

November 2016

Parish Life Survey

**Saint Joseph University Parish
Terre Haute, Indiana**

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

Parish Life Survey

**Saint Joseph University Parish
Terre Haute, Indiana**

November 2016



**Jonathon L. Wiggins, Ph.D.
Jonathon Holland, M.A.**

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction.....	8
Interpreting This Report	8
Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	10
Status	10
Age and Generation.....	11
Gender	14
Marital Status	15
Children in the Household.....	18
Level of Education	19
Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents.....	22
Relationship to the Catholic Church	22
Past Sacramental Participation	23
Relationship to the Parish.....	23
Years at the Parish.....	25
Mass Time of Response	27
Frequency of Mass Attendance	28
Participation in Parish Formation Programs	30
Ministry and Activity Participation.....	30
Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs	32
Evaluation of Elements of Parish Life	33
Evaluation of Persons and Programs.....	39
Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses.....	46
Evaluation of Parish Efforts	52
Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating.....	57
Priority for Parish Needs	63
Student Priority for University Ministry Needs	66
Interest in Learning More About Topics.....	70
Importance of Religious Behaviors	74
Student Difficulties	79
Elements That Influence Participation	80
Invitations to Parish Functions	86
Impediments to Volunteering More	88
Attitudes about Parish Life.....	97
Appendix: Response Frequencies to All Questions.....	102



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey **Saint Joseph University Parish** **Terre Haute, Indiana**

Executive Summary

The St. Joseph University Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with a few sections and questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in September 2016. In all, there were 526 valid responses, all over age 16.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Demographic Characteristics

- The average age of St. Joseph University Parish respondents is 52. Half are 55 or younger.
- CARA divides Catholics into four generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other social scientists. The most common generation at St. Joseph University Parish is the Vatican II Generation, ages 56 to 73.
- Nearly six in ten describe themselves as permanent parishioners, one in ten as an alumnus, and one in ten as a visitor. Among the quarter that are students, two-thirds are undergraduates, one in six a graduate student, and one in six a high school student.
- Nearly six in ten are female and about four in ten are male. Six in ten respondents to the survey say they are currently married or remarried, a quarter have never married, one in 20 is divorced or separated, one in 20 is widowed, and 2 percent are living with a partner. One in 20 reports having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.
- Slightly more than half of all of those responding have a bachelor's or graduate degree, a third have attended some college or have an associate's degree, and two in ten have a high school degree or less.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- On average, respondents have attended the parish for 14 years, with half having attended 10 years or less.

- Nine in ten identify the parish as their primary place of worship and three-quarters say they are registered there. Almost a quarter say they regularly attend the parish but are *not* registered and another one in ten identifies as a visitor.
- Two in three say they have been active Catholics since birth, two in ten are converts to Catholicism, and one in ten identifies as a returned Catholic. One to 3 percent each say they are inactive Catholics or are not Catholic.

Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

- Fully 98 percent give St. Joseph University Parish overall a positive evaluation (“good” and “excellent” combined). Two in three rate it as “excellent.”
- More than nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they feel included in parish life, with more than half agreeing “very much” that they do.
- About seven in ten report being influenced to participate in the community and/or University Ministry “very much” by its open and welcoming spirit and by the sense of belonging they feel there. Half or slightly more are as influenced by its opportunities for spiritual growth; its character as a diverse community; its commitment to justice, peace and safeguarding Creation; and its opportunities for service to others.
- Developing a parish sense of community, providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy, and visitation to the sick and homebound are especially likely to receive high priority from respondents. Half to six in ten give each “very much” priority.

Assessment of Students

- Only students were asked to evaluate the questions presented in this section. More than nine in ten rate their university experience overall as at least “good,” with more than half rating it as “excellent.” In addition, more than nine in ten students evaluate Campus/University Ministry in general as at least “good,” with almost six in ten rating it as “excellent.”
- Students were also asked how much priority University Ministry should give to a list of parish needs. Between six- and seven-tenths of students place “very much” priority on helping students form and inform their Catholic consciences and on providing students with skills to explore and discern life choices.
- Students were also asked how much difficulty they have with specific challenges common to college life. Nearly four in ten have “very much” difficulty coping with the stress of higher education and approximately a quarter have as much difficulty with time management skills (such as balancing school, prayer, and their personal life) and discovering some direction for their lives. This last finding complements another: eight in ten university students see discerning/deciding a path for their lives as “very” important to them.

Leadership

- More than nine in ten of all responding parishioners give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders, with nearly half rating it as “excellent.” The leadership provided by the pastor receives an “excellent” rating from three in four.
- More than seven in ten “very much” agree they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor. This is more than three times higher than the average among parishes nationally that CARA has surveyed in the past.
- The leadership of the Parish Pastoral Council receives an “excellent” rating from almost six in ten. Eight in ten give an “excellent” rating of the friendliness of the parish office staff.
- Four in ten “very much” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish, with those most involved most likely to agree.

Worship

- Masses and liturgies in general receive a positive evaluation from nearly all (97 percent) respondents. Two in three rate them as “excellent.”
- Three in four rate the hospitality or sense of welcome, the weekend Mass schedule, and liturgical decorations and environment in general as “excellent.”
- Two in three give an “excellent” rating to the music in general at the parish. The homilies in general receive an “excellent” rating from nearly six in ten, with those responding at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass most likely to rate them as “excellent.”
- Students and permanent parishioners report similar frequencies of Mass attendance. More than seven in ten attend Mass at least once a week and another quarter attend almost every week.
- Parish efforts to make prayer a regular part of their day receive an “excellent” rating from nearly half of respondents.
- Just over a quarter give “very much” priority to the parish providing more small group prayer opportunities. Having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration receives “very much” priority from just over a third of respondents. In a related question, students only were asked how much priority University Ministry should give to small faith-based communities of prayer and reflection. Just over a third of students give such communities “very much” priority.

Sense of Community

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive rating from more than nine in ten respondents. Just over half give it an “excellent” rating.

- Social activities receive an “excellent” rating from four in ten respondents. However, those currently *not* involved in any parish ministries or activities are more likely to give these activities an “excellent” evaluation than those relatively more involved.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “very much” priority from six in ten.

Formation

- Parish efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from more than nine in ten respondents, with almost six in ten giving these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Almost half of responding parishioners say the parish is “excellent” at helping them practice gospel values in their daily lives. A third rate as “excellent” efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues.
- Children’s religious education programs receive an “excellent” rating from more than half, with nearly half giving the same rating to youth ministry.
- One in six says she or he has attended adult faith formation classes at the parish. Adult spiritual development and growth receive an “excellent” rating from almost half.
- Half of those already involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish give “very much” priority to providing retreat opportunities, with about three in ten of others giving such opportunities as much priority.
- More than half of respondents express “very much” interest in the topics of personal prayer and spirituality, social teachings of the Catholic Church, and basic teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Seven in ten university students say University Ministry should give “very much” priority to helping students form and inform their Catholic consciences. Six in ten say University Ministry should place as much priority on providing students with the skills to explore and discern life choices.

Stewardship

- Efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish receive a positive rating from nine in ten. About half rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Nearly six in ten University Parish respondents report being involved with at least one ministry or activity. Just over four in ten are not involved with any, a quarter are involved with one, and three in ten are involved with two or more.

- A quarter of responding parishioners agree “very much” that they want to volunteer more for the parish. When asked how much different factors prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry, more than six in ten say their busy schedules or lack of time “very much” prevent them from doing so. This reason is especially cited by those in the younger two generations.
- At least three in ten of those of the three older generations indicate that they are prevented from volunteering more because they “very much” already volunteer as much as they would like, compared to one in six of those of the Millennial Generation. Members of the oldest generation are also the most likely to cite problems with transportation and health problems or a disability.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize receive a positive rating from nearly nine in ten respondents. Four in ten give these efforts an “excellent” rating. However, the more involved respondents are in parish ministries or activities, the less likely they are to give an “excellent” evaluation in this area.
- On average, responding parishioners have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity five times in the past year.
- Four in ten give “very much” priority to reaching out to inactive Catholics. Three in ten place as much priority on ministry to the divorced and separated.

Social Justice

- Outreach to and advocacy for those in need or distress receives a positive rating from more than nine in ten respondents. Almost six in ten rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Visitation of the sick and homebound receives “very much” priority from about half of respondents. Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receives “very much” priority from more than half.
- Four-tenths to half of university students say University Ministry should place “very much” priority on outreach to the most vulnerable in the university community and neighborhood and to education about social justice and equality.

Parish Communications

- Parish efforts to communicate with parishioners receive a positive evaluation from more than nine in ten respondents, with more than six in ten rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- Responding parishioners are particularly likely to say the Sunday bulletins are “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them. Half of permanent parishioners report that the parish newsletter (*Faith Journey*) and email are “very” effective, compared to less than a third of responding university students.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Saint Joseph University Parish Terre Haute, Indiana

Introduction

The St. Joseph University Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with a few sections and questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in September 2016. In all, there were 526 valid responses, all over age 16. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 526 provides a margin of error of approximately ± 4.2 percentage points.¹

Interpreting This Report

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

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

In addition to summarizing the responses to most questions for respondents as a whole, the report also compares the responses of those from selected subgroups. The first section of the

¹Strictly speaking, it is necessary to know the total population (in this case, the total number of adult parishioners) to calculate margin of error. CARA's standard assumption for its in-pew parish surveys is that about half of parishioners are represented. For obvious reasons, those who are represented in a given in-pew survey are disproportionately more frequent Mass attenders.

report describes the characteristics of the respondents as well as the subgroups that are used in the analyses that follow. Throughout the report, the tables and charts that compare differences between and among these various subgroups are presented following the responses for parishioners as a whole in each section.

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

CARA regularly conducts parish surveys through its Parish Life Surveys. Parish Life Surveys are a series of dynamic survey instruments for pastoral planning, including survey data collection, analyses of key stakeholders and demographic groups, and user-friendly reports and products. From the aggregate data collected through the Parish Life Survey services over the past 15 years, CARA has a database of characteristics of parish life gathered from more than 900 parishes nationwide. While this database is not a random sample of parishes, and therefore not necessarily representative of all parishes nationwide, it is the most comprehensive source of data of its kind and covers a broad range of topics important to vibrant parish life.

In this report, where possible, results from St. Joseph University Parish’s current Parish Life Survey are compared to the aggregate responses from the Parish Life Survey National Database of Parish Life to put the parish results into a larger national context. Additionally, where available, comparisons are made to findings from a 2012 study of Catholics in-pew at 23 parishes across the country. Finally, comparisons are made to findings from CARA’s nationally representative surveys of adult self-identified Catholics conducted since 2013. For all of these comparisons, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful.

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

Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

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

Status

Respondents to the survey were invited to describe their status by checking all of the descriptors that apply to them. Nearly six in ten (56 percent) report being permanent parishioners and one in ten (11 percent) an alumnus. Among the 27 percent reporting being a student of some sort, 18 percent report being an undergraduate college student, 4 percent a graduate student, and 5 percent a high school student. One in ten (11 percent) identifies as a visitor.

<i>Which best describes your status?*</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
High school student	5%
First year college student	6
Sophomore in college	5
Junior in college	4
Senior in college	2
Fifth year undergrad	1
Graduate student	4
Alumni	11
Faculty	5
Administrator	2
University staff	3
Permanent parishioner	56
Visitor/no affiliation	11

*Total exceeds 100 percent as respondents were told to check all that apply.

For the purposes of this report, comparisons are made between the following two groups:

- *University students*, including first year students, sophomores, juniors, seniors, fifth year students and graduate students (70 respondents)
- *Permanent parishioners*, including alumni, faculty, administrators, university staff, and permanent parishioners (243 respondents)

Age and Generation

Valid respondents at St. Joseph University Parish surveyed in 2016 were born between 1926 and 2000. The average age of respondents is 52, with half saying they are 55 or younger. Although not directly comparable as the national data comes from 2012, this is higher than the median age of 49 among all self-identified Catholics nationally.¹ The most common age range reported is 55 to 64. University students report an average age of 25, with permanent parishioners reporting an average of 55.

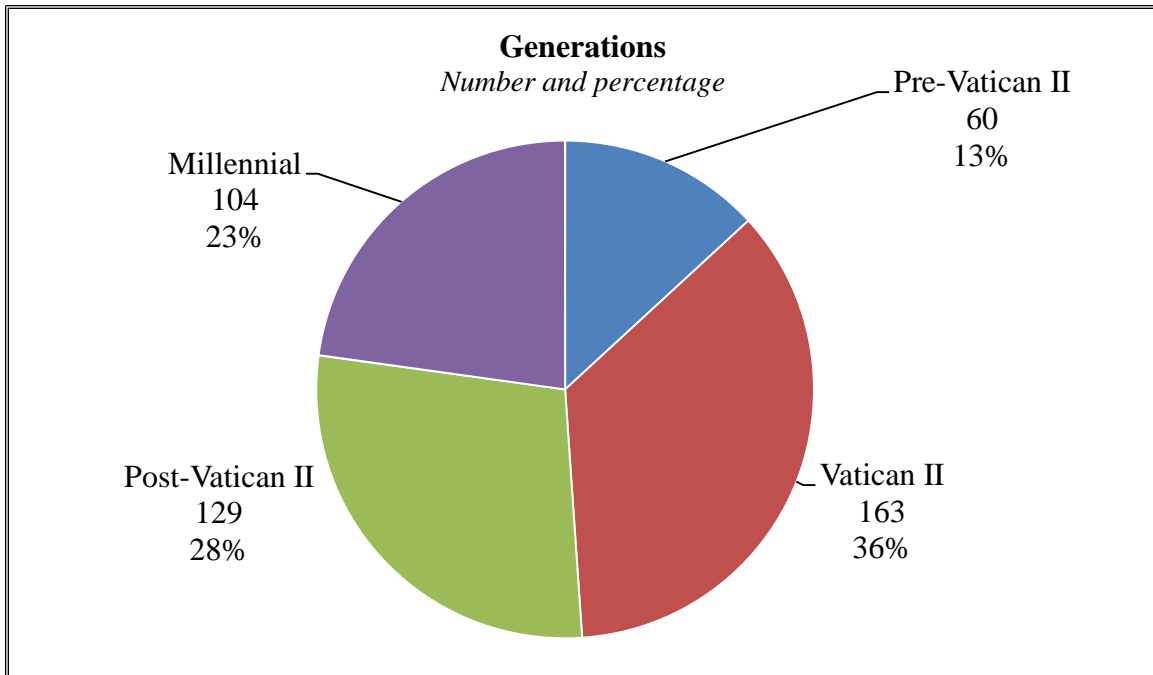
Age in 2016, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
Age Range	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
18-24***	15%	4%	9%
25-34	6	9	17
35-44	11	20	20
45-54	16	23	19
55-64	20	19	20
65-74	18	15	10
75 or older	12	10	5

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study
 **Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study
 ***For comparison purposes, 16 year olds (1 respondents) and 17 year olds (6 respondents) are omitted from this table

- Overall, St. Joseph respondents report similar age ranges to those responding in-pew nationally, with 33 percent of Catholics in pew nationally under age 45 compared to 32 percent of St. Joseph respondents.
- They differ significantly from self-identified Catholics nationally: 32 percent of St. Joseph respondents are under age 45 compared to 46 percent of Catholics nationally.

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

Important differences between groups in parishes are typically found among those who belong to different generations. CARA divides Catholics into four generations, reflective of the age categories used by many other Catholic researchers. The most common generation among St. Joseph respondents is the Vatican II Generation (ages 56-73 in 2016), followed by the Post-Vatican II Generation (ages 35-55).



- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 74 and over in 2016.* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members came of age before the Second Vatican Council. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 13 percent of the respondents at St. Joseph University Parish. This is slightly less than the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (18 percent) and slightly higher than the percentage among Catholics nationally (10 percent).
- *The “Vatican II Generation,” ages 56-73 in 2016.* These are the “Baby Boomers” who were born between 1943 and 1960, a time of great demographic and economic growth. They came of age during the time of the Second Vatican Council and their formative years likely spanned that time of profound changes in the Church. Members of the Vatican II Generation at St. Joseph University Parish represent 36 percent of respondents. This is similar to the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (35 percent) and the percentage among Catholics nationally (32 percent).
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation,” ages 35-55 in 2016.* Born between 1961 and 1981, this generation, sometimes called “Generation X” or “Baby Busters” by demographers, has no lived experience of the pre-Vatican II Church. Some 28 percent of those at St. Joseph University Parish are members of this generation. This is less than the percentage

among Catholics in-pew nationally (39 percent) and the percentage among Catholics nationally (38 percent).

- *The “Millennial Generation,” ages 18-34 in 2016.* This generation, born in 1982 or later (up to 1996 among adults), has come of age primarily under the papacies of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Because some still live with their parents, their religious practice is often closely related to that of their families of origin. Some 23 percent of respondents at St. Joseph University Parish belong to the Millennial Generation.² This is higher than the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (8 percent) and the percentage among Catholics nationally (19 percent).

Generations	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Pre-Vatican II (born 1942 or earlier)	13%	18%	10%
Vatican II (born 1943 to 1960)	36	35	32
Post-Vatican II (born 1961 to 1981)	28	39	38
Millennial (born 1982 to 2000)	23	8	19

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

Differences by Status

- Eighty-nine percent of those identifying as students belong to the Millennial Generation, while between 3 to 5 percent each belonging to the other three generations.
- Ten percent of permanent parishioners belong to Pre-Vatican II Generation, 43 percent to the Vatican II Generation, 37 percent to the Post-Vatican II Generation, and 10 percent to the Millennial Generation.

² For the purposes of this analysis, respondents under age 18 of an as-of-yet unnamed generation are included in the Millennial Generation.

Gender

Nearly six in ten respondents identify as female. This is slightly less than Catholics nationally in pew (64 percent) but higher than the percentage of self-identified Catholics nationally identifying as female (51 percent).

	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Female	58%	64%	51%
Male	42	36	49

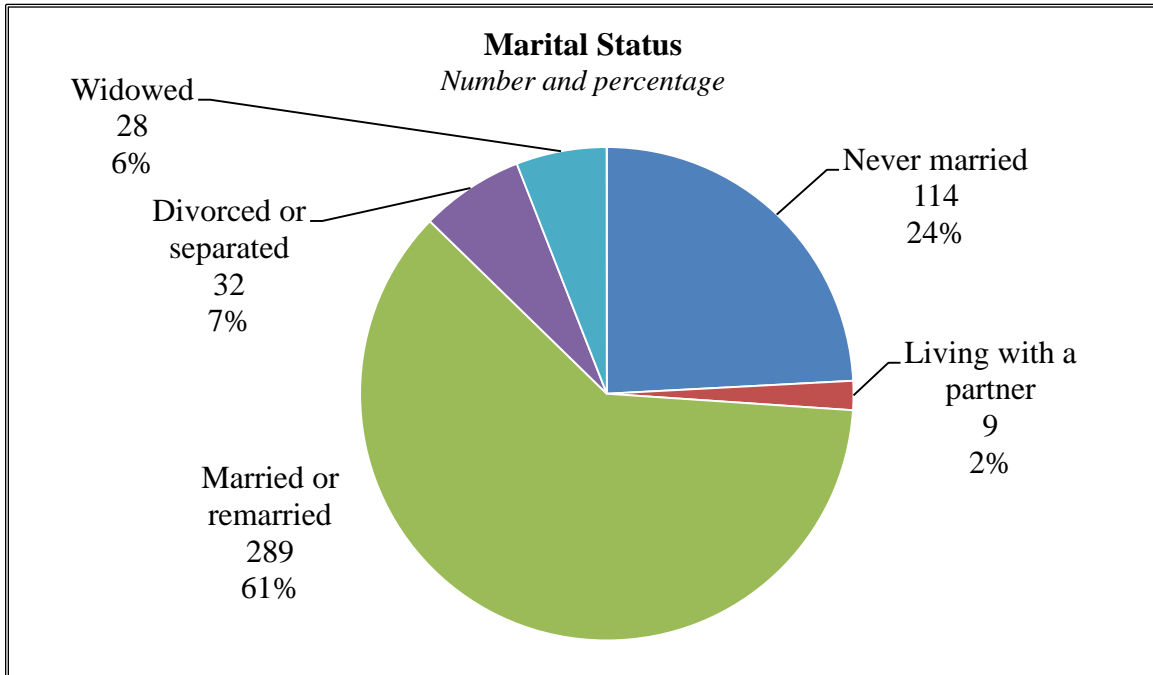
**Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study*
***Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study*

Differences by Status

Fifty-three percent of responding students are male compared to 40 percent of permanent parishioners.

Marital Status

Six in ten respondents are currently married or remarried. One in four has never married and another 2 percent are living with a partner. Just over one in 20 each is divorced or separated or is widowed.



Marital status at the parish is compared to the national findings in the table below. The percentage married or remarried at St. Joseph University Parish is lower than the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (70 percent) but similar to the percentage among Catholics nationally (62 percent).

Marital Status, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
Marital Status	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Never married***	24%	15%	24%
Married or remarried	61	70	62
Divorced or separated	7	8	9
Widowed	6	7	5

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

- A quarter of respondents have never married, compared to about one in seven Catholics in pew nationally (15 percent) and a quarter of adult Catholics nationally (24 percent).
- Just over one in 20 is divorced or separated, similar to the almost one in ten divorced or separated among Catholics in pew and nationally.
- One in 20 St. Joseph respondents overall has been widowed, similar to the one in 20 widowed Catholics in pew and nationally.

Differences by Generation

Marital status differs by generation. Members of the Millennial Generation are particularly likely to have never married (77 percent), those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (78 percent) and Vatican II Generation (74 percent) are most likely to be married, and those of the Pre-Vatican II Generation are most likely to be widowed (22 percent).

Marital Status, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Single, never married	5%	10%	9%	77%
Living with a partner	3	1	2	3
Married or remarried	62	74	78	19
Divorced or separated	7	9	9	1
Widowed	22	6	2	0

Differences by Status

Marital status differences exist among those identifying as students and as permanent parishioners. Nearly nine in ten students have never married compared to one in ten permanent parishioners.

Marital Status, by Ethnicity		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	Students	Permanent Parishioners
Single, never married	87%	11%
Living with a partner	1	2
Married or remarried	9	74
Divorced or separated	0	8
Widowed	3	5

Children in the Household

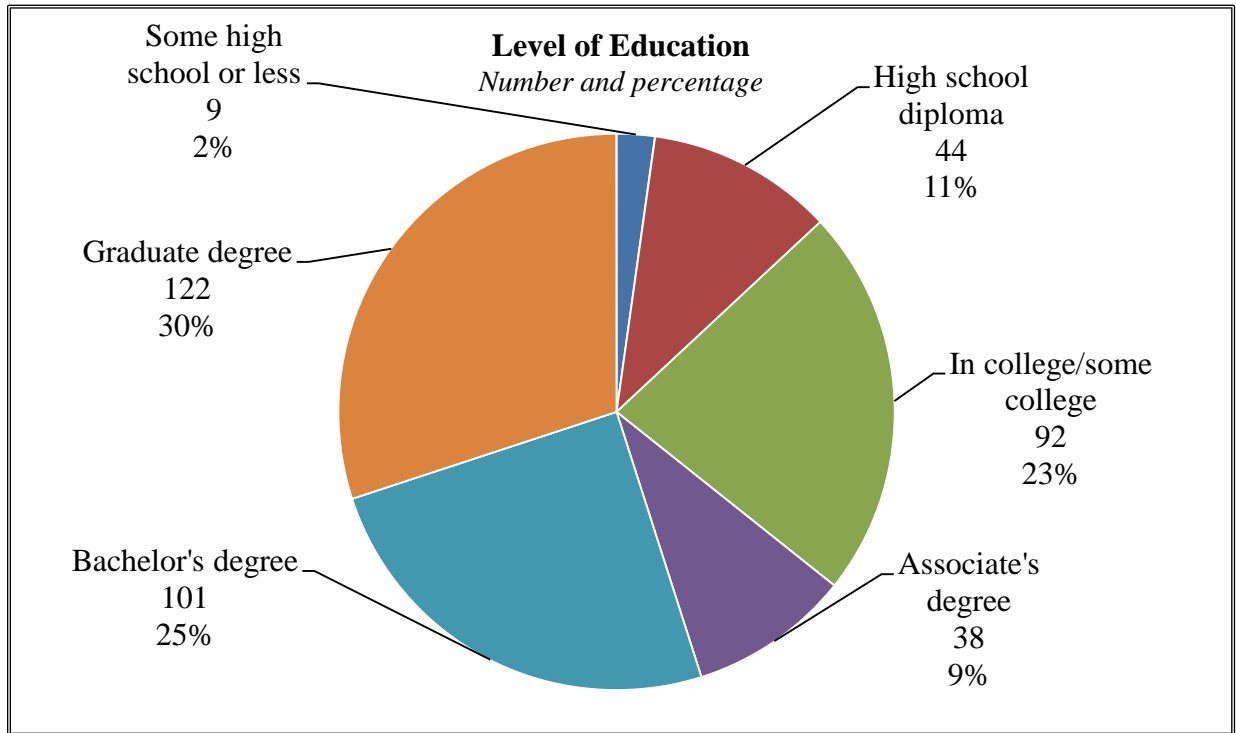
Respondents report having from zero to nine of their children or stepchildren under age 18 living with them. Some 103 respondents (20 percent) have at least one child (including stepchildren) living with them. Seventy-eight respondents (15 percent) have at least one child age 12 or under living with them and another 51 (10 percent) have at least one child ages 13 to 17. Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to this question, respondents report 127 children or stepchildren age 12 and younger living with them and 65 children ages 13 to 17 living with them.³

Number of Children or Stepchildren Living with You	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
No children	80%
One child	5
Two children	7
Three or more children	8
Ages 12 or younger	15%
Age 13 to 17	10

³ This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: “Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?”.

Level of Education

Just over one in ten respondents (13 percent) has a high school diploma or less. A third (32 percent) have attended some college or have an associate's degree. Just over half (55 percent) report having a bachelor's or graduate degree.



In comparison to those responding in pew nationally, St. Joseph respondents are only slightly more likely to have at least a bachelor's degree (53 percent compared to 55 percent) and slightly *less* likely to have a high school diploma or less (19 percent compared to 13 percent). Compared to all Catholics nationally, St. Joseph respondents are twice as likely to have at least a bachelor's degree (27 percent compared to 55 percent).

Level of Education, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
Level of Education	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Some high school or less	2%	5%	}47%
High school diploma	11	14	
Some college	23	19	}26
Associate's degree	9	9	
Bachelor's degree	25	33	}27
Graduate degree	30	20	

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

Differences by Generation

Level of education differs some by generation. Seventy-two percent of members of the Post-Vatican II Generation have at least a bachelor's degree compared to 30 percent of those of the Millennial Generation, some of whom are currently in college.

Level of Education, by Generation				
<i>Percentage responding</i>				
Level of Education	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
Some high school or less	4%	2%	0%	4%
High school diploma	20	13	5	7
In college/some college	18	18	12	57
Associate's degree	12	11	11	3
Bachelor's degree	20	21	34	20
Graduate degree	26	35	38	10

Differences by Status

- Some 73 percent of students say they are in college or have completed some college, compared to 9 percent of permanent parishioners.
- Altogether, 77 percent of those considered permanent parishioners have a bachelor's (34 percent) or graduate degree (43 percent). An additional 8 percent have an associate's degree.

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

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

Relationship to the Catholic Church

Two-thirds of St. Joseph respondents say they have been active Catholics since birth, slightly lower than the percentage of Catholics in pew nationally. Two in ten of those at St. Joseph identify as Catholic converts, almost twice as many as among Catholics in pew nationally.

<i>What best describes you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Active Catholic since birth	68%	74%
Returned Catholic	8	11
Catholic convert	20	11
Inactive Catholic	1	2
Non-Catholic	3	2
Interested in becoming Catholic	1	—

*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study

Seven in ten St. Joseph respondents (69 percent) entered the Church as infants. Just over two in ten entered as adults.

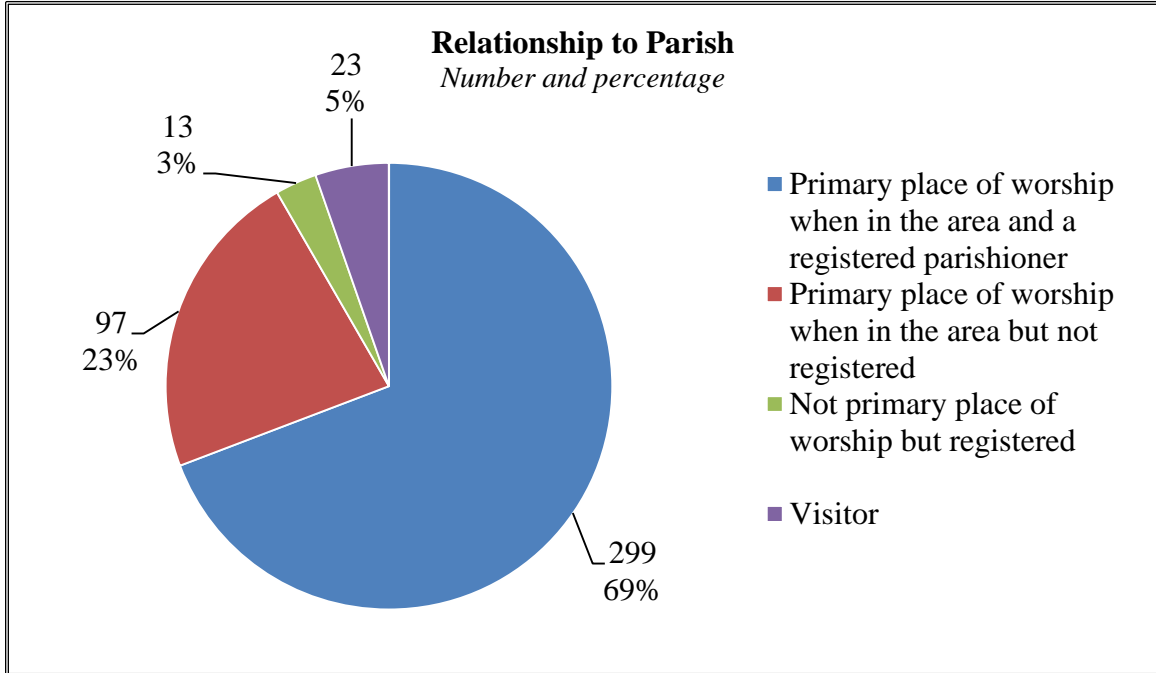
<i>I entered the Catholic Church as a(n):</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Infant (under age 1)	69%
Child (ages 1-12)	4
Teenager (ages 13-17)	2
Adult (age 18 or older)	22
I am <i>not</i> Catholic	4

Sacramental Participation

Fully 95 percent of respondents say they have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are *no* significant differences between students and permanent parishioners in having received the sacrament.

Relationship to the Parish

Of all respondents, 92 percent report that St. Joseph University Parish is their primary place of worship and 73 percent say they are registered there. As is seen in the table below, 69 percent say both that the parish is their primary place of worship *and* that they are registered there. Fewer, 23 percent, say the parish is their primary place of worship but that they are *not* registered; as will be seen below, many of these respondents are university students. About 5 percent are visitors to the parish.



Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Compared to Catholics in pew nationally (78 percent), St. Joseph respondents are slightly *less* likely to say they are both registered at the parish and that the parish is their primary place of ministry (69 percent).

Relationship to the Parish		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Primary place of worship when in the area <i>and</i> a registered parishioner	69%	78%
Primary place of worship when in the area but <i>not</i> registered	23	13
<i>Not</i> primary place of worship when in the area but registered	3	2
Visitor to the parish	5	7

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

Differences by Status

Permanent parishioners are about twice as likely as university students to identify the parish as their primary place of worship *and* to be registered. More than half of students say the parish is their primary place of worship when they're in the area but report that they are *not* registered there.

Relationship to the Parish		
	Students	Permanent Parishioners
Primary place of worship when in the area <i>and</i> a registered parishioner	39%	83%
Primary place of worship when in the area but <i>not</i> registered	55	3
<i>Not</i> primary place of worship when in the area but registered	3	10
Visitor to the parish	3	4

Years at the Parish

Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for 13.6 years. The median is 10 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 10 years or less.

Years at Parish*	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
1 year or less	10%
2-5 years	22
6-10 years	23
11-15 years	16
16-20 years	8
21-25 years	3
26-30 years	7
31-35 years	1
36-40 years	7
41 years or more	4
Average	13.6
Median	10
Minimum	1
Maximum	70

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

Differences by Status

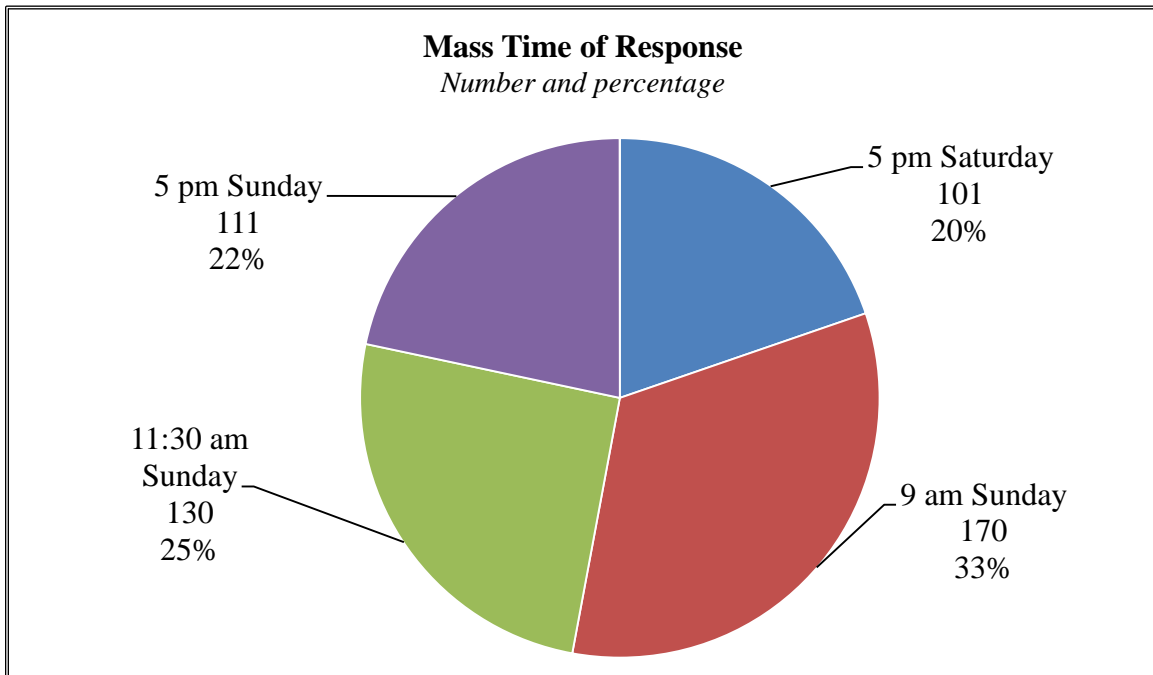
University students (undergraduate and graduate) are most likely to have attended the parish for five years or less (62 percent).

	Students	Permanent Parishioners
1 year or less	31%	5%
2-5 years	31	18
6-10 years	12	30
11-15 years	6	17
16-20 years	8	8
21-25 years	2	3
26-30 years	4	6
31-35 years	0	3
36-40 years	6	9
41 years or more	0	2

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

Mass Time of Response

The parish collected the surveys by Mass time of response and sent them to CARA bundled in that way. Respondents were particularly likely to have responded at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, followed by the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.



Where relevant throughout the rest of the report, comparisons are made among those who responded at the various Masses.

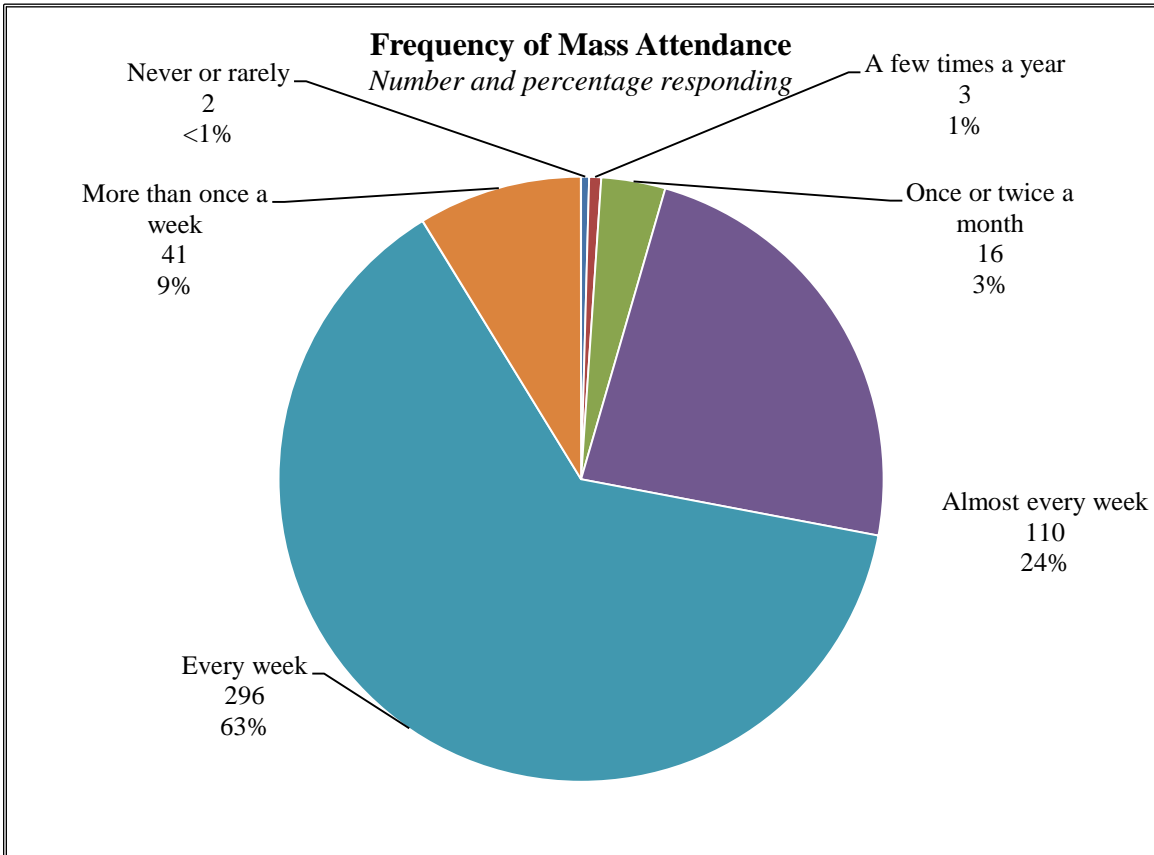
Differences by Status

University students are especially likely to have responded at the Sunday Masses: 9 a.m. (33 percent), 11:30 a.m. (33 percent), and 5 p.m. (29 percent). Six percent responded at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass.

Permanent parishioners are most likely to have responded at the Sunday 9 a.m. (38 percent) or Sunday 11:30 a.m. (30 percent) Masses. Eighteen percent responded at the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass and 14 percent at the Sunday 7 p.m. Mass.

Frequency of Mass Attendance

Seventy-two percent of respondents report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional 24 percent attend almost every week and 3 percent attend once or twice a month. One percent attends less frequently than that.



Comparison to Catholics Nationally

- Compared to in-pew Catholics nationally (71 percent), St. Joseph respondents are about as likely to attend Mass at least once a week (72 percent).
- St. Joseph respondents (72 percent) are considerably more likely to attend Mass at least once a week than self-identified Catholic adults nationally (23 percent).

<i>About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?</i>			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Never or rarely	<1%	<1%	32%
A few times a year	1	2	24
Once/twice a month	3	6	10
Almost every week	24	21	11
Every week	63	57	20
More than once a week	9	14	3

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

Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation (84 percent) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those of the Vatican II Generation (78 percent), Millennial Generation (73 percent), and Post-Vatican II Generation (62 percent).

Those of the Post-Vatican II Generation (31 percent), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those of the Millennial Generation (23 percent), Vatican II Generation (20 percent), and the Pre-Vatican II Generation (14 percent).

Differences by Status

Those identifying as students (71 percent) are only slightly less likely than permanent parishioners (76 percent) to attend Mass at least once a week, and the difference is not statistically significant. Students (23 percent) are about as likely as permanent parishioners (21 percent) to attend almost weekly.

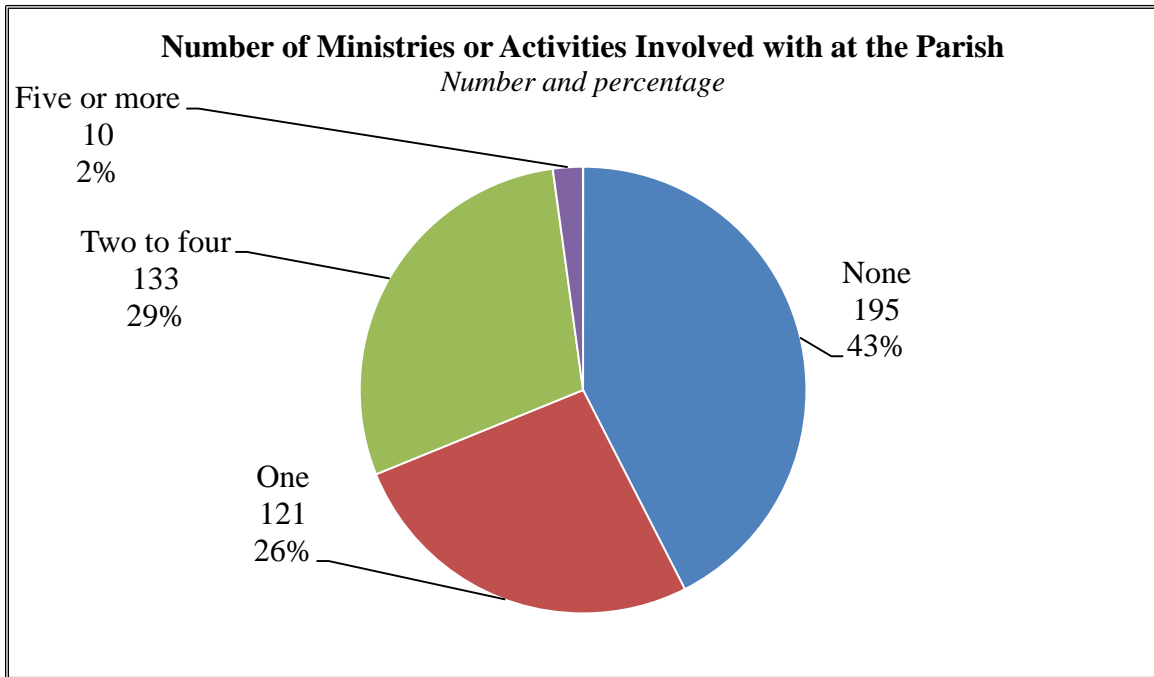
Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- Sixteen percent of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish.
- Thirty-eight percent have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years.

Ministry and Activity Participation

Nearly six in ten (57 percent) report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish in the past year.



In the remainder of this report comparison is made between three groups of respondents according to their involvement in parish activities:

- Those not involved in any parish ministries or activities (195 respondents or 43 percent)
- Those involved in one parish ministry or activity (121 respondents or 26 percent)
- Those involved with two or more ministries or activities (143 respondents or 31 percent)

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Just over four in ten St. Joseph respondents are not involved in any ministries or activities. This is slightly lower than the average proportion reported by parishes CARA has worked with in the past (50 percent).

Number of Ministries or Activities Involved With		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
None	43%	50%
One	26	23
Two	29	22
Three or more	2	3

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

- Compared to parishes nationally (23 percent), a similar proportion of St. Joseph respondents (26 percent) are involved with one ministry or activity.
- Thirty-one percent of St. Joseph respondents are involved with two or more ministries or activities, compared to 25 percent of those at parishes nationally.

Differences by Generation

Between 57 to 62 percent of those of the oldest three generations are involved with at least one ministry or activity at the university parish, compared to 50 percent of those of the Millennial Generation.

Differences by Status

Forty-six percent of students are involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish, compared to 63 percent of permanent parishioners.

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the St. Joseph University Parish Life Survey are very positive. Fourteen particular areas were addressed in the survey instrument. These areas are featured in this section of the report, though readers are advised to consult the response frequencies in Appendix I of this document for response rates and other pertinent information about these data. These areas of parish life addressed are:

- Evaluation of Elements of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Persons and Programs
- Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Student Priority for University Ministry Needs
- Interest in Learning More about Topics
- Importance of Religious Behaviors
- Student Difficulties
- Elements That Influence Participation
- Invitations to Parish Functions
- Impediments to Volunteering More
- Attitudes about Parish Life

Evaluation of Elements of Parish Life

This section presents the survey’s most general evaluation of parish life. Besides an evaluation of the parish and university experience overall, the other items are very general measures of CARA’s seven elements of parish life: community, worship, leadership, faith formation, stewardship, social justice, and evangelization.

Nearly all (98 percent) of respondents give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to St. Joseph University Parish overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
St. Joseph University Parish overall	98%	94%
Masses and liturgies in general	98	94
<i>If a student: Your university experience overall</i>	95	–
Sense of community within the parish	94	87
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	93	91
Vision provided by parish leaders	93	90
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need or distress	93	–
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	89	91
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	88	88
 <i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

Comparison to Parishes Nationally⁴

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their positive evaluations of aspects of parish life.

⁴ As discussed in the Introduction, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful.

“Excellent” Evaluations

Two-thirds of respondents give an “excellent” rating to St. Joseph University Parish overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
St. Joseph University Parish overall	67%	58%
Masses and liturgies in general	66	59
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	56	55
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need or distress	56	–
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	55	57
<i>If a student:</i> Your university experience overall	54	–
Sense of community within the parish	53	46
Vision provided by parish leaders	46	50
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	40	45

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

Masses and liturgies in general receive an “excellent” evaluation from two in three parish respondents.

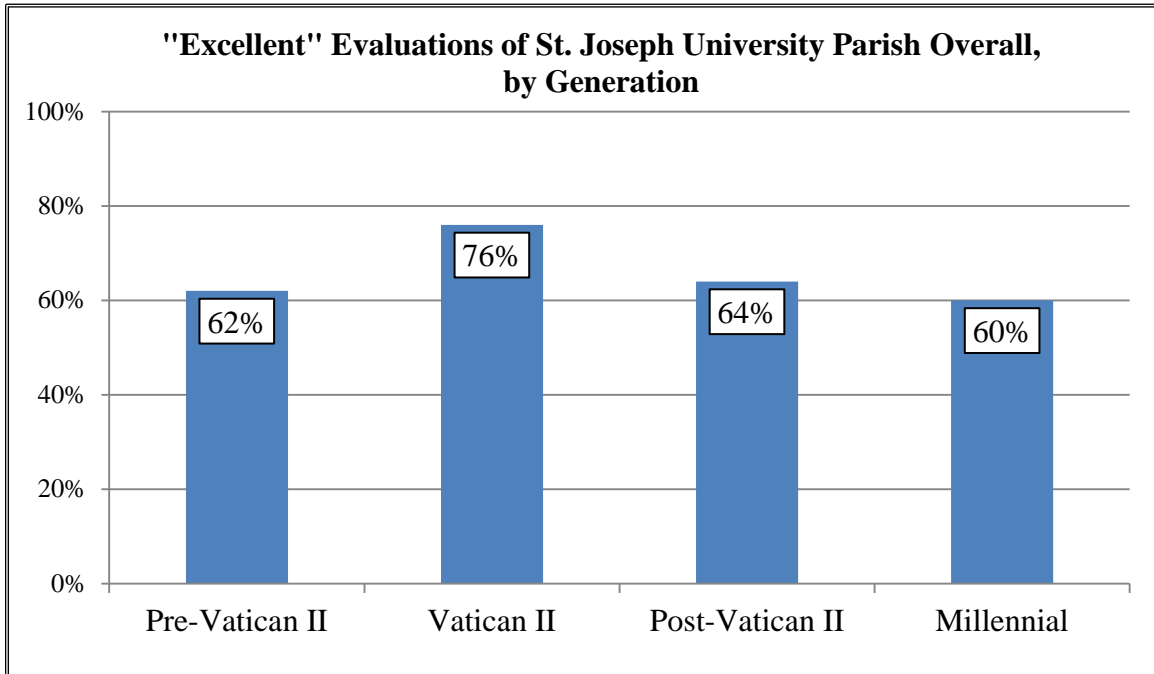
- Between 53 to 56 percent give an “excellent” evaluation to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith; outreach to and advocacy for those in need or distress; encouragement to share their time, talents, and treasure with the parish; their university experience overall; and the sense of community within the parish.
- Less than half give an “excellent” evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders (46 percent) and efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize (40 percent).

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their “excellent” evaluations of aspects of parish life.

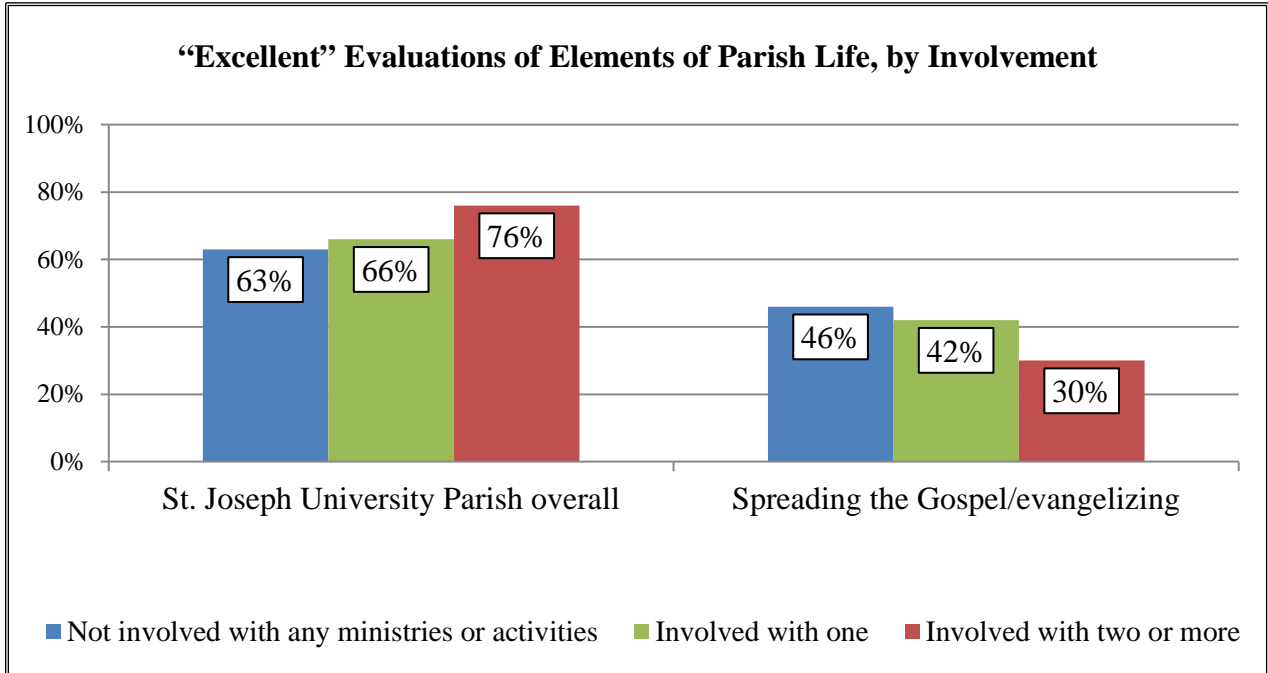
Differences by Generation

Members of the Vatican II Generation are especially likely to evaluate the parish overall as “excellent.”



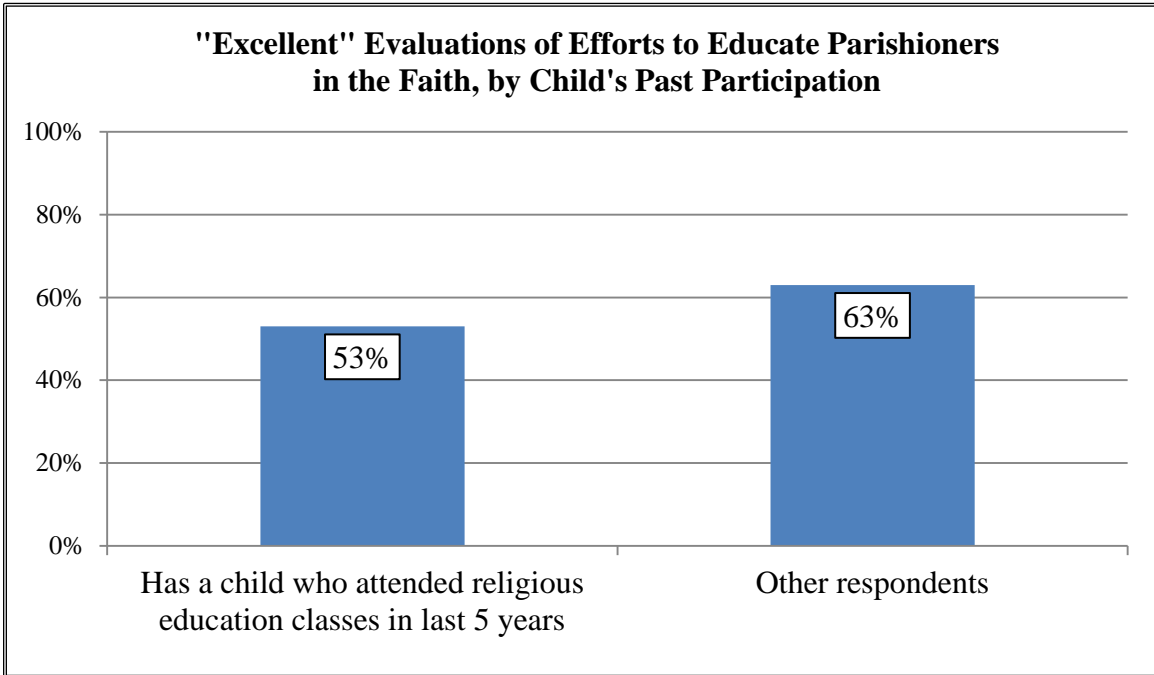
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are relatively more likely to give an “excellent” rating to St. Joseph University Parish overall. They are relatively *less* likely, however, to give an “excellent” evaluation to efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize.



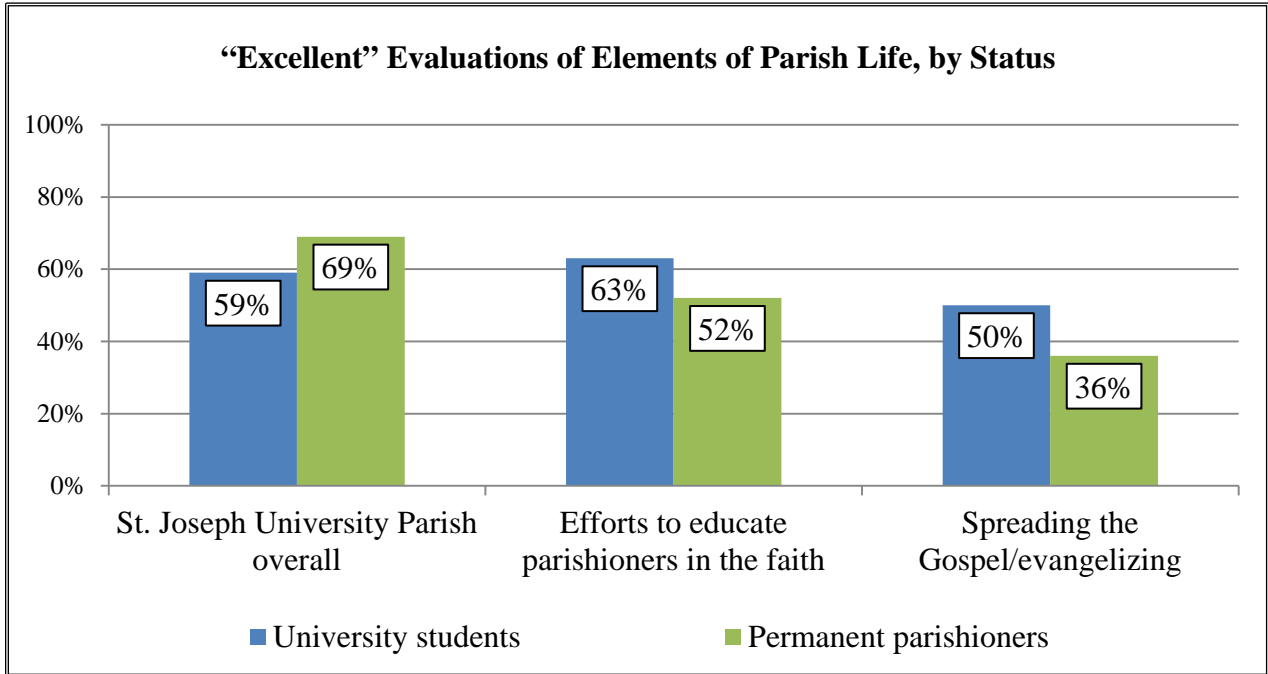
Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are slightly *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.



Differences by Status

Permanent parishioners are more likely than university students to give an “excellent” rating to St. Joseph University Parish overall. University students, on the other hand, are more likely to give that high of a rating to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith and to spread the Gospel or evangelize.



Evaluation of Persons and Programs

More than nine in ten give at least a “good” evaluation to these: friendliness of parish office staff, Campus/University Ministry in general, children’s religious education programs, youth ministry, leadership of the Parish Pastoral Council, and young adult ministry.

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Friendliness of the parish office staff	99%	92%
Campus/University Ministry in general	95	–
Children’s religious education programs	92	83
Youth ministry	92	73
Leadership of Parish Pastoral Council	92	–
Young adult ministry (ages 21-39)	91	–
Leadership provided by the pastor	86	88
Adult spiritual development and growth	85	71**
Social activities	83	72

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

***Usually asked as adult faith formation on other CARA surveys*

More than eight in ten rate these as “excellent”: leadership provided by the pastor, adult spiritual development and growth, and social activities.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 11 to 19 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the following programs:

- Youth ministry (92 percent compared to 73 percent)
- Adult spiritual development and growth/adult faith formation (85 percent compared to 71 percent)
- Social activities (83 percent compared to 72 percent)

“Excellent” Evaluations

Eight in ten give an “excellent” evaluation to the friendliness of the parish office staff. Three in four rate the leadership provided by the pastor as highly.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Friendliness of the parish office staff	81%	51%
Leadership provided by the pastor	74	55
Campus/University Ministry in general	58	–
Leadership of Parish Pastoral Council	57	–
Children’s religious education programs	52	39
Youth ministry	47	31
Adult spiritual development and growth	47	27**
Young adult ministry (ages 21-39)	46	–
Social activities	41	27

**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*
***Usually asked as adult faith formation on other CARA surveys*

Campus/University Ministry in general receives an “excellent” evaluation from almost six in ten respondents.

- Nearly six in ten say the leadership of the Parish Pastoral Council is “excellent.”
- About half give an “excellent” evaluation to these formation programs: children’s religious education programs, youth ministry, and adult spiritual development and growth.
- At least four in ten say young adult ministry (46 percent) and social activities (41 percent) are “excellent.”

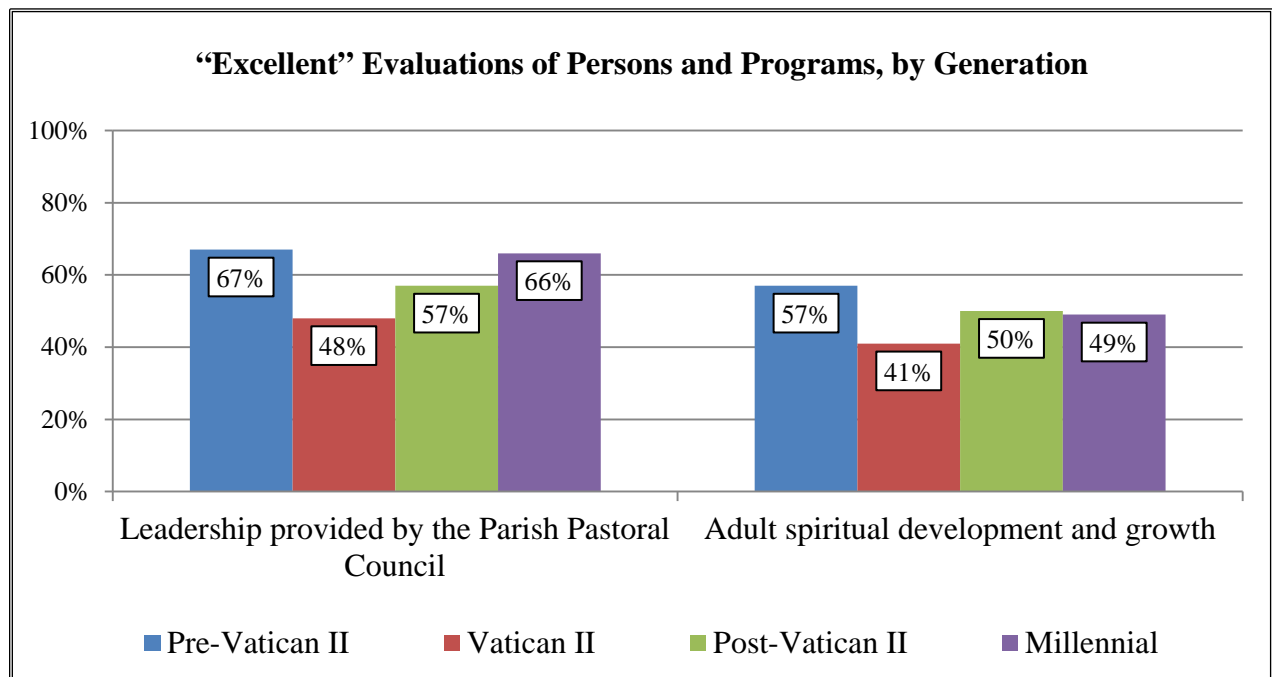
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 30 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to friendliness of the parish office staff. Those at the parish are also 14 to 20 percentage points more likely to give the following persons or programs an “excellent” evaluation:

- Adult spiritual development and growth/adult faith formation (47 percent compared to 27 percent)
- Leadership provided by the pastor (74 percent compared to 55 percent)
- Youth ministry (47 percent compared to 31 percent)
- Social activities (41 percent compared to 27 percent)
- Children’s religious education programs (52 percent compared to 39 percent)

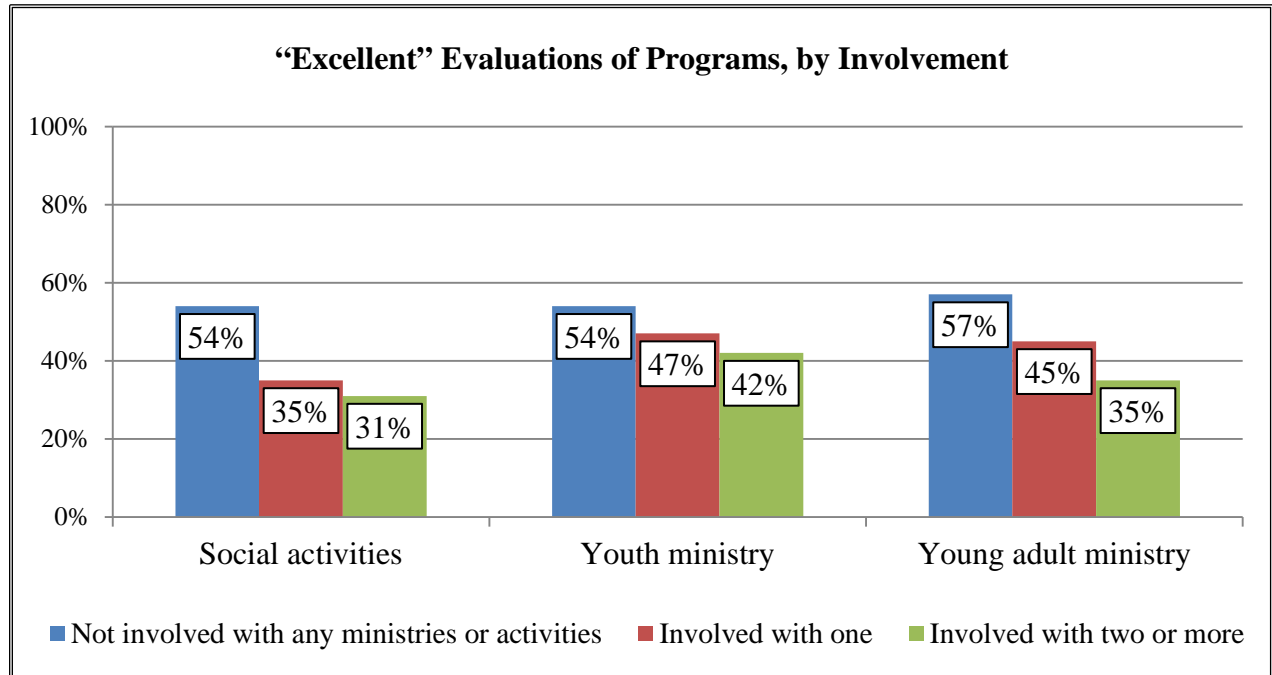
Differences by Generation

Members of the oldest and youngest generations are especially likely to rate the leadership provided by the Parish Pastoral Council as “excellent.” In addition, those of the oldest generation are most likely to give adult spiritual development and growth an “excellent” rating. Vatican II Generation respondents are *least* likely to give these areas an “excellent” evaluation.



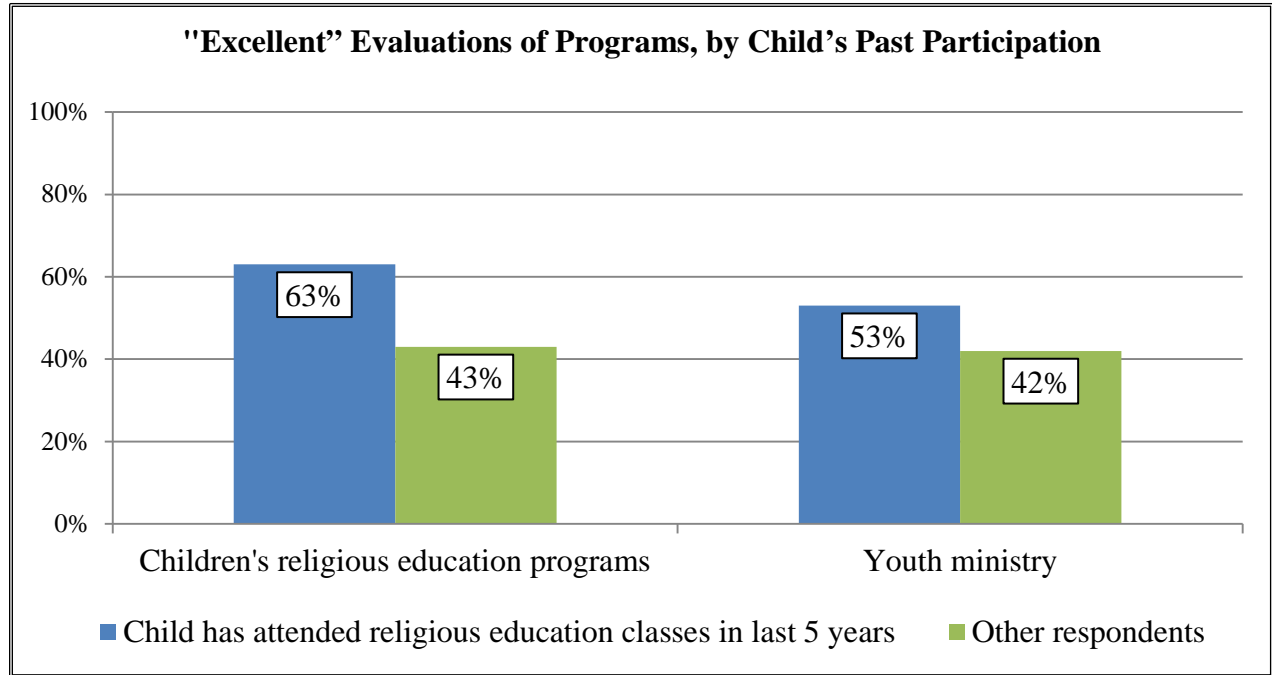
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are relatively more likely than other respondents to give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s social activities. In addition, the more involved in parish ministries or activities respondents are, the *less* likely they are to give an “excellent” evaluation to youth ministry and young adult ministry.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

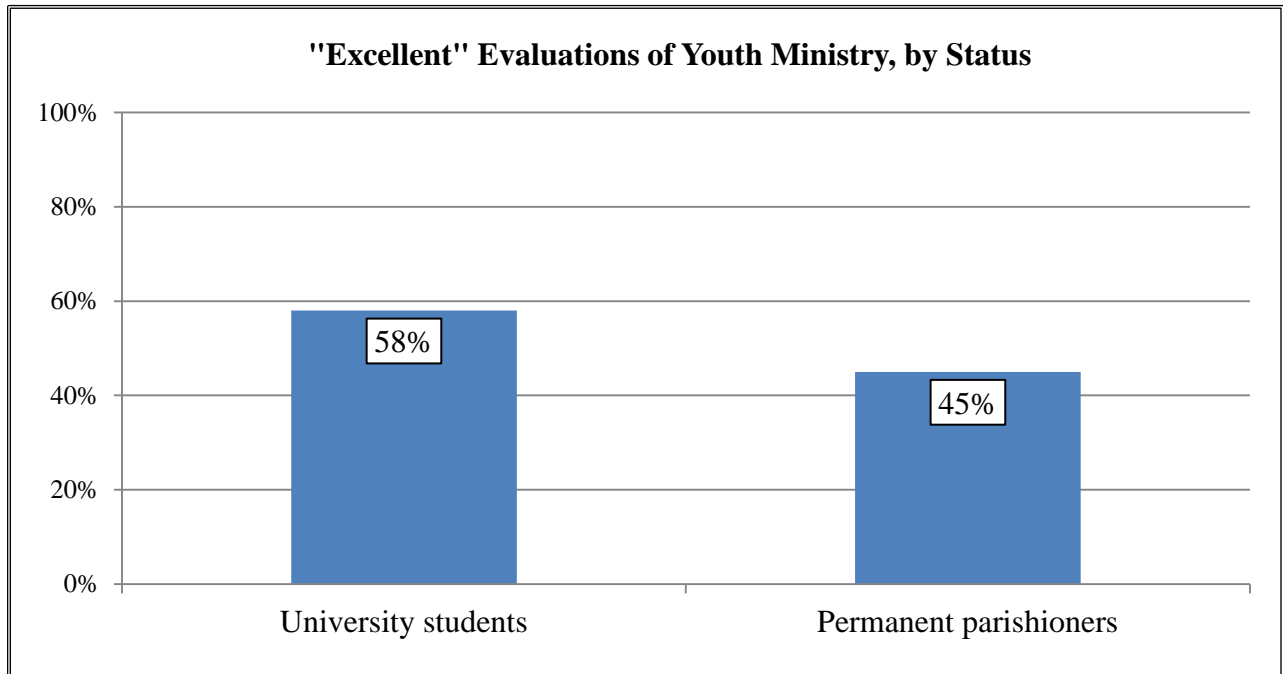
Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the children’s religious education programs and youth ministry. This may be an indication that the program itself is better than it is reputed to be.



Those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate adult spiritual development and growth.

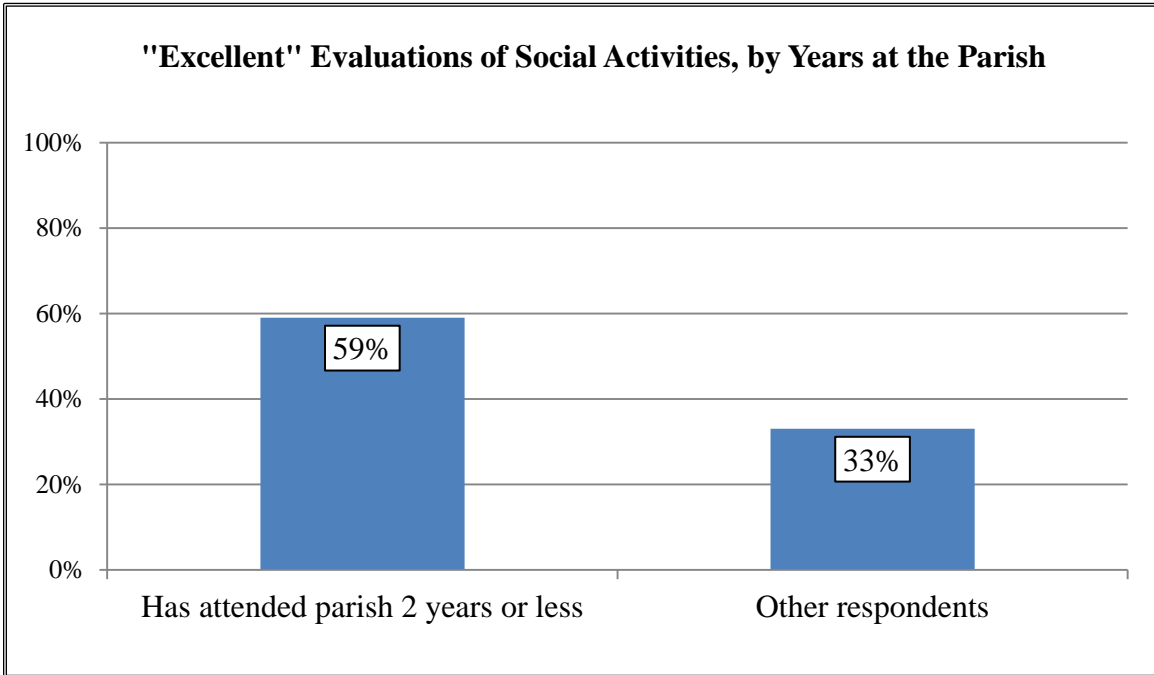
Differences by Status

University students are more likely than permanent parishioners to give youth ministry an “excellent” evaluation.



Differences by Years at the Parish

Newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, are more likely than others to rate social activities as “excellent.” They do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluations of the friendliness of the parish office staff.



Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses

More than nine in ten give a positive evaluation to each of the areas of weekend Masses overall shown in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Weekend Mass schedule	99%	89%
Liturgical decorations and environment	97	88
Hospitality or sense of welcome	97	85
Homilies	93	87
Music	92	82
<i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 to 12 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the following areas of worship:

- Hospitality or sense of welcome (97 percent compared to 85 percent)
- Weekend Mass schedule (99 percent compared to 89 percent)
- Music (92 percent compared to 82 percent)

“Excellent” Evaluations

About three-quarters of respondents give an “excellent” evaluation to the weekend Mass schedule, hospitality or sense of welcome, and liturgical decorations and environment.

*Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for
the Mass you most regularly attend
Percentage responding “Excellent”*

	St. Joseph	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
Weekend Mass schedule	77%	52%
Hospitality or sense of welcome	76	49
Liturgical decorations and environment	75	48
Music	68	48
Homilies	58	48

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

Two-thirds say the music is “excellent,” with almost six in ten saying the same about the homilies.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 to 27 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following areas of worship:

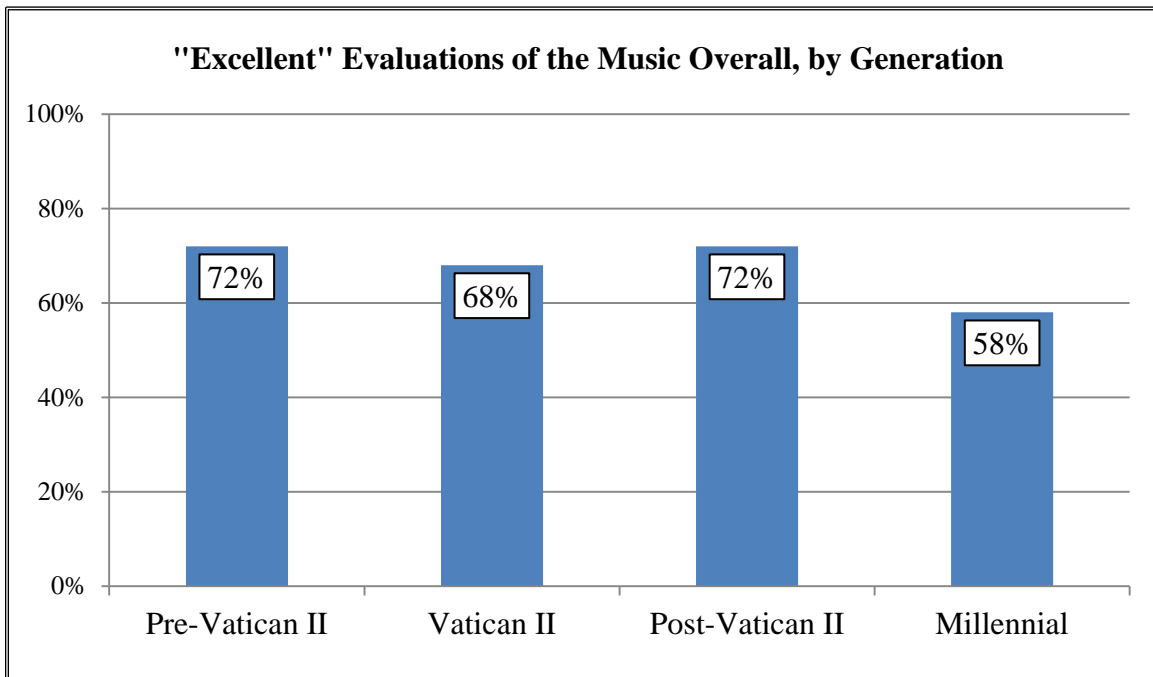
- Hospitality or sense of welcome (76 percent compared to 49 percent)
- Liturgical decorations and environment (75 percent compared to 48 percent)
- Weekend Mass schedule (77 percent compared to 52 percent)
- Music (68 percent compared to 48 percent)
- Homilies (58 percent compared to 48 percent)

Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate the areas of weekend Masses overall measured in this section.

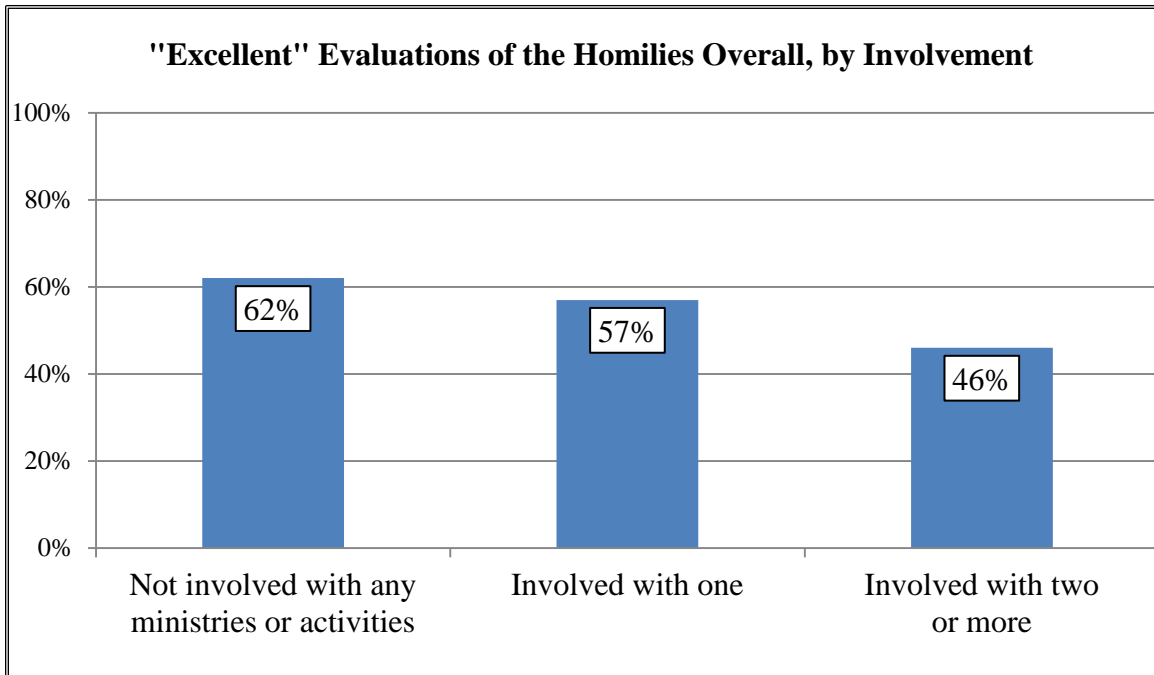
Differences by Generation

Members of the Millennial Generation are *least* likely to rate the music as “excellent.”



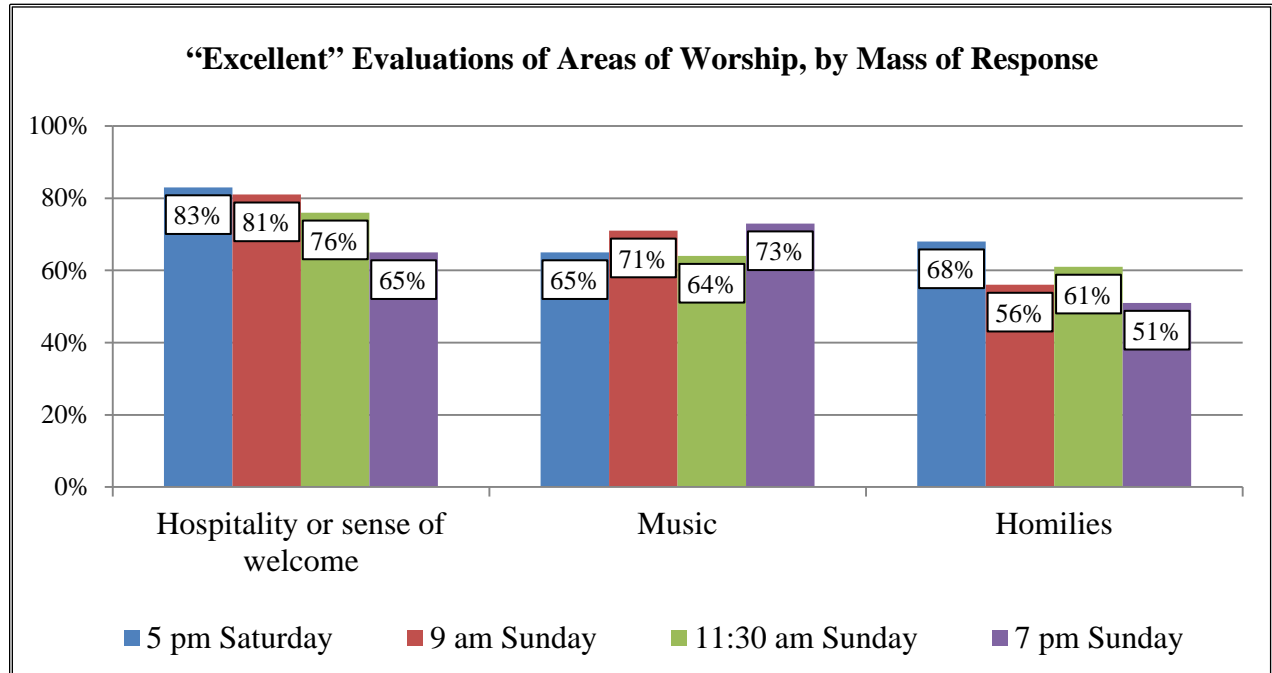
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are relatively *less* likely than other respondents to give an “excellent” rating to the homilies.



Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday Masses are especially likely to give the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses an “excellent” rating, with those responding at the 7 p.m. Mass the *least* likely to do so.



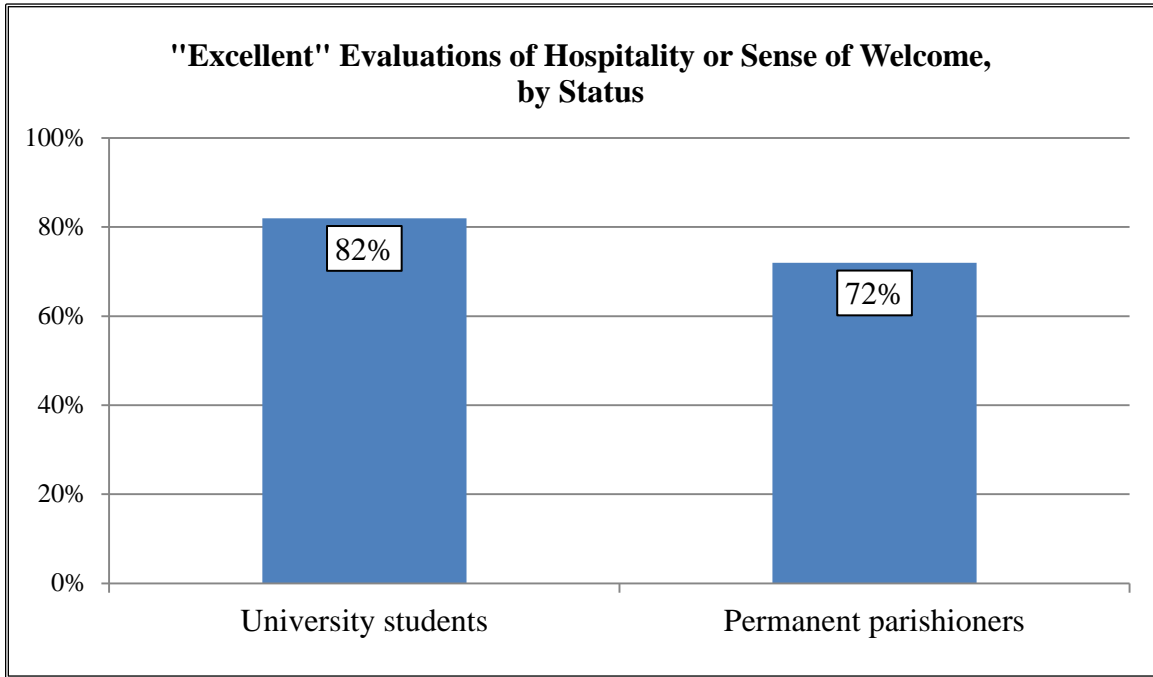
- Those responding at the 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday Masses are most likely to give the music an “excellent” evaluation.
- The homilies are especially likely to be given an “excellent” evaluation by those responding at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass, with those responding at the 7 p.m. Sunday Mass *least* likely to do so.

Differences by Relationship to the Parish

Visitors at the parish do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate the hospitality or sense of welcome at parish liturgies.

Differences by Status

University students are more likely than permanent parishioners to give an “excellent” evaluation to the hospitality or sense of welcome.



Differences by Years at the Parish

Newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, do *not* differ significantly from others in their evaluations of the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses.

Evaluation of Parish Efforts

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

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” or “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Communicate with parishioners	96%	80%
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	94	89
Meet people’s spiritual needs	92	83
Make prayer a regular part of your day	89	–
Encourage you to share your time and talents with the parish	89	–
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	88	86
Advocate for social justice	86	–
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	75	80
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Communication with parishioners receives a “good” or “excellent” evaluation from almost all respondents.

- About nine in ten respondents give a positive evaluation to parish efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ, meet people’s spiritual needs, and make prayer a regular part of their day.
- Efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time and talents with the parish receive a positive evaluation from nine in ten respondents.
- Nearly nine in ten rate parish efforts to help them practice gospel values in their daily life and to advocate for social justice as “good” or “excellent.” Parish efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues receive a positive evaluation from three in four respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 16 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to communicate with parishioners (96 percent compared to 80 percent).

“Excellent” Evaluations

Just under six in ten respondents rate as “excellent” parish efforts to nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ, communicate with parishioners, and encourage parishioners to share their time and talents with the parish.

<i>Please evaluate parish efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ	59%	47%
Communicate with parishioners	57	37
Encourage you to share your time and talents with the parish	56	–
Meet people’s spiritual needs	49	40
Advocate for social justice	48	–
Help you practice gospel values in your daily life	46	37
Make prayer a regular part of your day	45	–
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	34	33

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

- Just under half of all respondents say these parish efforts are “excellent”: meeting people’s spiritual needs, advocating for social justice, helping parishioners practice gospel values in their daily life, and making prayer a regular part of their day.
- Parish efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues receive an “excellent” evaluation from a third of respondents.

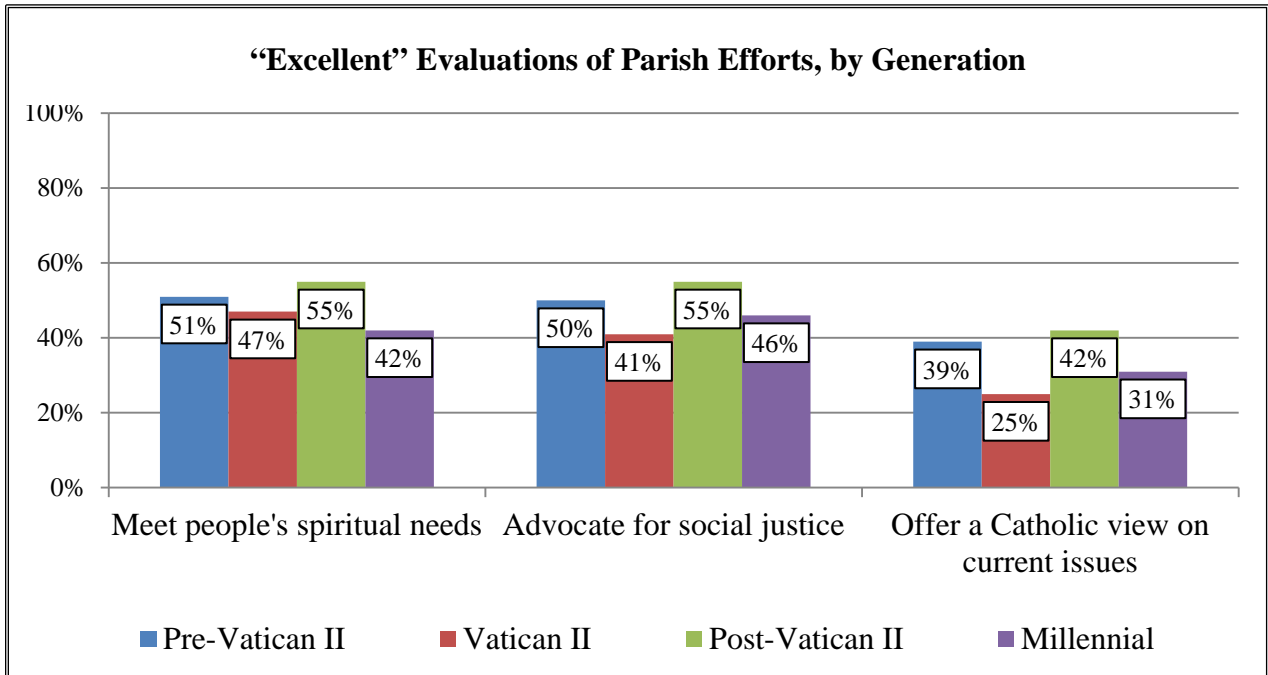
Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 12 to 20 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to:

- Communicate with parishioners (57 percent compared to 37 percent)
- Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ (59 percent compared to 47 percent)

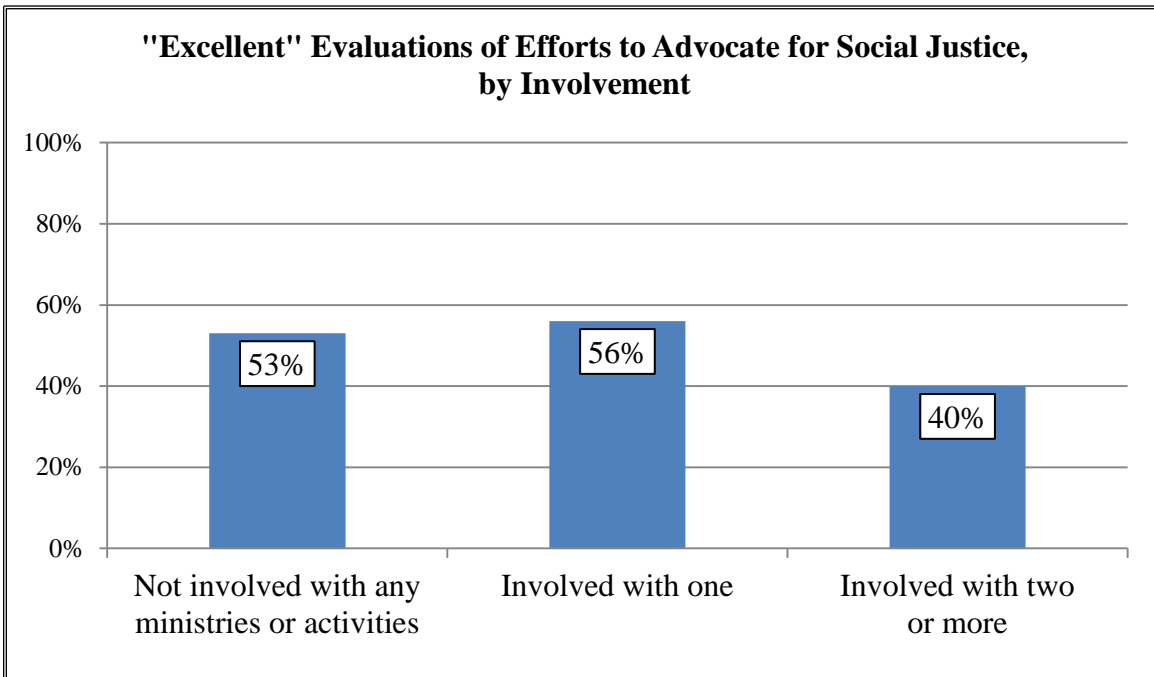
Differences by Generation

Members of the Post-Vatican II and Pre-Vatican II Generations are especially likely to rate parish efforts to meet people’s spiritual needs, to advocate for social justice, and to offer a Catholic view on current issues as “excellent.” Those of the Vatican II Generation are among the *least* likely to give an “excellent” rating to any of the parish efforts shown in the figure below.



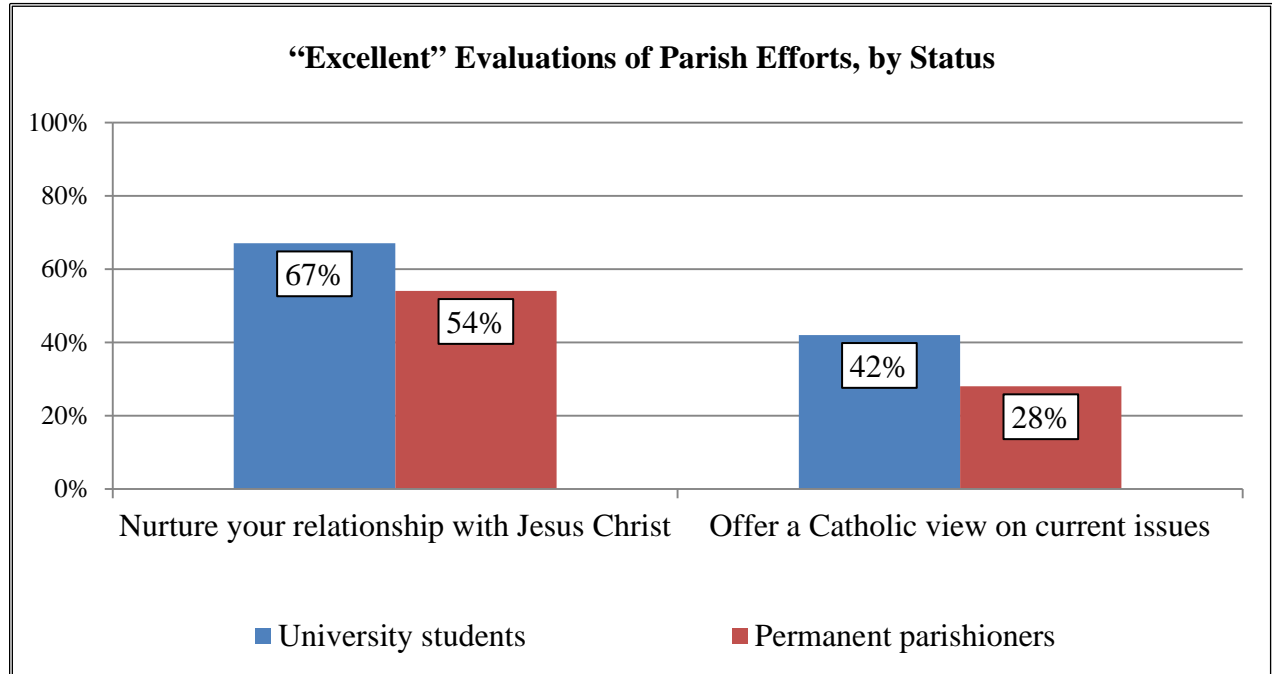
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are relatively *less* likely than other respondents to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish efforts to advocate for social justice.



Differences by Status

University students are more likely than permanent parishioners to give an “excellent” evaluation to the parish efforts presented in the figure below.



Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating

Mass attenders at St. Joseph University Parish are most likely to say the Sunday bulletins (89 percent) are “somewhat” or “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them.

<i>How effective are these ways of communicating parish news to you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Sunday bulletins	89%	95%
Parish newsletter, <i>Faith Journey</i>	82	82
Email	79	60
Parish website	72	62
myParish App	67	–
Social media (Instagram, Twitter)	64	–

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

About eight in ten say the parish newsletter (*Faith Journey*) and email are at least “somewhat” effective ways of communicating parish news to them.

- Just over seven in ten report that the parish website is at least “somewhat” of an effective way of communicating parish news to them.
- About two in three indicate that the myParish App and social media are at least “somewhat” effective ways of communicating parish news to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 to 19 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to say the following are at least “somewhat” effective ways of communicating parish news to them:

- Email (79 percent compared to 60 percent)
- Parish website (72 percent compared to 62 percent)

“Very” Effective Ways of Communicating

More than six in ten say the Sunday bulletins are a “very” effective way of communicating parish news to them.

<i>How effective are these ways of communicating parish news to you?</i> Percentage responding “Very”		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Sunday bulletins	62%	70%
Parish newsletter, <i>Faith Journey</i>	48	48
Email	46	32
Parish website	37	30
Social media (Instagram, Twitter)	34	–
myParish App	34	–

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

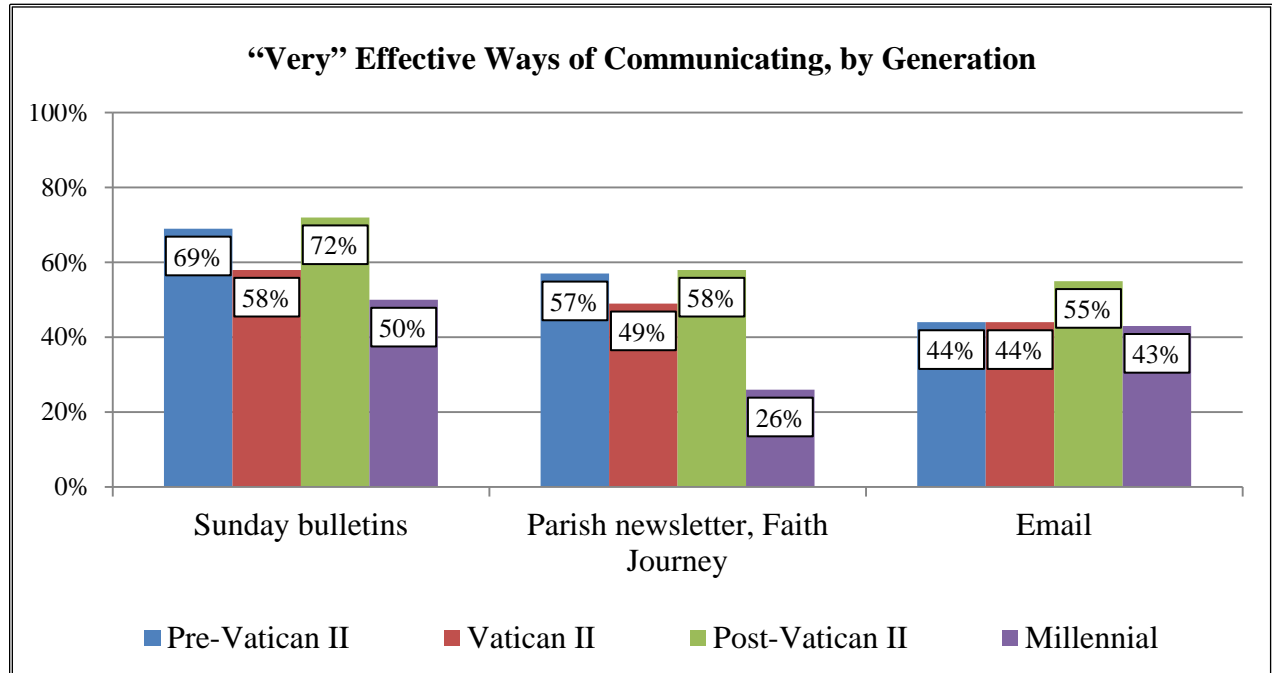
- Slightly fewer than half say the parish newsletter and email are “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them.
- Just over a third report that the parish website, social media and the myParish App are “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 14 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to report that email (46 percent compared to 32 percent) is a “very” effective way for the parish to communicate news to them.

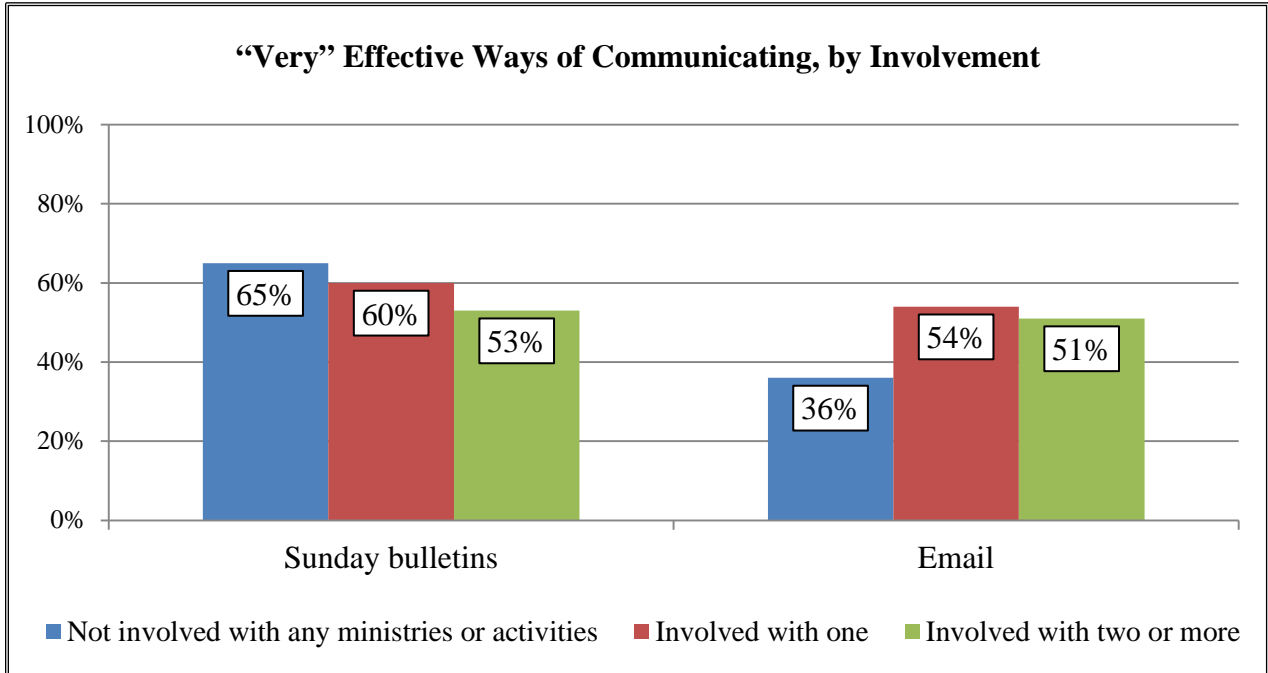
Differences by Generation

Members of the youngest generation are *least* likely to report that the Sunday bulletins and parish newsletter are “very” effective for communicating parish news. Those of the Post-Vatican II Generation are most likely to report that email is “very” effective.



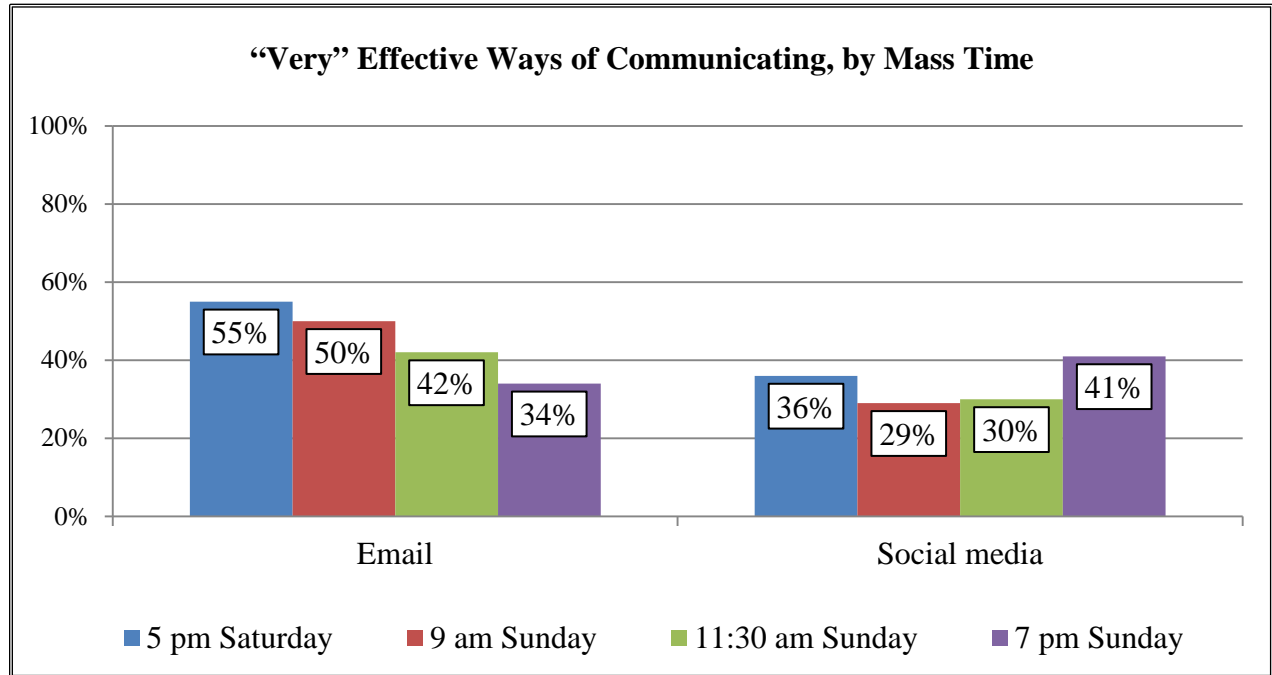
Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved respondents are with parish ministries and activities, the *less* likely they are to say the parish bulletins are “very” effective for communicating parish news. Those involved with at least one ministry or activity, on the other hand, are more likely to see email as “very” effective.



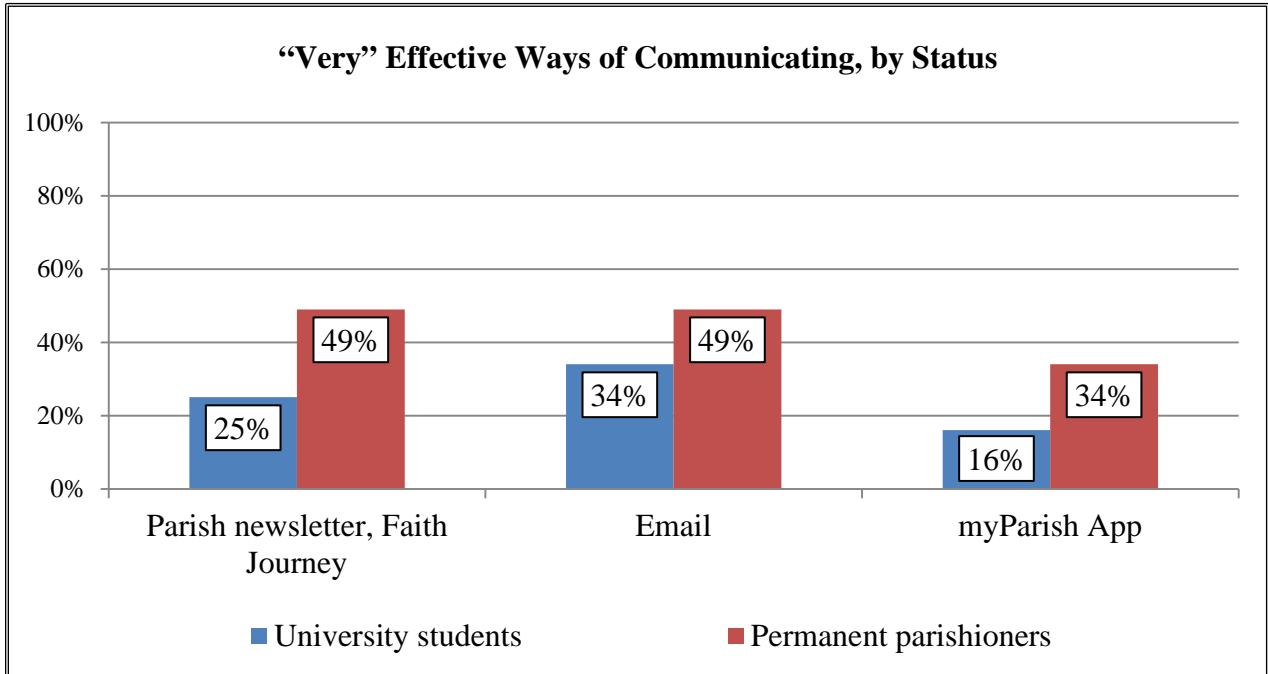
Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 7 p.m. Mass are *least* likely to report that email is “very” effective for communicating parish news, but are among the most likely to report that social media are “very” effective.



Differences by Status

Permanent parishioners are more likely than university students to report that the parish newsletter, email, and myParish App are “very” effective for communicating parish news.



Priority for Parish Needs

More than seven in ten respondents give at least “somewhat” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below.

<i>What priority do you give the following for the parish?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Developing a parish sense of community	91%	91%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	91	90
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	91	87
Ministry to those grieving	86	91
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	79	80
Outreach to inactive Catholics	79	73
Providing retreat opportunities	75	71
Ministry to the divorced and separated	72	82
More small group prayer opportunities	72	75

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

Nine in ten give “somewhat” or “very much” priority to developing a parish sense of community, visitation of the sick and homebound, and providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy.

- Ministry to those grieving receives at least “somewhat” priority from almost nine in ten responding parishioners. Just over seven in ten give at least “somewhat” priority to ministry to the divorced and separated.
- Eight in ten respondents overall place at least “somewhat” priority on more ministries for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration. Just over seven in ten place as much priority on providing retreat opportunities and more small group prayer opportunities.
- Outreach to inactive Catholics receives at least “somewhat” priority from eight in ten responding parishioners.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say the parish should give ministry to the divorced and separated at least “somewhat” priority (72 percent compared to 82 percent).

“Very Much” Priority

Six in ten give “very much” priority to developing a parish sense of community.

<i>What priority do you give the following for the parish? Percentage responding “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Developing a parish sense of community	59%	60%
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	54	53
Visitation of the sick and homebound	52	55
Ministry to those grieving	42	58
Outreach to inactive Catholics	38	35
Providing retreat opportunities	37	31
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	35	39
Ministry to the divorced and separated	31	40
More small group prayer opportunities	27	34

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

About half give “very much” priority to providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy and to visitation of the sick and homebound.

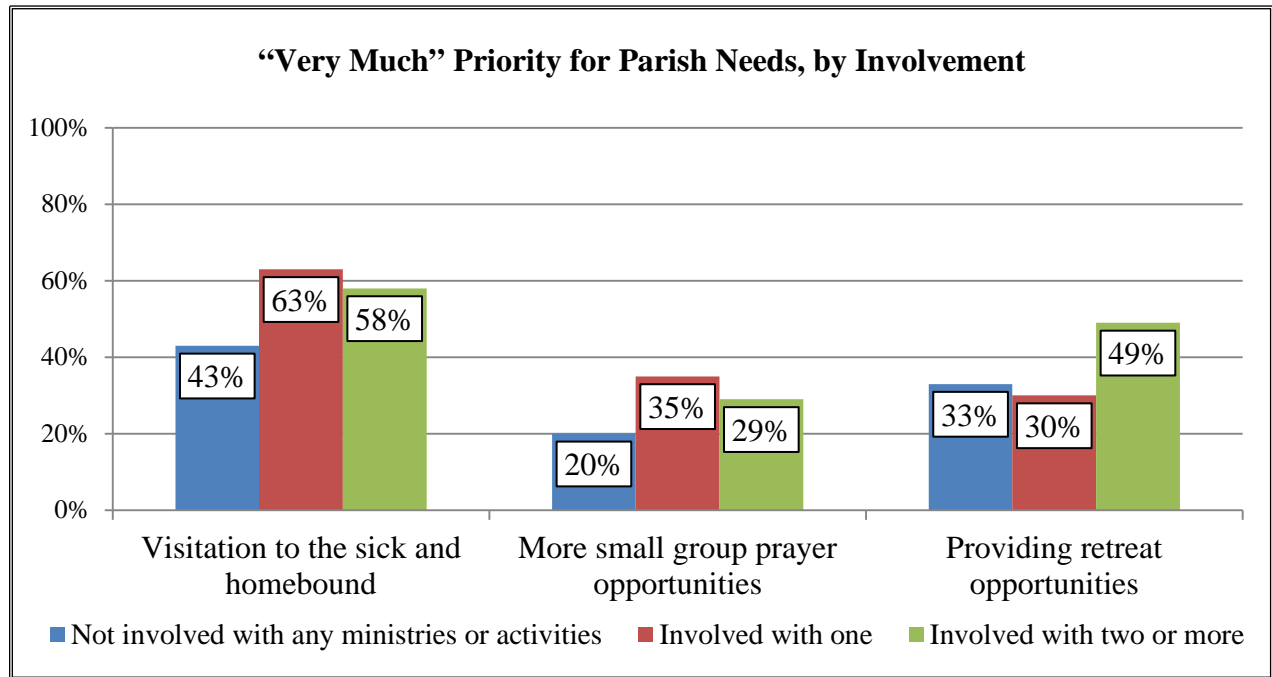
- Outreach to inactive Catholics receives “very much” priority from almost four in ten respondents. Ministry to the divorced and separated receives as much priority from three in ten.
- Nearly four in ten say “very much” priority should be placed on providing retreat opportunities and on having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration. Just over a quarter place as much priority on more small group prayer opportunities.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 16 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say the parish should give ministry to those grieving “very much” priority (42 percent compared to 58 percent).

Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are relatively more likely than other respondents to say the parish should give visitation to the sick and homebound and more small group prayer opportunities “very much” priority.



Half of those involved with at least two ministries or activities say the parish should give “very much” priority to providing retreat opportunities.

Differences by Marital Status

Divorced or separated respondents do *not* differ significantly in the amount of priority they give to ministry to the divorced or separated.

Student Priority for University Ministry Needs

Only students were asked to respond to a series of questions about how much priority University Ministry should give to select needs. In all, there were 113 respondents. Eight in ten or more give at least “somewhat” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below.

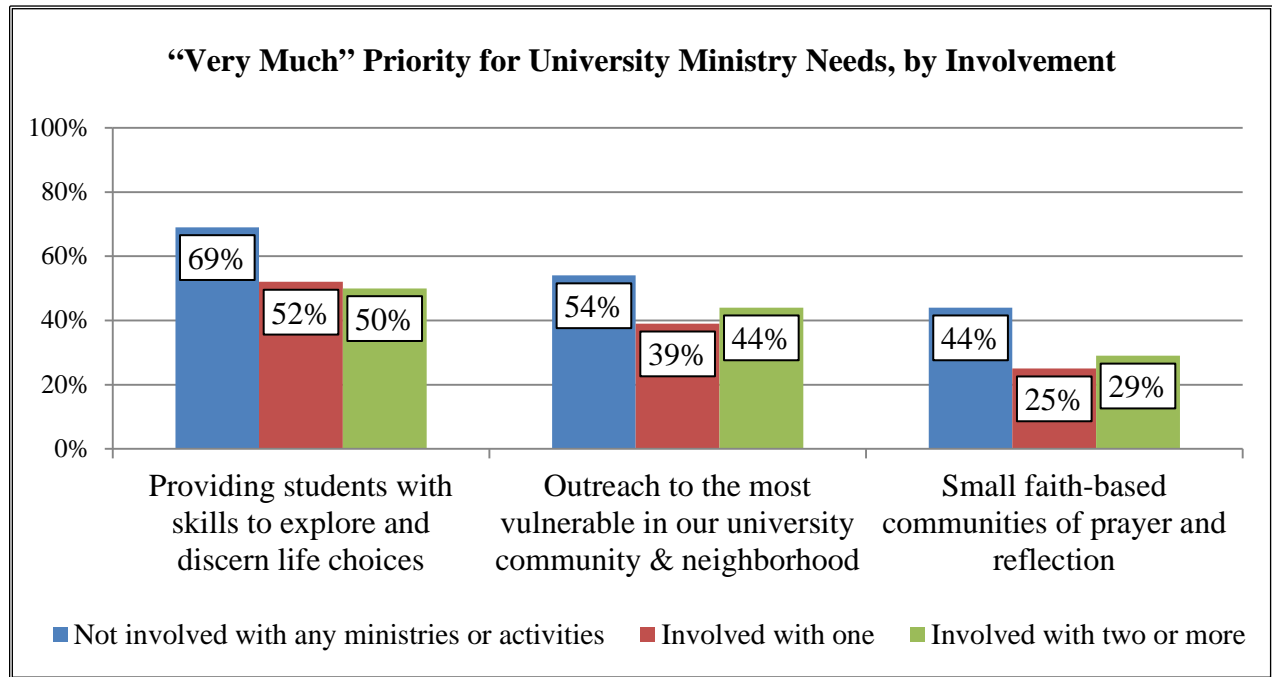
For Students Only:		
<i>What priority should University Ministry give to these needs?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very Much”	“Very Much” Only
Helping students form and inform their Catholic conscience	93%	71%
Providing students with skills to explore and discern life choices	92	62
Outreach to the most vulnerable in our university community and neighborhood	85	50
Education about social justice and equality	80	40
Small faith-based communities of prayer and reflection	82	35
One-on-one sacred conversations with students, that is Spiritual Direction	79	44

Seven in ten students say University Ministry should give “very much” priority to helping students form and inform their Catholic consciences.

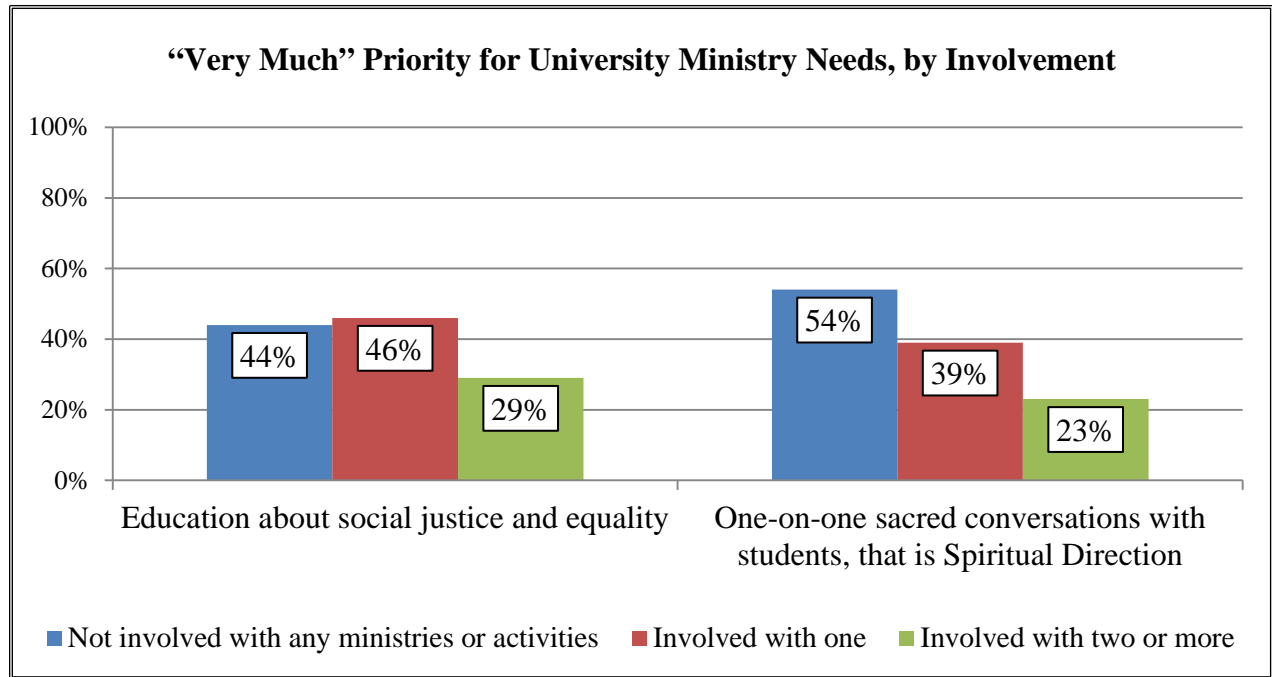
- University Ministry providing students with skills to explore and discern life choices receives “very much” priority from about six in ten.
- Half say outreach to the most vulnerable in the university community and neighborhood should receive “very much” priority. Four in ten give as much priority to education about social justice and equality.
- One-on-one sacred conversations with students, that is Spiritual Direction, receive “very much” priority from a little more than four in ten students.
- Just over a third give “very much” priority to small faith-based communities of prayer and reflection.

Differences by Level of Involvement

Students *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are relatively more likely than others to say University Ministry should give the needs presented in the figure below “very much” priority.

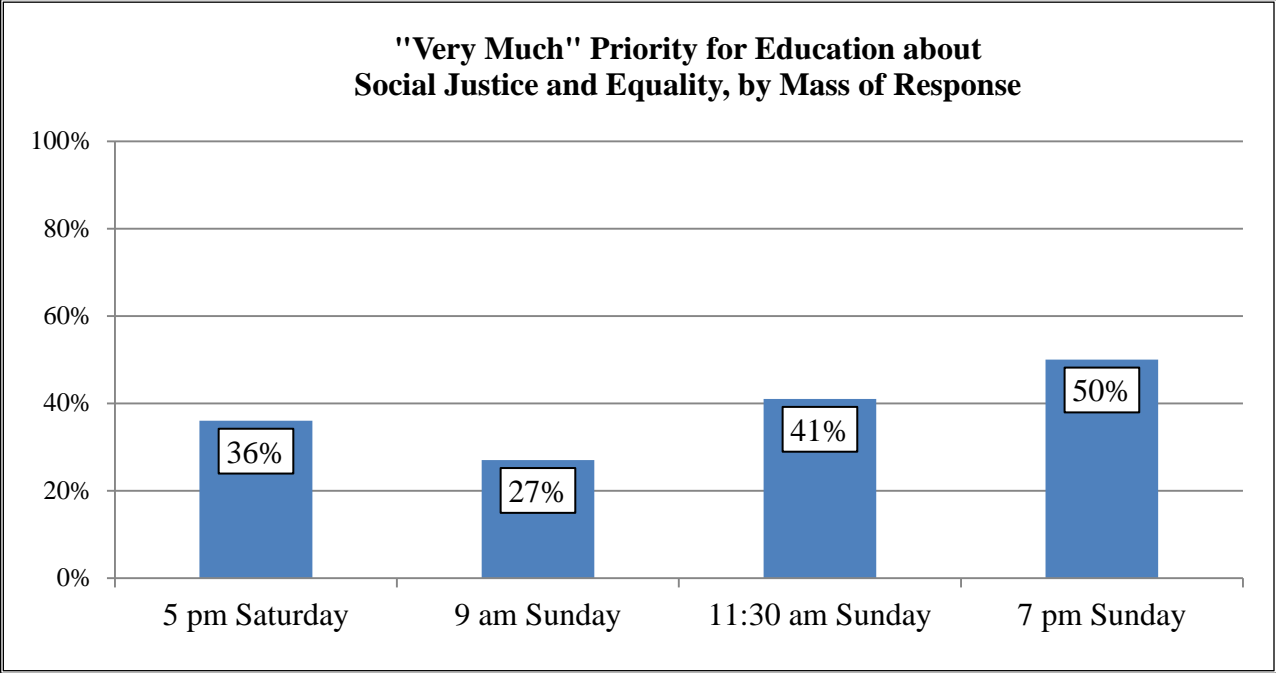


Students involved with at least two ministries or activities are relatively *less* likely than others to say University Ministry should give education about social justice and equality “very much” priority. In addition, the more involved responding students are, the *less* likely they are to give “very much” priority to one-on-one sacred conversations with students, that is Spiritual Direction.



Differences by Mass of Response

Students who responded at the 7 p.m. Sunday Mass are especially likely to say University Ministry should give education about social justice and equality “very much” priority.



Interest in Learning More About Topics

Between eight and nine in ten respondents overall say they are at least “somewhat” interested in learning more about each of the topics listed in the table below.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Personal prayer and spirituality	90%	91%
Social teachings of the Catholic Church	86	89
Basic teachings of the Catholic Church	81	93

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

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 12 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say they are “somewhat” or “very” interested in learning more about the topic of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church (81 percent compared to 93 percent).

“Very” Interested in Topics

Between 51 and 57 percent of respondents say they are “very” interested in learning more about each of the topics presented in the table below.

<i>How interested would you be in learning more about these topics?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Personal prayer and spirituality	57%	54%
Social teachings of the Catholic Church	54	50
Basic teachings of the Catholic Church	51	63

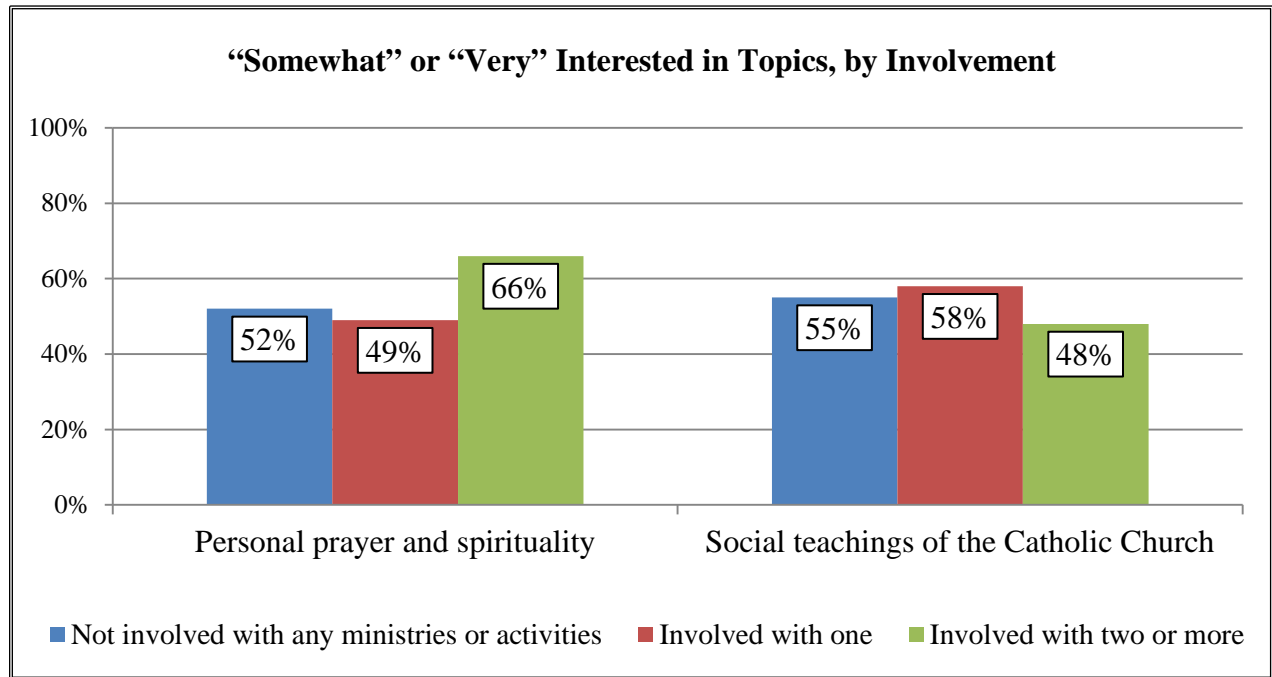
**Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys*

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 12 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to say they are “very” interested in learning more about the topic of the basic teachings of the Catholic Church (51 percent compared to 63 percent).

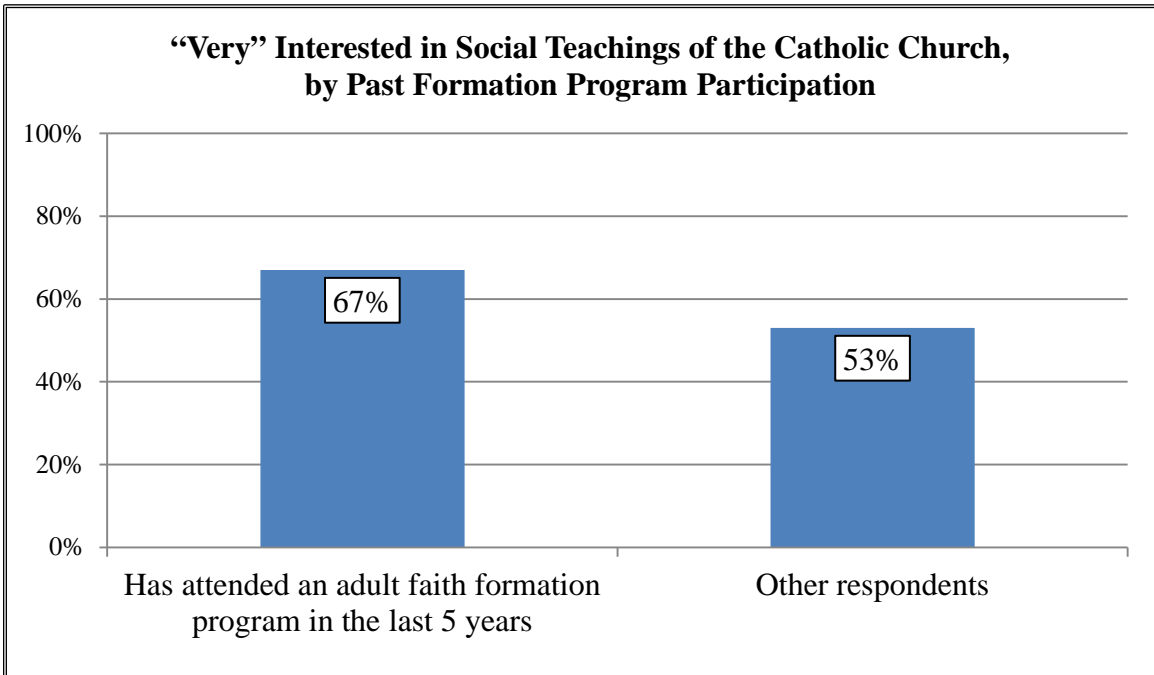
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities are relatively more likely than others to report being “very” interested in the topic of personal prayer and spirituality and relatively *less* likely to have as much interest in the social teachings of the Catholic Church.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Two-thirds of those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years report being “very” interested in the topic of the social teachings of the Catholic Church, compared to just over half of other respondents.



Importance of Religious Behaviors

Developing their relationship with God is at least “somewhat” important to nearly all respondents.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
<i>How important are the following to you? Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very”</i>		
Developing your relationship with God	99%	98%
Discerning/deciding a path for your life	87	–
Integrating your faith with your major or your potential career/vocation	81	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Almost nine in ten respondents overall say discerning/deciding a path for their life is “somewhat” or “very” important to them.
- Eight in ten say integrating their faith with their major or potential career/vocation is “somewhat” or “very” important to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in how much importance they give to developing their relationship with God.

“Very” Important Behaviors

Nine in ten respondents say developing their relationship with God is “very” important to them.

<i>How important are the following to you?</i> Percentage responding “Very”		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Developing your relationship with God	89%	86%
Discerning/deciding a path for your life	66	–
Integrating your faith with your major or your potential career/vocation	56	–

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

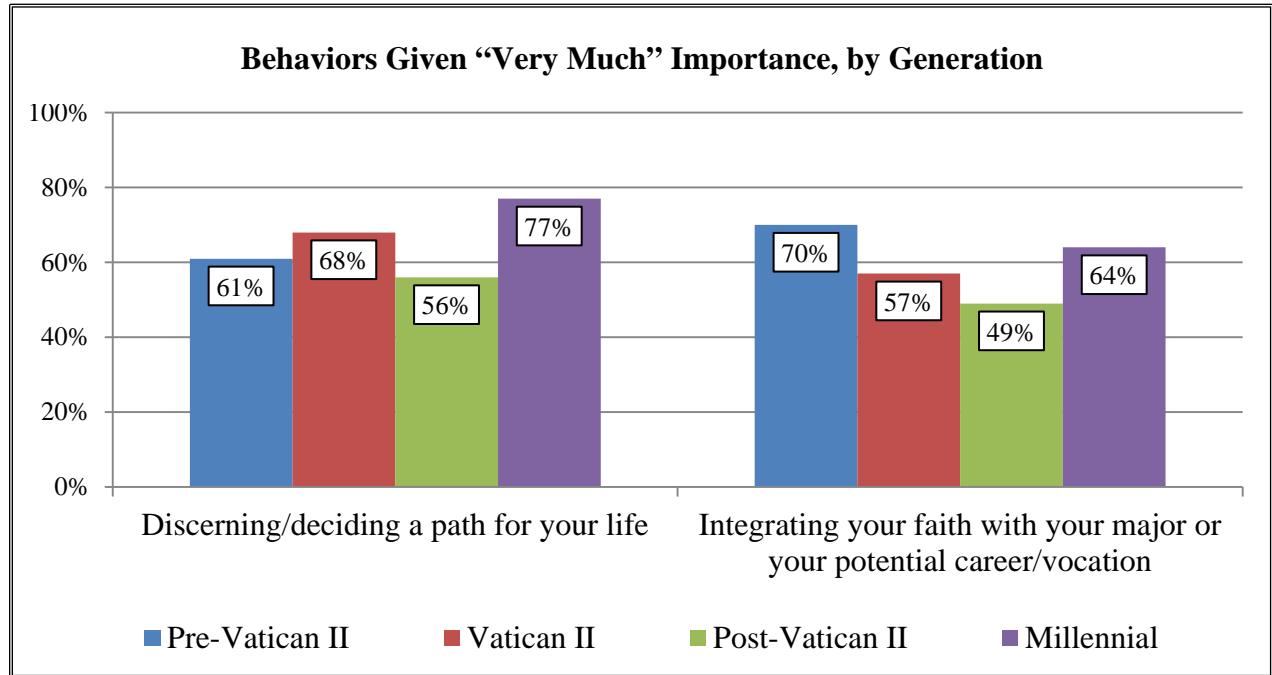
- Discerning/deciding a path for their life is “very” important to two in three respondents.
- Nearly six in ten of all responding parishioners report that integrating their faith with their major or potential career/vocation is “very” important to them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Those at St. Joseph University Parish do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in how much importance they give to developing their relationship with God.

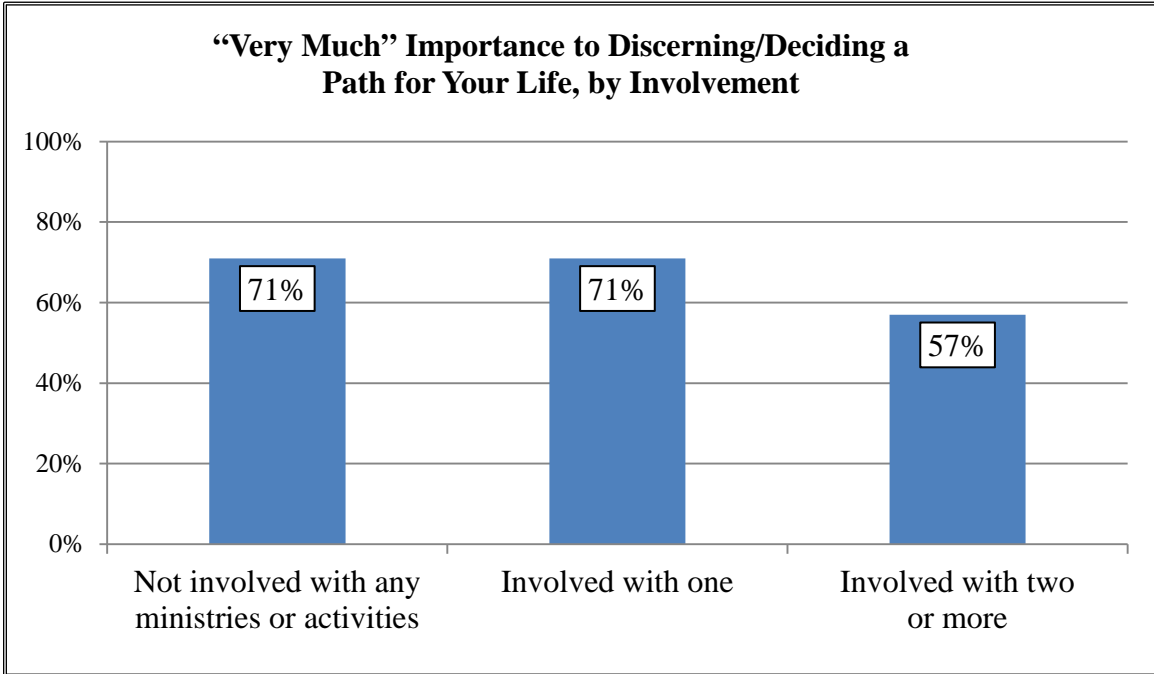
Differences by Generation

Members of the Post-Vatican II Generation are *least* likely to say discerning/deciding a path for their life and integrating their faith with their major or potential career/vocation are “somewhat” or “very” important to them.



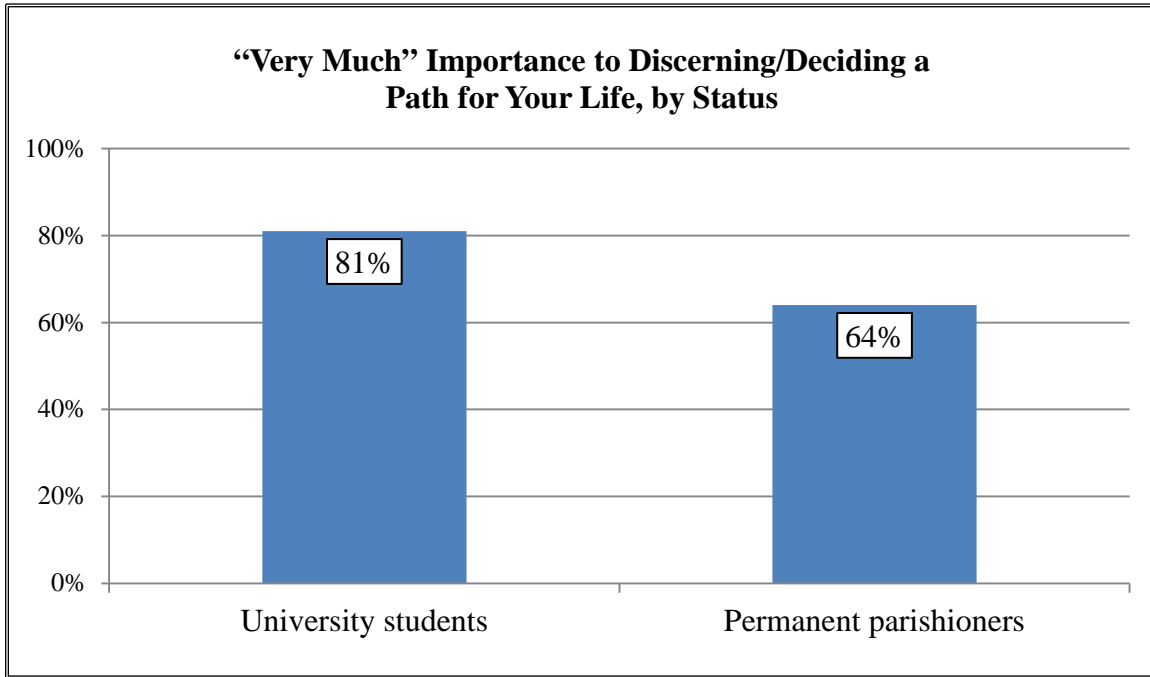
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities at the parish are relatively *less* likely than others to say discerning/deciding a path for their life is “very” important to them.



Differences by Status

Eight in ten university students say discerning/deciding a path for their lives is “very” important to them, compared to just under two in three permanent parishioners.



Students do *not* differ significantly from others in the importance they place on integrating their faith with their major or their potential career/vocation

Student Difficulties

Only students were asked to respond to a series of questions about how much difficulty they experience in different areas, with 118 responding in all. More than half say they find the following at least “somewhat” difficult: time management skills (69 percent), coping with the stress of higher education (60 percent), and discovering a direction for their lives (55 percent). Between a quarter and half also find these areas at least “somewhat” difficult: dealing with financial responsibilities (45 percent), establishing healthy romantic relationships (35 percent), and establishing healthy relationships with their families (25 percent).

For Students Only:		
<i>How much difficulty do you personally have with these?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very” Difficult	“Very” Difficult Only
Time management skills: balancing school, prayer, and personal life	69%	25%
Coping with the stress of higher education	60	40
Discovering some direction for your life	55	20
Dealing with financial responsibilities	45	11
Establishing healthy romantic relationships	35	12
Establishing healthy relationships with your family	25	10
Relationships with your roommate(s)	21	7
Substance abuse, such as alcohol or drugs	18	5
Exploration and acceptance of your sexuality and identity	16	7

Four in ten students say they find coping with the stress of higher education to be “very” difficult.

- A quarter or slightly fewer students find time management skills and discovering some direction for their lives “very” difficult.
- About one in ten students finds these areas “very” difficult: establishing healthy romantic relationships, dealing with financial responsibilities, and establishing healthy relationships with their families.
- About one in 20 finds these areas of their lives to be “very” difficult: relationships with roommates, exploration and acceptance of their sexuality and identity, and substance abuse such as alcohol or drugs.

Elements That Influence Participation

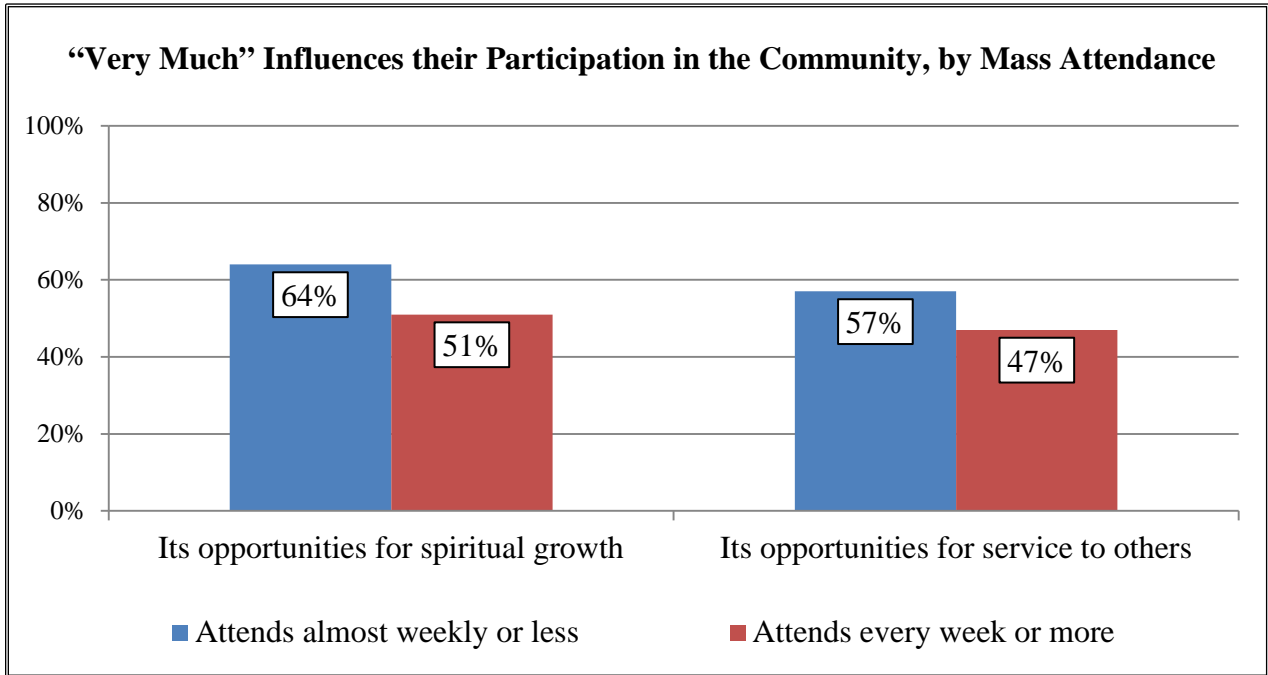
Between 84 and 95 percent of responding parishioners say each of the elements shown in the table below “somewhat” or “very much” influence their participation in the community and/or University Ministry.

<i>How much do the following influence your participation in this community and/or University Ministry?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Very Much”	“Very Much” Only
Its open, welcoming spirit	95%	70%
The sense of belonging you feel here	94	66
Its opportunities for spiritual growth	91	55
Its opportunities for service to others	88	51
Its commitment to justice, peace and safeguarding Creation	85	52
Its character as a diverse community	84	53

- About two in three say the open and welcoming spirit and the sense of belonging they feel “very much” influence their participation in the community and/or University Ministry.
- Slightly more than half say the following “very much” influence their participation in the community: its opportunities for spiritual growth; its character as a diverse community; its commitment to justice, peace and safeguarding Creation; and its opportunities for service to others.

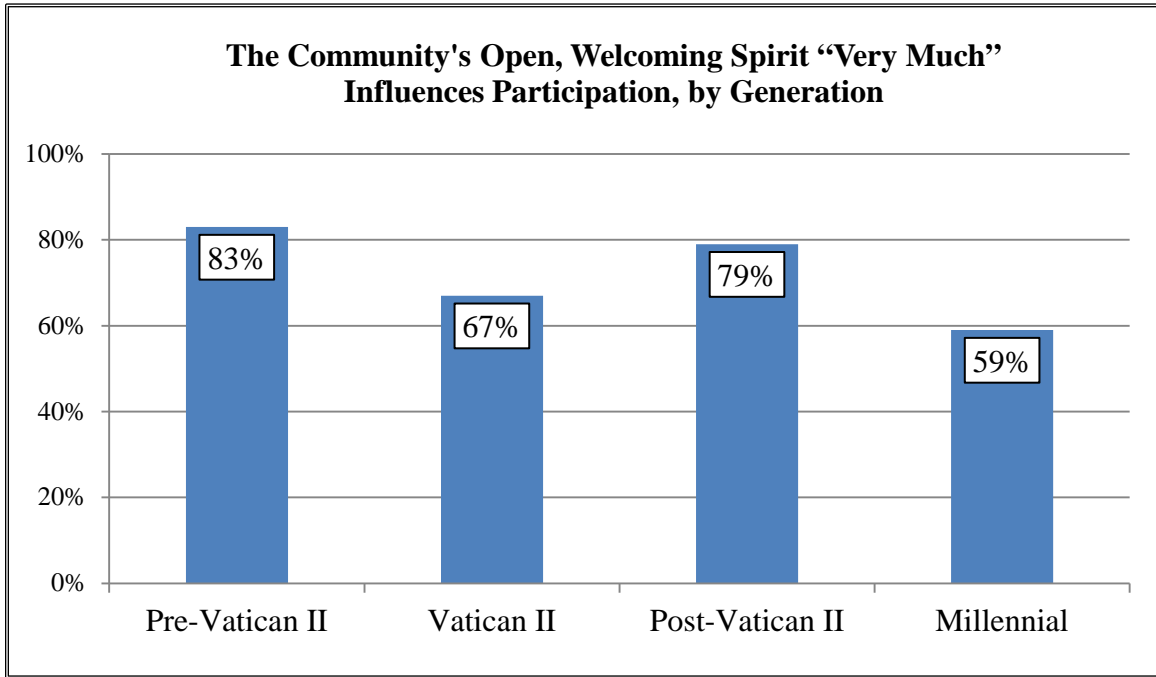
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass less than once a week are relatively more likely than others to say the community’s opportunities for spiritual growth and its opportunities for service to others “very much” influences their participation in the community and/or University Ministry.



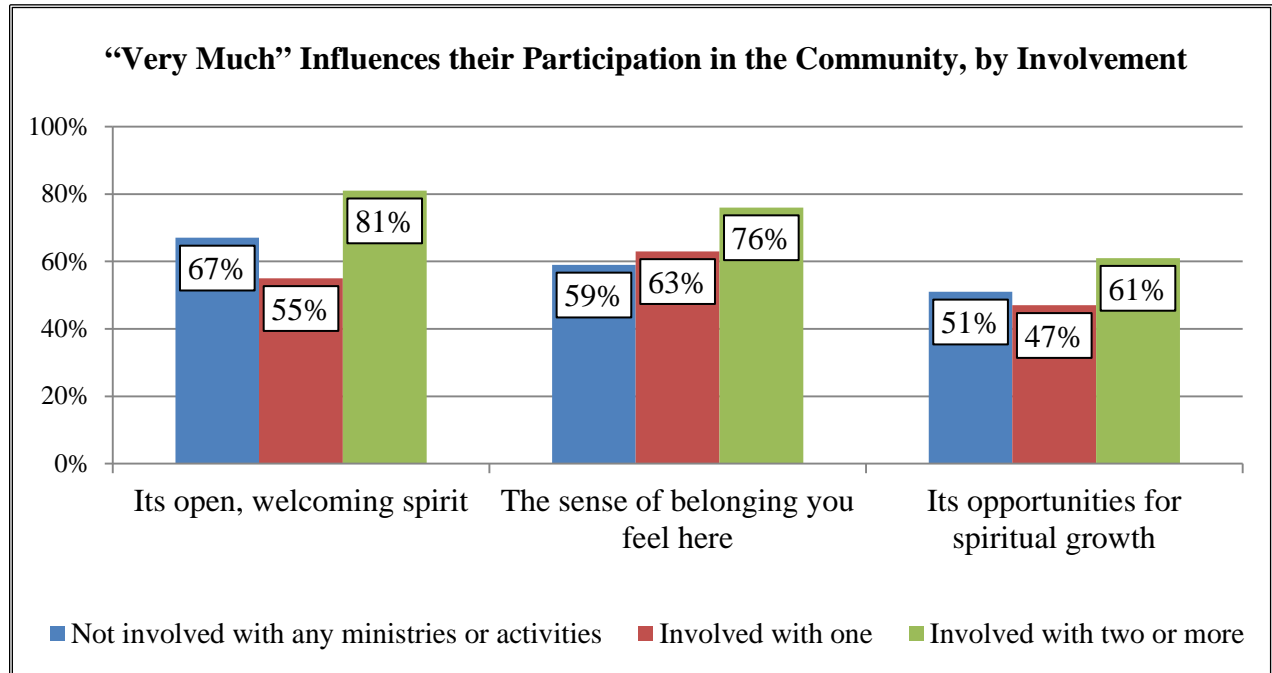
Differences by Generation

Members of the Pre-Vatican II and Post-Vatican II Generations are most likely to say the open and welcoming spirit “very much” influences their participation in the community and/or University Ministry.

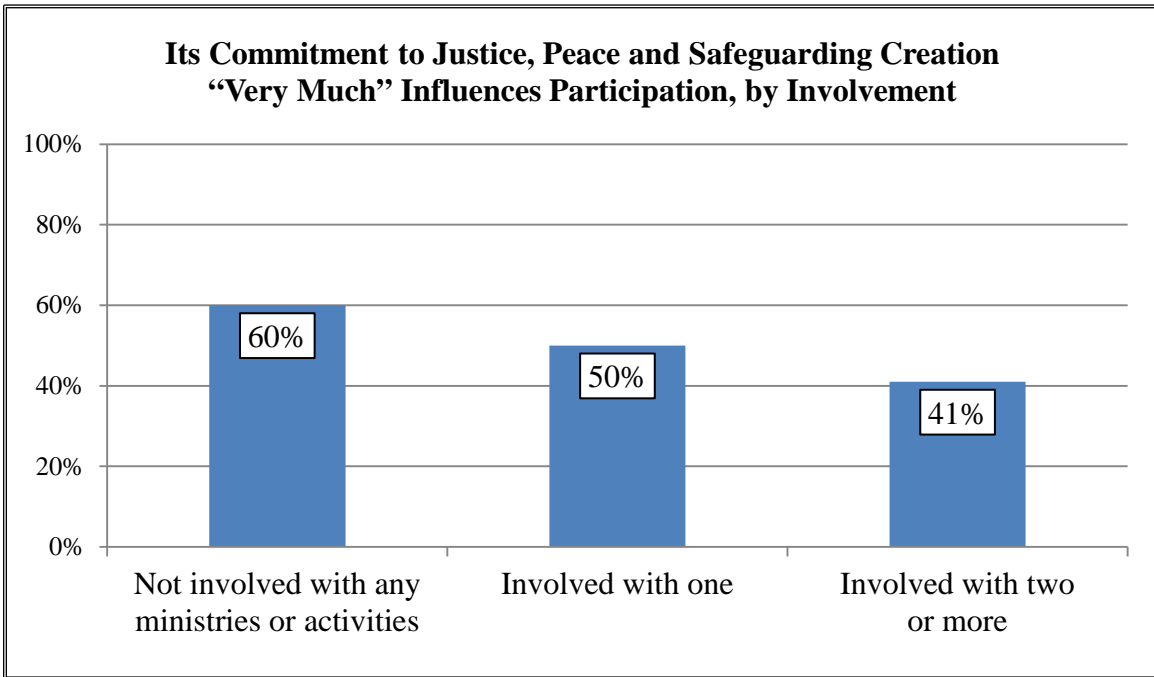


Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least two ministries or activities are relatively more likely than others to say the community and/or University Ministry's open, welcoming spirit, the sense of belonging they feel there, and its opportunities for spiritual growth "very much" influence their participation.

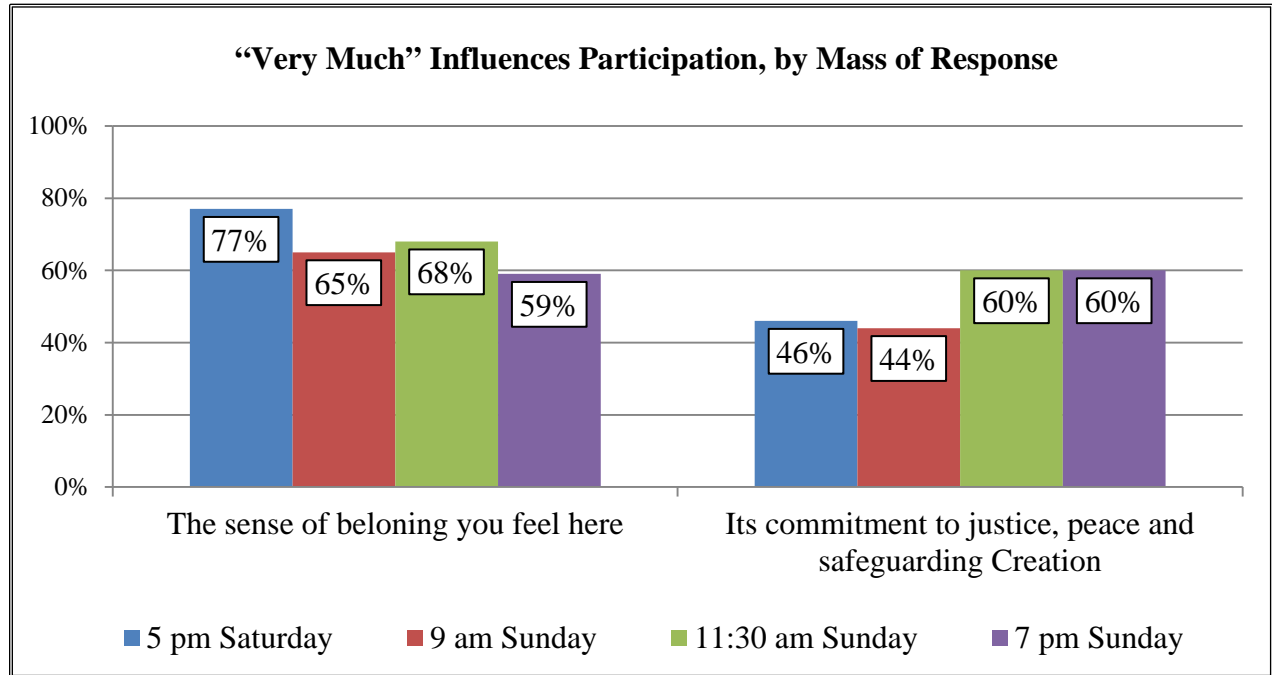


The *less* involved respondents are with ministries or activities at St. Joseph, the more likely they are to say the community’s commitment to justice, peace and safeguarding Creation “very much” influence their participation.



Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass are most likely to say the sense of belonging they feel at St. Joseph “very much” influences their participation, with the 7 p.m. Sunday Mass respondents *least* likely to say so.



Those responding at the 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday Masses are most likely to say that St. Joseph’s commitment to justice, peace and safeguarding Creation “very much” influences their participation.

Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Sixty-four percent of those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years report that St. Joseph’s opportunities for spiritual growth “very much” influences their participation, compared to 51 percent of other respondents.

Invitations to Parish Functions

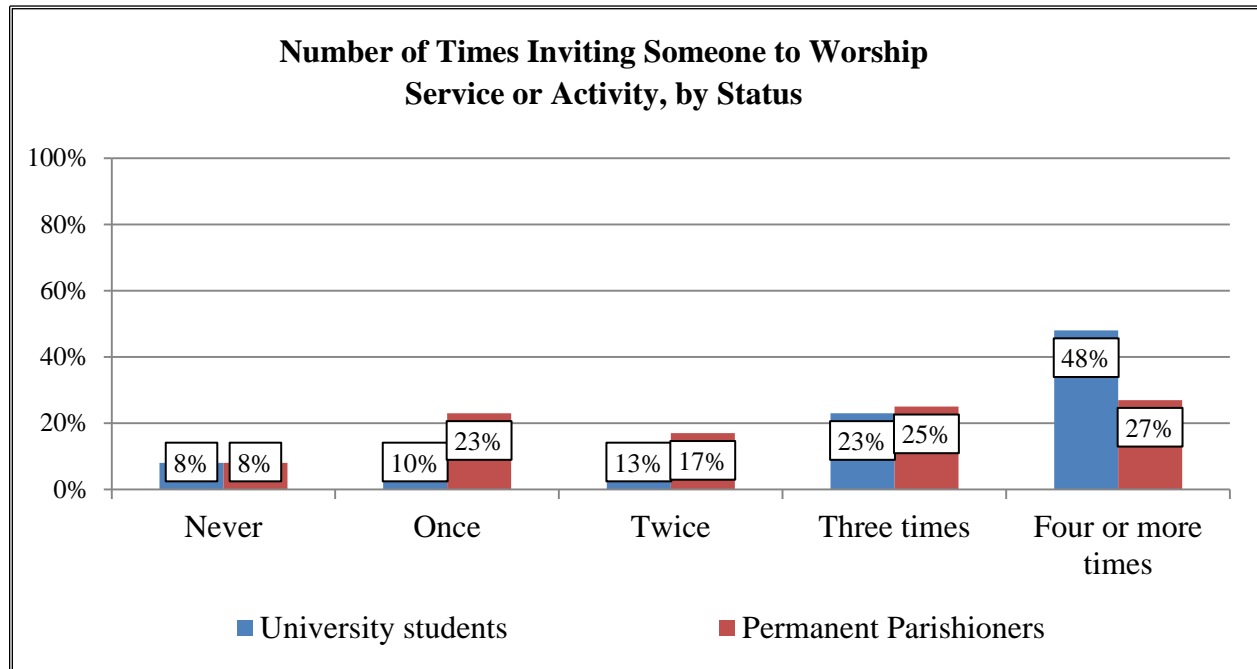
On average, St. Joseph respondents invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity 4.5 times in the past year. More than nine in ten (92 percent) did so at least once, with more than half (55 percent) doing so three or more times.

<i>Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Never	8%
Once	20
Twice	17
Three times	22
Four or more times	33
Average	4.5

St. Joseph respondents have a larger average number of times they invited someone to a worship service or activity in the past year (4.5 times) than those at parishes nationally (2.2 times). However, the non-response for this item is unusually high for a Parish Life Survey: 55 percent. This suggests that the non-respondents may disproportionately belong to those who did not invite anyone to attend in the past year.

Differences by Status

University students are more likely than permanent parishioners to say they have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity at least four times in the past year.



Impediments to Volunteering More

More than eight in ten responding parishioners say their busy schedules or lack of time at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.

<i>How much do the following prevent you from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry? Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much”</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Your busy schedule or lack of time	83%	80%
Already volunteer as much as you’d like	53	50
Not being sure who to contact	43	37
Not being aware of parish needs	36	42
Not having been personally invited	36	–
Problems with transportation	14	10
Health problems or a disability	13	21
Being a caretaker for someone	13	–
Lack of child care	8	23

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

Slightly more than half report that already volunteering as much as they would like “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.

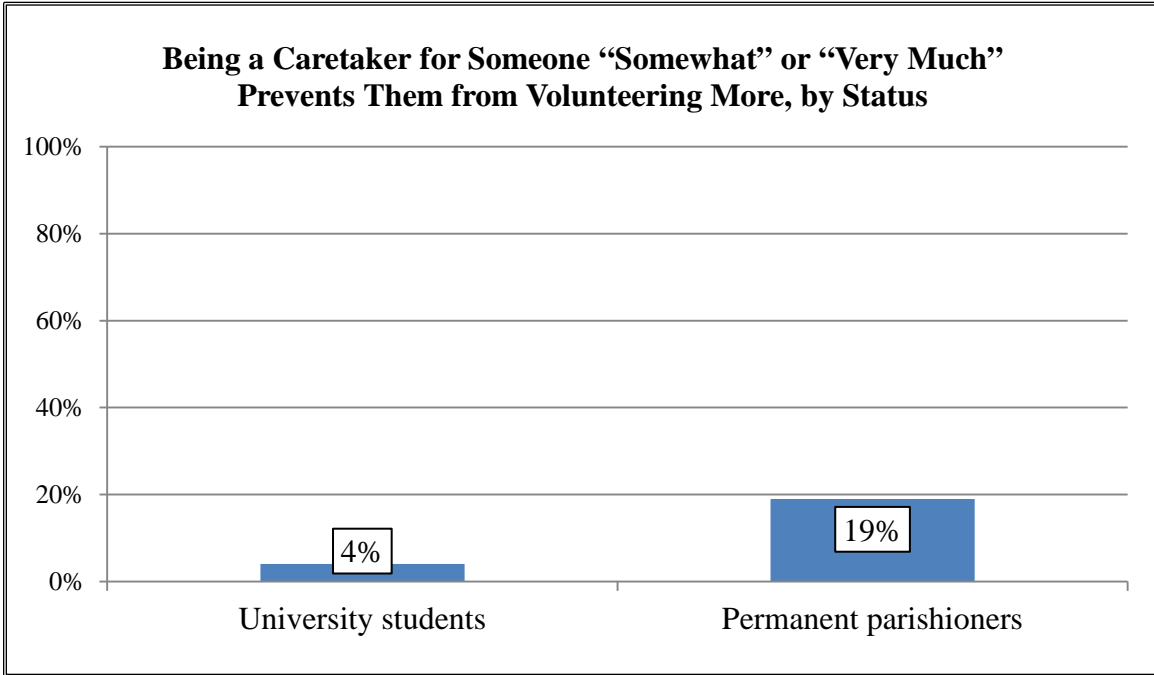
- Between 36 and 43 percent say the following at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more: not being aware of who to contact, not being aware of parish needs, and not having been personally invited.
- Approximately one in ten indicate that the following at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more: problems with transportation, health problems or a disability, being a caretaker for someone, or lack of child care.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 15 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to report that lack of childcare “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish (8 percent compared to 23 percent).

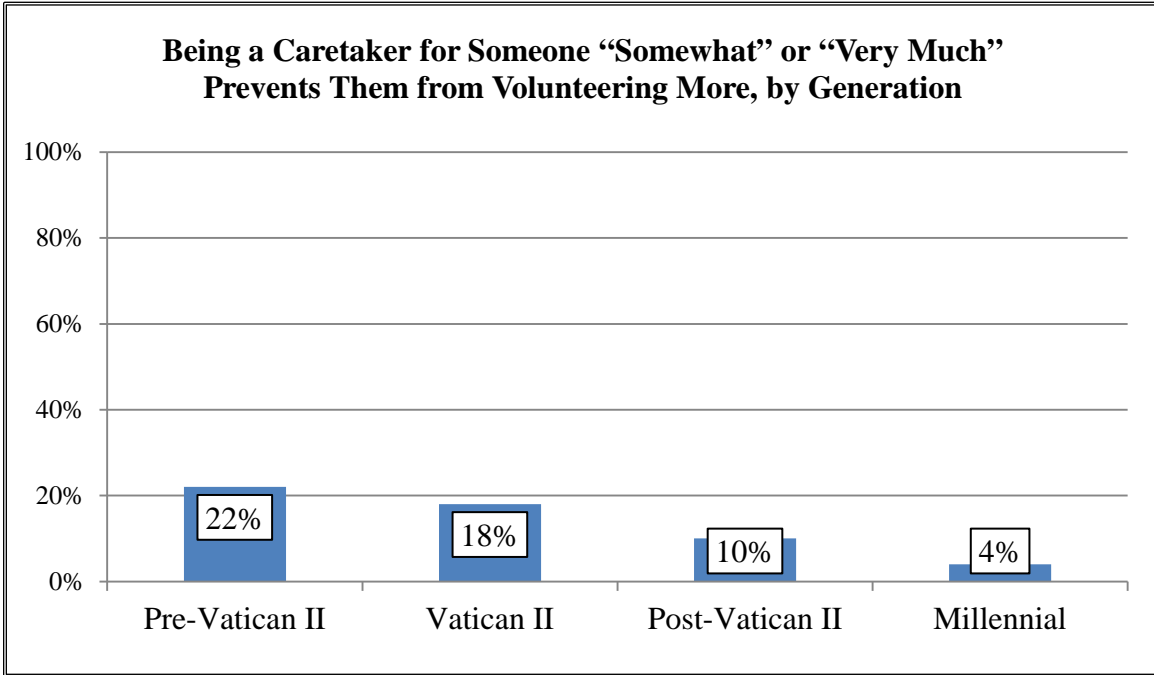
Differences by Status

Two in ten permanent parishioners indicate that being a caretaker for someone “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry, compared to one in 20 university students.



Differences by Generation

Members of the two oldest generations are especially likely to say being a caretaker for someone “somewhat” or “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.



Strong Impediments

More than six in ten responding parishioners say their busy schedules or lack of time “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.

How much do the following prevent you from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry?

Percentage responding “Very Much”

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
Your busy schedule or lack of time	63%	53%
Already volunteer as much as you’d like	31	25
Not having been personally invited	14	–
Not being sure who to contact	12	15
Not being aware of parish needs	10	16
Problems with transportation	10	5
Health problems or a disability	9	11
Being a caretaker for someone	8	–
Lack of child care	4	11

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

Three in ten respondents report that already volunteering as much as they would like “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.

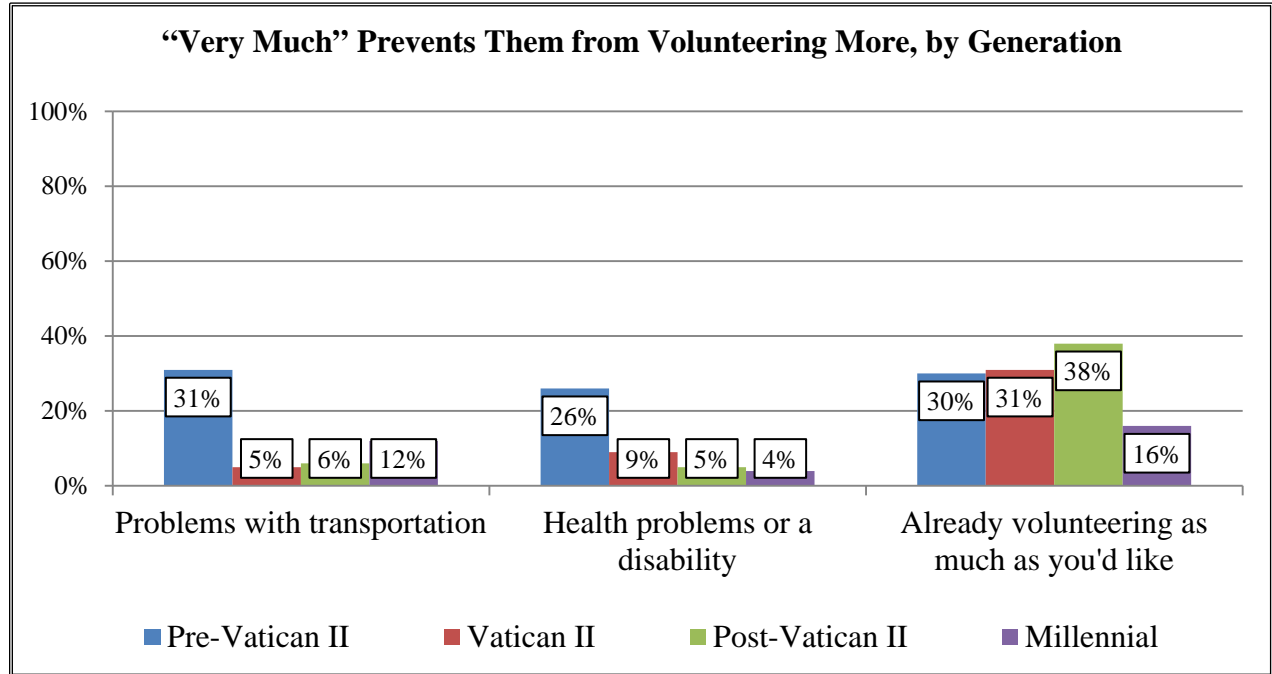
- About one in ten responding parishioners say the following “very much” prevent them from volunteering more: not having been personally invited, not being aware of who to contact, and not being aware of parish needs.
- One in ten or less indicates that the following at least “somewhat” prevent them from volunteering more: problems with transportation, health problems or a disability, being a caretaker for someone, or lack of child care.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

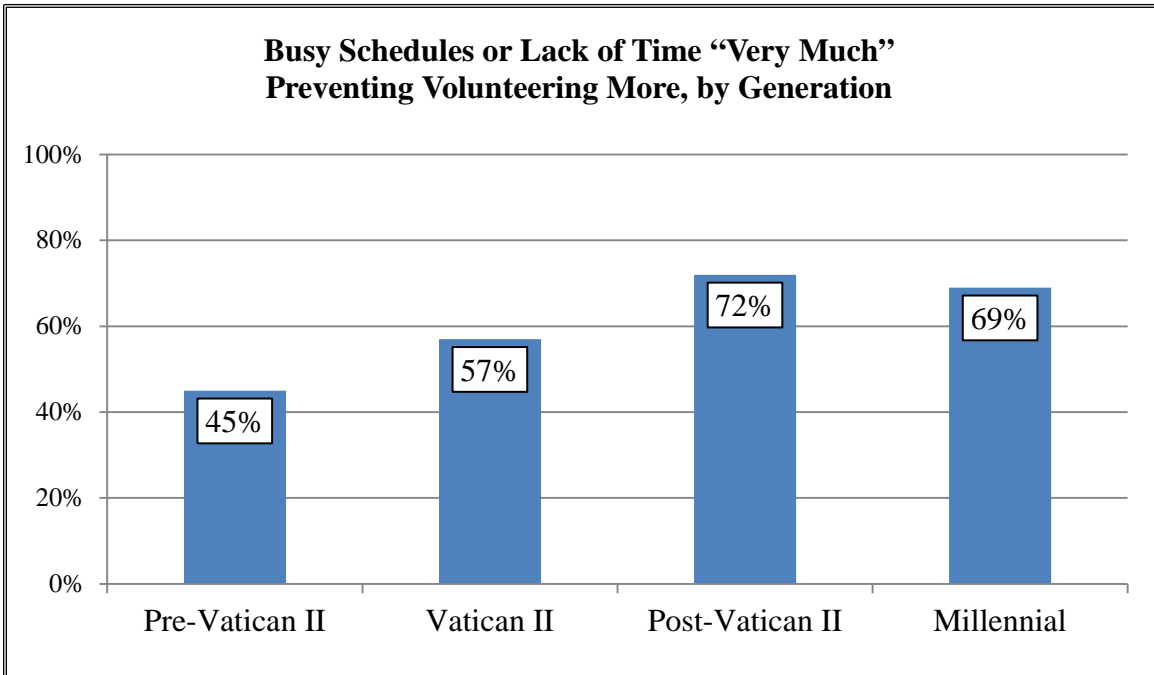
Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to report that their busy schedules or lack of time “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish (63 percent compared to 53 percent).

Differences by Generation

Members of the oldest generation are most likely to say problems with transportation and their health problems or a disability “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry. Those of the youngest generation are *least* likely to say already volunteering as much as they would like “very much” prevents their volunteering more.

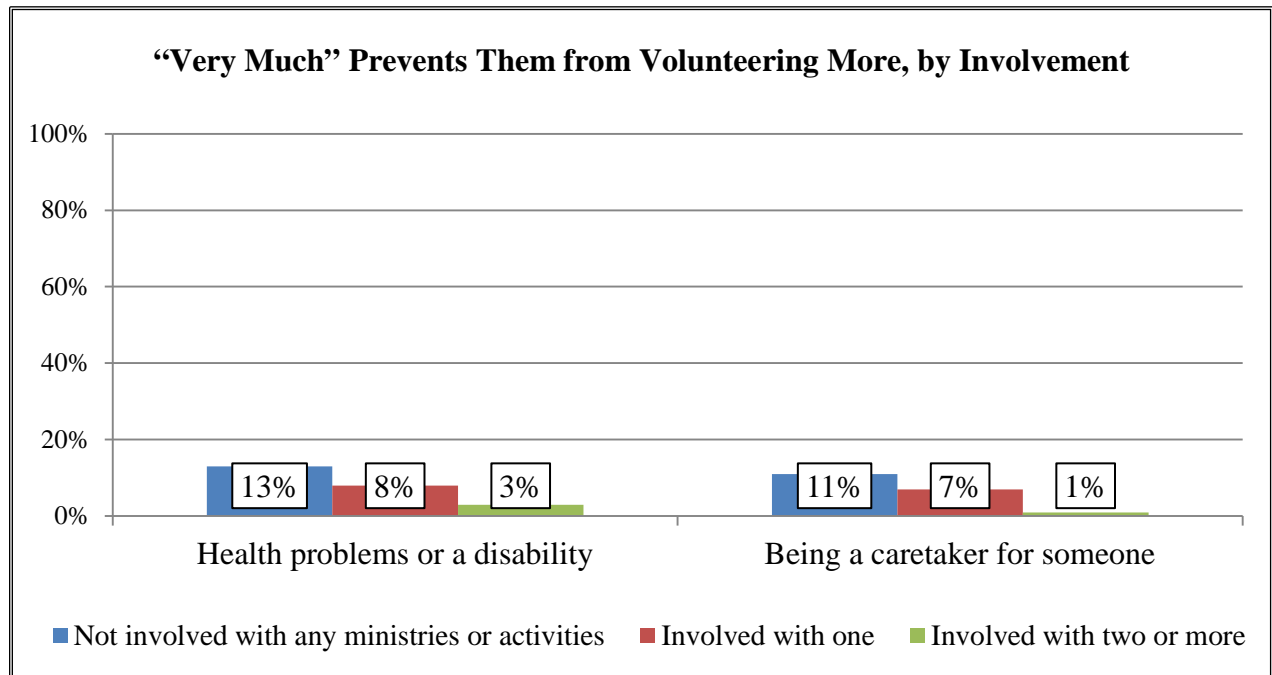
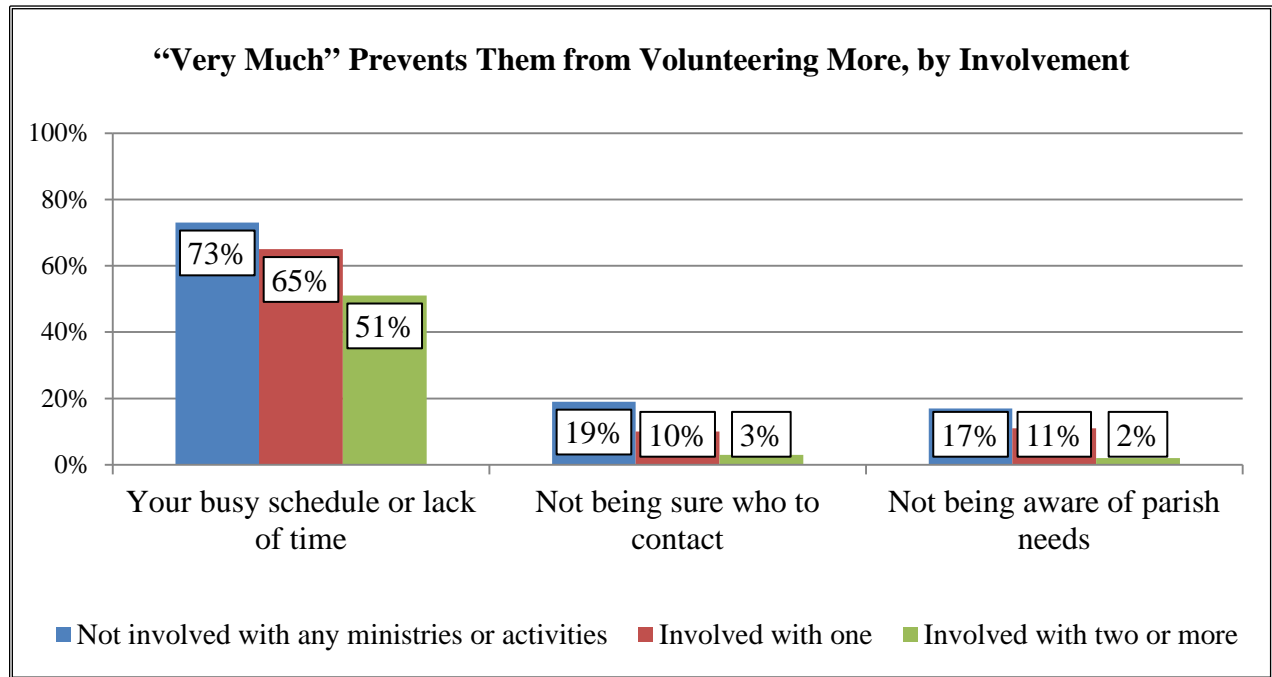


Members of the two youngest generations are most likely to cite their busy schedules or lack of time as “very much” preventing them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University ministry.

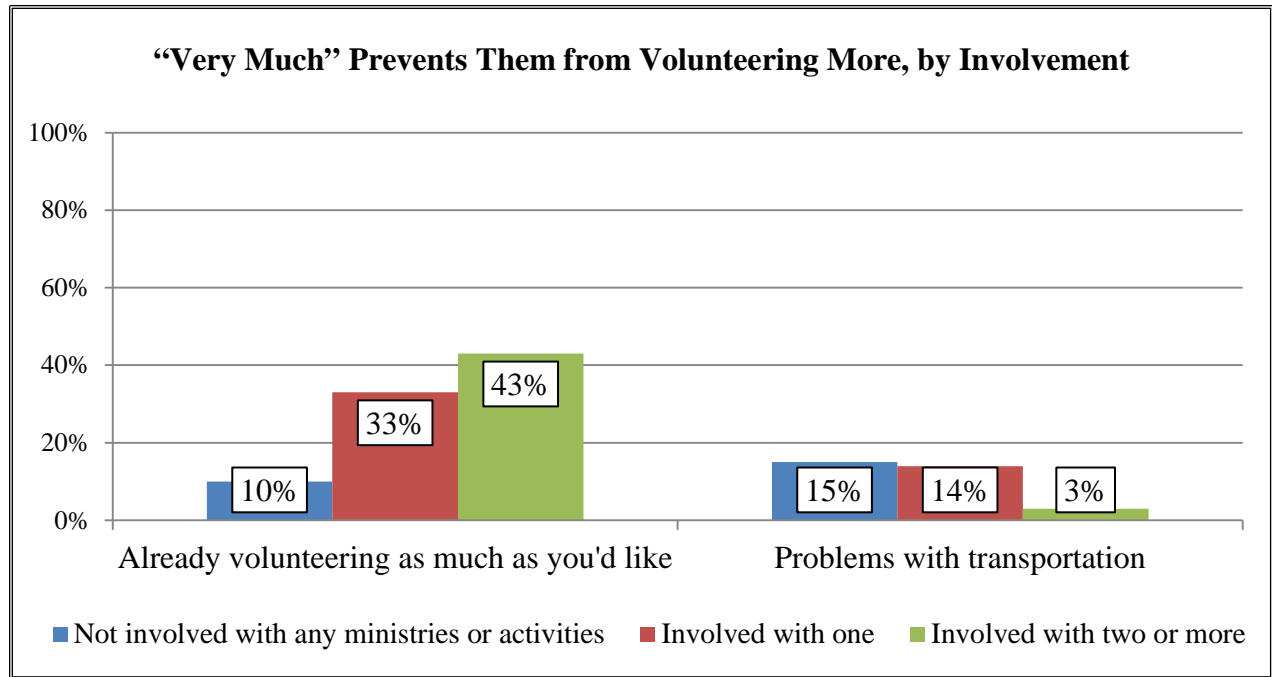


Differences by Level of Involvement

The *less* involved with ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to say the impediments in the figures below “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry.

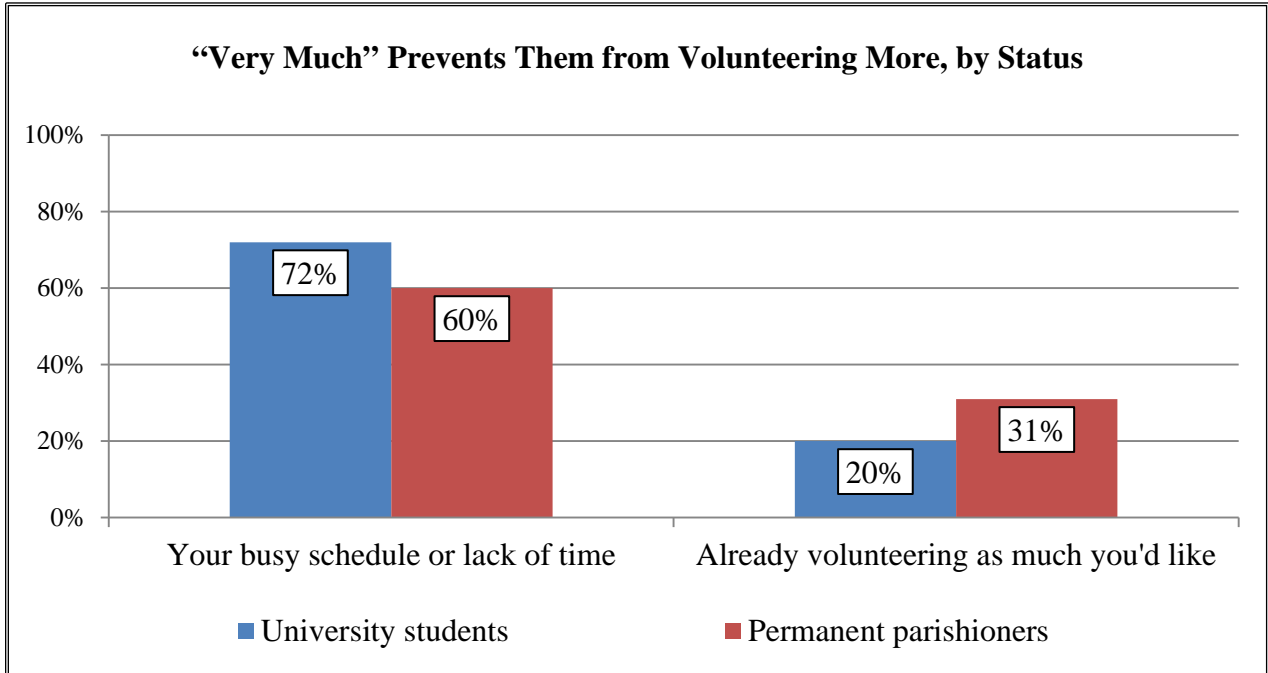


The more involved with ministries or activities respondents are, the more likely they are to say already volunteering as much as they would like “very much” prevents them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry. In addition, those already involved with at least two ministries or activities are *least* likely to indicate that problems with transportation “very much” prevent their volunteering more.



Differences by Status

University students are more likely than permanent parishioners to say their busy schedules or lack of time “very much” prevent them from volunteering more for the parish and/or University Ministry. Permanent parishioners, on the other hand, are more likely to indicate that already volunteering as much as they would like “very much” prevents them from volunteering more.



Attitudes about Parish Life

More than nine in ten agree at least “somewhat” that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

<i>How much do you agree with these statements?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” or “Very Much” Agree</i>		
	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	92%	49%
I feel included in parish life	91	87
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	88	83
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	84	79
I want to volunteer more for the parish	71	75
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	69	75
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Nine in ten “somewhat” or “very much” agree that they feel included in parish life.

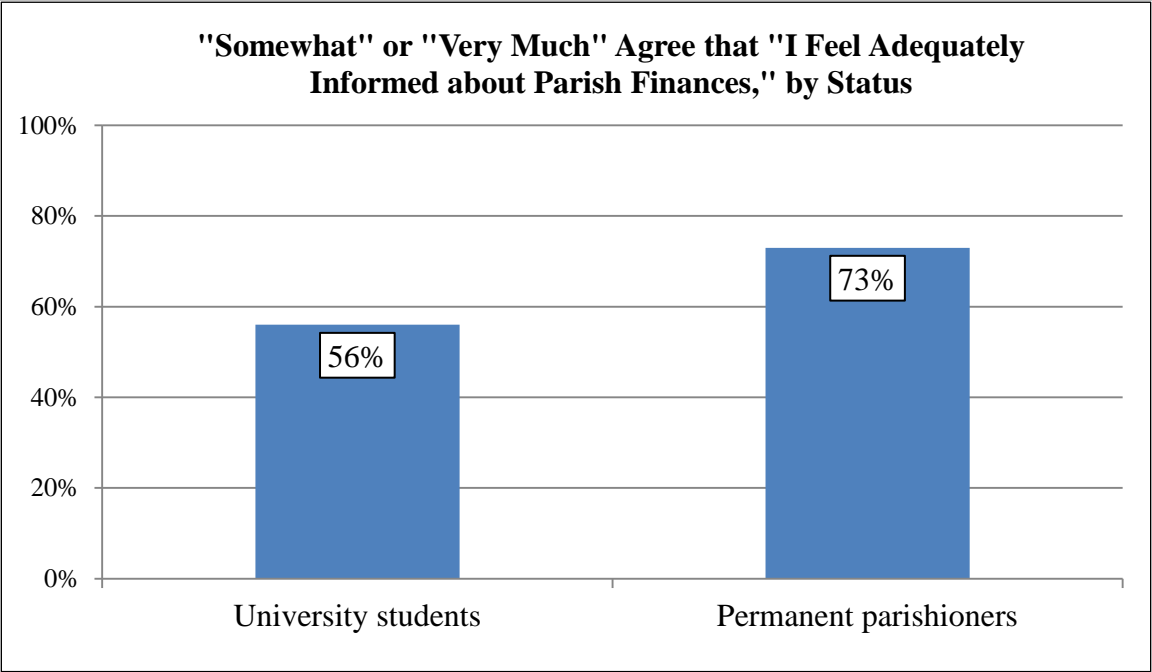
- Almost nine in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish. Seven in ten agree at least “somewhat” that they feel adequately informed about parish finances.
- More than eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.
- Seven in ten agree at least “somewhat” that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 43 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (92 percent compared to 49 percent).

Differences by Status

Permanent parishioners are more likely than university students to at least “somewhat” agree that they feel adequately informed about parish finances.



“Strongly” Agree

More than seven in ten “very much” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor. This is more than three times higher than the national average.

	St. Joseph	Parishes Nationally*
<i>How much do you agree with these statements?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Very Much” Agree</i>		
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	72%	21%
I feel included in parish life	52	49
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	50	38
Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish	40	40
I feel adequately informed about parish finances	27	37
I want to volunteer more for the parish	25	25
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Just over half “very much” agree that they feel included in parish life.

- Half “very much” agree that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish. Just over a quarter agree as strongly that they feel adequately informed about parish finances.
- Four in ten “very much” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish. A quarter agree as strongly that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

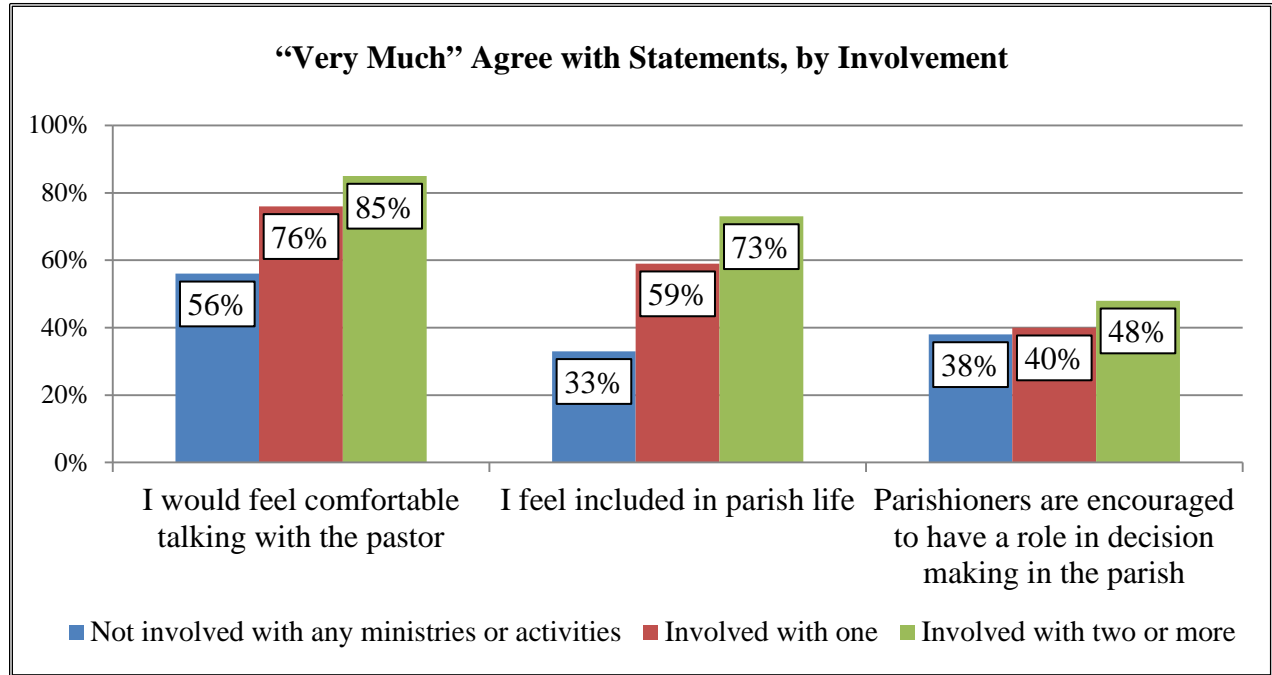
Respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 12 to 51 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to “strongly” agree with these statements:

- I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (72 percent compared to 21 percent)
- I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish (50 percent compared to 38 percent)

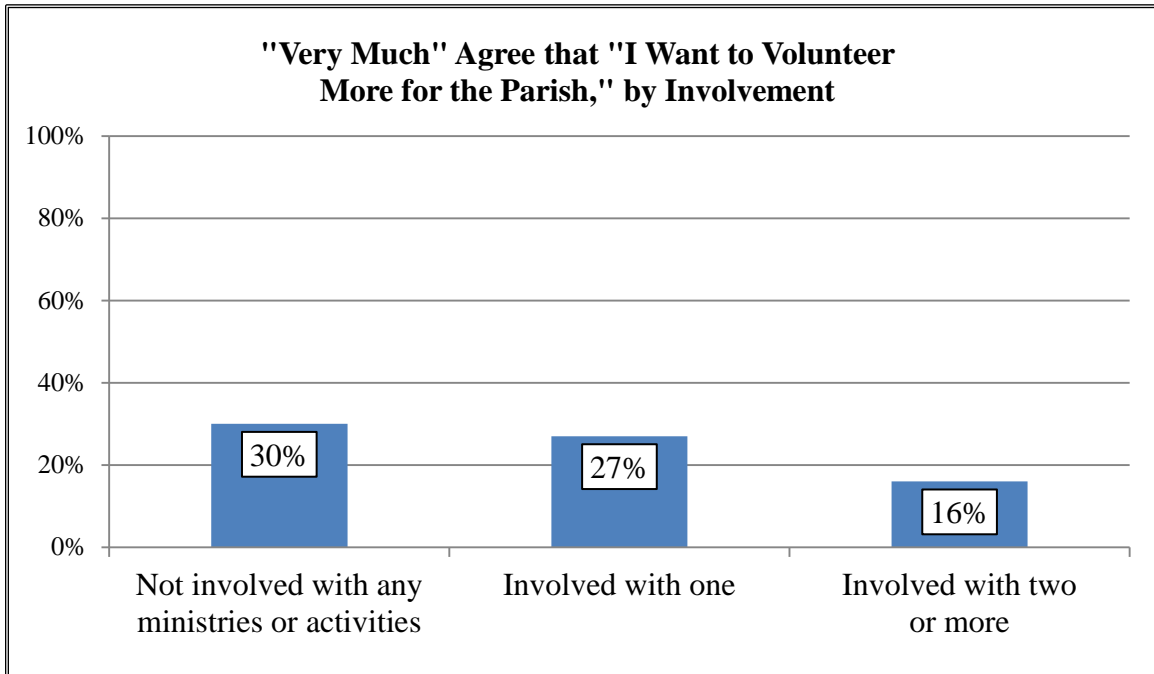
On the other hand, respondents at St. Joseph University Parish are 10 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to “strongly” agree that they feel adequately informed about parish finances (27 percent compared to 37 percent).

Differences by Level of Involvement

The more involved respondents are with ministries or activities, the more likely they are to “very much” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor and that they feel included in parish life. In addition, those involved with at least two ministries or activities are especially likely to “very much” agree that parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making at the parish.



Those involved with at least two ministries or activities are relatively *less* likely than others to “very much” agree they want to volunteer more with the parish. This is consistent with the finding in a previous section about how much already volunteering as much as they would like prevents those involved with at least two ministries or activities from volunteering more.



Appendix: Response Frequencies to All Questions

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Not at All

3=Somewhat

2=Only a Little

4=Very Much

Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

How much do you **agree** with these statements?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 2 7 40 52 10 59. I feel included in parish life
1 12 38 50 11 60. I feel well informed about what goes on
in our parish
8 23 43 27 16 61. I feel adequately informed about parish
finances
2 7 20 72 10 62. I would feel comfortable talking with the
pastor
3 13 44 40 17 63. Parishioners are encouraged to have a
role in decision making in the parish
7 23 46 25 27 64. I want to volunteer more for the parish

For students only: How much **difficulty** do you personally
have with these:

1 2 3 4 NR

- 21 19 20 40 80 65. Coping with the stress of higher education
15 17 44 25 78 66. Time management skills: balancing
school, prayer, and your personal life
22 33 34 11 78 67. Dealing with financial responsibilities
23 22 35 20 79 68. Discovering some direction for your life
70 12 13 5 79 69. Substance abuse, such as alcohol or drugs
54 21 14 10 78 70. Establishing healthy relationships with
your family
56 23 14 7 82 71. Relationships with your roommate(s)
44 21 23 12 79 72. Establishing healthy romantic relationships
71 14 8 7 79 73. Exploration and acceptance of your
sexuality and identity

How much do the following **prevent** you from volunteering
more for the parish and/or University Ministry?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 10 7 20 63 31 74. Your busy schedule or lack of time
75 11 4 10 38 75. Problems with transportation
79 13 4 4 43 76. Lack of child care
80 7 6 8 43 77. Being a caretaker for someone
81 6 5 9 41 78. Health problems or a disability
40 25 26 10 36 79. Not being aware of parish needs
48 17 21 14 38 80. Not having been personally invited
38 19 32 12 35 81. Not being sure who to contact
29 18 22 31 37 82. Already volunteering as much as you'd like

How much do the following **influence** your participation in this
community and/or University Ministry?

1 2 3 4 NR

- 2 3 25 70 23 83. Its open, welcoming spirit
1 8 37 55 26 84. Its opportunities for spiritual growth
<1 5 28 67 24 85. The sense of belonging you feel here
2 14 33 52 29 86. Its commitment to justice, peace and
safeguarding Creation
1 12 37 51 24 87. Its opportunities for service to others
4 13 30 53 28 88. Its character as a diverse community

89. I entered the Catholic Church as a(n):

- 69 1. Infant (under age 1) 22 4. Adult (ages 18 or older)
4 2. Child (ages 1-12) 4 5. I am *not* Catholic
2 3. Teenager (ages 13-17)

NR=13

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

- 68 1. Active Catholic since birth 3 5. Non-Catholic
8 2. Returned Catholic 1 6. Interested in
20 3. Catholic convert becoming Catholic
1 4. Inactive Catholic NR=11

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

- <1 1. Never or rarely 24 4. Almost every week
1 2. A few times a year 63 5. Every week NR=11
3 3. Once or twice a month 9 6. More than once a week

92. How many **ministries or activities** other than Mass are
you involved with at this parish? NR=13

- 43 1. None 29 3. Two to four
26 2. One 2 4. Five or more

Avg. NR

- 4.6 55 93. Number of times in the past year you invited
someone to attend a worship service or activity?
13.9 30 94. Years you have attended this parish?
**Leave blank if this is not your regular
parish. Write "1" if one year or less.**

Yes No NR

- 73 27 9 95. Are you registered in this parish?
92 8 18 96. When in this area, is this parish your primary
place of worship?
95 5 12 97. Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation?
38 62 34 98. Have any of your children attended religious
education classes here in the past 5 years?
16 84 24 99. Have you attended adult religious education
classes here in the past 5 years?
56 44 35 100. Will/did your spouse also complete this survey?

101. Year you were *born*: _____ **Avg=1964 NR=13**

102. Gender: 42 1. Male 58 2. Female NR=12

103. What **best** describes your current marital status?

- 24 1. Single, never married 7 4. Divorced or separated
2 2. Living with a partner 6 5. Widowed NR=11
61 3. Married or remarried

Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who
are: **Leave blank if none or not applicable.**

Sum

Sum

- 177 104. Age 12 or younger 90 105. Ages 13 to 17

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

- 2 1. Some high school or less 9 4. Associate's degree
11 2. High school diploma 25 5. Bachelor's degree NR=23
23 3. In college/some college 30 6. Graduate degree

What **best** describes your status? **Check all that apply.**

NR for Qs 107-119 Overall = 30

- 5 107. High school student 4 113. Graduate student
6 108. First year college student 11 114. Alumni
5 109. Sophomore in college 2 115. Faculty
4 110. Junior in college 3 116. Administrator
2 111. Senior in college 56 117. University staff
1 112. Fifth year undergrad 11 118. Permanent parishioner
11 119. Visitor/no affiliation

Thank you for completing this survey.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)

Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057; Phone: (202) 687-8080

Fax: (202) 687-8083; ©2016 CARA, All rights reserved.