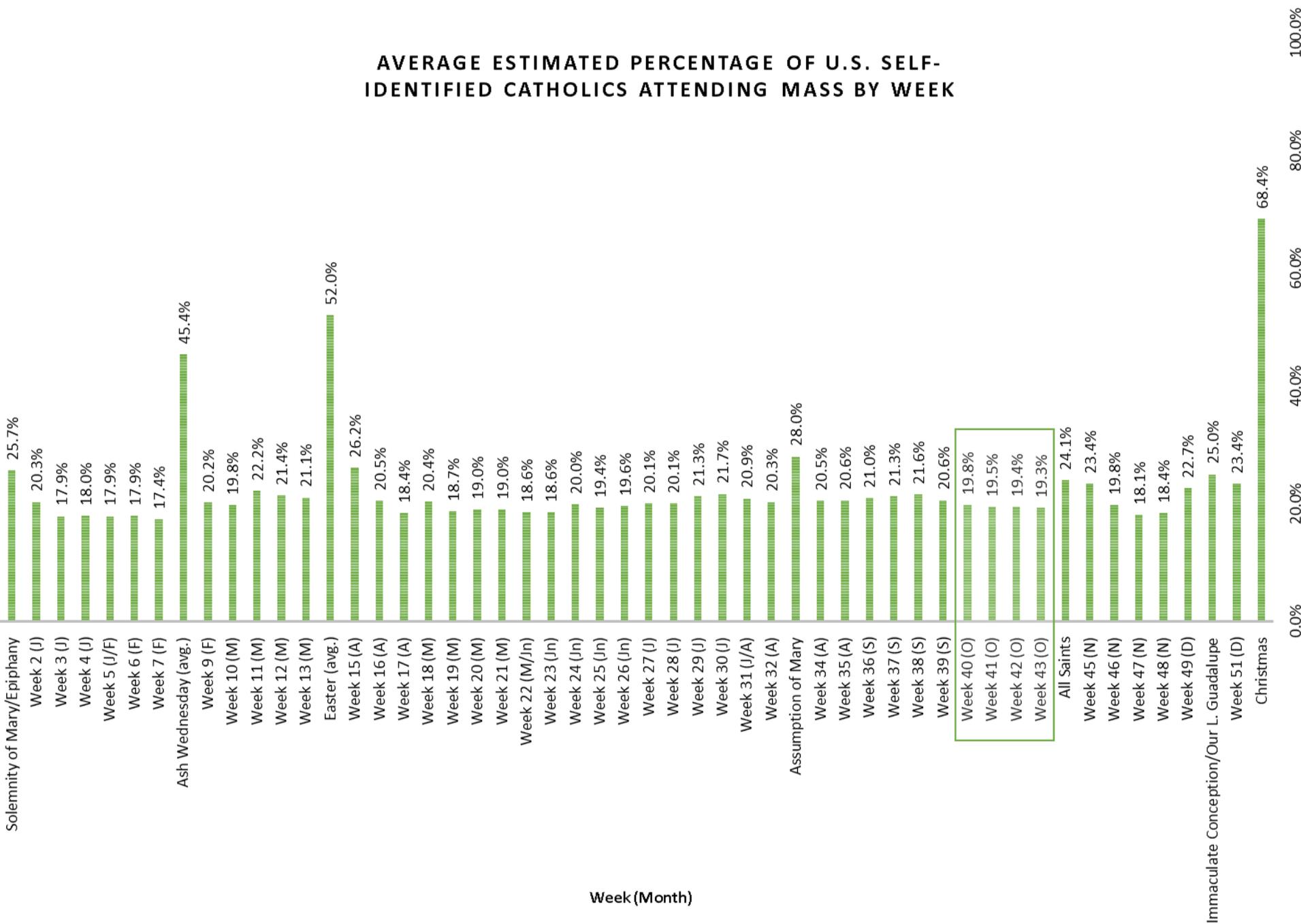




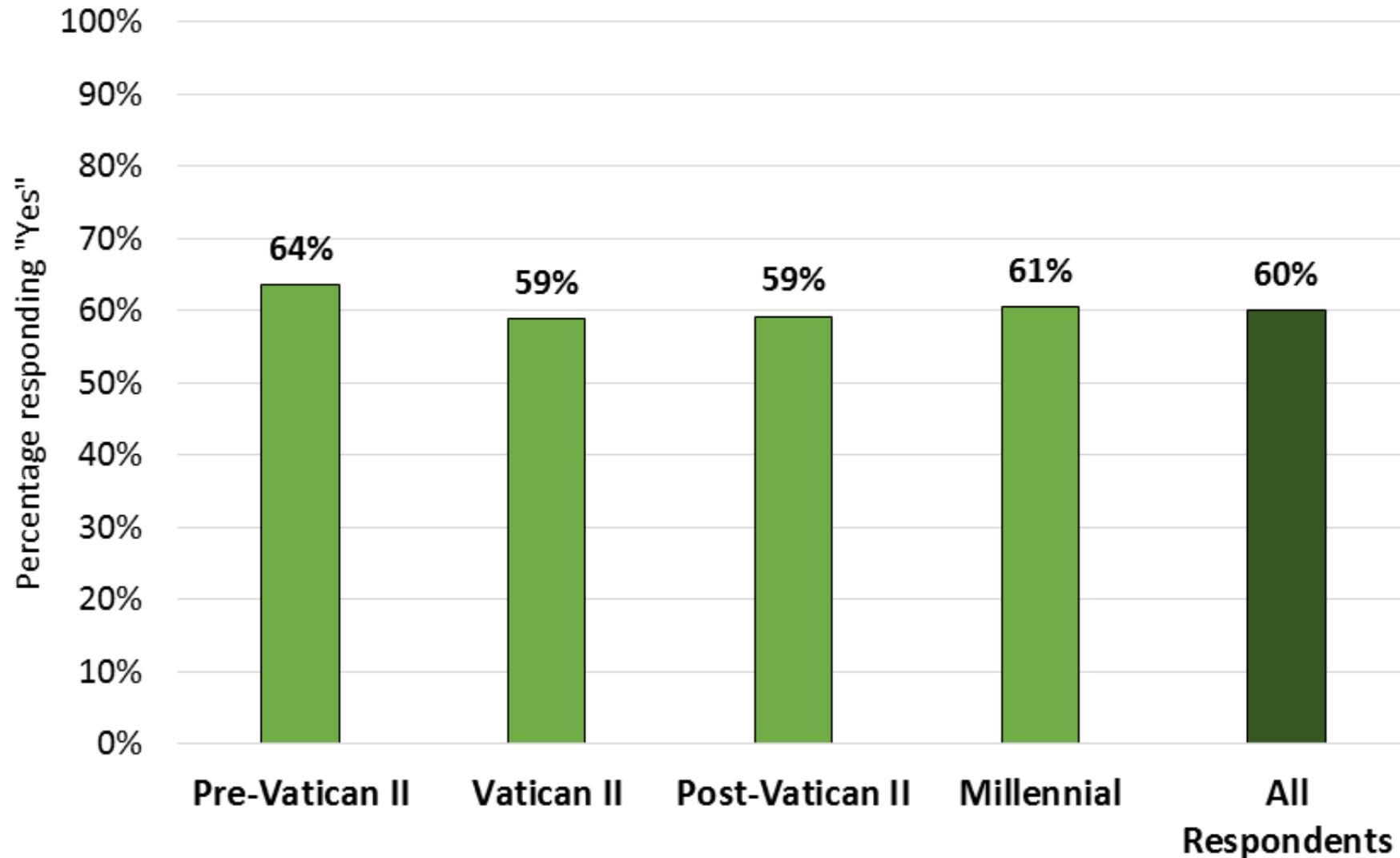
Yet tomorrow,  
on a day  
without  
obligation,  
millions of  
Catholics will  
be in churches  
to receive  
ashes to  
“wear” their  
Catholicism  
on their  
face...



## AVERAGE ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF U.S. SELF-IDENTIFIED CATHOLICS ATTENDING MASS BY WEEK



*Do you abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent?*

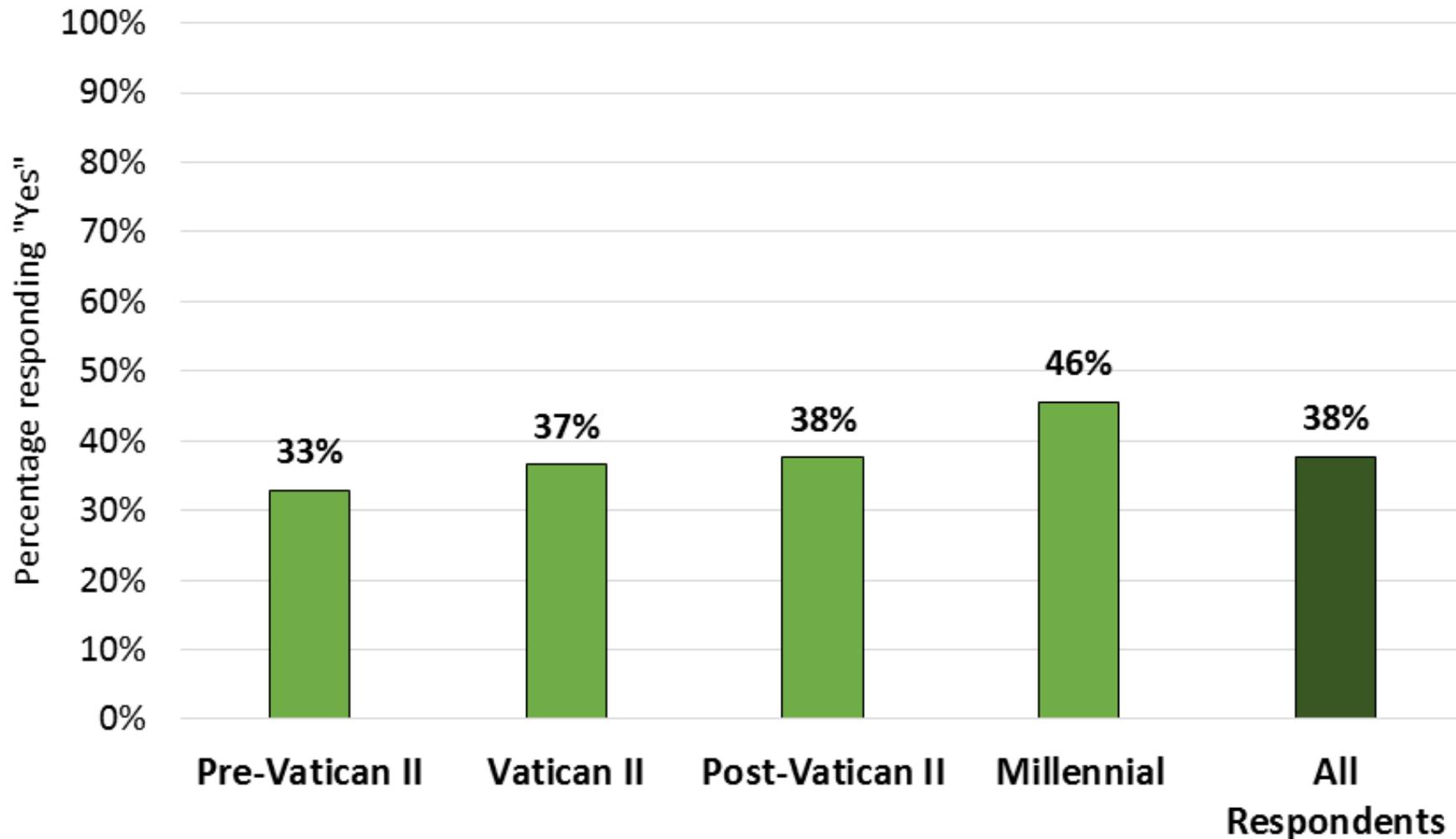


# FOOD CULTURE: MORE THAN CALORIES...

- Why do we “break bread” or say a rich person has “bread”?
- Ethnic, religious, and regional groups are socialized into food cultures through the development of habits. The last thing to go (if ever) in immigrant cultures is food culture
- We are attracted to new, novel food, but we also *crave* familiar foods (i.e., “comfort food”)
- Food habits are developed sociologically. The group matters. Food = identity.
- From the king cake to the fish fry to the fasting, abstinence, and giving up of things, Lent is full of identity moments linked to food. Just look to Twitter and Facebook and see how much people talk about what they are giving up...



***Besides meat on Fridays, do you give up or abstain from anything else during Lent?***



**Rare Figure**

It is not often that we see something where the youngest are more likely to *practice* the faith than those who are older



## CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE APOSTOLATE

[cara.georgetown.edu](http://cara.georgetown.edu)