

August 2013

Parish Life Survey

**St. Joseph University Parish
Terre Haute, Indiana**

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

Parish Life Survey

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Terre Haute, Indiana**

August 2013



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	3
Section I: Responding Parishioners	5
Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	5
Religious Characteristics of Respondents.....	9
Section II: Parish Life.....	18
Facilities	18
Communications	22
Liturgy.....	26
Formation/Spiritual Programs.....	29
Special Populations in the Parish.....	34
Other topics.....	39
All Aspects of Parish Life – Evaluation by Priority	50
Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions	53



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey for St. Joseph University Parish Terre Haute, Indiana

Executive Summary

The St. Joseph University Parish Life Survey was designed by the parish council of St. Joseph University Parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending the parish liturgies over one weekend in April 2013. In all, there were 541 valid responses. The parish then sent the responses to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University for analysis. This report presents the results of that survey.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Respondent Overview

- One in four respondents (27 percent) is age 39 or less, 29 percent are 40 to 55 years old, 31 percent are 56 to 69 years old, and 14 percent are 70 years old or older. Six in ten respondents are married, and one in four is single, never married. Nine in ten are Anglo/white.
- Four in five respondents (81 percent) attend Mass every week or more often, and another 16 percent attend two to three times a month. Respondents are evenly represented at each of the four Masses at which the survey was distributed. One in four respondents is a regular attender at the parish but is not registered.
- More than one in three respondents identify themselves as “highly active” at the parish (35 percent), and another 37 percent call themselves “somewhat active” at the parish. Almost two in three (64 percent) say that they are “very attached” to the parish, with nine in ten highly active” respondents saying they feel “very attached” to the parish.

Parish Life

- **Facilities:** Most respondents (nine in ten or more) evaluate the size, upkeep, environment, and accessibility of the church positively. Likewise, eight in ten or more respondents place high priority on the size, maintenance, accessibility, and environment of the church facilities. Older respondents (those age 56 or older) are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate the parish facilities as “very well done,” and to say that facilities are “very important.”
- **Communication:** More than four in five respondents evaluate annually publishing a parish financial statement and encouragement to become involved in parish ministries positively. While nine in ten respondents (91 percent) highly prioritize the promotion of respect for human life, three in four (73 percent) evaluate such promotion positively. The

oldest respondents are the most likely to evaluate this promotion as “very well done.” Those who are more actively involved in the parish are more likely than those who are not active in the parish to say that encouragement to become involved in parish ministries is “very important” to them (60 percent to 32 percent, respectively).

- **Liturgy:** In general, more than eight in ten respondents positively evaluate aspects of the liturgy, including that the Masses are prayerful, reverent, and spiritually moving, the availability of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, and devotional services. Those over the age of 56 are especially likely to positively evaluate and prioritize these aspects of spiritual and liturgical life.
- **Formation/Spiritual Programs:** Eight in ten or more respondents positively evaluate and seven in ten or more respondents give high priority to religious education for children, RCIA, ministry to college students/campuses, and programs or activities to promote spiritual growth. Those who are divorced or separated are more likely than married, single, never married, and widowed respondents to say that programs that strengthen family life are “very important.”
- **Special Populations in the Parish:** About nine in ten respondents positively evaluate and place high priority on cooperation with groups in the community to meet local needs and support for families who have experienced death. For some groups, there is a mismatch between the evaluation of and priority for outreach: while three in four respondents place high priority on outreach to non-Christians, just 57 percent evaluate this outreach positively. Likewise, while almost eight in ten place high priority on outreach to non-practicing Catholics and sensitivity to people with special needs, between six in ten and seven in ten evaluate this outreach and sensitivity positively.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey for St. Joseph University Parish Terre Haute, Indiana

Introduction

The St. Joseph University Parish Life Survey was designed by the parish council at St. Joseph University Parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending the parish liturgies over one weekend in April 2013. In all, there were 541 respondents.

The parish council then sent the data to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. CARA used standard statistical methods to analyze the data presented in this report.

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use five point response scales (“not important” (1) to “very important” (5) and “not well done” (1) to “well done” (5)). These scales allow half of the responses to be interpreted as relatively more “negative” (responses 1 and 2 for example) and half as relatively more “positive” (responses 4 and 5 for example) with a neutral category in the middle. 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 “not important” and “very important,” 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 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 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.

The results of this survey can be used to represent the people ages 14 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 is not representative of those who do not attend Mass or those who are involved in parish functions excluding Mass.

Section I: Responding Parishioners

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 a typical weekend at the parish.

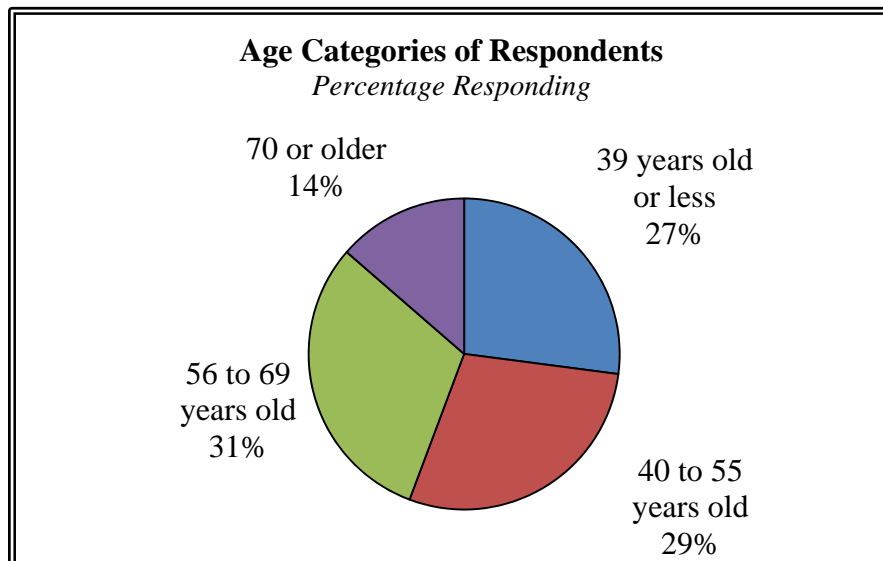
Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Age

Three in ten respondents (29 percent) are between the ages of 40 and 55 years old.

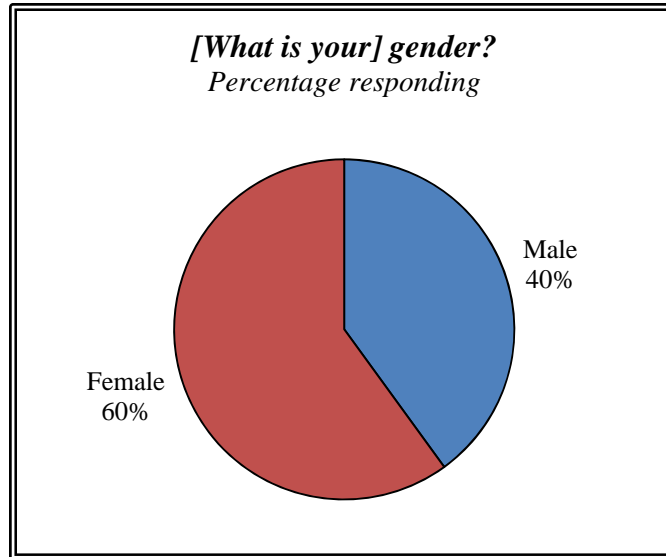
Age of Respondents	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Less than 18	5%
18-25	13
26-39	9
40-55	29
56-69	31
70 or older	14

Just under one in five respondents (18 percent) is age 25 or younger. Another one in ten (9 percent) is between 26 and 39. Three in ten (31 percent) are 56 to 69 years old, and one in seven (14 percent) is aged 70 or older. For the remainder of this report, respondents will be compared based on their ages. Because of the small number of young adult respondents, those less than age 18 through age 39 will be combined into one category.



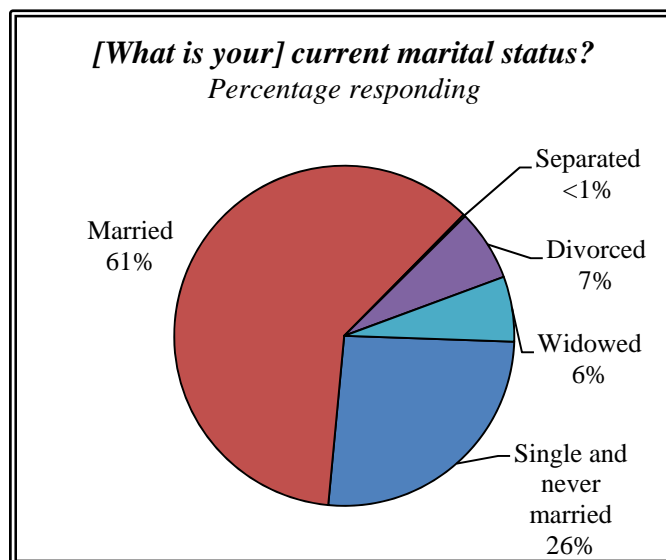
Sex of Respondents

Respondents are more likely to be female than male. While six in ten (60 percent) respondents are female, four in ten (40 percent) are male.



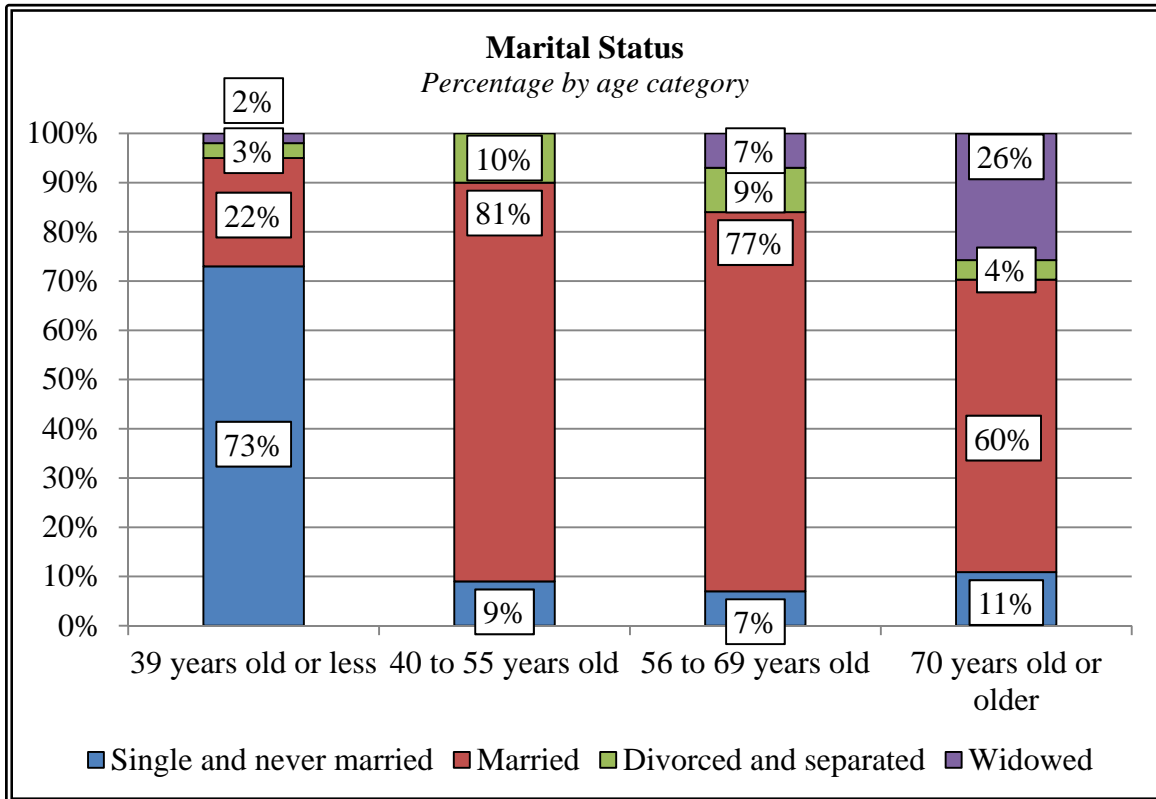
Marital Status

Most respondents (61 percent) are currently married, though one in four (26 percent) is single, never married, and 39 percent are not married (single, never married, widowed, divorced, and separated).



Differences by Age

The majority of those under the age of 40 (73 percent) are single and never married. Likewise, more than three in four respondents between 40 and 69 years old are currently married. One in four respondents age 70 and older (26 percent) are widowed.



Race/Ethnicity

Nine in ten respondents (91 percent) self-identify as Anglo/White. A total of 4 percent are Hispanic/Latino, and 2 percent each are African American/Black, Asian/Pacific, and Native American.

<i>[What is your] race/ethnicity?</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Anglo/White	91%
Hispanic/Latino	4
African American/Black	2
Asian/Pacific	2
Native American	2

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This segment describes characteristics of respondents that relate to their religious attributes and parish related behavior.

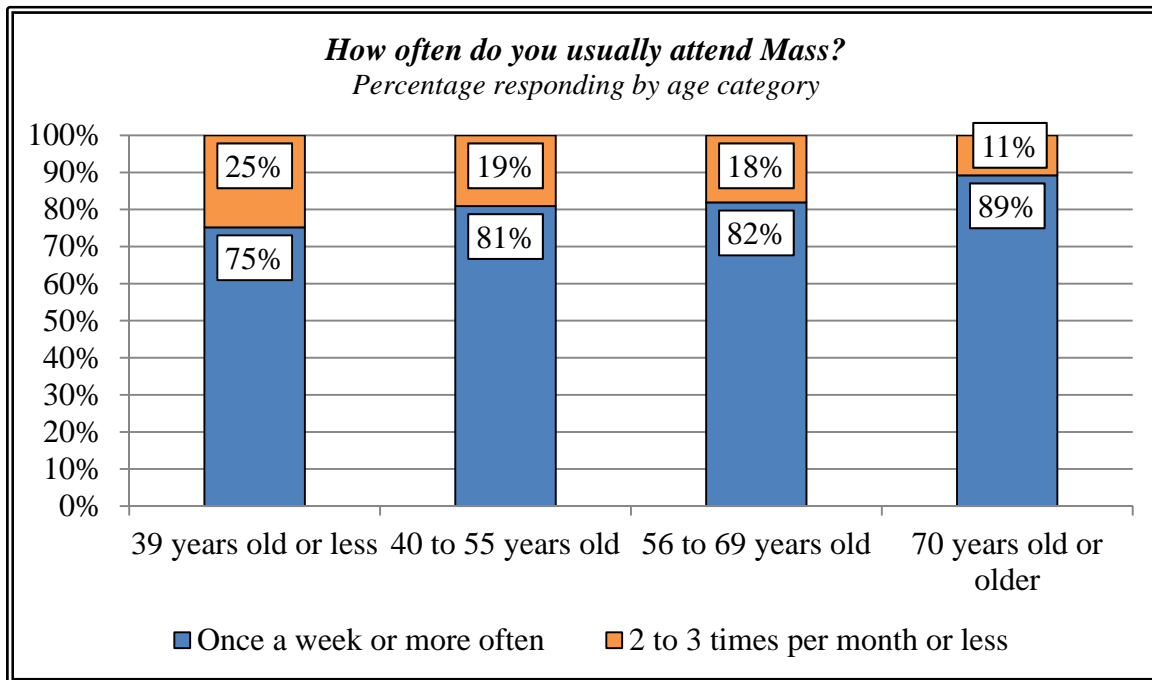
Frequency of Mass Attendance

The majority of respondents (81 percent) attend Mass every week or more often. One in five (20 percent) attends two to three times a month or less frequently.

<i>How often do you usually attend Mass at this parish?</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Only for special occasions	1%
Once a month	3
Two to three times a month	16
Once a week	71
More than once a week	10

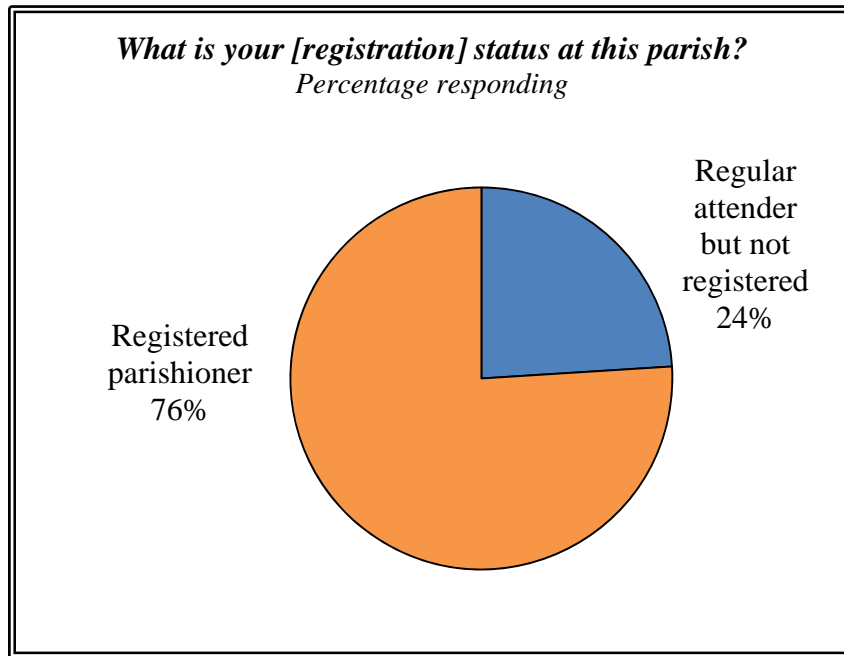
Differences by Age

Those in the youngest age group (39 years old or less), are less likely than older respondents to attend Mass once a week or more often.



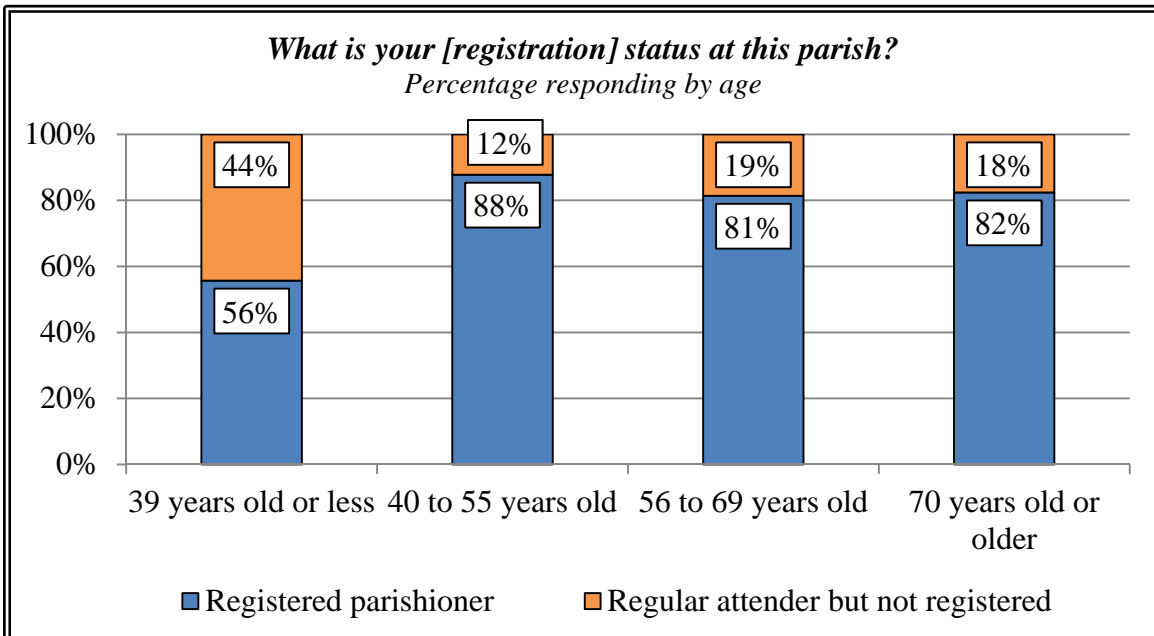
Registration Status

Three in four respondents (76 percent) are registered parishioners.



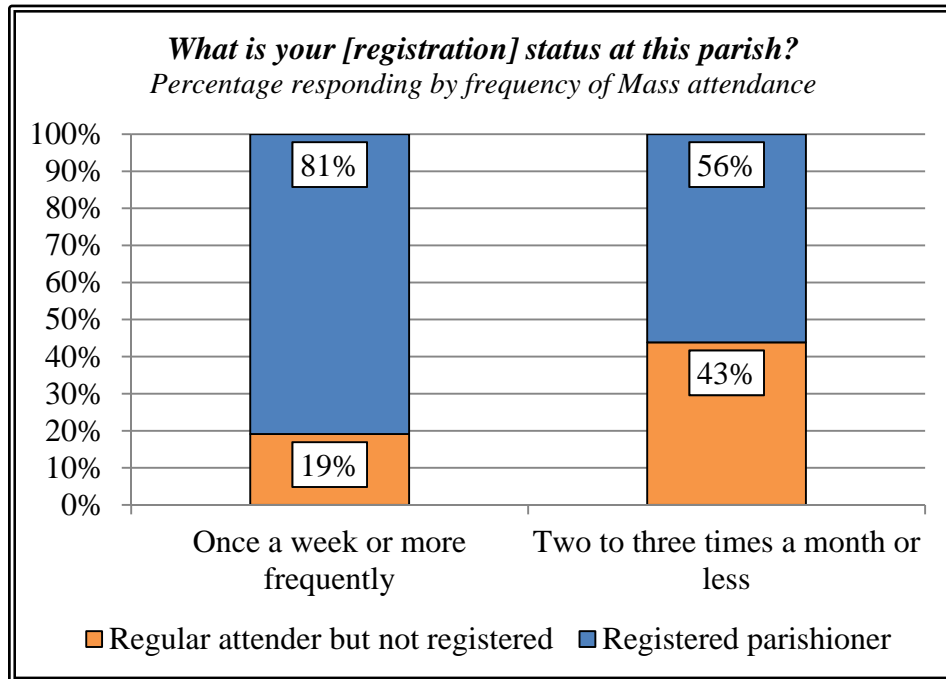
Differences by Age

Younger respondents are less likely than older respondents to be registered parishioners. More than two in five respondents age 39 years and younger are regular attenders but not registered at the parish.



Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who regularly attend Mass – once a week or more frequently – are more likely than those who are not regular attenders to be registered parishioners: eight in ten regular attenders (81 percent) are registered in the parish, compared to 56 percent of those who attend Mass two to three times a month or less.



Mass Attended

St. Joseph University Parish distributed the survey during all four Masses over one weekend in April: Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Sunday, 11:00 a.m., and Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

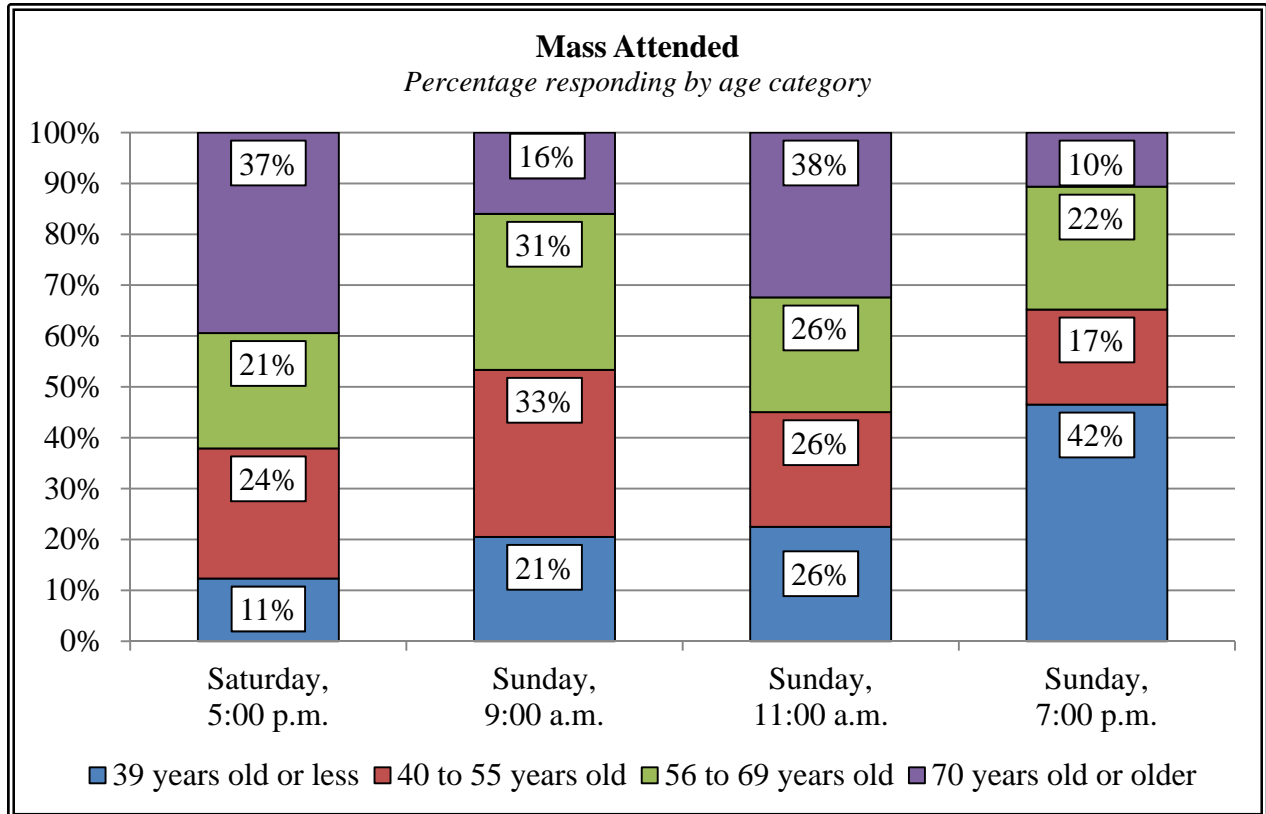
About one in four respondents completed the survey during each of the Masses.

Mass Attended by Respondents
Percentage responding

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.	21%
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.	27
Sunday, 11:00 a.m.	28
Sunday, 7:00 p.m.	24

Differences by Age

More than two in five respondents from the Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Mass are age 39 or younger.



- Almost two in five respondents at the Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass are age 70 and older, while another one in five (21 percent) is age 56 to 69 years old, one in four (24 percent) is age 40 to 55, and one in ten (11 percent) is 39 years old or younger.
- About a third of respondents at the Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Mass are between the ages of 40 and 55 years old (33 percent) or 56 and 69 years old (31 percent).
- More than one in three respondents at the 11:00 a.m. Mass (38 percent) are age 70 or older.

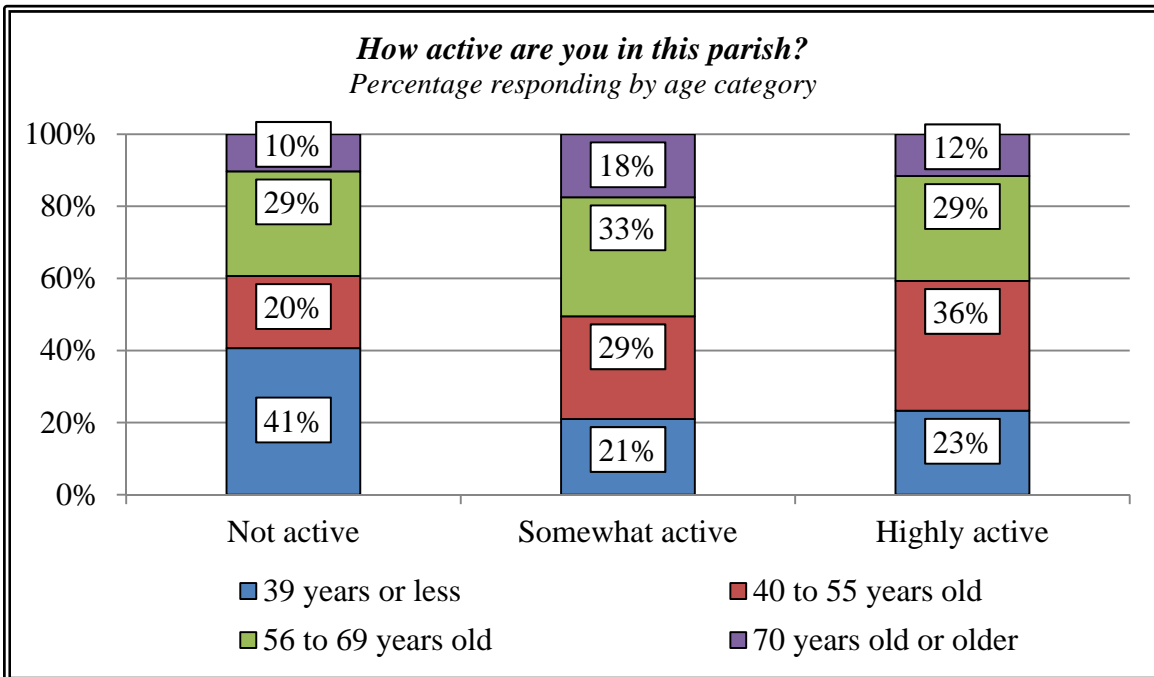
Activity in the Parish

More than one in three respondents (35 percent) describe themselves as “highly active” at the parish. Another 37 percent are “somewhat active,” and 29 percent are “not active.”

How active are you in this parish?	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Highly active (volunteer as lector, Eucharistic Minister, parish council, fish fry, Samaritan ministry, and/or other ministries)	35%
Somewhat active (attend some parish events in addition to Mass, but usually do not volunteer)	37
Not active (no involvement beyond attending Mass)	29

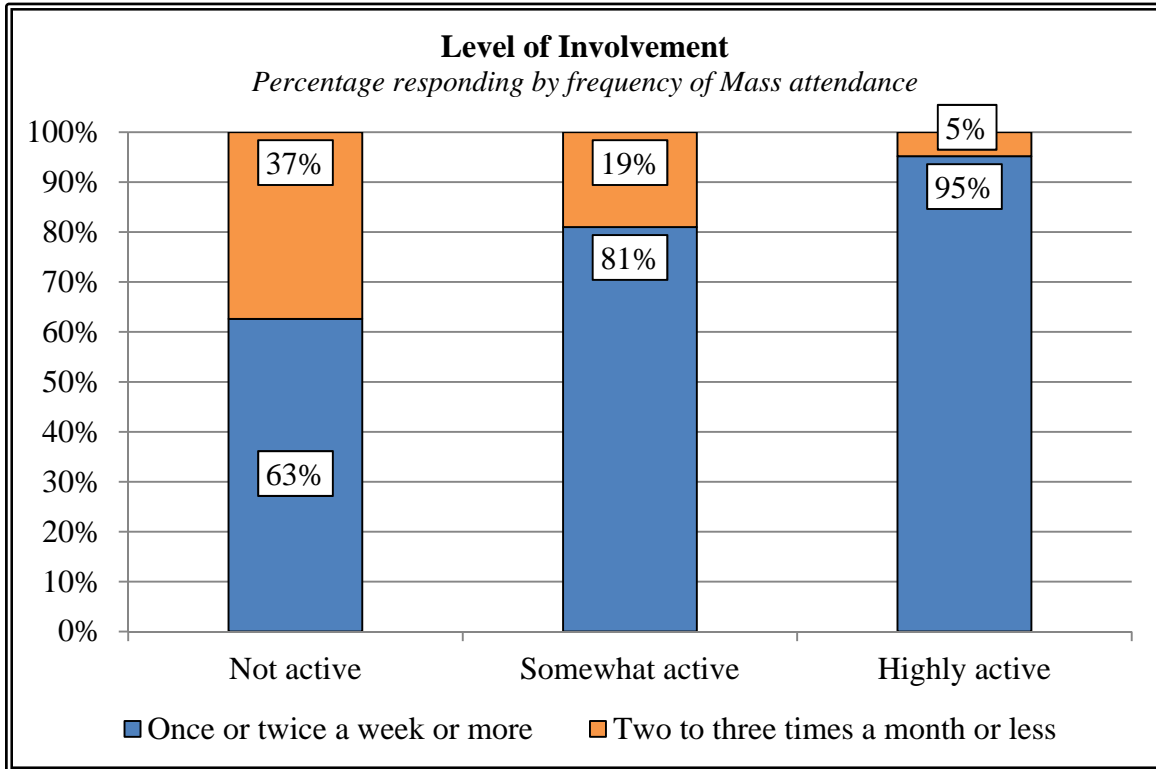
Differences by Age

About three in five of the “somewhat” and “highly” active respondents are ages 40 to 69 years old. Those who describe themselves as “not active” are most likely to be the youngest respondents – those ages 39 years old or less.



Differences by Mass Attendance

Those who are more regular Mass attenders are also more likely to be active in the parish. More than nine in ten respondents who identify themselves as “highly active” attend Mass once or twice a week or more often. Likewise, almost two in five respondents who are “not active” attend Mass two to three times a month or less frequently.

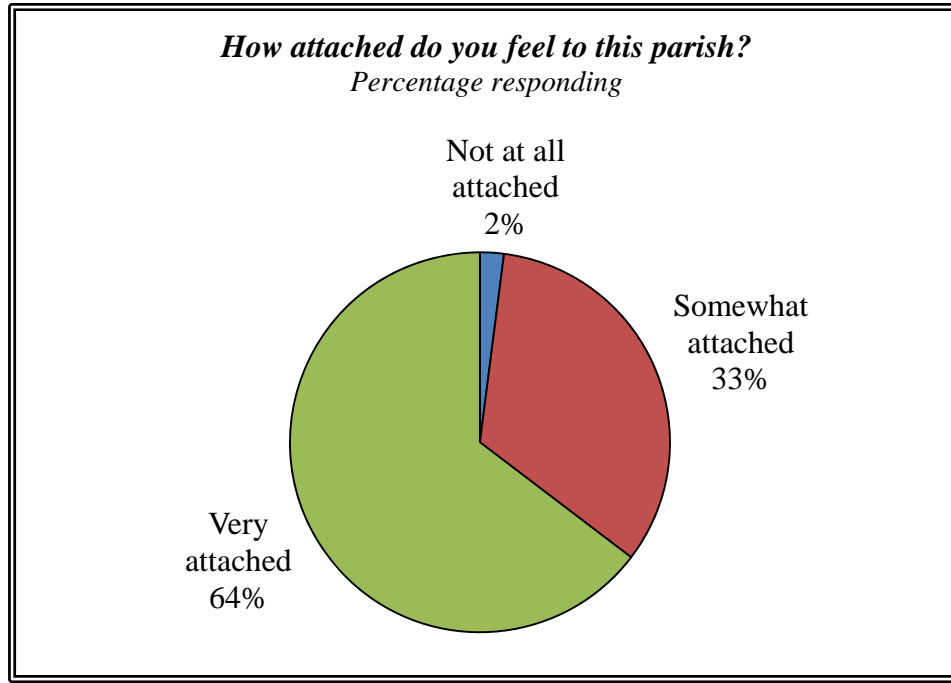


Differences by Gender

There are no significant differences between the level of parish involvement and respondent gender. Males are as likely as females to identify themselves as “highly involved.”

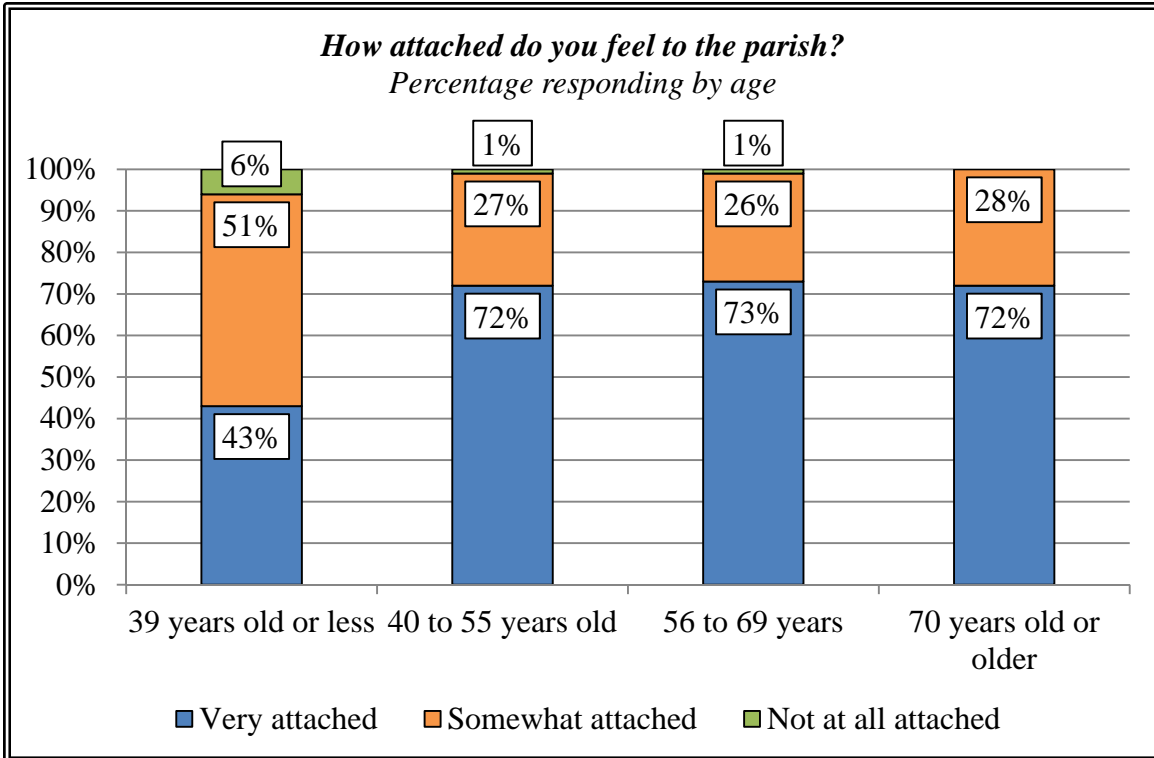
Attachment to the Parish

Almost two in three respondents (64 percent) say that they feel “very attached” to St. Joseph University Parish.



Differences by Age

Younger respondents are less likely than older respondents to report feeling “very attached” to the parish. While seven in ten respondents ages 40 and older report feeling “very” attached to the parish, that figure drops to two in five (43 percent) respondents age 39 years old or younger.



Differences by Involvement at the Parish

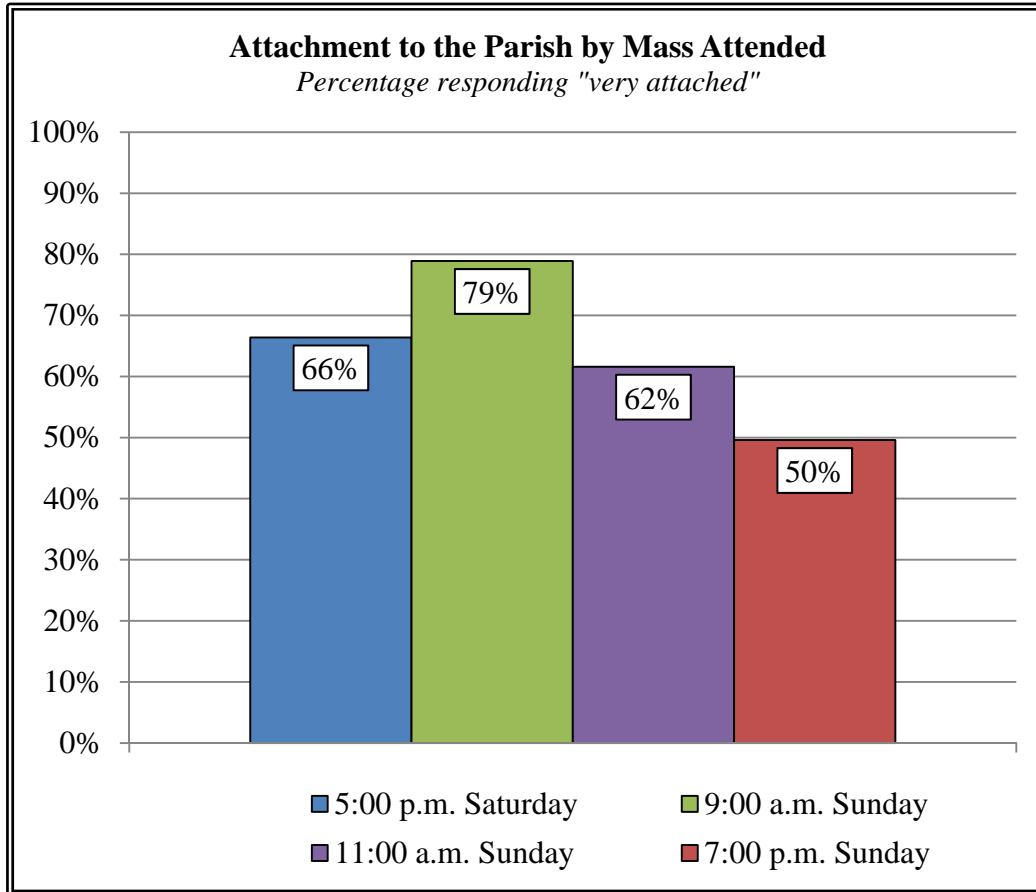
Attachment to the parish is highly correlated to involvement at the parish. Nine in ten “highly active” respondents feel “very attached” to the parish, compared to one in three “not active” respondents.

How attached do you feel to this parish?
Percentage responding by involvement

	Not active	Somewhat active	Highly active
Not at all attached	6%	1%	0%
Somewhat attached	62	34	10
Very attached	32	65	90

Differences by Mass Attended

Those who completed their survey at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday liturgy are more likely than other respondents to say that they feel “very attached” to the parish – almost eight in ten (79 percent). Likewise, half of those at the 7:00 p.m. Sunday liturgy say that they feel “very attached” to the parish.



Section II: Parish Life

This section of the report outlines respondents’ evaluations of aspects of parish life. Each area of parish life was evaluated in two ways: first, the survey offered respondents a five point scale from “not important” (1) to “very important” (5) to indicate how important each aspect is. In this report, we present this scale as an indicator of priority to the individual (labeled “priority” in tables and figures). Then, respondents used another five point scale from “not well done” (1) to “well done” (5) to evaluate how well the parish is doing in each area. We use this scale as an indicator of the respondents’ evaluation of each item (labeled “evaluation” in tables and figures). Each section below will present the most positive responses (those who marked 4 or 5). Please review Appendix I for the responses to each category. The areas of parish life covered in this survey include:

- **Facilities**
- **Communications**
- **Liturgy**
- **Formation/spiritual programs**
- **Special populations in the parish**
- **Other topics** (including social justice, sense of welcoming, leadership, and stewardship)

Facilities

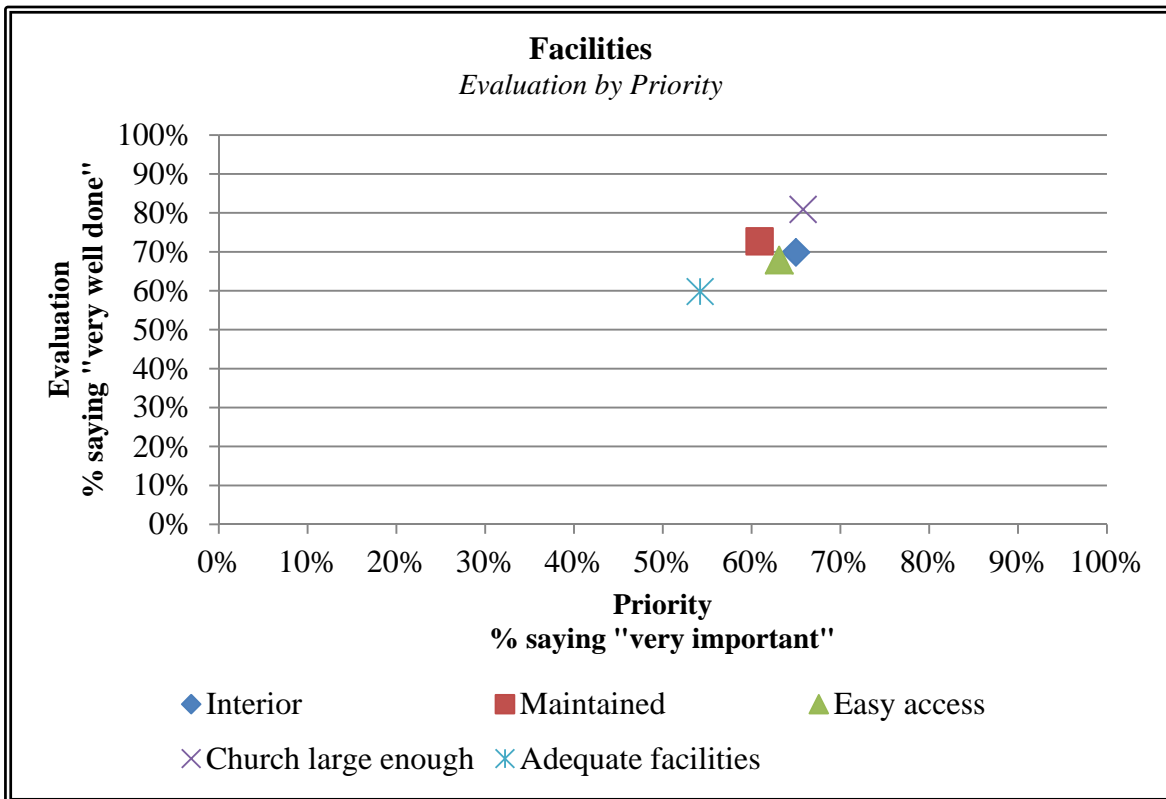
More than nine in ten respondents evaluate the size, upkeep, environment, and accessibility of the church positively. Almost nine in ten place high priority on the size, maintenance, and environment of the church.

Facilities		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
A church large enough for worship	96%	87%
Well-maintained parish facilities and grounds	96	86
An interior environment that creates a good atmosphere for worship	94	89
Easy access to the church and parish facilities for the physically challenged	92	82
Adequate facilities for meetings and other activities	85	77

- Almost all respondents (96 percent) evaluate the size of the parish positively, while 87 percent say this is a high priority. About the same ratio evaluate the maintenance of the parish facilities as positively (96 percent) and place the maintenance of these facilities as a high priority (86 percent).

- More than nine in ten (94 percent) evaluate the interior environment creating a good atmosphere positively, and almost nine in ten (89 percent) say this is important to them.
- More than four in five (85 percent) evaluate the facilities being adequate for meetings and other activities as positive, and more than three in four (77 percent) say this has high priority for them.

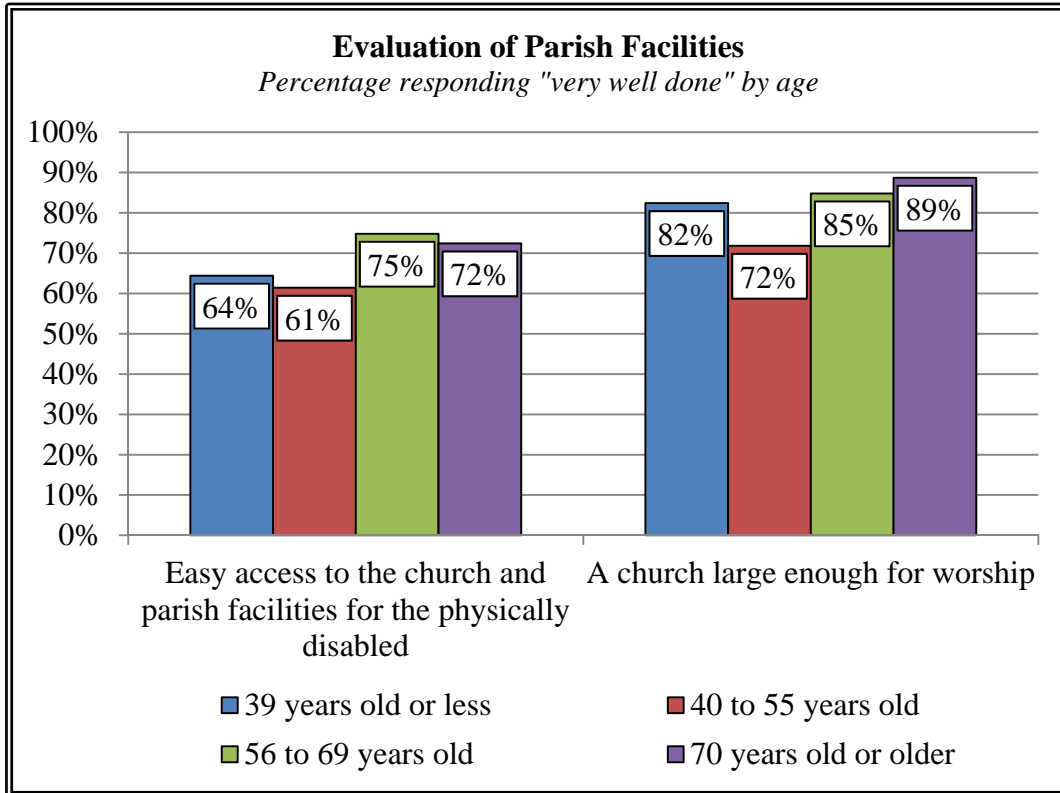
When comparing the priority for and the evaluation of parish facilities, it becomes clear that about 60 to 80 percent of respondents say that facilities are “very important,” and about the same proportion evaluate them as being “very well done” by the parish. For example, about six in ten respondents say that it is “very important” that the parish facilities be well-maintained, and about 70 percent say that this is being “very well done” by the parish (the red box in the graph below illustrates this point).



- The size of the church – that it is large enough for worship – is evaluated as “very well” by about 80 percent of respondents and is “very important” to about 70 percent of respondents.
- About the same proportion of respondents (about 70 percent) evaluate as “very well done” and prioritizes as “very important” that the interior environment of the parish creates a good atmosphere for worship.

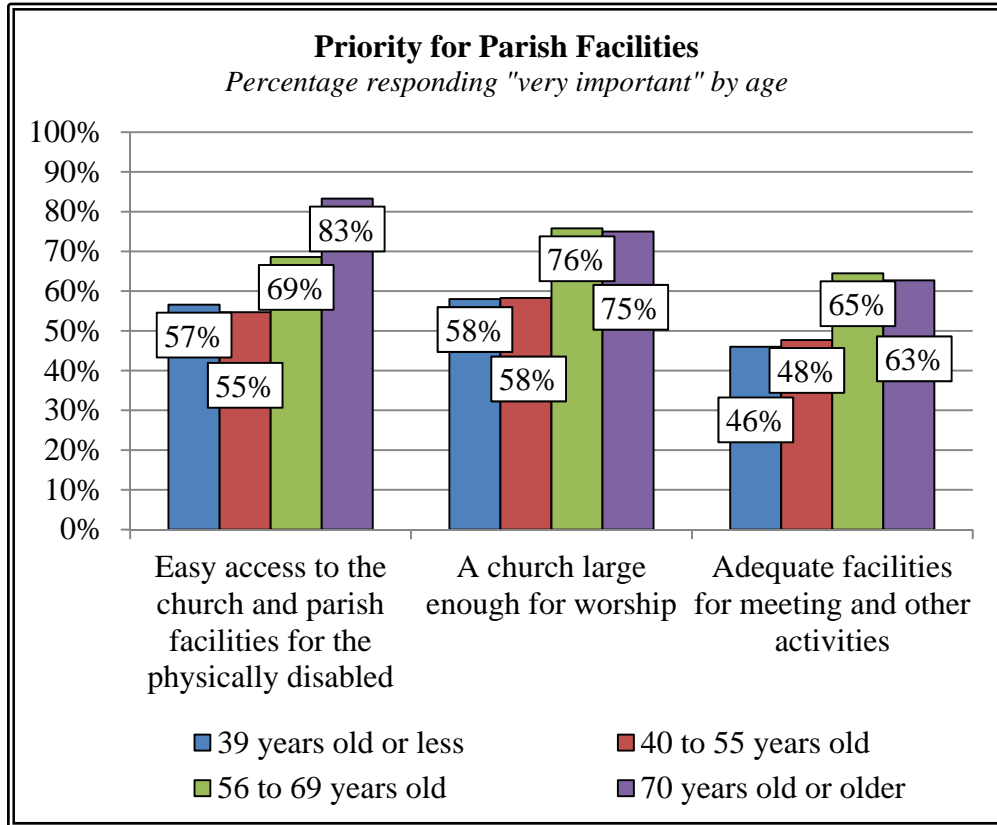
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate the access of the church and parish facilities for those with physical disabilities as “very well done.” Those ages 40 to 55 years old are least likely to evaluate that the church is large enough for worship is “very well done.”



Differences by Age – Priority

Older respondents place a higher priority on the parish facilities than younger respondents, especially with regard to the ease of access to the church and parish for those with physical disabilities, and the size and adequacy of the parish for worship, meetings, and other activities.



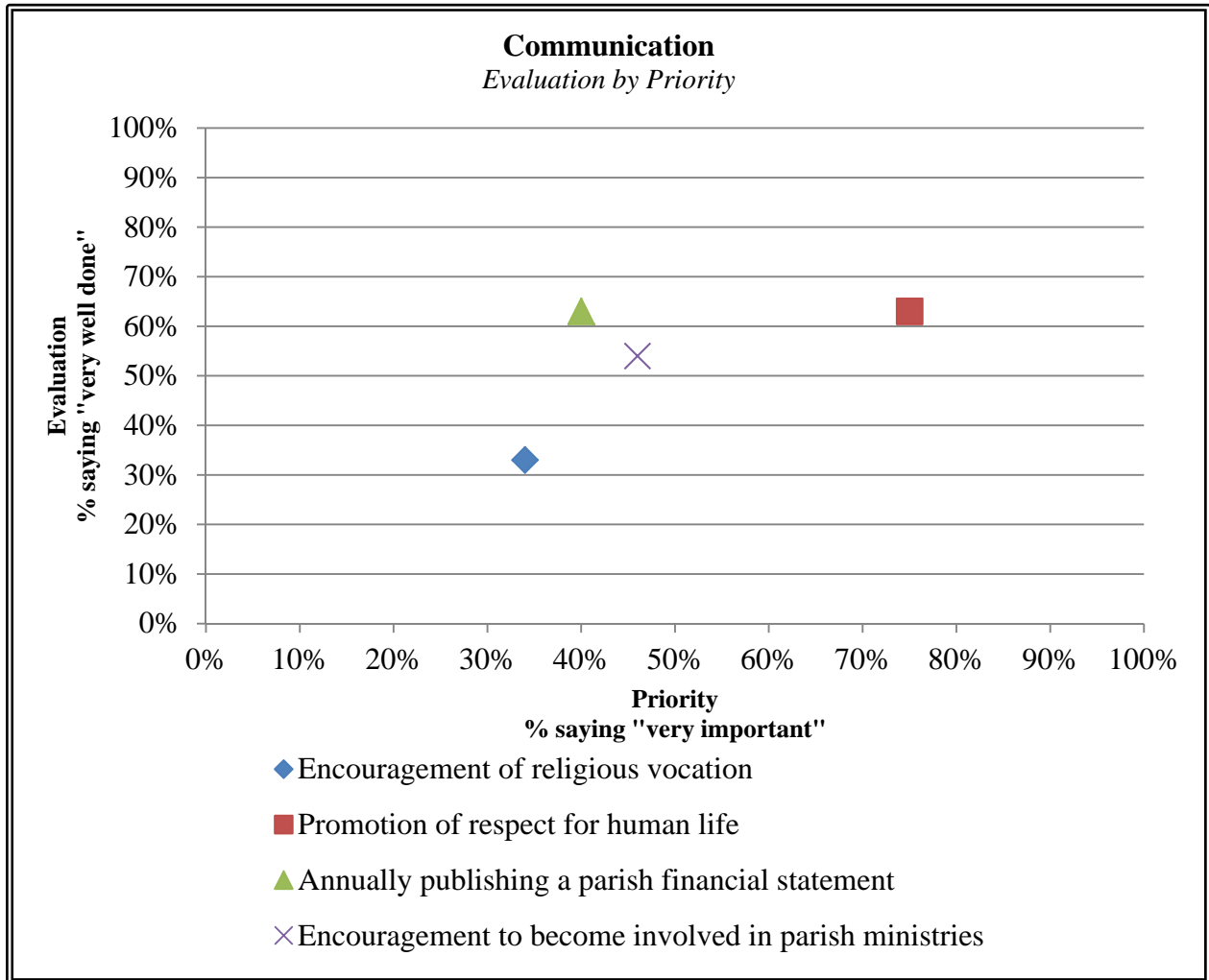
Communications

While almost nine in ten respondents evaluate positively the annual publication of a parish financial statement, just six in ten place high priority on this.

Communications		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Annually publishing a parish financial statement	88%	61%
Encouragement to become involved in parish ministries	83	76
Promotion of respect for human life	73	91
Encouragement of religious vocation	67	61

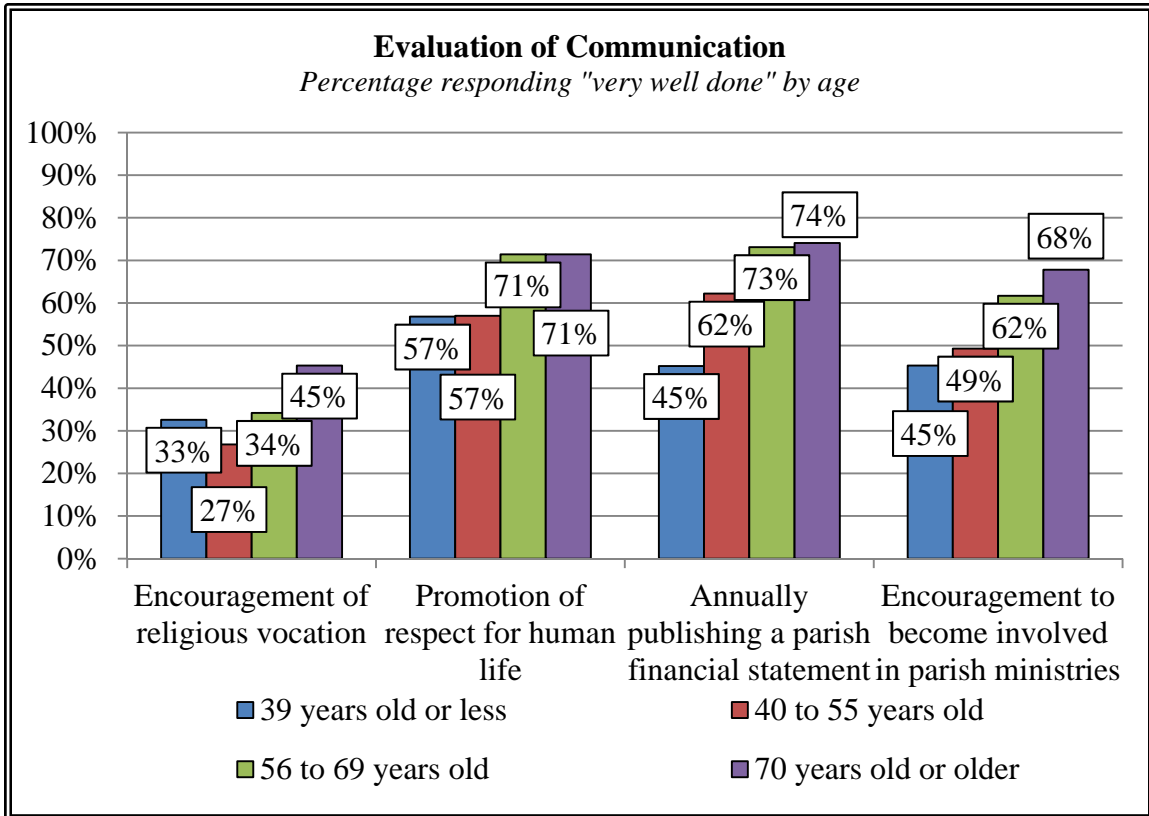
- Nine in ten respondents (91 percent) place high priority on the promotion of respect for human life. Three in four (73 percent) evaluate positively the promotion of respect for human life.
- About the same proportion of respondents evaluate positively encouragement of religious vocation as place high priority on this activity.
- While four in five respondents evaluate positively encouragement to become involved in parish ministries, three in four place high priority on this encouragement.

Promotion of respect for human life is a high priority (almost 80 percent of respondents say “very important”), but is evaluated as “very well done” by only about 60 percent of respondents. On the other hand, annually publishing a parish financial statement is evaluated as “very well done” by more than six in ten respondents, but is “very important” to about four in ten respondents.



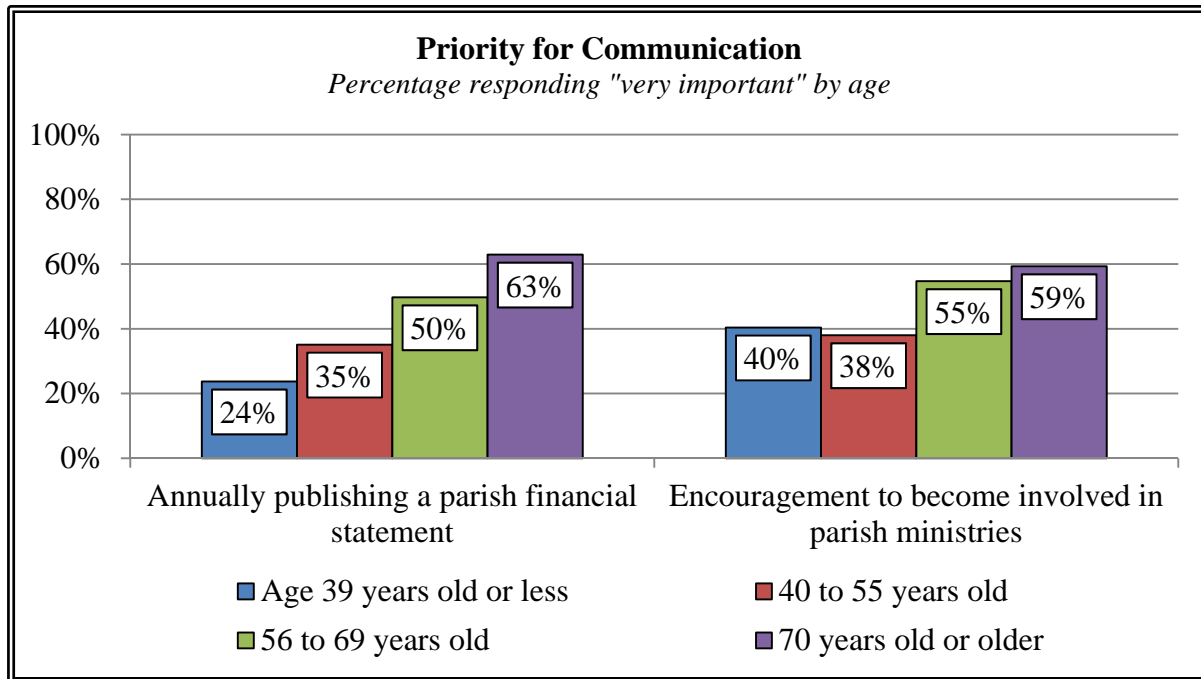
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate aspects of communication at the parish as “very well done.”



Differences by age - Priority

Older respondents are much more likely than younger respondents to say that annually publishing a parish financial statement is “very important.” While one in four respondents age 39 or younger say that publishing a parish financial statement is “very important,” that figure increases to 35 percent for those ages 40 to 55, half of those ages 56 to 69 years old, and 63 percent for those ages 70 and older. Likewise, older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to say that encouragement to become involved in parish ministries is “very important” to them.



Differences by Mass Attendance - Priority

There are no significant differences between those who attend Mass once a week or more and those who attend Mass two to three times per month or less frequently in their evaluations of communication. However, those who are more regular Mass attenders are more likely than those who are not to say that encouragement to become involved in parish ministries is “very important” to them (50 percent compared to 31 percent, respectively).

Differences by Activity in the Parish

Those who are “highly active” at the parish are more likely than those who are “not active” to say that encouragement to become involved in parish ministries is “very important” to them (60 percent to 32 percent, respectively). However, those who are “not active” in the parish are more likely than those who are “highly active” to evaluate the promotion of respect for human life as “very well done” (71 percent compared to 56 percent, respectively).

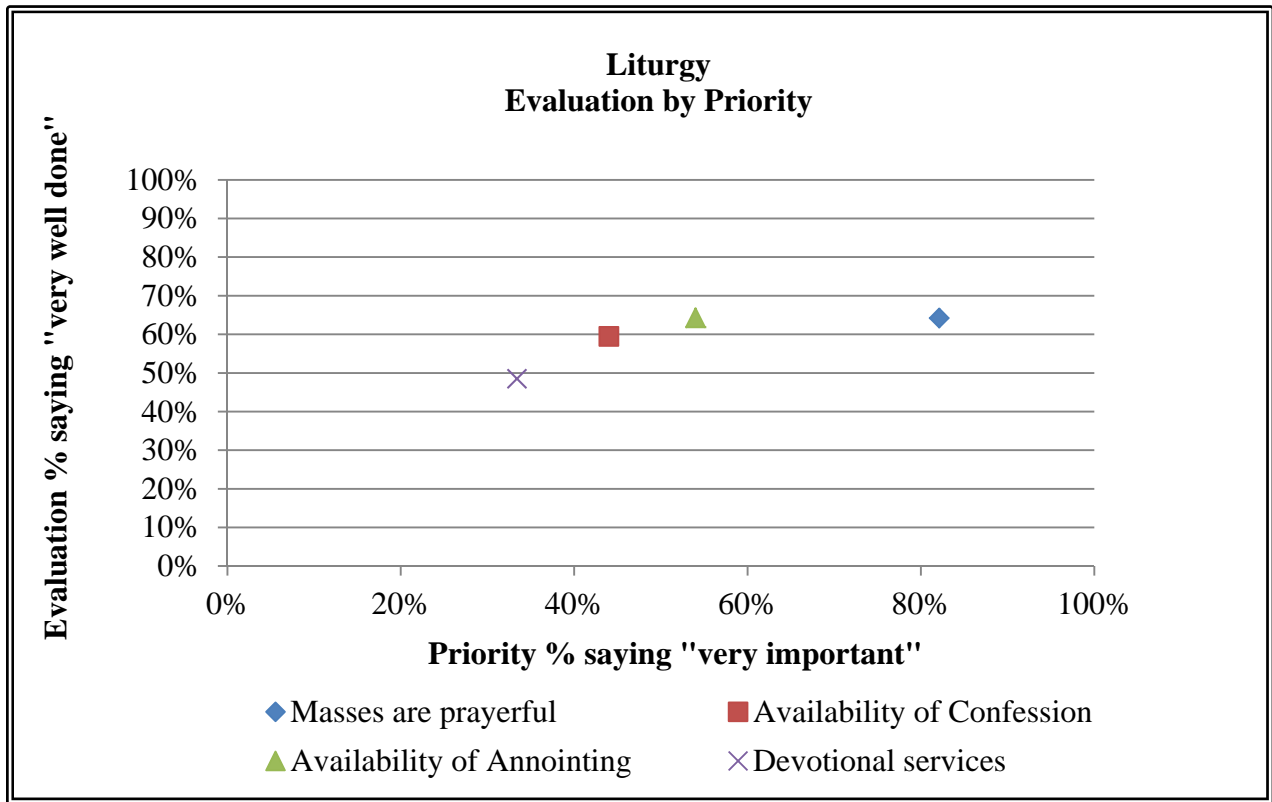
Liturgy

More than nine in ten respondents evaluate positively and place high importance on Masses that are prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving.

Liturgy		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Masses that are prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving	92%	98%
The availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	89	68
The availability of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick	89	75
Devotional services (Rosary, Stations, Evening Prayer, etc.)	84	63

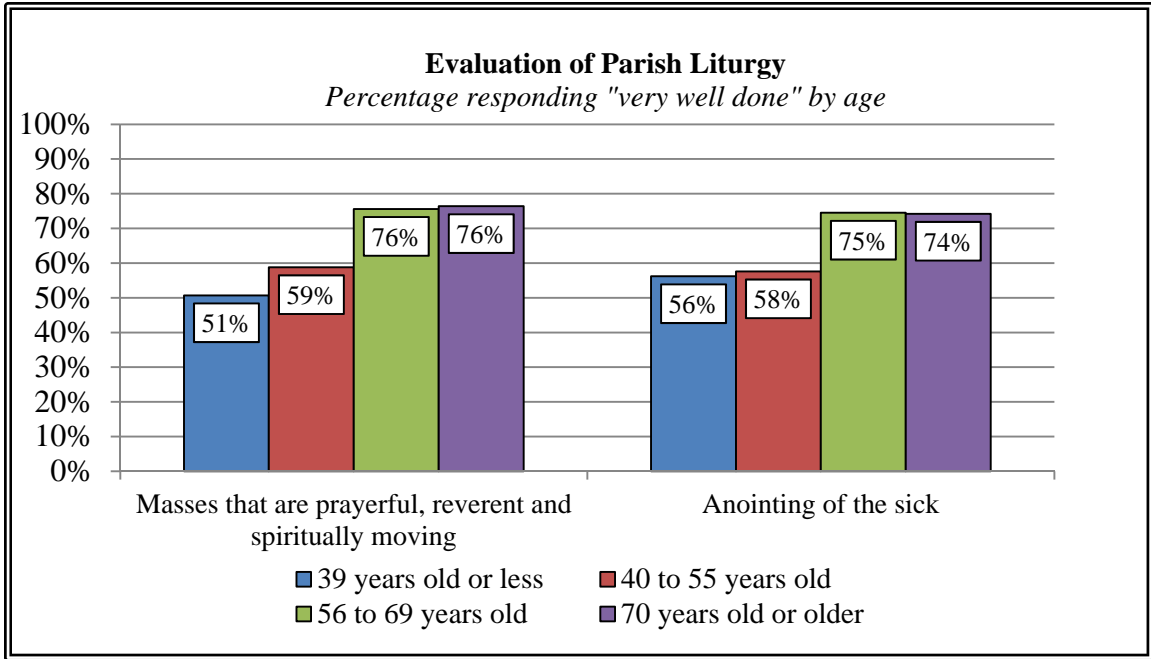
- Almost nine in ten respondents (89 percent) evaluate positively the availability of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.
- Two in three respondents (68 percent) place a high priority on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and three in four respondents place a high priority on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- More than four in five respondents (84 percent) evaluate positively the devotional services at the parish; however six in ten respondents (63 percent) consider the services to be a high priority for them.

That the Masses be prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving is “very important” to more than 80 percent of respondents while only about 60 percent of respondents say it is “very well done” in the parish. However when asked about the availability of Confession, the availability of the Anointing of the Sick, and devotional services, respondents said these services were “very well done” more often than being “very important.” For example three in five respondents (60 percent) said the availability of Confession is “very well done” while only about two in five (44 percent) said it is “very important.”



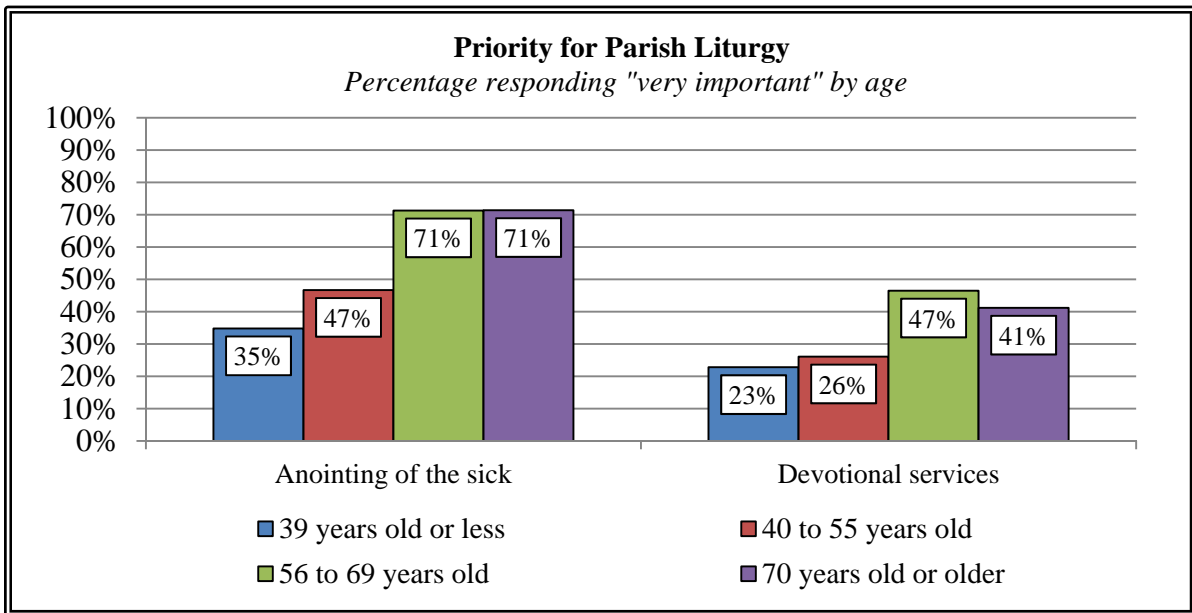
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Respondents over the age of 55 are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate positively the Masses at the parish as being prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving. While three in four respondents (75 percent) over the age of 55 evaluate the Masses at the parish as “very well done,” just half (51 percent) of those under the age of 40 evaluate the Masses the same way. Respondents over the age of 55 are also more likely than younger respondents to evaluate as “very well done” the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the parish. Three in four respondents (74 percent) over the age of 55 say that the availability of the Anointing of the Sick is “very well done” at the parish, while just over half of those respondents under the age of 55 said the same.



Differences by Age – Priority

Respondents over the age of 55 are much more likely than younger respondents to say that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is “very important.” While seven in ten respondents (71 percent) over the age of 55 say that the Anointing of the Sick is “very important,” that number decreases about half of those age 40 to 55 and one in three (35 percent) respondents under the age of 40. Respondents over the age of 55 are also almost twice as likely as younger respondents to say that devotional services at the parish are “very important.” While two in five or more respondents over age 55 consider devotional services to be “very important,” about one in four respondents under the age of 55 place the same priority on devotional services.



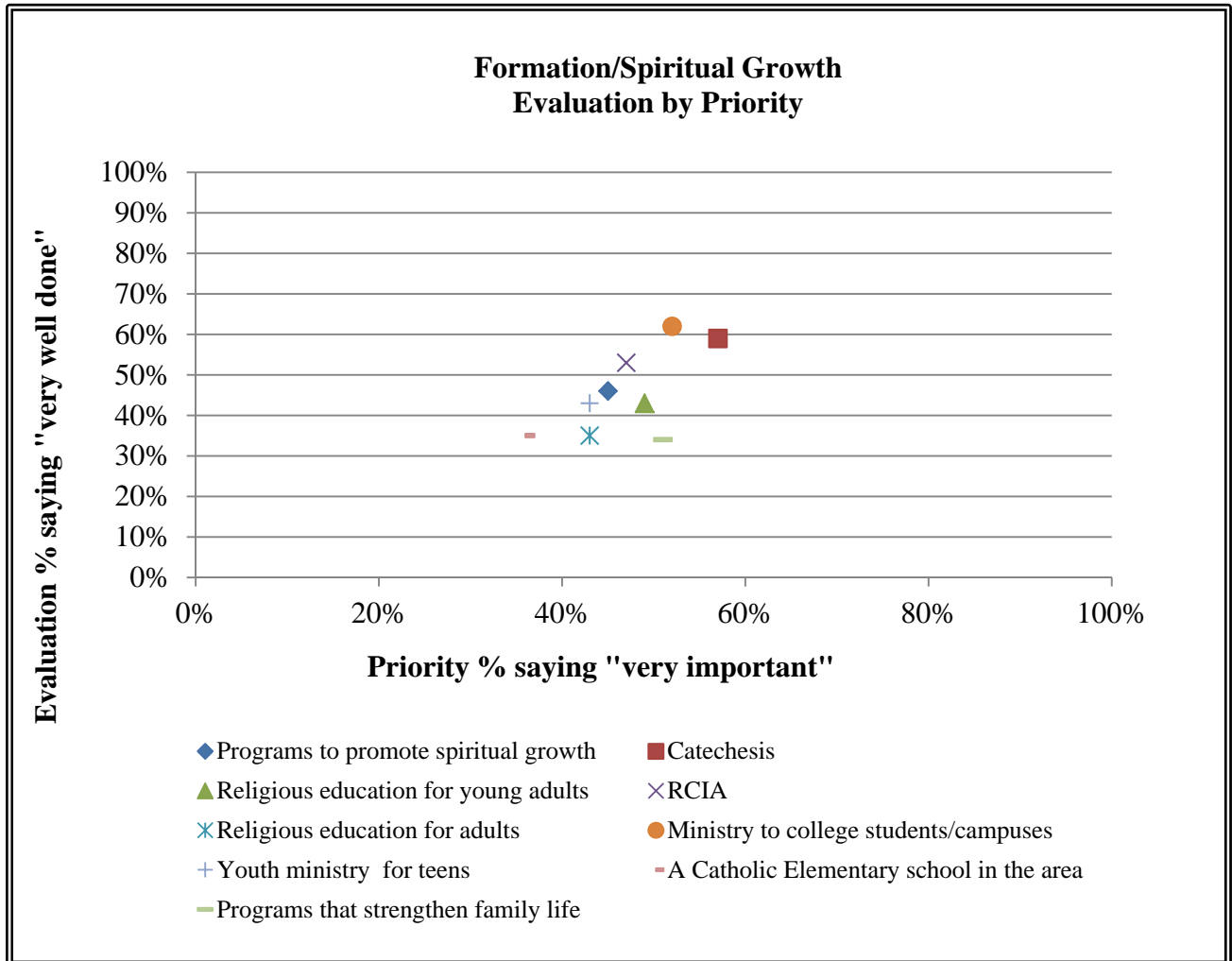
Formation/Spiritual Programs

About three in four respondents place a high priority on programs or activities to promote spiritual growth, religious education for children, religious education for young adults, and programs that strengthen and foster family life

Formation/Spiritual Programs		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Religious education for children (catechesis)	87%	76%
The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults	85	70
Ministry to college students/campuses	83	70
Programs or activities to promote spiritual growth	82	77
Religious education for young adults (beyond Confirmation)	74	75
Youth ministry programs for teens	74	67
Religious education for adults (beyond Confirmation)	69	70
Programs that strengthen and foster family life	63	75
Access to a Catholic elementary school in the area	57	52

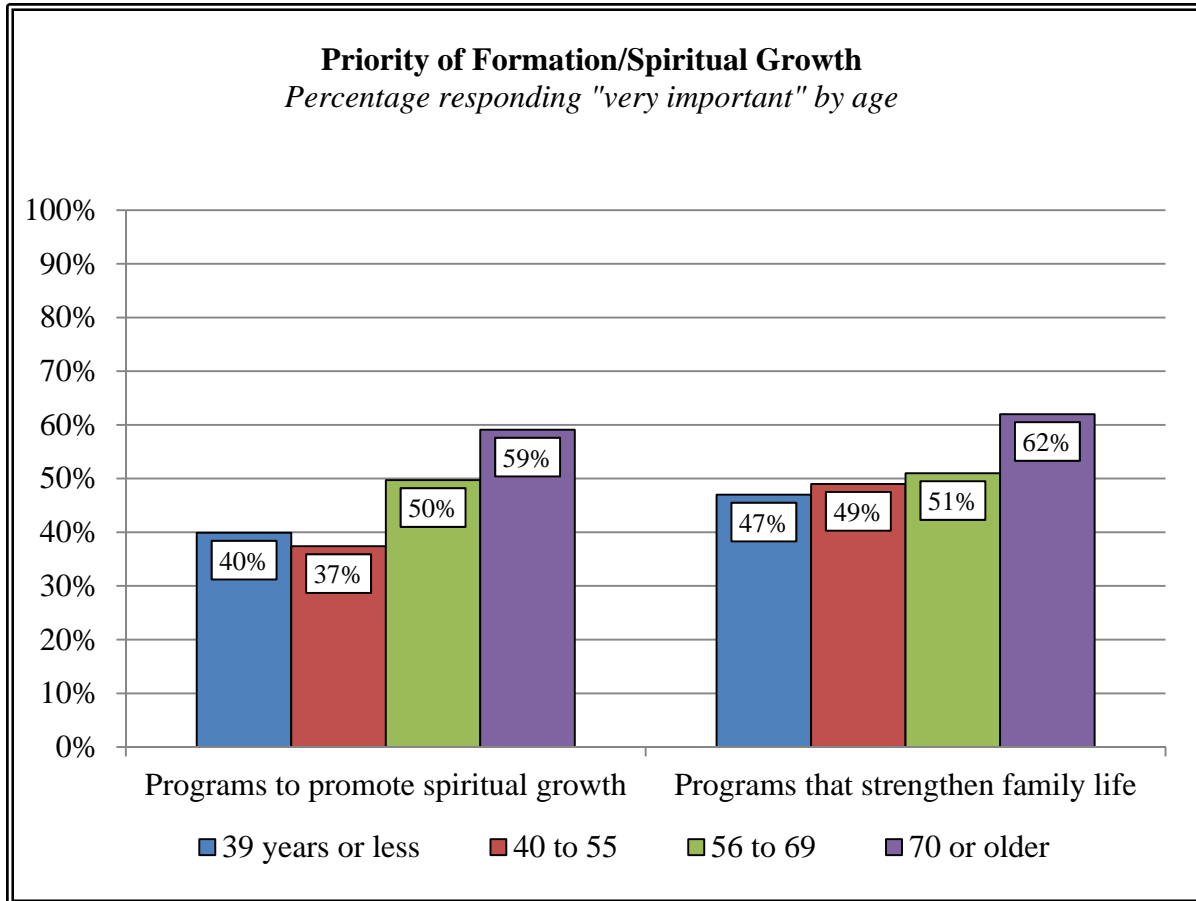
- About four in five respondents (82 percent) evaluate positively the programs or activities to promote spiritual growth at the parish and about the same number of respondents (77 percent) consider the programs to be a high priority.
- Religious education for children is evaluated positively by almost nine in ten respondents (87 percent) and almost four in five respondents (76 percent) consider this program a high priority.

Programs that strengthen and foster family life are “very important” to half of respondents (51 percent). These programs are evaluated as “very well done” by about three in ten respondents (34 percent). About three in five respondents (62 percent) evaluate ministry to college students/campuses as “very well done,” while about half of respondents (52 percent) said it was “very important.”



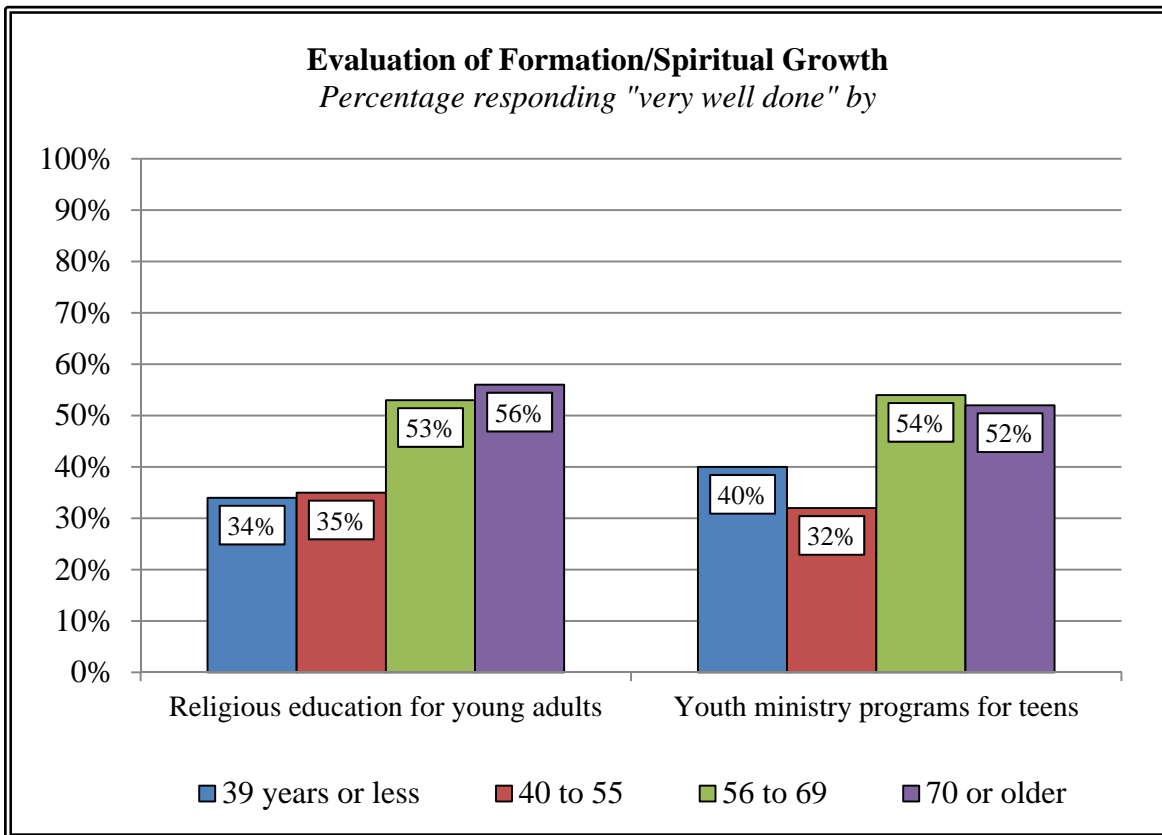
Differences by Age – Priority

Respondents over the age of 55 are more likely than younger respondents to say that programs to promote spiritual growth are “very important.” Two in five respondents under the age of 40 (40 percent) said programs to promote spiritual growth are “very important,” and about the same proportion of respondents (37 percent) ages 40 to 55 said the same. However, half of respondents (50 percent) ages 56 to 69 and 59 percent of those age 70 and older said that programs to promote spiritual growth are “very important.” Similarly respondents over the age of 69 are the most likely to say that programs that strengthen family life are “very important.”



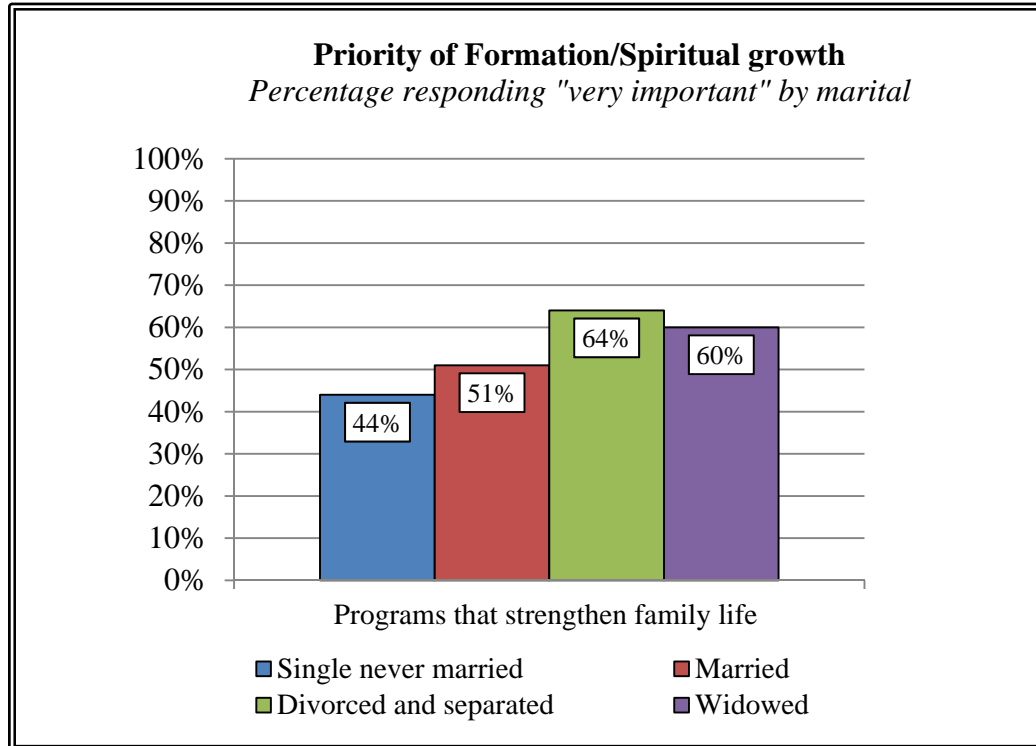
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Respondents over the age of 55 are more likely than those younger respondents to evaluate religious education for young adults and youth ministry programs for teens as “very well done.” About one in three respondents (35 percent) under the age of 56 years old evaluate religious education for young adults as “very well done,” while more than half (53 percent and 56 percent) of respondents over the age of 55 say the same. There is also a difference in how respondents in the different age groups evaluate youth ministry programs for teens: respondents over the age of 55 are much more likely than younger respondents to evaluate the programs as “very well done.”



Differences by Marital Status – Priority

Programs that strengthen family life are prioritized as “very important” more by those respondents who are divorced and separated, and widowed than respondents who are single, never married or married. More than three in five respondents (64 percent) who are divorced and separated said that programs that strengthen family life are “very important.”



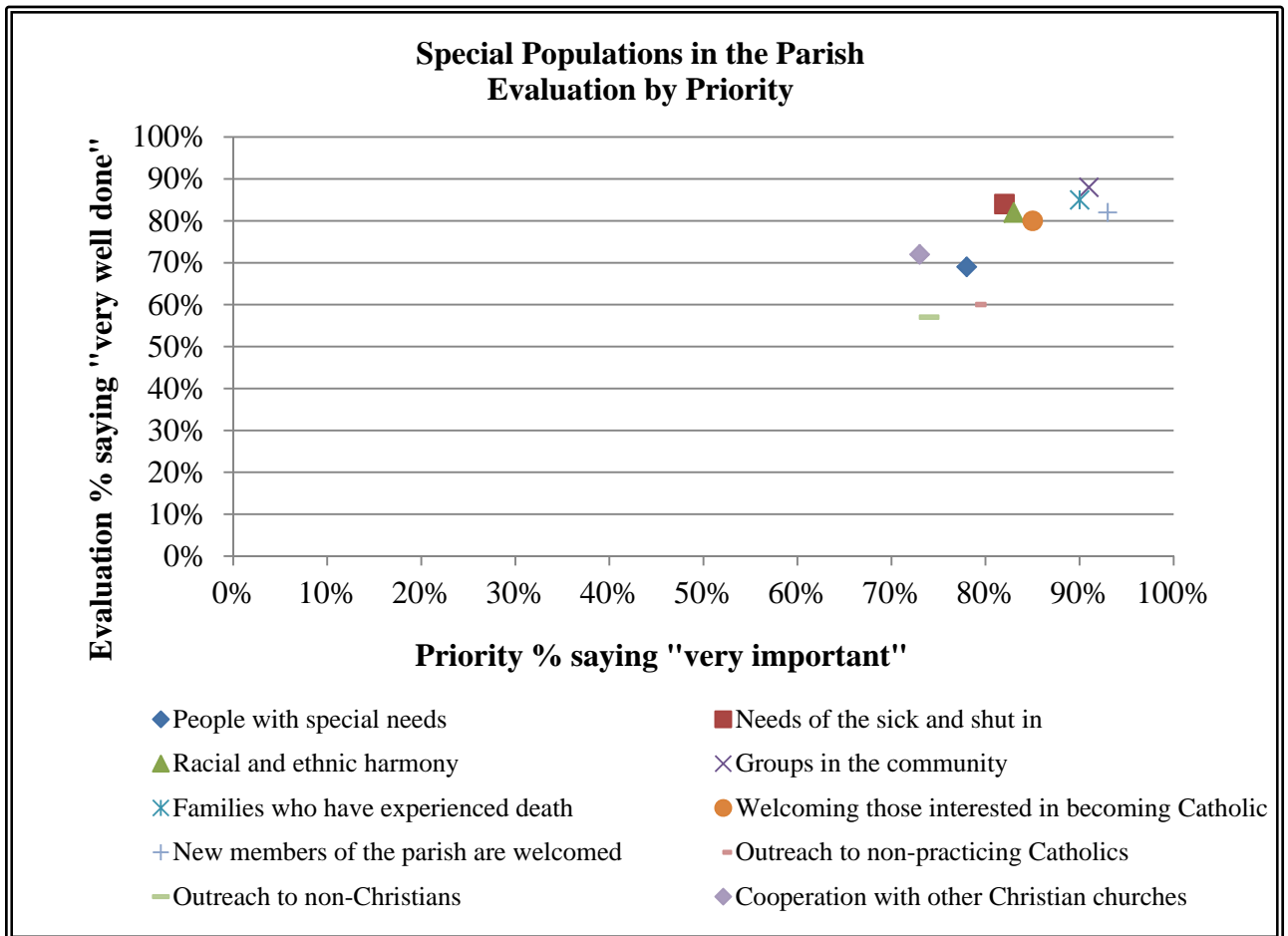
Special Populations in the Parish

Outreach to certain populations are evaluated particularly highly, including cooperation with groups in the community to meet local needs, support for families who have experienced death, and attending to the sick and shut-ins, as well as new parish members, racial and ethnic harmony, and a spirit of welcome for those interested in becoming Catholic. These areas are also listed as high priorities for respondents.

Special Populations in the Parish		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Cooperation with groups in the community to meet local needs (food pantry, blood drives, etc.)	88%	91%
Support for families who have experienced death	85	90
Attention to the spiritual and sacramental needs of the sick and shut-in	84	82
New members of the parish are welcomed	82	93
Encouragement of racial and ethnic harmony	82	83
A spirit of welcome and invitation for those interested in becoming Catholic	80	85
Cooperation with other Christian churches	72	73
Sensitivity to people with special needs (divorced, separated, single parents, disabled, etc.)	69	78
Outreach to non-practicing Catholics	60	79
Outreach to non-Christians	57	74

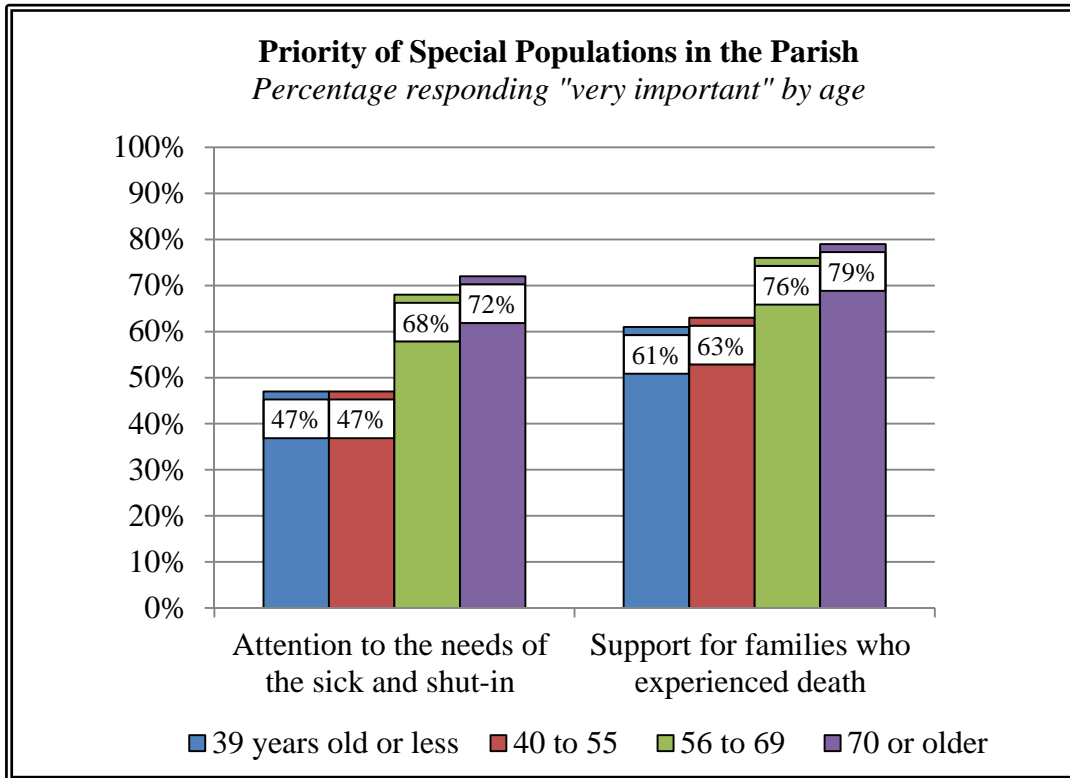
- Almost four in five respondents (79 percent) place high importance on outreach to non-practicing Catholics; however only three in five respondents (60 percent) evaluate outreach to non-practicing Catholics positively.
- Sensitivity to people with special needs is evaluated positively by about seven in ten respondents (69 percent); however it is a high priority to almost four in five respondents (78 percent).
- About three in four respondents (74 percent) say that outreach to non-Christians is a high priority for them, compared to about three in five respondents (57 percent) who evaluated this aspect of the parish positively.
- Eight in ten respondents (83 percent) say that encouragement of racial and ethnic harmony is a high priority for them and almost the same ratio of respondents (82 percent) evaluated this aspect of the parish positively.

For all of the special populations listed, more than seven in ten respondents say that outreach to or work with the population is “very important,” and more than half say that this outreach is being “very well done” at the parish. However, some groups are more positively evaluated and more highly prioritized than others. For example, new members of the parish, groups in the community, and families who have experienced death are evaluated as being “very well done” by more than eight in ten respondents, and is prioritized as “very important” by more than nine in ten respondents. Compare this to outreach to non-Christians and outreach to non-practicing Catholics, where six in ten or fewer evaluate the outreach to these groups as being “very well done” at the parish, and just over seven in ten say that outreach to these groups is “very important.”



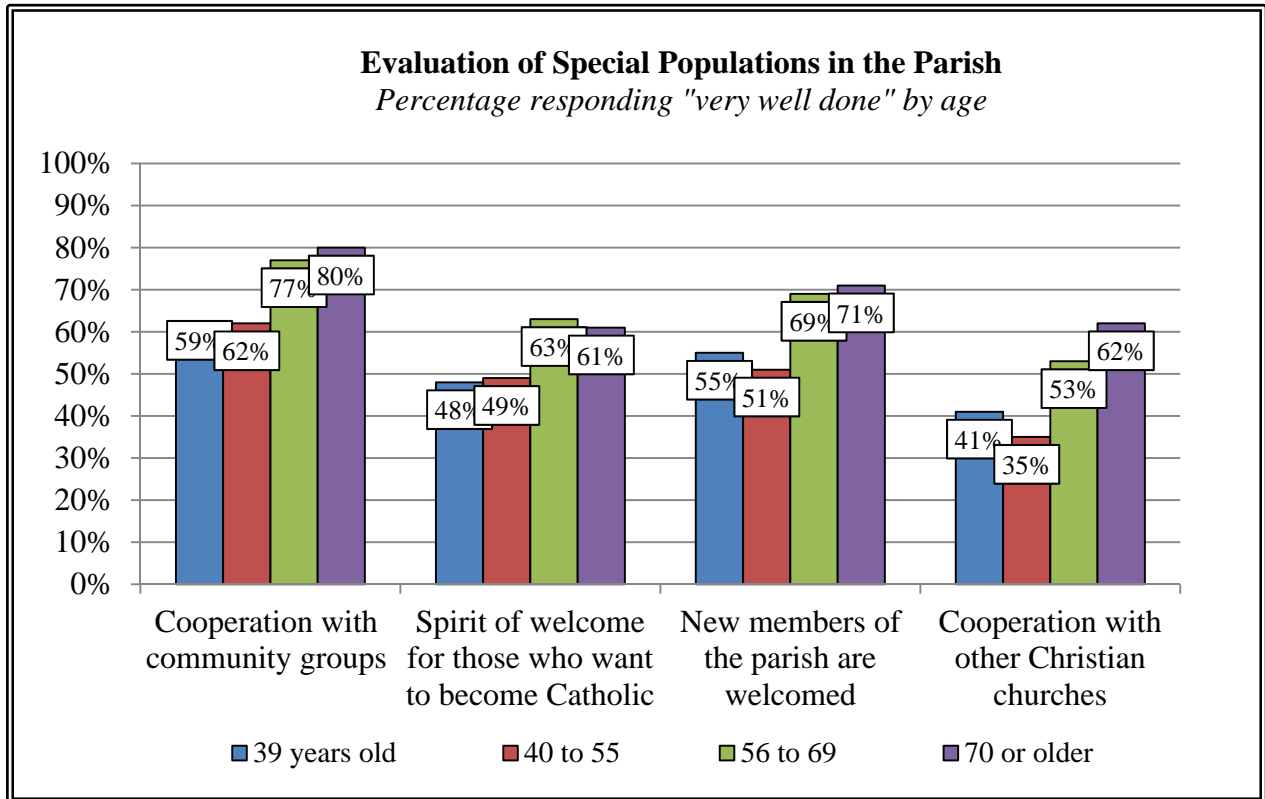
Differences by Age – Priority

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to say that attention to the needs of the sick and shut-in, and support for families who experienced death are “very important.”



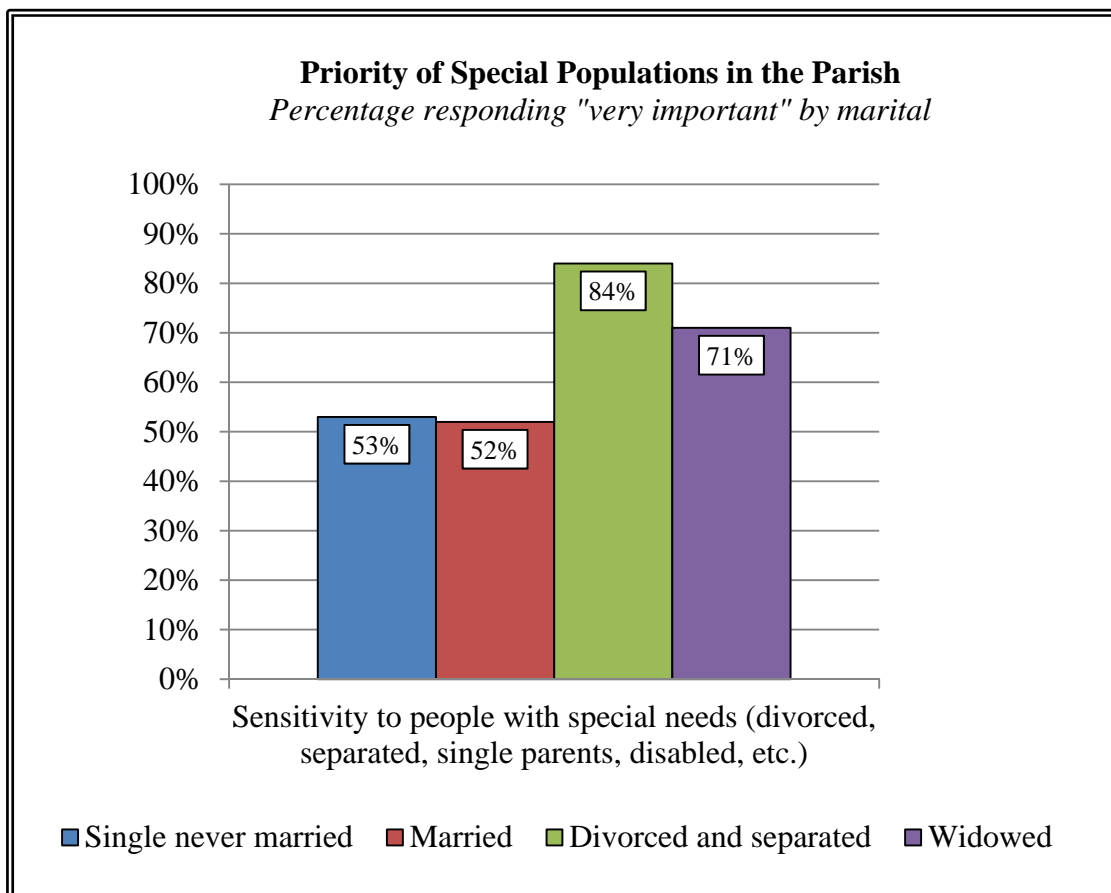
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate aspects of special populations in the parish as “very well done,” particularly with regard to cooperating with community groups and other Christian churches.



Differences by Marital Status – Priority

Sensitivity to people with special needs (divorced, separated, single parents, disabled, etc.) are prioritized as “very important” by respondents who are divorced and separated and widowed at a higher rate than any other marital status. More than four in five respondents who are divorced and separated (84 percent) said that sensitivity to people with special needs is “very important,” compared to only half of those who are married or who are single, never married. While there are differences by marital status in the prioritizing of outreach to these people with special needs, there are no significant differences in the evaluation of outreach to these groups by marital status.



Other topics

This section of the report outlines results of questions that are not thematically as clear as other sections of the report. Each of the parts of this section of the report is comprised of just a few questions that measure an aspect of parish life, and as such, may not be representative of the overall picture of attitudes and priorities for that particular area of parish life, but may be helpful when considering the overall picture of the parish.

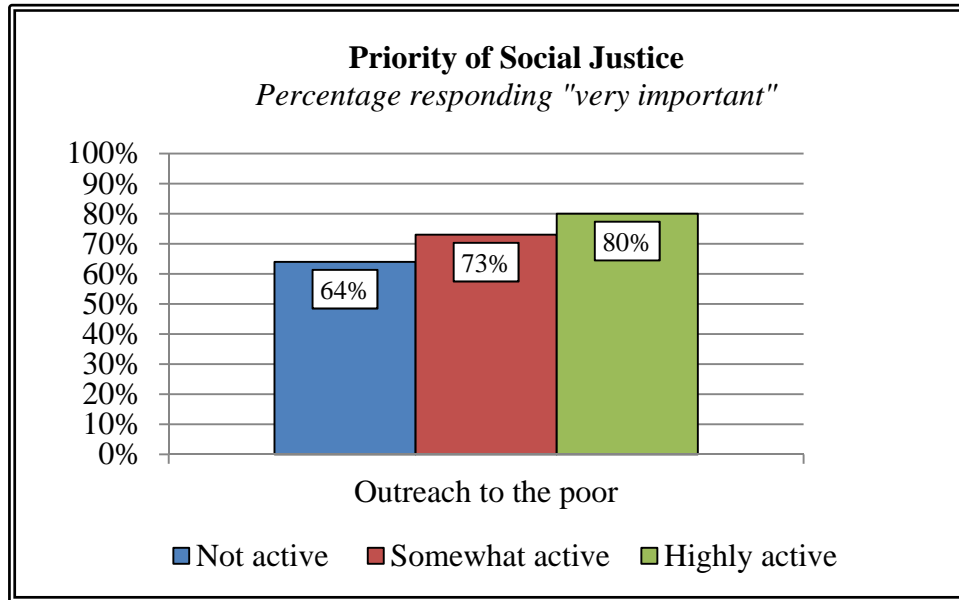
Social Justice

More than nine in ten respondents (93 percent) consider outreach to the poor a high priority and roughly the same proportion of respondents (91 percent) evaluates positively this aspect of the parish.

Social Justice		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Outreach to the poor	91%	93%
Encouragement of parish members to work for social justice	75	79

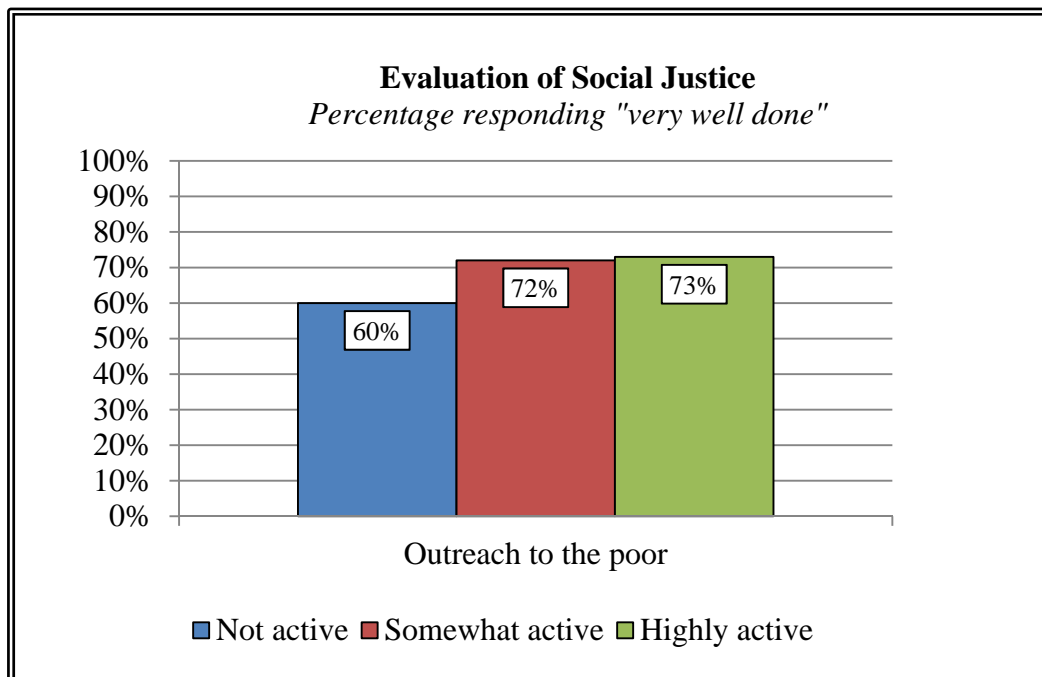
Difference by Activity in the Parish – Priority

Eight in ten respondents (80 percent) who are highly active in the parish say that outreach to the poor is “very important,” while about three in five respondents (64 percent) who are not active in the parish say the same.



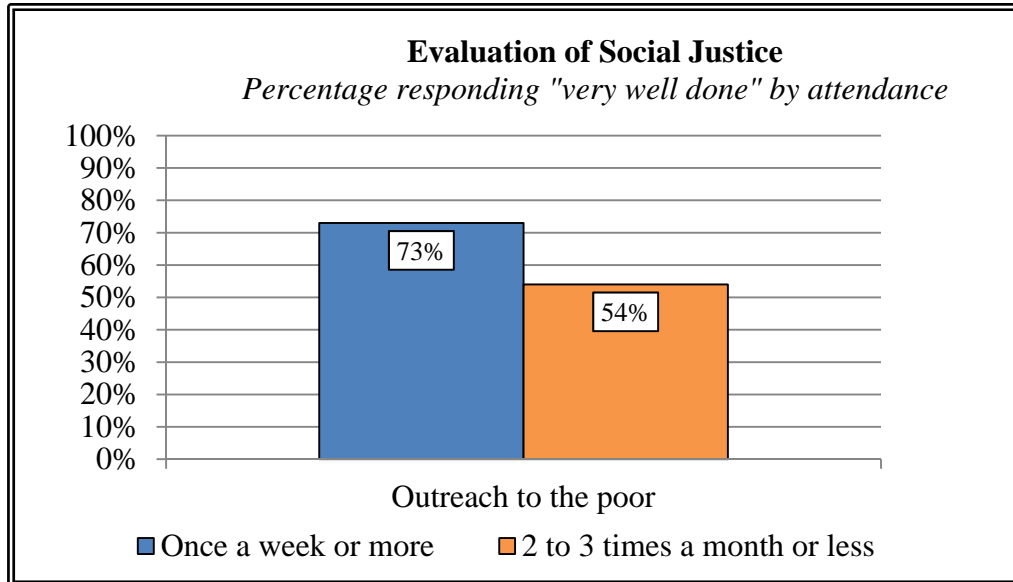
Differences by Activity in the Parish – Evaluation

Respondents who are active in the parish are more likely than those who are not active to evaluate the parish’s outreach to the poor as “very well done.”



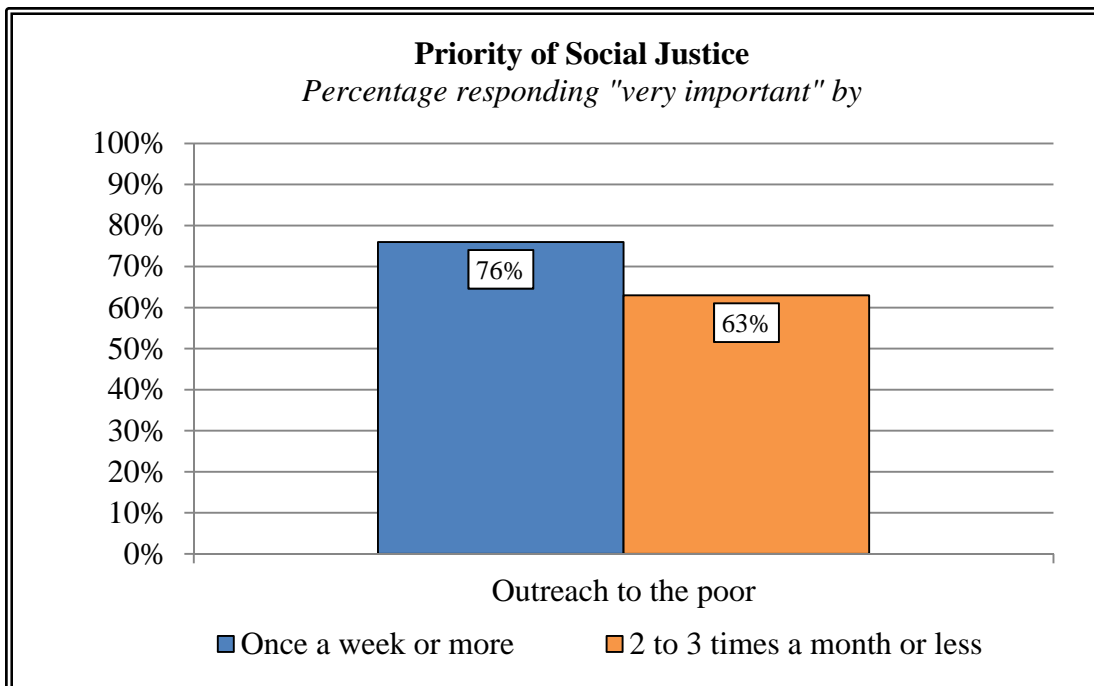
Differences by Attendance – Evaluation

Respondents who attend the parish once a week or more are more likely than less frequent attenders to evaluate the parish's outreach to the poor as "very well done."



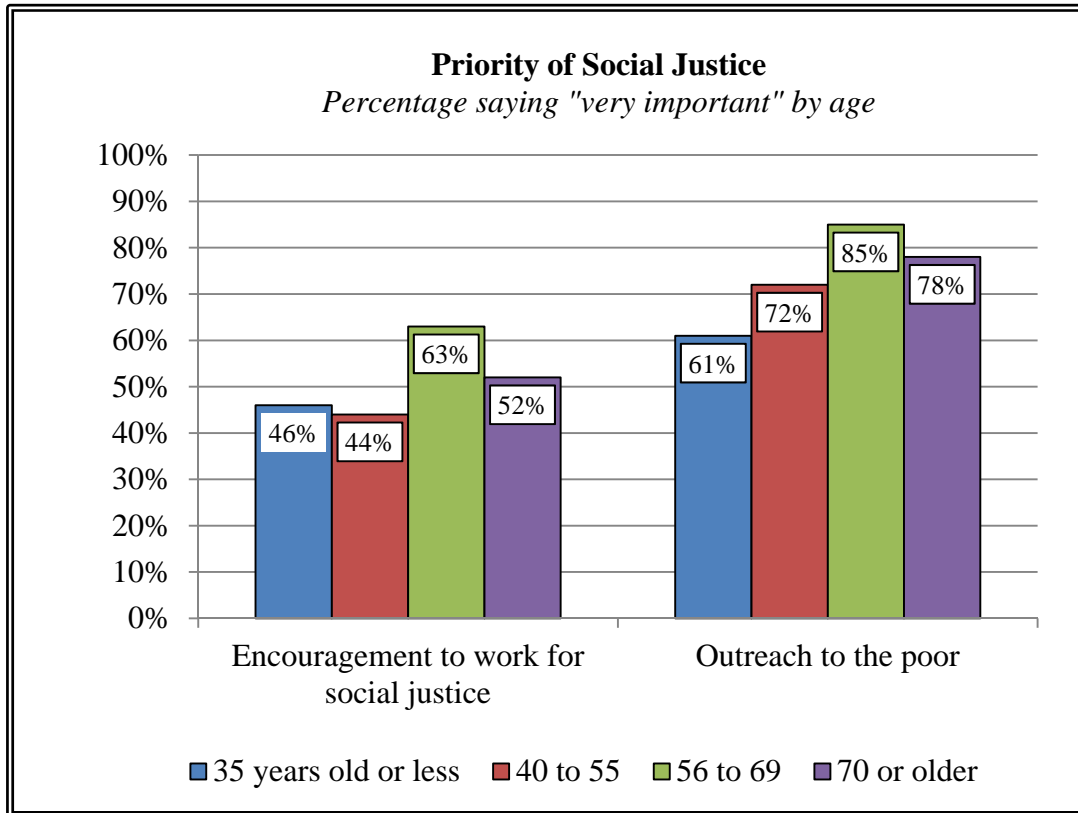
Differences by Attendance – Priority

Respondents who attend Mass more regularly (once a week or more) are more likely than less frequent Mass attenders to prioritize outreach to the poor as "very important."



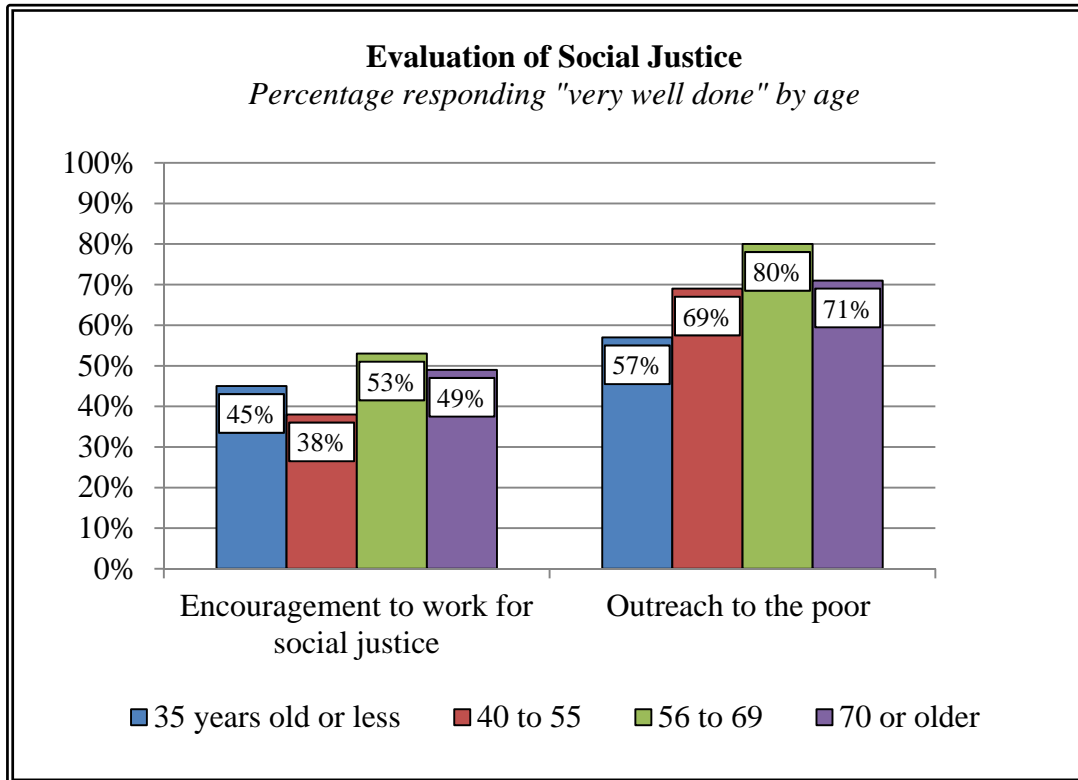
Differences by Age – Priority

In both aspects of social justice at the parish - encouragement to work for social justice and outreach to the poor - respondents aged 56 to 69 years old are most likely to prioritize them as “very important.”



Differences by Age – Evaluation

Respondents between the ages of 56 and 69 are most likely to evaluate the encouragement to work for social justice and outreach to the poor at the parish as “very well done,” followed by those aged 70 or older.



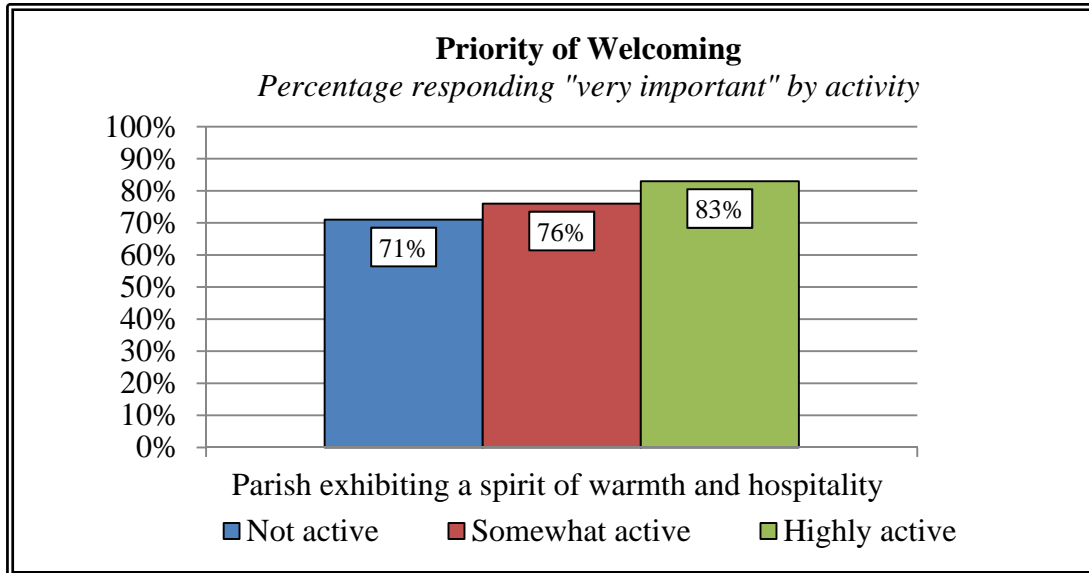
Welcoming

Overall, respondents evaluate positively and place high importance on the parish as a welcoming space. Almost all respondents, (96 percent) place high importance on the parish as a supportive, caring community, as well as exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality.

Welcoming		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
The parish as a supportive, caring community	89%	96%
The parish exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality	91	96

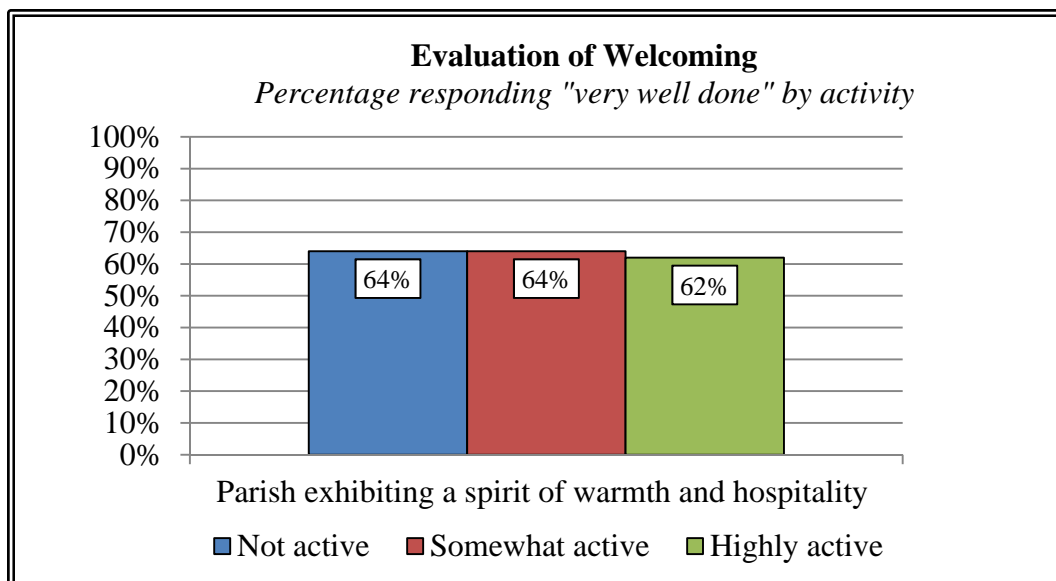
Differences by Activity – Priority

Respondents who are active in the parish are more likely than those who are not to say that the parish exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality is “very important.”



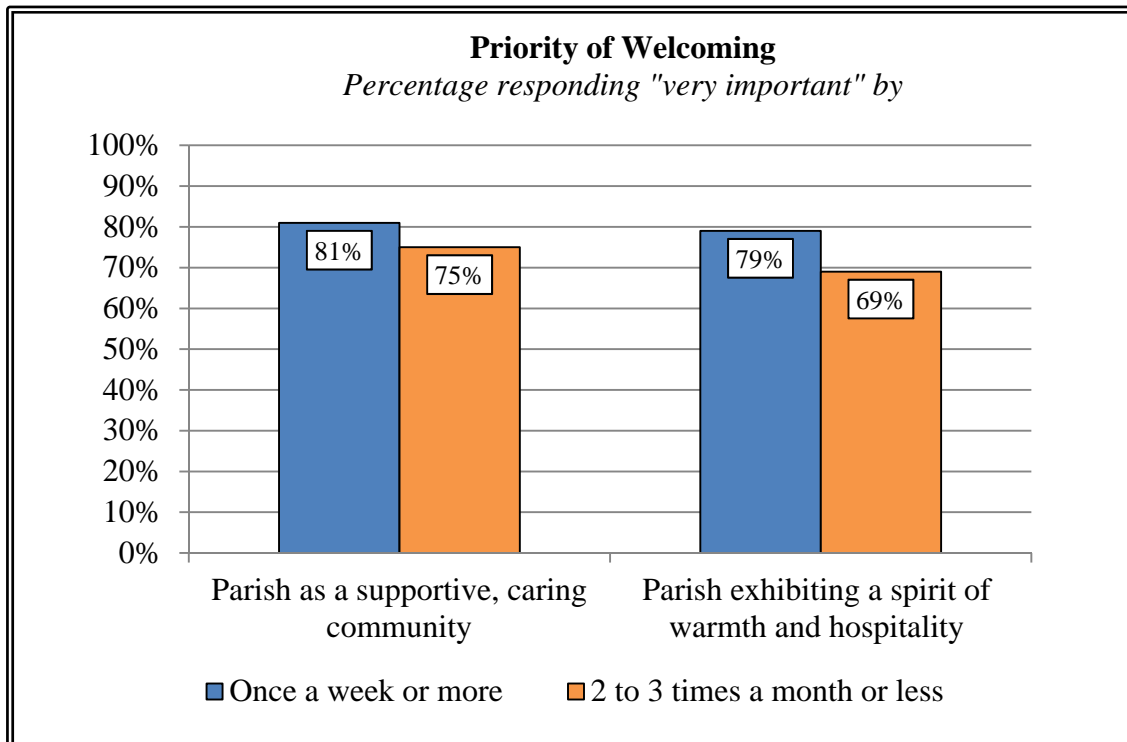
Differences by Activity – Evaluation

There are no major differences by involvement in the parish regarding the evaluation of welcoming at the parish. Respondents who are active in the parish place high priority on the parish being warm and hospitable – more than four in five (83 percent) respondents who are highly active say that a spirit of warmth and hospitality is “very important.” However, regardless of the level of involvement of the respondent, about three in five evaluate the spirit of warmth and hospitality as “very well done.”



Differences by Attendance – Priority

Those who attend Mass more frequently are more likely than less frequent attenders to say that the parish being welcoming and supportive is “very important.” While eight in ten respondents who attend Mass weekly or more often prioritize the parish as a supportive, caring community as “very important” 75 percent of less frequent Mass attenders responded the same way. Likewise, while eight in ten regular Mass attenders prioritize the parish exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality as “very important,” seven in ten less frequent attenders responded the same way (though, this is not a significant difference). Also of note, there is no significant difference by Mass attendance in the evaluation of the parish as supportive, caring, and exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality.



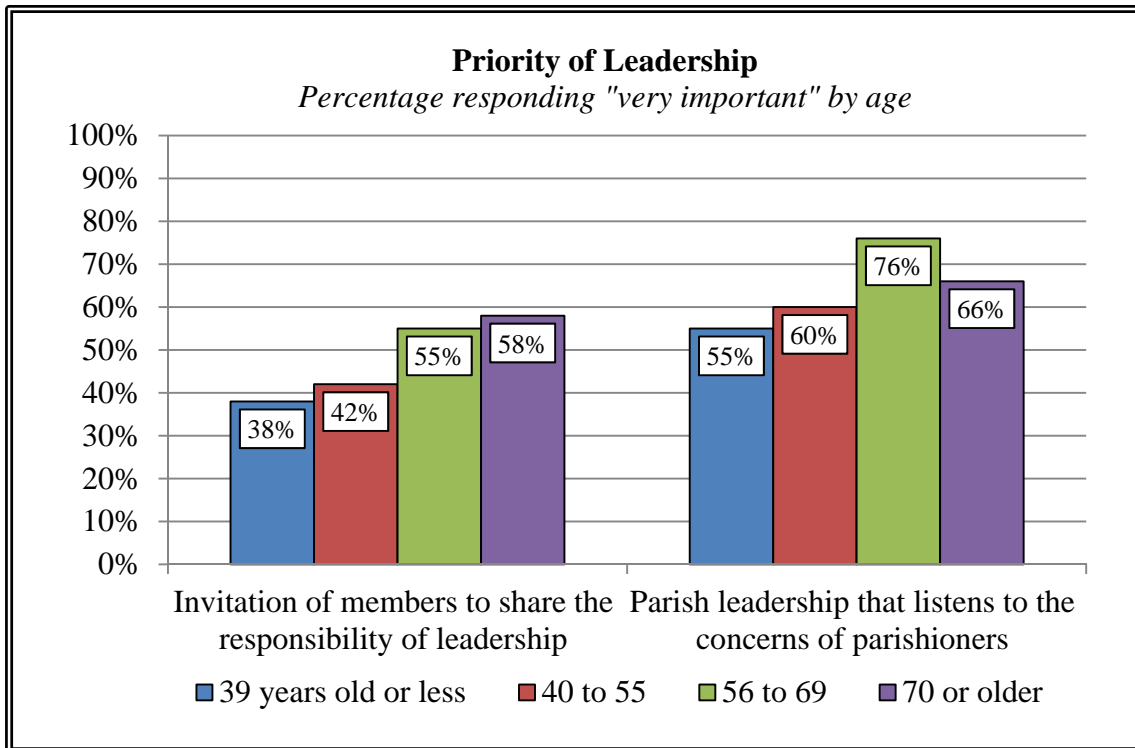
Leadership

Roughly the same proportion of respondents evaluates positively and places high importance on the leadership at the parish. About eight in ten or more respondents evaluate and prioritize highly parish leadership that listens to the concerns of parishioners, and about seven in ten or more respondents evaluate and prioritize highly the invitation of members to share responsibility or leadership.

Leadership		
<i>Percentage responding 4 or 5</i>		
	Evaluation	Priority
Parish leadership that listens to the concerns of parishioners	82%	89%
Invitation of members to share the responsibility of leadership	77	74

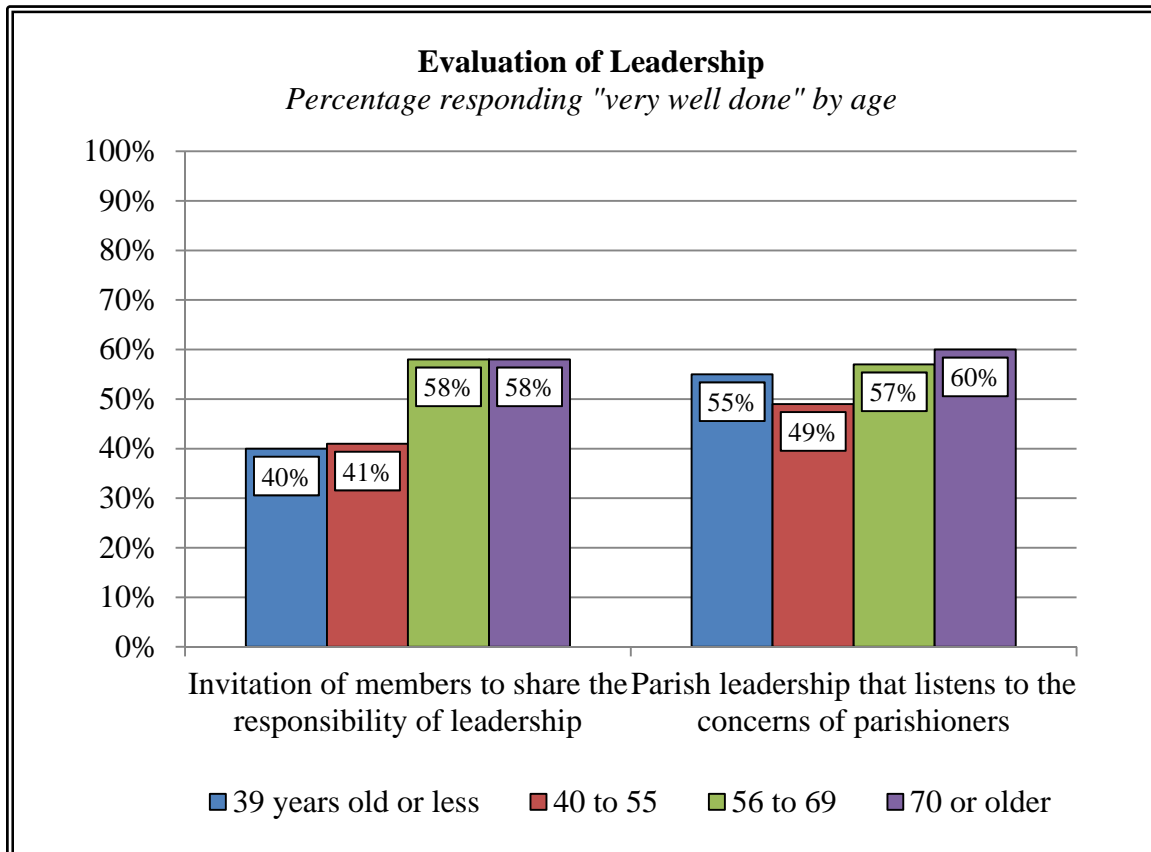
Differences by Age – Priority

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to say that these aspects of leadership at the parish are “very important.”



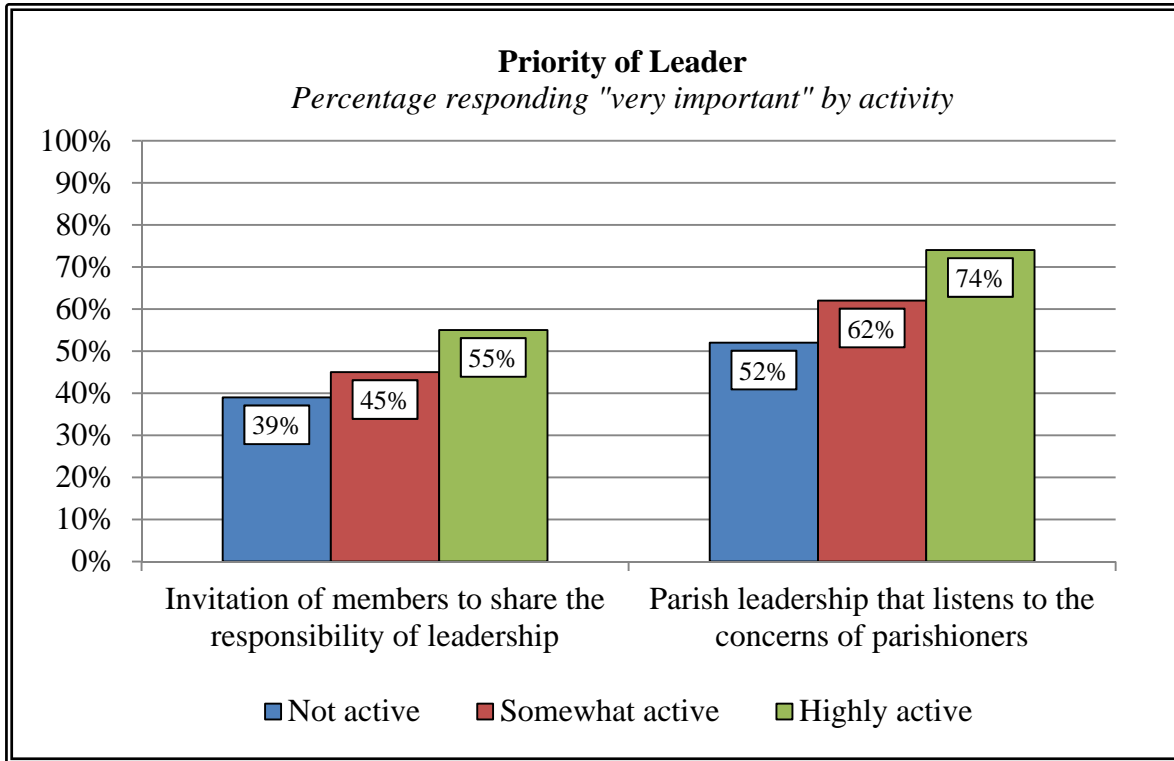
Differences by Age – Evaluation

Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to evaluate aspects of leadership at the parish as “very well done.” Two in five respondents 55 years old or less say that the invitation of members to share the responsibility of leadership is “very well done,” compared to almost three in five respondents (58 percent) ages 56 and older. About six in ten respondents aged 56 and older evaluate as “very well done” the parish leadership listening to the concerns of parishioners, compared to about half of those aged 55 or less.



Differences by Activity – Priority

Respondents who are highly active in the parish are more likely than those not involved in the parish to say the leadership at the parish is “very important.”



Stewardship

Almost nine in ten respondents (87 percent) evaluate the stewardship at the parish positively, while seven in ten respondents (70 percent) place high importance on the annual stewardship appeal.

Stewardship		
Percentage responding 4 or 5		
	Evaluation	Priority
An annual stewardship appeal asking people for commitments of time, talent and treasure	87%	70%

Differences by Age – Priority

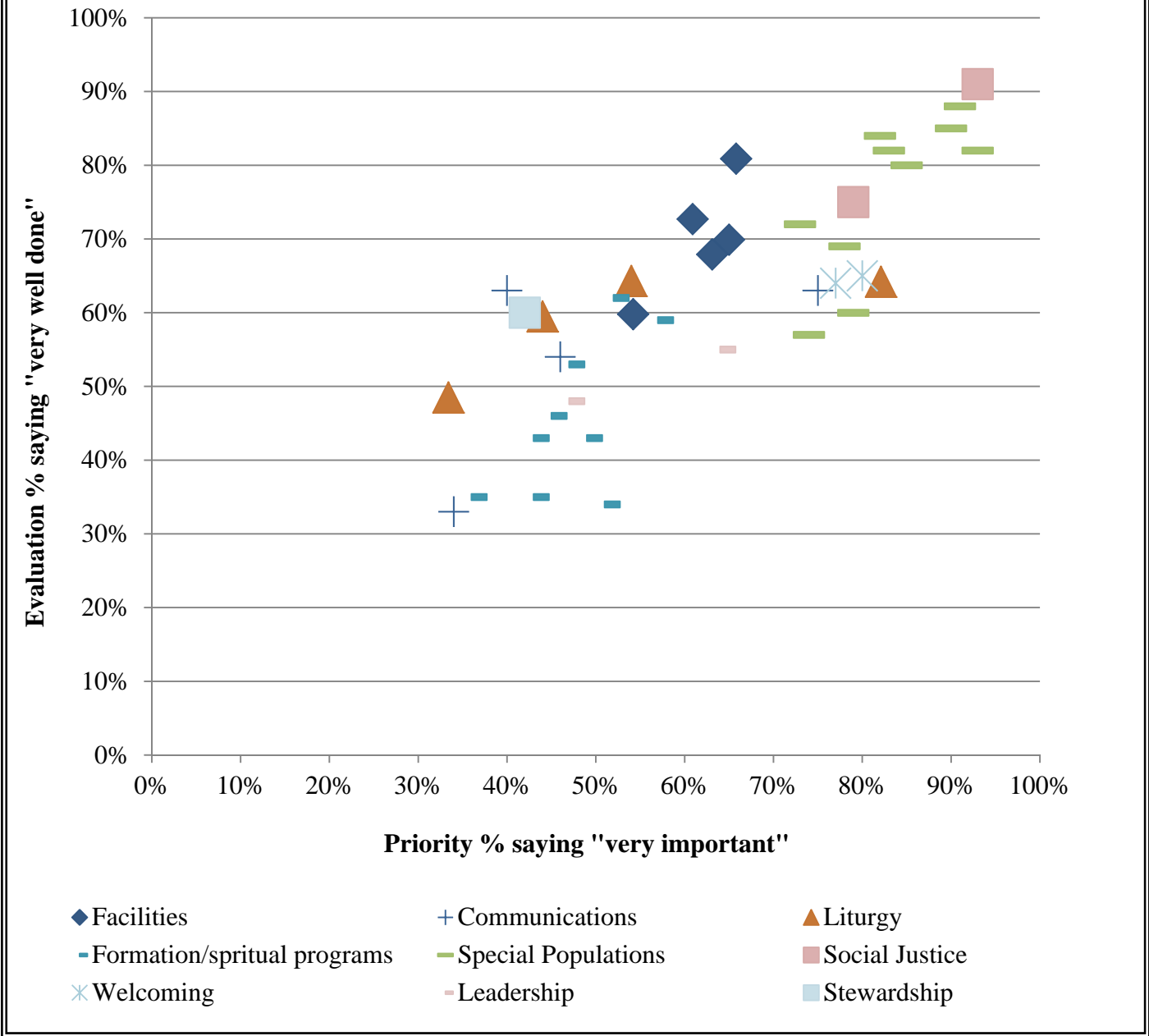
Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to say that an annual stewardship appeal is “very important.” While 53 percent of those ages 56 and older say that this annual appeal is “very important,” that figure drops to 36 percent of those age 40 to 55, and 33 percent of those age 39 or younger.

All Aspects of Parish Life – Evaluation by Priority

The St. Joseph University Parish survey measures a number of aspects of parish life, organized and presented by theme in this report. In order to visualize the overall picture of parish life at St. Joseph University Parish, each of these themes is graphed in the figure below. On the horizontal axis, the percentage of respondents prioritizing each aspect as “very important” is charted, while on the vertical axis is the percentage of respondents evaluating each aspect as “very well done” at the parish. Each aspect of parish life – not each question – is then grouped by a different symbol. For example, the questions asking about facilities are represented with a blue diamond, while the questions asking about formation and spiritual programs are represented with a blue dash.

Charting the aspects all in one figure allows the reader to look for “clusters” of items. In this way, the different aspects of parish life can be compared in terms of evaluation of and priority for in a single figure.

Aspects of Parish Life Evaluation by Priority



- Social justice (as represented by a pink square) and special populations (as represented by a green dash) are two aspects of parish life that have the highest percentage of respondents saying they are “very important” and “very well done” at the parish. Notice how these two aspects have clustered at the upper right side of the figure.
- Respondents also place similar levels of importance and evaluation in the area of formation/spritual growth (represented by a blue dash). The percentages of respondents

saying “very important” and “very well done” on aspects of formation/spiritual growth cluster in a common area at the lower left side of the figure between thirty-five and sixty-two percent indicating a lower evaluation and lesser priority for these questions.

- When asked about priority and evaluation for facilities (represented by a blue diamond), there is a pattern of evaluating facilities as “very well done” at between 60 and 80 percent and prioritizing facilities as “very important” at between 60 and 70 percent. This aspect clusters at about the center of the distribution of aspects of parish life.
- Parish communications (represented by a blue plus sign) is not as clear a distribution as other aspects of parish life. For some measures of parish communications, the evaluation is high but the priority is low. For others, the priority is low but the evaluation is high. For one measure, both the priority and the evaluation are low. Readers are advised to refer back to the section on communications to distinguish which items are distributed in which way.

Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions

St. Joseph University Parish Survey Terre Haute, Indiana

Instructions: Please mark the box that most closely represents your opinion on the following aspects of parish life, both on how well St. Joseph University Parish is doing as a community and then marking how important each item is to you. These surveys will remain anonymous and are for purposes of discernment and the future direction of our church. Thank you for your help.

The survey below was distributed in-pew to Mass attendees in April, 2013. In all, there were 541 valid respondents. Below are the percentage responses for each item, calculated out of 100 percent, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to that question, separately calculated out of 100 percent for clarity of comparison (marked NR for non-response).

1 = Not important/not well done 2 3 4 5 = Very important/well done

Importance to me							How well done in my parish					
1	2	3	4	5	NR		1	2	3	4	5	NR
0	<1	2	16	82	1	1. Masses that are prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving	1	2	6	28	64	2
<1	1	10	24	65	1	2. An interior environment that creates a good atmosphere for worship	<1	1	5	24	70	2
3	6	22	24	44	3	3. The availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	<1	1	10	29	60	6
4	5	16	21	54	6	4. The availability of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick	<1	1	10	25	64	15
1	5	18	32	45	3	5. Programs or activities to promote spiritual growth	<1	2	16	36	46	7
3	10	24	30	33	4	6. Devotional services (Rosary, Stations, Evening Prayer, etc.)	<1	1	15	35	49	9
5	9	23	25	32	5	7. Encouragement of religious vocation	2	6	26	34	33	7
7	6	11	19	57	8	8. Religious education for children (catechesis)	1	1	10	28	59	10
6	6	14	26	49	9	9. Religious education for young adults (beyond confirmation)	2	5	19	31	43	14
6	6	18	23	47	7	10. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults	1	2	12	32	53	10
4	8	19	27	43	7	11. Religious education for adults (beyond confirmation)	1	5	25	34	35	12
7	5	18	18	52	7	12. Ministry to college students/campuses	2	3	12	21	62	10
8	8	17	24	43	10	13. Youth ministry programs for teens	2	4	20	31	43	15
18	13	18	16	36	12	14. Access to a Catholic Elementary school in the area	7	9	27	22	35	17
4	4	17	24	51	8	15. Programs that strengthen and foster family life	1	6	30	29	34	15

Importance to me						How well done in my parish						
1	2	3	4	5	NR		1	2	3	4	5	NR
5	4	14	22	56	5	16. Sensitivity to people with special needs (divorced, separated, single parents, disabled, etc.)	1	4	26	26	43	13
4	4	10	25	57	8	17. Attention to the spiritual and sacramental needs of the sick and shut-in	<1	2	15	28	56	17
2	2	13	20	63	6	18. Encouragement of racial and ethnic harmony	<1	4	15	26	56	11
2	3	15	28	51	8	19. Encouragement of parish members to work for social justice	1	4	19	29	46	11
1	1	6	20	73	4	20. Outreach to the poor	<1	1	8	22	69	7
<1	1	8	20	71	4	21. Cooperation with groups in the community to meet local needs (food pantry, blood drives, etc.)	<1	2	9	20	68	8
1	1	4	20	75	4	22. Promotion of respect for human life	1	2	10	24	63	6
1	2	6	22	68	7	23. Support for families who have experienced death	1	2	13	27	58	15
<1		4	16	80	3	24. The parish as a supportive, caring community	1	<1	9	24	65	5
2	2	11	22	63	8	25. A spirit of welcome and invitation for those interested in becoming Catholic	1	2	16	26	54	11
<1	1	3	19	77	5	26. The parish exhibiting a spirit of warmth and hospitality	<1	1	8	27	64	5
1	1	6	20	73	6	27. New members of the parish are welcomed	1	3	14	22	60	8
3	3	15	27	52	10	28. Outreach to non-practicing Catholics	2	10	28	29	31	17
3	5	18	27	47	10	29. Outreach to non-Christians	4	10	29	27	30	18
4	6	20	22	49	13	30. Sensitivity to religious diversity within families	2	6	26	29	37	22
2	4	20	25	48	9	31. Cooperation with other Christian churches	1	6	22	27	45	15
3	4	19	27	47	9	32. Invitation of members to share the responsibility of leadership	1	5	17	29	48	13
1	2	13	25	58	10	33. Ease in obtaining help and answers when calling the parish	1	1	13	27	59	14
<1	1	9	25	64	7	34. Parish leadership that listens to the concerns of parishioners	1	4	15	27	55	11
8	8	24	21	40	10	35. Annually publishing a parish financial statement	<1	2	10	25	63	14
3	5	21	28	42	9	36. An annual stewardship appeal asking people for commitments of time, talent and treasure	1	1	11	27	60	10
2	5	16	30	46	9	37. Encouragement to become involved in parish ministries	1	2	14	29	54	10
1	2	11	25	61	6	38. Well-maintained parish facilities and grounds	0	1	4	23	73	6
3	4	11	19	63	9	39. Easy access to the church and parish facilities for the physically disabled	1	1	6	24	68	10
1	2	10	21	66	6	40. A church large enough for worship	0	1	3	15	81	6

Importance to me						How well done in my parish						
1	2	3	4	5	NR	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
2	5	16	23	54	8	41. Adequate facilities for meetings and other activities	1	3	11	25	60	10

42. What is your status at this parish	
NR = <1	
24	1. Regular attender but not registered
76	2. Registered parishioner

43. How active are you in this parish?	
NR = 1	
29	1. Not active (no involvement beyond attending mass)
37	2. Somewhat Active (attend some parish events in addition to mass, but usually do not volunteer)
35	3. Highly Active (volunteer as lector, Eucharistic Minister, parish council, fish fry, Samaritan ministry and/or other ministries)

44. How attached do you feel to this parish?	
NR = 1	
2	1. Not at all attached
33	2. Somewhat attached
64	3. Very attached

45. How often do you usually attend Mass at this parish?	
NR = 1	
1	1. Only for special occasions
3	2. Once a month
16	3. 2-3 times a month
71	4. Once a week
10	5. More than once a week

46. Race/Ethnicity: (select one)			
NR = 2			
2	1. African American/Black	4	4. Hispanic/Latino
91	2. Anglo/White	2	5. Native American
2	3. Asian/Pacific		

47. Current Marital Status: (select one)			
NR = <1			
26	1. Single & never married	7	4. Divorced
61	2. Married	6	5. Widowed
<1	3. Separated		

48. Age Category:			
NR = <1			
5	1. 14-17	29	4. 40-55
13	2. 18-25	31	5. 56-69
9	3. 26-39	14	6. 70 or older

49. Gender
NR = <1
40 1. Male
60 2. Female

Mass time:
5:00 pm Saturday 21
9:00 am Sunday 27
11:00 am Sunday 28
7:00 pm Sunday 24