



**Marist
Poll**



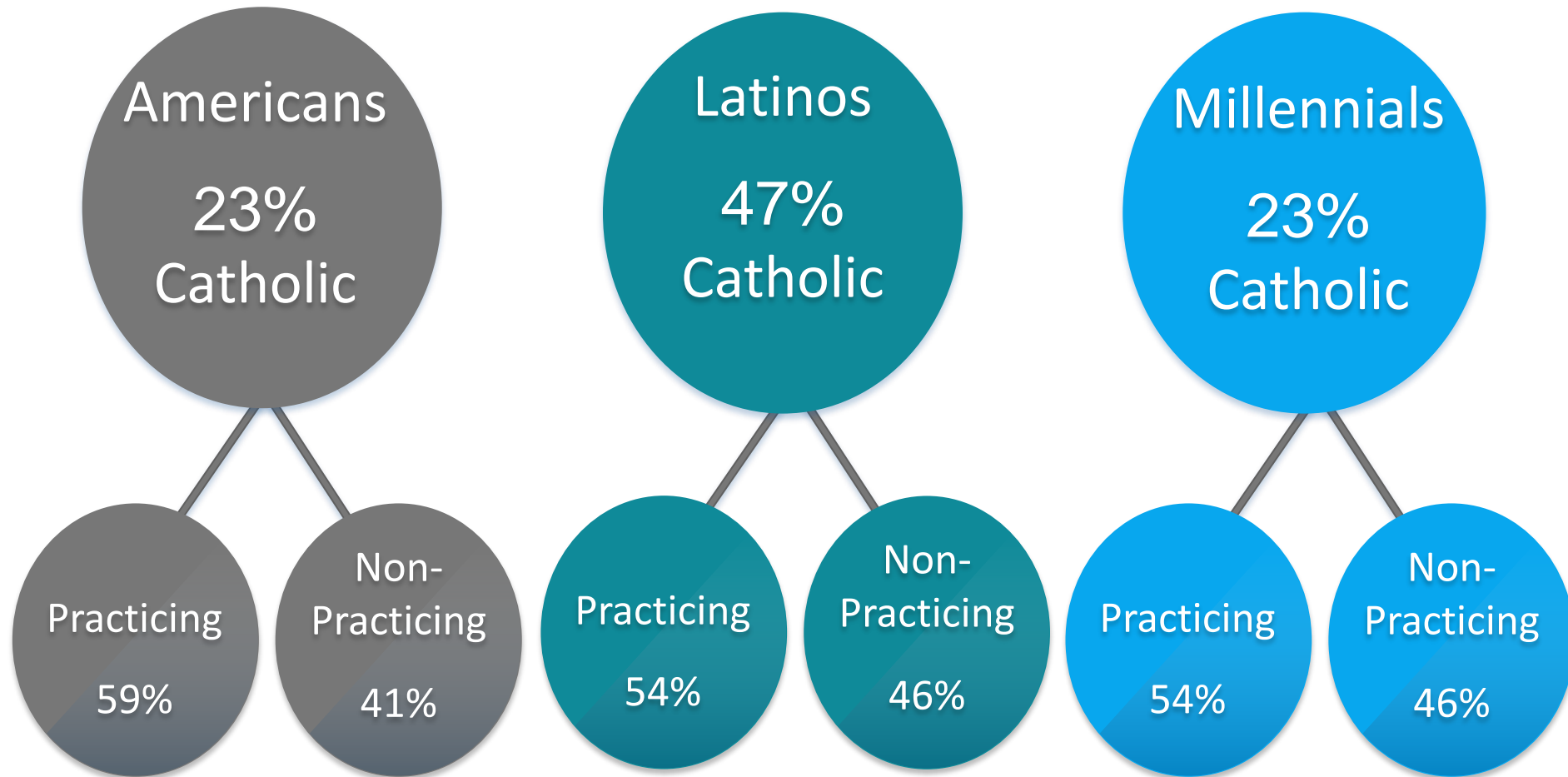
American Catholics 2015

August 27, 2015



AMERICAN CATHOLICS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Almost one in four Americans is Catholic, including nearly half of Latinos and close to one in four Millennials.



Majorities practice their faith.

Composition of Catholics: Key Demographic Groups

	Americans	Catholics	Catholic Latinos	Catholic Millennials
Male	49%	47%	45%	52%
Female	51%	53%	55%	48%
Millennials (18-34)	29%	28%	43%	100%
Gen X (35-50)	26%	28%	34%	n/a
Baby Boomers (51-69)	31%	29%	20%	n/a
Silent-Greatest (Over 69)	14%	15%	4%	n/a
White	67%	64%	51%	47%
African American	11%	4%	2%	5%
Latino	14%	28%	100%	43%
Other	7%	3%	46%	5%
Liberal	27%	23%	26%	31%
Moderate	33%	37%	40%	44%
Conservative	41%	39%	34%	25%
Income less than \$50k	50%	44%	67%	61%
Income more than \$50k	50%	56%	33%	39%
Not college graduate	59%	59%	72%	69%
College graduate	41%	41%	28%	31%

The Catholic Church is viewed positively.

Americans



Please tell me whether you view each of the following as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable or very unfavorable:

Presents percentage reporting very favorable/favorable	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
The Catholic Church	93%	95%	95%	90%

**Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month*

More than two-thirds of Americans think the Catholic Church contributes to people and communities in the United States. More than eight in ten Catholics agree.

Americans

In general, would you say the Catholic Church contributes a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all to people and communities in the United States?



	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Great deal/good amount	82%	89%	87%	75%
Not very much/Nothing at all	16%	11%	12%	21%
Unsure	2%	1%	1%	4%

**Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month*

Catholics, especially practicing Catholics, equate charity with the fundamentals of their Catholic faith.

Thinking about how you practice your own faith, how important to you is:

Presents percentage reporting **very important/important**:

	American Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Supporting charitable causes	94%	98%	96%	92%
Daily prayer	89%	96%	96%	79%
Following the teachings of the Catholic Church	84%	94%	93%	70%
Receiving the Sacraments	79%	96%	93%	61%
Attending Mass regularly	70%	95%	89%	42%
Belonging to a parish	68%	84%	83%	48%
Going to confession at least once a year	59%	75%	72%	39%

Non-practicing Catholics also emphasize charitable causes. However, they place less importance on the other dimensions of their faith.



Thinking about your own faith, do you believe the Eucharist is:

	American Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
The real presence of Jesus Christ	50%	72%	65%	28%
Just a symbol of Jesus	44%	25%	31%	64%
Unsure	5%	3%	4%	7%

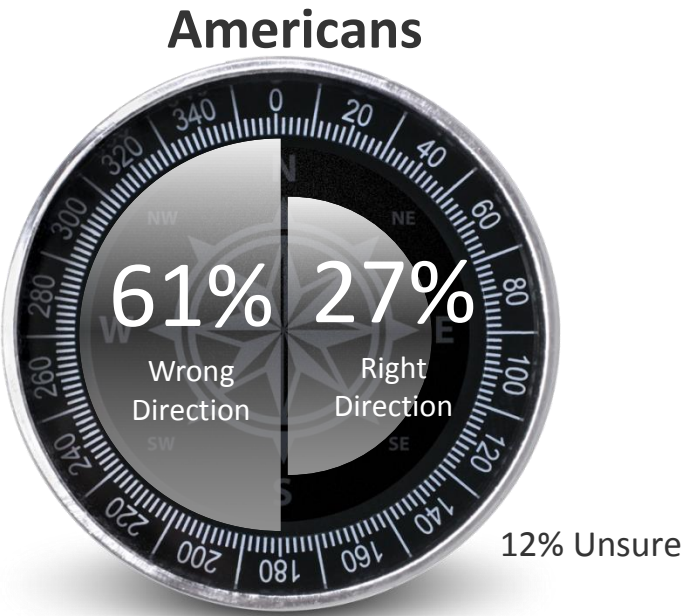
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MORAL VALUES IN AMERICA

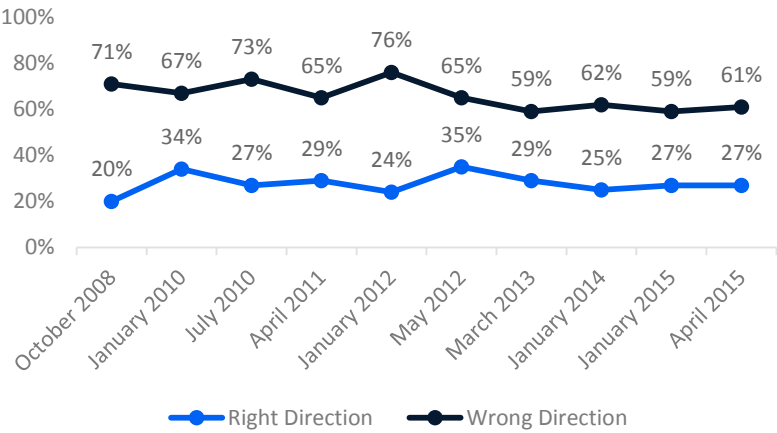
Many view America to be in a state of moral decline.

Do you believe the moral compass in this country is pointed in the right direction or the wrong direction?



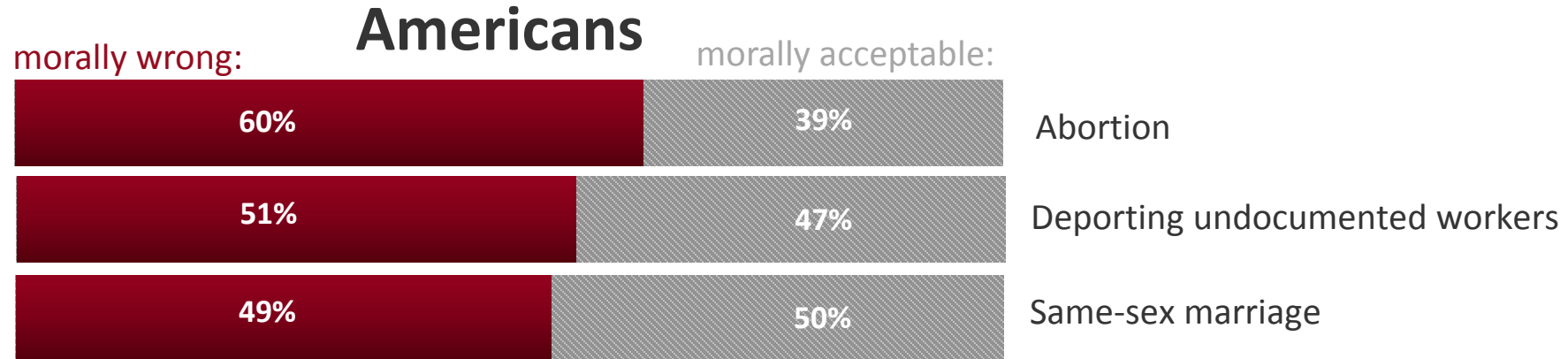
	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Right direction	34%	27%	29%	41%
Wrong direction	55%	61%	59%	49%
Unsure	11%	12%	12%	9%

Americans remain pessimistic about the moral direction of the nation.



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Many Americans, 60%, believe abortion is morally wrong.



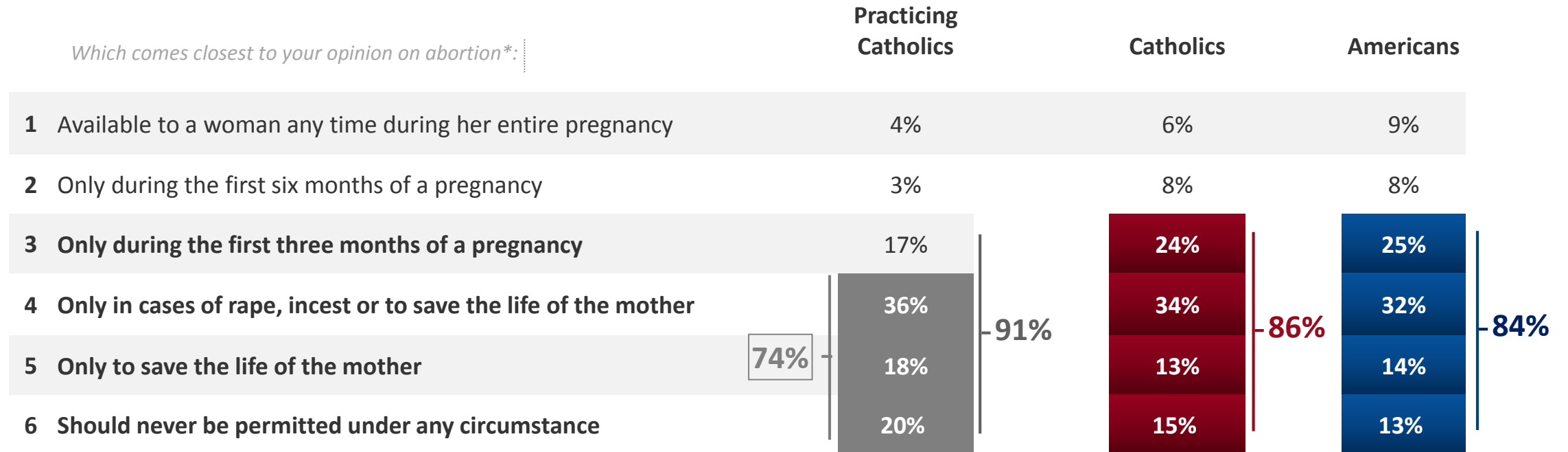
However, they divide over the moral acceptability of the deportation of undocumented workers and same sex marriage.

Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, do you believe that, in general, each of the following is morally acceptable or morally wrong:

Presents percentage reporting morally wrong:	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Abortion	69%	84%	81%	51%
Deporting undocumented workers	52%	52%	51%	53%
Same-sex marriage	43%	59%	54%	27%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

Most Americans want significant restrictions on abortion.



*Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion: One, abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy, Two, abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy, Three, abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy, Four, abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother, Five, abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother, Six, abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance?

Digging Deeper

- This question was asked of 2,079 adults and 456 Catholic Americans on January 7, 2015 through January 13, 2015. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.1 percentage points and ± 4.6 percentage points, respectively.
- 74% of practicing Catholics, up from 65% in 2014, think abortion should be permitted, at most, in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, or think abortion should never be permitted. 48% of non-practicing Catholics have this view. Although, 79% of non-practicing Catholics want significant restrictions on abortion.
- Practicing Catholics, 38%, are also more than twice as likely as those who do not practice their faith, 16%, to believe abortion should be allowed, at most, to save the life of the mother or banned entirely.

Regardless of their position on abortion, most Americans, including 57% of those who are strongly pro-choice, want significant restrictions on abortion.



IN THE MIDDLE

Which comes closest to your opinion on abortion*:		IN THE MIDDLE					
		Strongly support pro-life	Somewhat support pro-life	Sometimes think of self as pro-choice	Sometimes think of self as pro-life	Somewhat support pro-choice	Strongly support pro-choice
1	Available to a woman any time during her entire pregnancy	1%	1%	1%	10%	7%	25%
2	Only during the first six months of a pregnancy	<1%	1%	4%	4%	15%	18%
3	Only during the first three months of a pregnancy	3%	7%	15%	36%	48%	45%
4	Only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother	35%	65%	61%	39%	26%	9%
5	Only to save the life of the mother	29%	19%	11%	8%	2%	1%
6	Never be permitted under any circumstance	32%	7%	7%	4%	1%	2%

**Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your opinion on abortion: One, abortion should be available to a woman any time she wants one during her entire pregnancy, Two, abortion should be allowed only during the first six months of a pregnancy, Three, abortion should be allowed only during the first three months of a pregnancy, Four, abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother, Five, abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother, Six, abortion should never be permitted under any circumstance?*

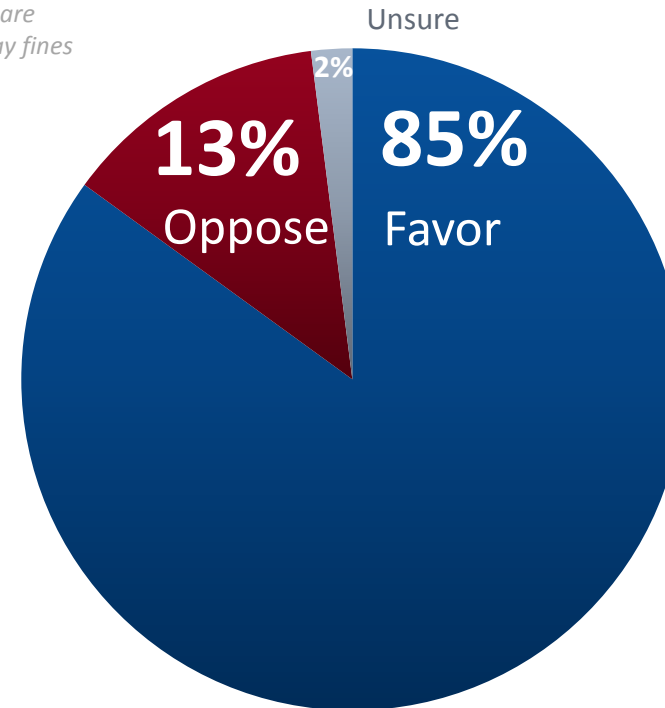
Digging Deeper

- 1. This question was asked of 2,079 adults and 456 Catholic Americans on January 7, 2015 through January 13, 2015. Results are statistically significant within ±2.1 percentage points and ±4.6 percentage points, respectively.
- 2. 32% of pro-life supporters who strongly have this view believe abortion should never be permitted, and 25% of strong pro-choice advocates hold the view that it should never be restricted. However, there is a consensus among Americans that there should be restrictions to abortion with exceptions to save the life of the mother.

Widespread support exists for providing a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Americans

Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants who are currently in the U.S. to gain legal citizenship if they learn English, pay fines and have jobs that pay taxes?



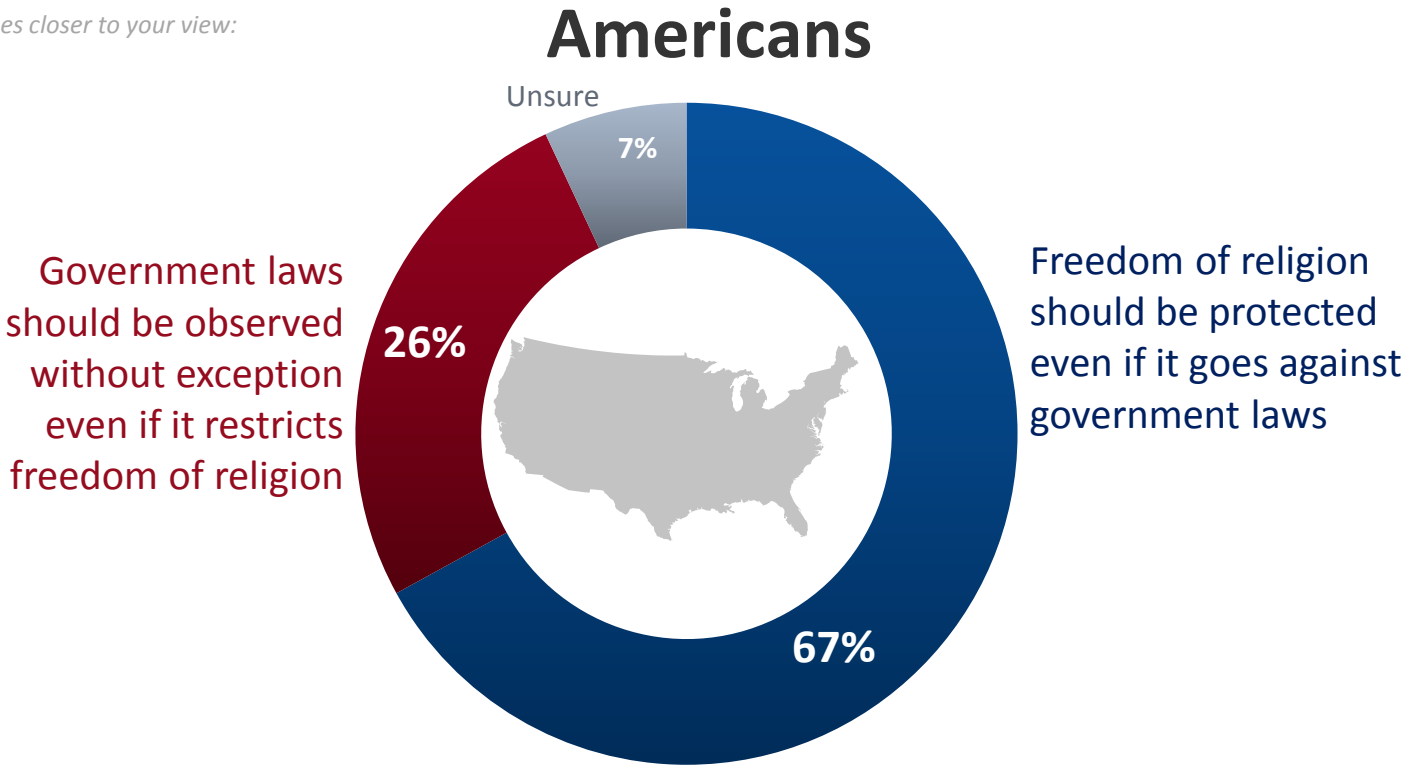
Most Americans, including Catholics, favor allowing illegal immigrants to gain legal U.S. citizenship if they meet certain requirements.

	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Favor	88%	87%	88%	88%
Oppose	9%	10%	9%	9%
Unsure	3%	3%	3%	3%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

Religious freedom outweighs government laws.

Which statement comes closer to your view:



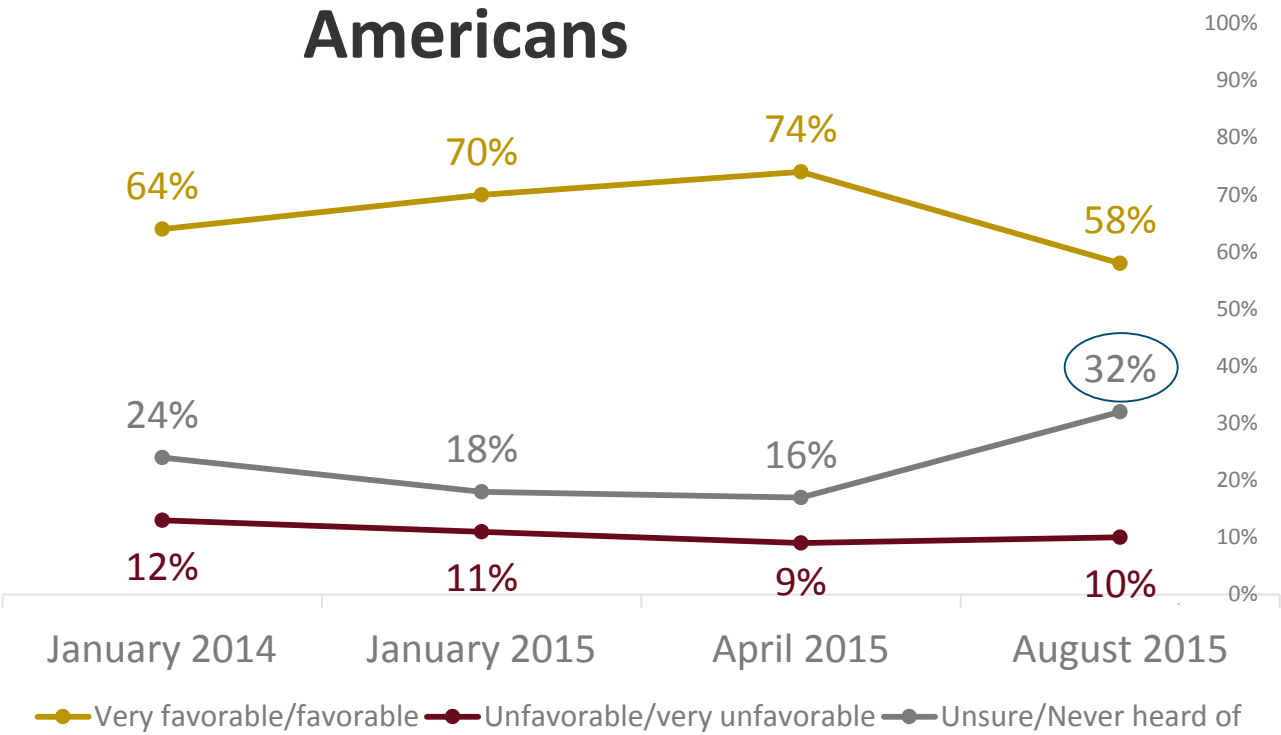
	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Freedom of religion should be protected	67%	74%	73%	60%
Government laws should be observed without exception	25%	21%	21%	31%
Unsure	7%	5%	6%	9%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month



IMPRESSIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis remains popular among Americans.



Pope Francis' Favorability

About one-third of Americans, 32%, do not have an opinion of Pope Francis. This includes 9% who are unsure how to rate him and 23% who say they have not heard about him.

Please tell me if you view Pope Francis as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable or very unfavorable:

	Catholics	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
August 2015	77%	83%	70%
April 2015	89%	89%	88%
January 2015	83%	92%	75%
January 2014	83%	89%	76%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

There is a consistent knowledge gap about Pope Francis.

April 2015

64%

with little, if any, knowledge
of Pope Francis

Overall, would you say that you know a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all about Pope Francis?

	Catholics	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
A great deal/good amount	53%	60%	44%
Not very much	38%	34%	44%
Nothing at all	9%	7%	12%

August 2015

74%

with little, if any, knowledge of Pope
Francis' visit to the United States

Overall, would you say that you know a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all about Pope Francis' visit to the United States this fall?

	Catholics	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
A great deal/good amount	33%	46%	20%
Not very much	36%	34%	38%
Nothing at all	29%	21%	37%

**Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month*

Pope Benedict XVI

2008

58%

Favorability

Pope Francis

2015

58%

Favorability

	Catholics	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Pope Francis	77%	83%	70%
Pope Benedict XVI	80%	85%	72%

Please tell me whether you view each of the following as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable or very unfavorable:

Presents percentage reporting very favorable/favorable

About The Survey

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

2015: This question was asked of 1,027 adults and 222 Catholic Americans on August 4th through August 17th, 2015. Results are statistically significant within ±3.1 percentage points and ±6.6 percentage points, respectively.

2008: This question was asked of 1,015 adults and 613 Catholic Americans on February 25th through March 5th, 2008. Results are statistically significant within ±3.1 percentage points and ±4 percentage points, respectively.

Pope Francis receives high ratings on Papal duties.

Americans

Despite the lack of knowledge about Pope Francis, Americans give the Holy Father high marks on his papal roles.



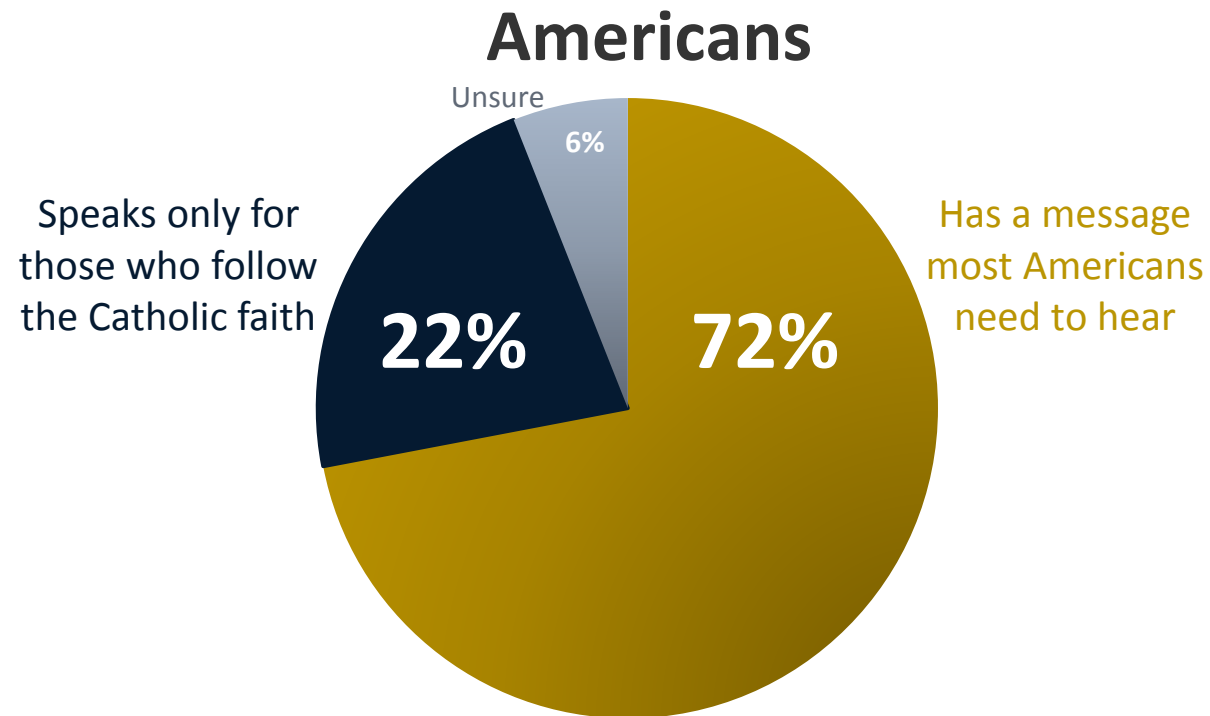
From what you know about Pope Francis, would you rate him as excellent, good, fair, or poor on each of the following:

Presents percentage reporting excellent/good:	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Spiritual leader	87%	91%	88%	85%
As someone who cares about people like yourself	82%	88%	85%	80%
Interfaith relations	78%	82%	79%	75%
World leader	78%	86%	82%	73%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

The Holy Father's message is considered universal.

Do you think Pope Francis:



	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Has a message most Americans need to hear	88%	94%	90%	85%
Speaks only for those who follow the Catholic faith	8%	4%	7%	10%
Unsure	4%	2%	3%	5%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

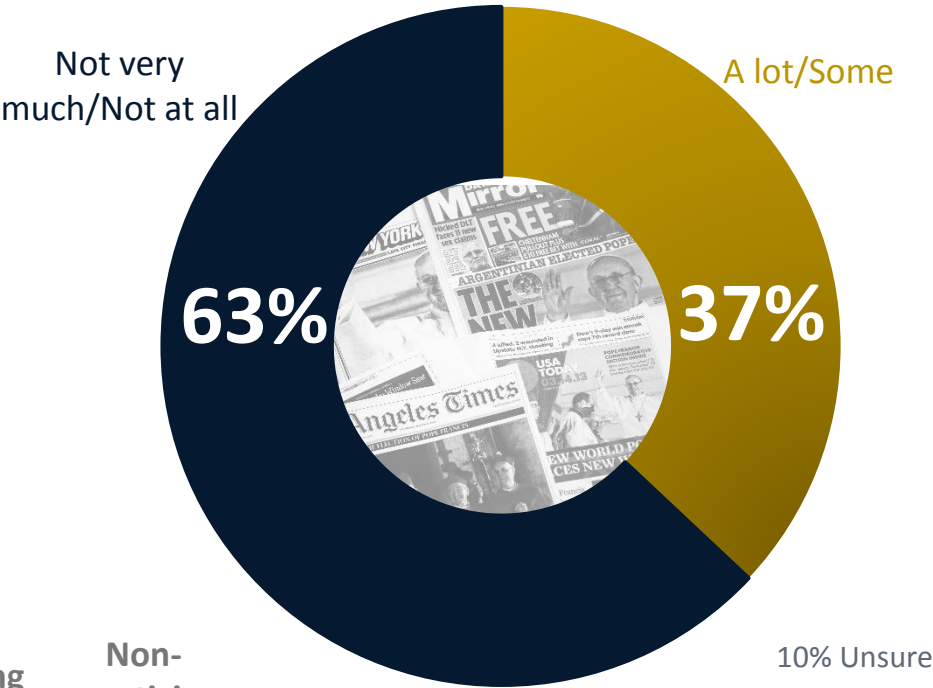


THE MEDIA AND POPE FRANCIS' VISIT

Many Americans are not following the news stories about Pope Francis.

Americans

Would you say you *keep up with the news about Pope Francis* a lot, some, not very much, or not at all?



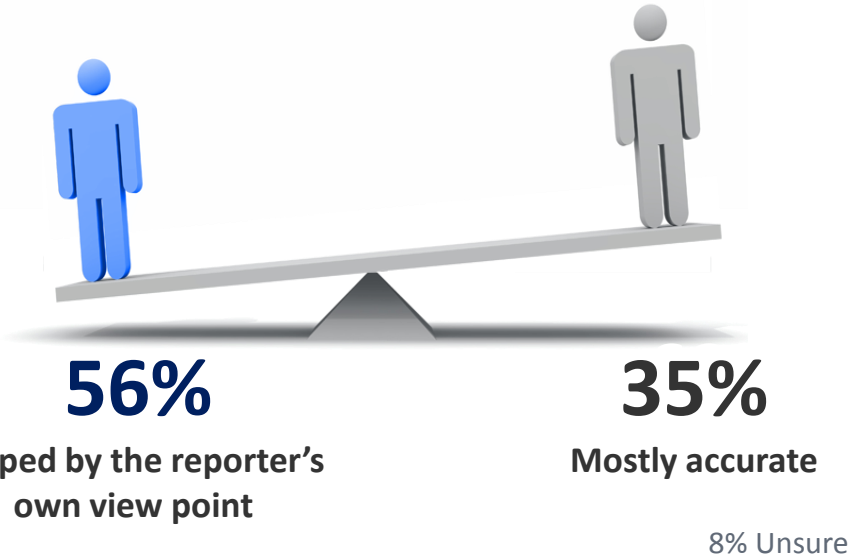
	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
A lot/Some	60%	72%	67%	51%
Not very much/Not at all	40%	28%	33%	49%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

A majority of Americans thinks news stories about the Pope are influenced by those covering the Holy Father.

Americans

Do you think reports by the American press about what Pope Francis says and does are:



	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Practicing Catholics*	Non-practicing Catholics
Shaped by the reporters own view point	57%	61%	60%	54%
Mostly accurate	37%	34%	35%	40%
Unsure	5%	5%	5%	6%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month

Americans' impressions of the media are similar across outlets.

Using the numbers one to five, with five meaning you trust them completely and, one meaning you do not trust them at all, how much do you trust each of the following sources to accurately describe Pope Francis' visit to the United States in September:

Presents percentage reporting trust:	Americans	Catholics		Non-practicing Catholics
		Catholics	Practicing Catholics* Weekly	
CNN	42%	46%	41%	50%
New York Times	41%	39%	34%	47%
Local Newspapers	41%	44%	42%	45%
Catholic News Outlets	41%	61%	75%	50%
Wall Street Journal	40%	40%	38%	44%
Fox News	39%	43%	46%	37%
Blogs or Posts on Social Media Sites	12%	17%	19%	19%

Americans place the least amount of trust in social media to accurately report about the Holy Father's upcoming trip. Of note, six in ten Catholics, including 69% of practicing Catholics, trust Catholic news outlets.

Most Americans follow the news.

84%

of Americans keep up with the news.

Television is the leading news source.



58%
Radio



78%

Local, cable, or national TV



56%
News websites



44%
Print newspapers

Thinking about your average day, do you get your news from any of the following places:



44%
Social media sites

Presents percentage reporting **yes**:

	Catholics	Catholics Practicing Weekly	Non-Practicing Catholics*	Non-Practicing Catholics
Local, cable, or national TV	83%	86%	85%	79%
Radio	59%	60%	62%	55%
A news website	53%	47%	50%	59%
Print newspapers	49%	53%	53%	41%
A social media site like Facebook or Twitter	46%	40%	43%	50%

*Aside from weddings and funerals, attend religious services at least once a month



THANK YOU



STUDY METHODOLOGY

How the Study was Conducted



- This study was undertaken by The Knights of Columbus and conducted by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion located at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York
- This report presents the findings from a random digit dial telephone survey conducted in English or Spanish of 3,002 Americans, including both landline and cell phone sampling frames
- Reports for Americans have a margin of error of +/- 1.8 percentage points
- Data were collected in April 2015
- Analysis of sub-groups is included when noteworthy and/or statistically different
- Please note that some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

Methodology Statement

- This survey of 3,002 adults was conducted April 6, 2015 through April 14, 2015 by The Marist Poll sponsored and funded in partnership with The Knights of Columbus. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed in English or Spanish by telephone using live interviewers.
- Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 1.8 percentage points.
- There are 702 completed interviews with Catholic Americans and 409 completed interviews with Catholic Americans who practice their faith. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 3.7 percentage points and ± 4.8 percentage points, respectively. There are 860 completed interviews with Millennials, 197 completed interviews with Catholic Millennials and 105 completed interviews with Catholic Millennials who practice their faith. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 3.3 percentage points, ± 7.0 percentage points and ± 9.6 percentage points, respectively. There are 420 completed interviews with Latinos, 196 completed interviews with Catholic Latinos and 104 completed interviews with Catholic Latinos who practice their faith. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 4.8 percentage points, ± 7.0 percentage points and ± 9.6 percentage points, respectively. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.



Knights of Columbus Headquarters

Mr. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

Mr. Andrew Walther, Vice President,
Communications and Strategic
Planning

1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 752-4253

The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. Last year, Knights worldwide donated more than 71.5 million hours, and more than \$173.5 million to charitable causes in communities throughout the Americas, as well in Europe and Asia. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable life insurance to its members, the Knights has been at the service of the community for more than 127 years, and is the world's largest Catholic service organization.



**Marist
Poll**

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Lee M. Miringoff, PhD

Barbara L. Carvalho, PhD

Mary E. Griffith

Jaime Lynne Bishop

Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 575-5050

Founded in 1978, The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) is a survey research center at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Marist Poll has conducted independent research on public priorities, elections, and a wide variety of social issues. Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.