

September 2019

Parish Life Survey

**Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish
Conklin and Ravenna, Michigan**

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

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September 2019



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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey **Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish Conklin and Ravenna, Michigan**

Executive Summary

The Our Cluster of Catholic Churches 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 some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in June 2019. In all, there were 435 valid responses.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Characteristics of Respondents

- In calendar year 2019, the average age of valid respondents to the in-pew survey at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish is 57. Half are 58 or younger.
- For purposes of analysis, CARA divides Catholics into three age groups: those ages 35 and younger, those ages 36 to 64, and those ages 65 and older. Those ages 36 to 64 (45%) are the most common age group at the parish, followed by those ages 65 and older (39%).
- Nearly three in five (57%) respondents to the survey are female and 43% are male. Seventy-seven percent say they are currently married or remarried. Some 11% have never married, 3% are divorced or separated, and 9% are widowed. Twenty percent report having at least one child or stepchild under age 18 living with them.
- Respondents report different relationships to the Cluster. Forty percent say they are registered at St. Joseph's, 37% at St. Catherine's, and 12% at St. Francis Xavier's. Some 5% say they regularly attend at the Cluster but are not registered at any of the Cluster locations, with 6% self-identifying as visitors on the weekend of the survey.

Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

- Nine in ten (89%) give Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall a positive evaluation ("good" and "excellent" combined). Some 28% rate the Cluster as "excellent."
- Some 56% "strongly" agree that they are made to feel welcome at the parish. In a related finding, 26% agree "strongly" that the Cluster has come together as one community.

- Some 88% at least “somewhat” agree that they feel included in parish life, with 43% agreeing “strongly” that they do.
- Efforts to invite parishioners to participate in parish/Cluster life receive an “excellent” rating from 23%.
- Responding parishioners were asked what times of the week they are regularly most available to participate in parish activities, such as committees and adult education. While the different age groups report somewhat different times of availability, 57% report being most regularly available on weekday evenings and 30% report being most regularly available on after the Mass they attend.
- Efforts to foster spiritual growth receive an “excellent” rating from 20% of respondents.
- The following needs are especially likely to receive “high” priority from respondents: youth ministry (58%), children’s religious education/formation (52%), visitation of the sick and homebound (51%), Divine Providence Academy (51%), young adult ministry (46%), ministry to those grieving (45%), and developing a deeper sense of community at the Cluster (43%).
- Respondents were also invited to choose from a predetermined list the three needs to which parish should give most priority. The top five identified are children’s religious education/formation (38%), visitation of the sick and homebound (38%), Divine Providence Academy (35%), youth ministry (34%), and developing a deeper sense of community at the Cluster (32%).

Leadership

- Nearly three in four (73%) give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by Our Cluster leaders, with 23% rating it as “excellent.” The pastor receives an “excellent” rating from 47%, with 36% giving the Pastoral Associate as high a rating.
- Some 46% “strongly” agree they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- Some 50% give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish office staff at St. Joseph, with 47% rating the friendliness of the parish office staff at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier as highly.

Worship

- Masses and liturgies in general receive a positive evaluation from 86% of respondents. Thirty-four percent rate them as “excellent.”
- Some 42% rate the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses as “excellent.” Among those self-identifying as guests, 65% give the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses an “excellent” evaluation.

- Forty-one percent give an “excellent” rating to the music in general at the parish. The homilies in general receive an “excellent” rating from 42% of respondents.
- Some 72% attend Mass once a week or more frequently and another 23% attend almost every week. Mass attendance varies some by age group, with those ages 65 and older (89%) most likely to attend at least once a week and those ages 35 and younger (54%) least likely.
- Having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration receives “high” priority from 21% of respondents. Nineteen percent give “high” priority to the parish providing more small group prayer opportunities.

Sense of Community

- The sense of community within the parish receives a positive rating from 74% of respondents. Some 25% give it an “excellent” rating.
- Social activities receive an “excellent” rating from 21% of respondents. Efforts to help respondents meet other parishioners receive as high of a rating from 12%.
- Developing a deeper sense of community at Our Cluster receives “high” priority from 43% of respondents.

Formation

- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith receive a positive evaluation from 76% of respondents, with 23% giving these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- Twenty-one percent rate as “excellent” efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues.
- Divine Providence Academy overall receives an “excellent” rating from 35%. Some 45% give as high a rating to the principal of Divine Providence Academy and 44% give as high of a rating to the quality of the teaching at the school.
- Divine Providence Academy is given “high” priority by 51% of respondents. In related findings, 59% “strongly” agree that they support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of Our Cluster’s major priorities and 47% (of those for whom the question is applicable) agree as strongly that they are considering sending their children to the school.
- Some 28% rate sacramental preparation programs for children and youth an “excellent” rating. A quarter (25%) rate the RCIA process as highly.

- Children’s religious education programs receive an “excellent” rating from 26%, with 46% giving as high a rating to the youth ministry program. Twenty percent give an “excellent” rating to the Director of Religious Education, with 51% rating the Director Youth Ministry as “excellent.”
- About half (52%) place “high” priority on children’s religious education/formation and 58% place as much priority on youth ministry.
- Some 12% say they have attended adult faith formation classes at the parish. Faith formation for adults receives an “excellent” rating from 19%.
- Thirty percent place “high” priority on adult faith formation.

Stewardship

- Ninety-one percent agree at least “somewhat” that they understand the concept of stewardship, with 55% agreeing “strongly” that they do.
- Parish efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish receive a positive evaluation from 82%. Some 28% rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Parish efforts to invite participation in ministries receive an “excellent” evaluation from 18% of respondents.
- A third (33%) report *not* being involved with any ministries or activities at the parish, 30% are involved with one, and 37% are involved with two or more.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize receive a positive rating from 62% of respondents. Some 17% give these efforts an “excellent” rating.
- When asked to evaluate parish outreach to 15 groups, respondents are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to outreach to teens (38%), children (25%), those sick or homebound (25%), those grieving (25%), and senior citizens (22%). They are least likely to give the same rating to outreach to single parents (14%), those divorced or separated (12%), and single adults (12%).
- Respondents were asked to choose the top three groups to which the parish should give most priority for outreach. The six most commonly selected groups are teens (45%), young adults (44%), those sick or homebound (28%), children (26%), new parishioners (26%), and those grieving (22%).
- Parish outreach to visitors and guests receives an “excellent” rating from 16% of respondents. Some 15% give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s outreach to new parishioners.

Social Justice

- Outreach to and advocacy for those in need receives a positive rating from 67% of respondents. Twenty-one percent rate these efforts as “excellent.”
- Some 25% rate parish outreach to those sick or homebound as “excellent.” Visitation of the sick and homebound receives “high” priority from 51%.
- Parish outreach to those in financial need receives an “excellent” evaluation from 16% of responding parishioners. Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy receive “high” priority from 35%.

Parish Communications

- Communication with parishioners receives a positive evaluation from 76% of respondents, with 23% rating these efforts as “excellent.”
- Ways of communicating related to the weekend Masses are particularly likely to be seen positively. Six in ten or more “strongly” agree that they listen to the announcements at Mass (76%) and that the bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life (61%). Fewer “strongly” agree that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information (55%), that they feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster (35%), and that they use parish social media as a source of information (32%).

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish Conklin and Ravenna, Michigan

Introduction

The Our Cluster of Catholic Churches 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 some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in June 2019. In all, there were 435 valid responses. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 435 provides a margin of error of approximately ± 4.7 percentage points.¹

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four-point response scales (i.e., “not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “high”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow respondents to choose between two relatively “negative” choices (e.g., “poor” and “fair”) and two relatively “positive” choices (e.g., “good” and “excellent”). In parts of the analysis in this report, these responses are combined to allow for clearer comparisons. However, as sometimes examining the most positive response distinguishes important contrasts in level of support, those responses are presented separately.

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%, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to each question, separately calculated out of 100% 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

¹ Strictly 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.

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 Age Groups 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 20 years, CARA has a database of characteristics of parish life gathered from more than 1,000 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.

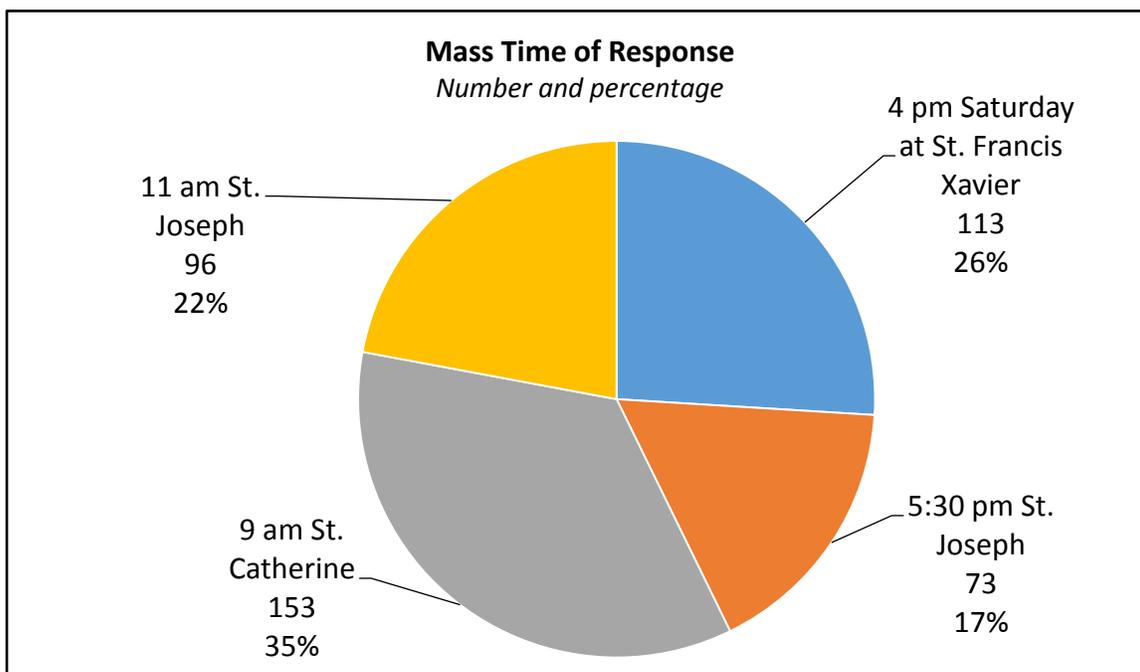
In this report, where possible, results from Our Cluster of Catholic Churches current Parish Life Survey are compared to the aggregate responses from the Parish Life Survey National Database of Parish Life to put the parish results into a larger national context. Additionally, where available, comparisons 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 2012. For all of these comparisons, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful.

Tables appear throughout the report comparing the responses of the registrants at the different Cluster locations. These differences are presented regardless of whether a difference meets standard statistical tests. Instead, the rule-of-thumb used for whether to highlight a difference is whether there are differences among the sites of at least 10 percentage points.

The results of this survey fairly represent the characteristics and attitudes of people ages 16 or older who attend Mass at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches. 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 only involved in parish functions excluding Mass.

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 at St. Catherine's.



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

Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the report includes demographic and other descriptive data for the 435 valid 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.

Age

Valid respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches surveyed in 2019 were born between 1925 and 2003. The average age of respondents is 57, with half saying they are 58 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.² The most common age range reported is 55 to 64 (22%).

Age in 2019, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Age Range	%	%	%
18-24***	4	4	9
25-34	9	9	17
35-44	10	20	20
45-54	15	23	19
55-64	22	19	20
65-74	20	15	10
75 or older	20	10	5

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

- Overall, Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents report being older than those responding in-pew nationally. Some 23% of Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents are under age 45 compared to 33% of Catholics in pew nationally.

² Source: Mark M. Gray, and Mary L. Gautier. 2012. *Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012*.

- They differ significantly from self-identified Catholics nationally. Some 23% of Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents are under age 45 compared to 46% of Catholics nationally.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

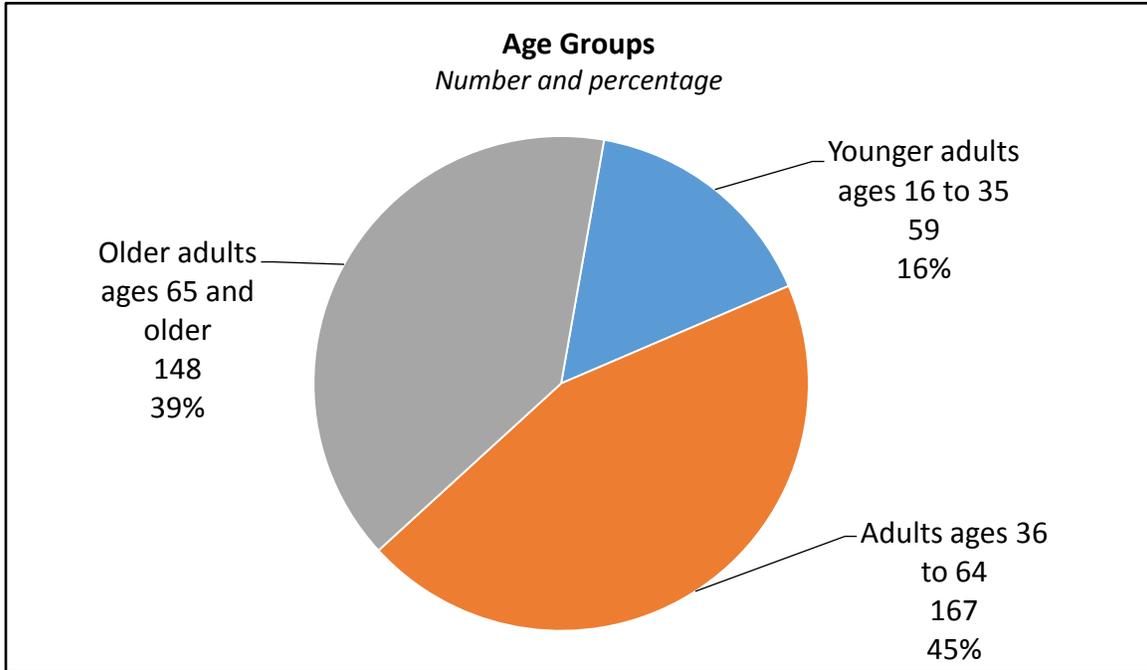
Those registered at St. Joseph’s report an average age of 56, those at St. Catherine’s report an average of 57, and those at St. Francis Xavier an average age of 67. The age ranges for the three Cluster sites appears in the table below. St. Francis Xavier’s registrants are also older by another measure, with 7% of St. Francis Xavier’s population under age 45 compared to 21% of those at St. Catherine’s and 27% of those at St. Joseph’s.³

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
Age Range	%	%	%
18-24	5	0	4
25-34	9	7	8
35-44	7	0	15
45-54	15	7	17
55-64	23	26	21
65-74	20	26	19
75 or older	21	33	16

³ As was discussed in the Introduction, only statistically significant differences are presented in the figures of the report. For tables like the one below, the differences are presented regardless of whether they meet the standards for tests for statistical significance. Also, concerning the text above these kinds of tables describing the differences between the Cluster locations, only differences of 10 percentage points or more will be discussed and treated as meaningful.

Age Groups

For purposes of analysis, CARA divides Catholics into the three age groups displayed in the figure below. The most common age group at the parish is those ages 36 to 64 (45%).



These three age groups will be used for comparisons throughout the rest of the report.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

The average age of those registered at St. Catherine’s is 57. The age ranges for the three Cluster sites appears in the table below, with St. Francis Xavier having the largest proportion of those ages 65 and older.

Age Groups, by Cluster Location			
Age Range	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
18 to 35	17	7	15
36 to 64	44	33	50
65 and older	39	60	35

Gender

Fifty-seven percent of respondents identify as female and 43% as male. These percentages for females are slightly less than Catholics nationally in pew (64%) but higher than the percentage of self-identified Catholics nationally identifying as female (51%).

Gender, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
	%	%	%
Female	57	64	51
Male	43	36	49
<p><i>*Source: CARA's 2012 Emerging Models study</i></p> <p><i>**Source: CARA's 2012 Media Use study</i></p>			

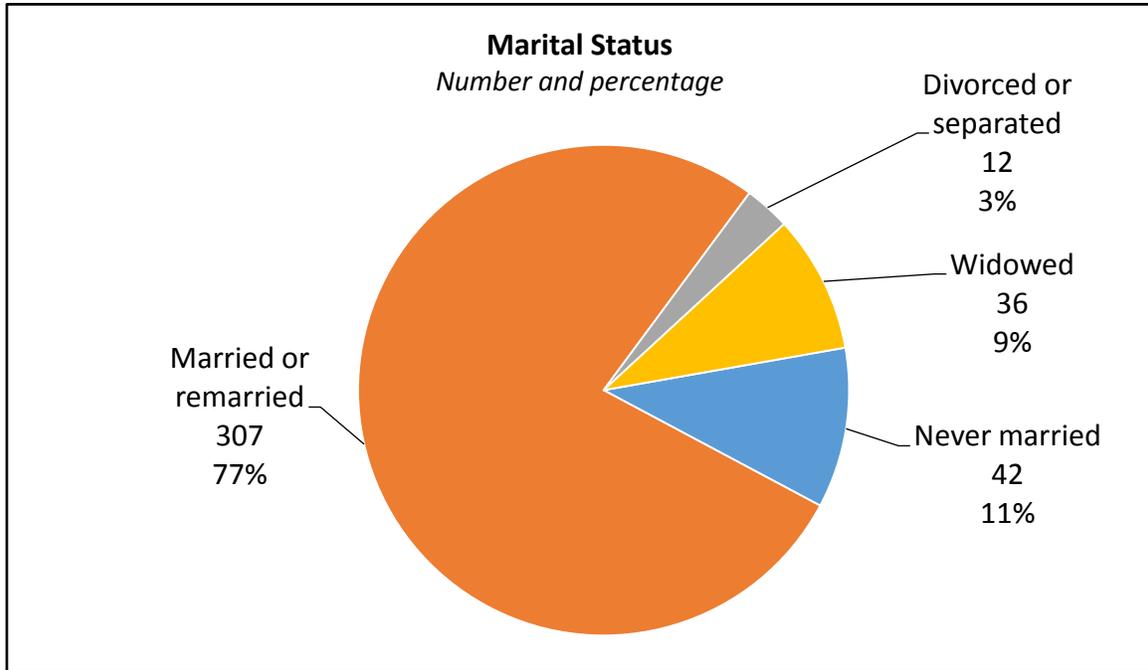
Comparison among Cluster Locations

Registered parishioners at St. Francis Xavier are particularly likely to be female (64%).

Gender, by Cluster Location			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
Female	58	64	56
Male	42	36	44

Marital Status

Seventy-seven percent of respondents are currently married or remarried. Some 11% have never married, 3% are divorced or separated, and 9% are widowed.



Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Marital status at the parish is compared to the national data in the table below. The percentage married or remarried at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches (77%) is higher than the percentage among Catholics in-pew nationally (70%) and the percentage among Catholics nationally (62%).

Marital Status, Compared to Catholics Nationally			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
Marital Status	%	%	%
Never married***	11	15	24
Married or remarried	77	70	62
Divorced or separated	3	8	9
Widowed	9	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*

- Eleven percent have never married, compared to about one in seven in-pew Catholics nationally (15%) and a quarter of adult Catholics nationally (24%).
- Some 3% are divorced or separated, compared to almost one in ten Catholics in pew and nationally (8% or 9%).
- One in ten Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents (9%) have been widowed, compared to about one in 20 (5% to 7%) of those in pew and nationally.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

Respondents registered at St. Joseph's (13%) and St. Catherine's (10%) are especially likely to have never married.

Marital Status, by Cluster Location			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
Marital Status	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
Never married	10	2	13
Married or remarried	79	79	76
Divorced or separated	2	5	2
Widowed	10	14	9

Differences by Age Group

Marital status differs by age group. Those age 35 and younger are particularly likely to have never married (46%); those ages 36 to 64 are most likely to be married (90%); and those ages 65 and older are most likely to be widowed (21%).

Marital Status, by Age Group			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Ages 35 and Younger	Ages 36 to 64	Ages 65 and Older
	%	%	%
Single, never married	46	5	3
Married or remarried	53	90	74
Divorced or separated	2	5	1
Widowed	0	1	21

Children in the Household

Respondents report having from zero to five of their children or stepchildren under age 18 living with them. Some 20% of respondents have at least one child of any age (including stepchildren) living with them.

Children or Stepchildren Living in Household	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	%
No children	80
One child	4
Two children	7
Three or more children	9
Ages 12 or younger	14
Ages 13 to 17	10

Taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to these questions, respondents report 84 children or stepchildren ages 12 and younger living with them and 45 children or stepchildren ages 13 to 17 living with them.⁴

Comparison among Cluster Locations

The number of children varies among those at the different Cluster sites:

- Again taking into account that in some households two parents may have responded to these questions, St. Catherine registrants report having 14 children ages 12 or younger and 28 children ages 13 to 17 living with them in their household.
- St. Francis Xavier registrants report having eight children ages 12 or younger and one child between the age of 13 to 17 living with them in their household.
- St. Joseph registrants report having 50 children ages 12 or younger and 13 children ages 13 to 17 living with them in their household.

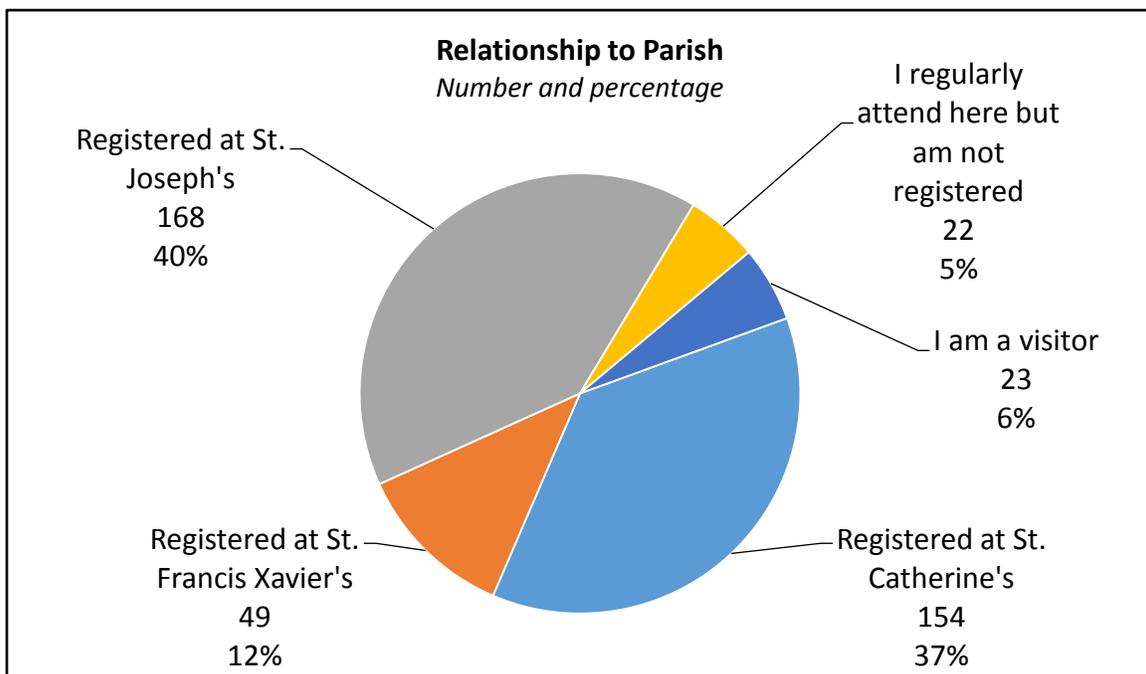
⁴ This was calculated using the yes/no response to this question: “Did/will your spouse also complete this survey?”

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This part of the report describes several characteristics of the 435 valid respondents to the survey that relate to their religious attributes and parish-related behaviors.

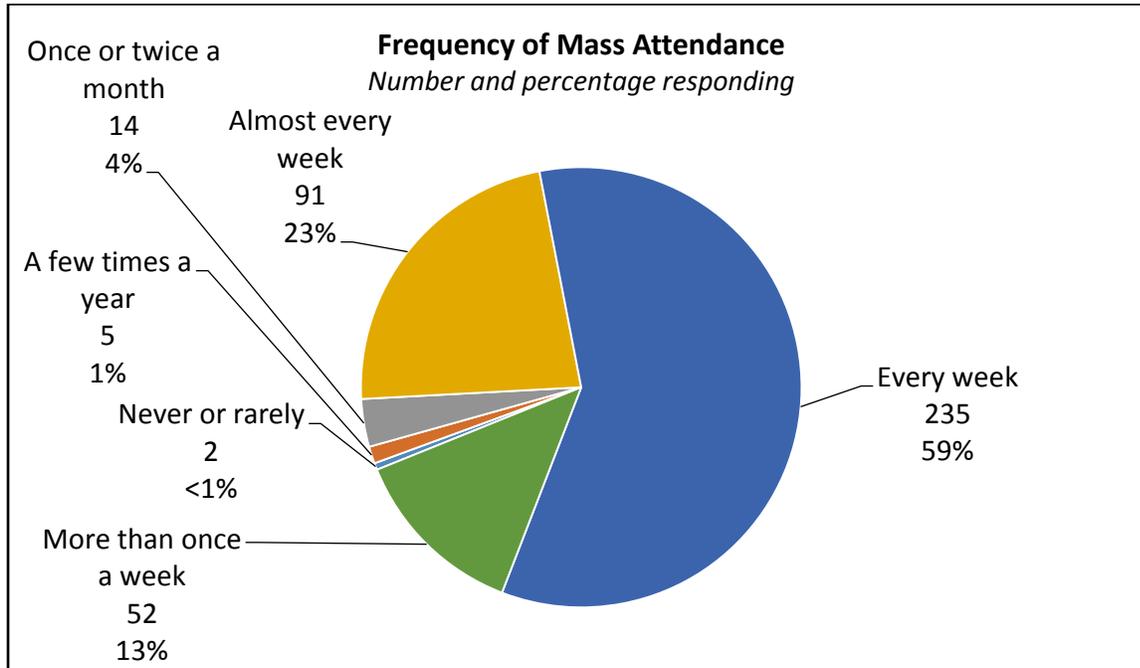
Relationship to the Parish

Respondents were asked about their relationship to the parish. About two-fifths report being registered at St. Joseph's (40%) or at St. Catherine's (37%). Some 12% are registered at St. Francis Xavier's (12%). Some 5% say they regularly attend at the Cluster of Catholic Churches in Conklin but are not registered at any of the parishes and 6% identify themselves as visitors.



Frequency of Mass Attendance

Some 72% of respondents report attending Mass at least once a week (“every week” plus “more than once a week”). An additional 23% attend almost every week and 4% attend once or twice a month. One percent attends less frequently than that. One percent attends less frequently than that.



Comparison to Catholics Nationally

Compared to in-pew Catholics nationally (71%), Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents are about as likely to attend Mass at least once a week (72%).

Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents (72%) are considerably more likely to attend Mass at least once a week than are self-identified Catholic adults nationally (23%).

About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*	Catholics Nationally**
	%	%	%
Never or rarely	1	<1	32
A few times a year	1	2	24
Once/twice a month	4	6	10
Almost every week	23	21	11
Every week	59	57	20
More than once a week	13	14	3

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

Comparison among Cluster Locations

Those registered at St. Joseph's (77%) and St. Catherine's (74%) are especially likely to attend Mass at least once a week, compared to 63% of those at St. Francis Xavier's.

Those registered at St. Francis Xavier's (33%), on the other hand, are more likely to report attending almost every week than those at St. Catherine's (24%) and St. Joseph's (18%).

Differences by Age Group

Those ages 65 and older (89%) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those ages 36 to 64 (64%) and those under age 35 (54%).

Those under age 35 (34%) and between ages 36 and 64 (31%), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those ages 65 and older (9%).

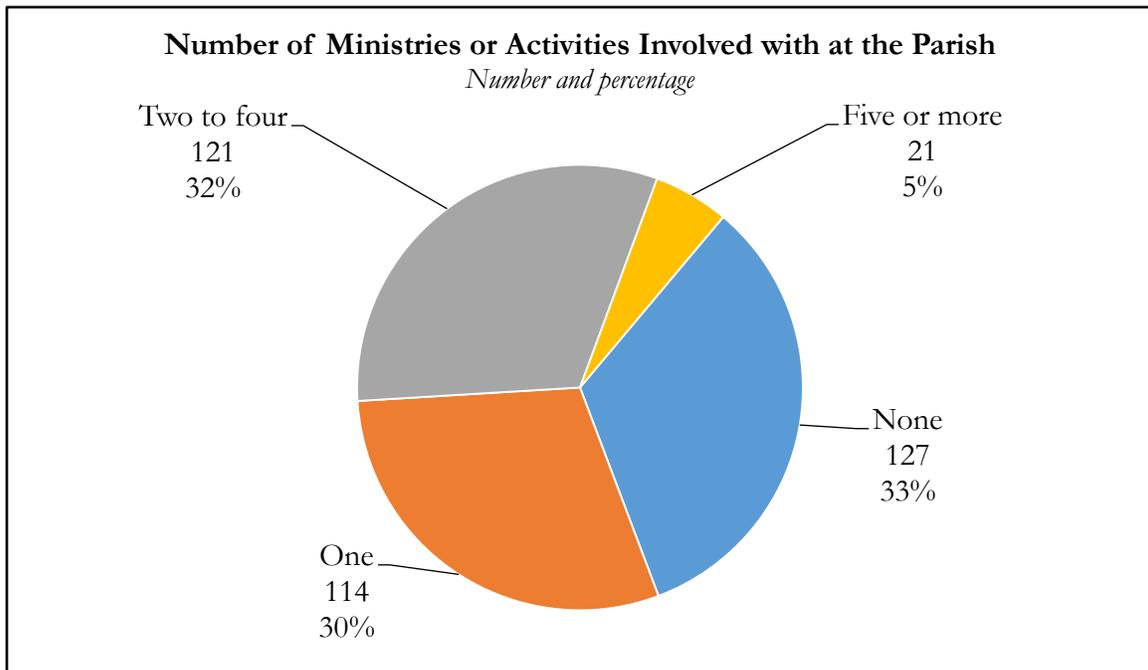
Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- 12% of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish.
- 25% have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years. Registrants at St. Catherine's (33%) are most likely to report having children who have attended such classes in the past five years, compared to 26% of those at St. Joseph's and 8% of those at St. Francis Xavier's.
- 21% have children who have attended Divine Providence Academy in the past five years. Those registered at St. Catherine's (24%) and St. Joseph's (24%) are more likely to have had children go to the Academy than those at St. Francis Xavier's (10%).

Ministry and Activity Participation

Two-thirds (67%) report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish in the past year. Some 33% are not involved with any.



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

- Those not involved in any parish ministries or activities (127 respondents or 33%)
- Those involved in at least one parish ministry or activity (256 respondents or 67%)

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents (67%) are more likely to report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish as those parishes CARA has worked with in the past (50%).

Number of Ministries or Activities Involved With		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
None	33	50
One	30	23
Two	32	22
Three or more	5	3

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

- Some 37 percent of Our Cluster of Catholic Churches respondents are involved in two or more ministries or activities, compared to 25% of those at parishes nationally.
- A third (33%) are not involved with any parish ministries or activities, compared to half of those at parishes nationally.

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 65 and older (70%) and ages 36 to 64 (69%) are most likely to be involved with one or more parish ministries or activities, with those under age 35 (59%) relatively less likely.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

Some 76% of those registered at St. Catherine’s are involved with one or more parish ministries or activities, compared to 70% of those at St. Joseph’s and 61% of those at St. Francis Xavier’s.

Number of Ministries or Activities Involved With, by Cluster Location			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
None	24	39	30
One	32	31	31
Two	38	23	34
Three or more	7	8	5

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish Life Survey are very positive. Thirteen 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. The areas of parish life addressed are:

- Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Persons and Programs
- Evaluation of Faith Formation and School Personnel and Programs
- Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses
- Evaluation of Parish Efforts
- Evaluation of Parish Life After the Clustering of the Parishes
- Evaluation of Parish Outreach
- Top Priority for Parish Outreach
- Priority for Parish Needs
- Top Priority for Parish Needs
- Times of the Week Available
- Attitudes about Parish Life
- Attitudes about Stewardship

Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

This section presents the survey’s most general evaluation of parish life. Besides an evaluation of the parish 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. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

The combined positive evaluations are presented first below, followed by the “excellent” evaluations only.⁵

Combined Positive Evaluations

Nine in ten respondents (89%) give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to Our Cluster of Catholic Churches Parish overall.

Please evaluate these aspects of parish life		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
	%	%
Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall	89	94
Masses and liturgies in general	86	94
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	82	91
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	76	91
Sense of community within the parish	74	87
Vision provided by parish leaders	73	90
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	67	–
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	62	88
 <i>*Source: CARA’s 2012 Emerging Models study</i>		

- Masses and liturgies in general (86%) and efforts to encourage parishioners to share their time, talents and treasure with the parish (82%) receive positive evaluations from more than eight in ten respondents.

⁵ While respondents were given response categories ranging from “poor” to “excellent,” only the positive side of the scale is presented in this section. This approach allows for the parish to identify its strengths as well as the areas most in need of improvement. For further discussion of this, please see the Interpreting This Report subsection of the Introduction. To see all responses to the question, including the non-response rate, please see Appendix I.

- About three in four give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (76%), the sense of community within the parish (74%), and the vision provided by parish leaders (73%).
- Parish efforts to reach out to and advocate for those in need (67%) and to spread the Gospel or evangelize (62%) are given a positive evaluation by two in three or slightly less.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally⁶

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 13 to 17 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to the following aspects of parish life (ordered from largest to smallest differences):

- Vision provided by parish leaders (73% compared to 90%)
- Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing (62% compared to 88%)
- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (76% compared to 91%)
- Sense of community within the parish (74% compared to 87%)

⁶ As discussed in the Introduction, only differences of 10 percentage points or more are treated as meaningful.

Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

Registered parishioners at St. Catherine are among the most likely to positively evaluate the Cluster overall and the Masses and liturgies in general. They are among the least likely to give a positive evaluation to the Cluster’s efforts to reach out to and advocate for those in need.⁷

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall	95	92	84
Masses and liturgies in general	92	92	81
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	82	84	84
Sense of community within the parish	77	81	71
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	76	84	73
Vision provided by parish leaders	74	84	66
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	64	70	66
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	59	74	60

- Those registered at St. Francis Xavier among the most likely to say the following aspect of parish life are “good” or “excellent”: Masses and liturgies in general, the sense of community within the parish, efforts to educate parishioners in the faith, the vision provided by parish leaders, and efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize.
- St. Joseph registrants are among the least likely to give the following aspects of parish life a positive evaluation: the Cluster overall, Masses and liturgies in general, the sense of community within the parish, efforts to educate parishioners in the faith, the vision provided by parish leaders, and efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize.

⁷ As was discussed in the Introduction, only statistically significant differences are presented in the figures of the report. For tables like the one below, the differences are presented regardless of whether they meet the standards for tests for statistical significance. Also, concerning the text above these kinds of tables describing the differences between the Cluster locations, only differences of 10 percentage points or more will be discussed and treated as meaningful.

“Excellent” Evaluations

Some 28% of respondents give an “excellent” rating to Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall.

<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
	%	%
Masses and liturgies in general	34	59
Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall	28	58
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	28	57
Sense of community within the parish	25	46
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	23	55
Vision provided by parish leaders	23	50
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	21	–
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	17	45

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

- About a quarter to a third give an “excellent” evaluation to the following aspects of parish life: Masses and liturgies in general (34%), encouragement to share one’s time, talents and treasure with the parish (28%), the sense of community within the parish (25%), efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (23%), and the vision provided by parish leaders (23%).
- Parish efforts to reach out to and advocate for those in need (21%) and to spread the Gospel or evangelize (17%) are given an “excellent” rating from about two in ten respondents.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Those at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 21 to 32 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the following aspects of parish life:

- Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith (23% compared to 55%)
- Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall (28% compared to 58%)
- Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish (28% compared to 57%)

- Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing (17% compared to 45%)
- Vision provided parish leaders (23% compared to 50%)
- Masses and liturgies in general (34% compared to 59%)
- Sense of community within the parish (25% compared to 46%)

Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

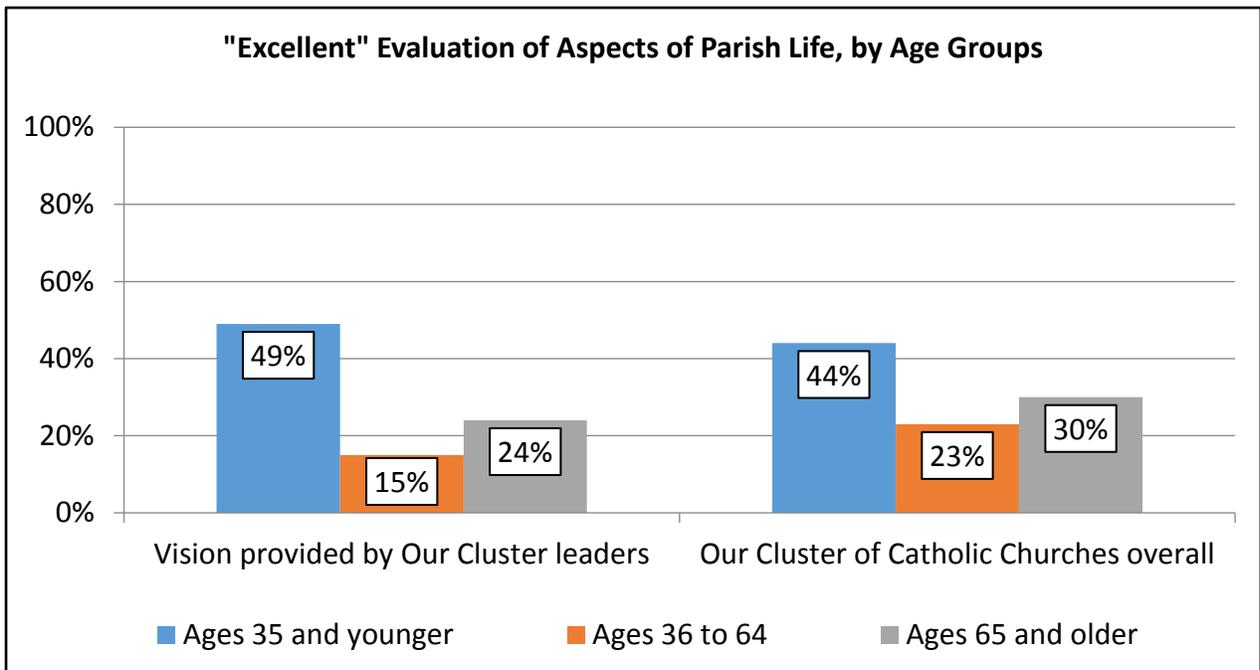
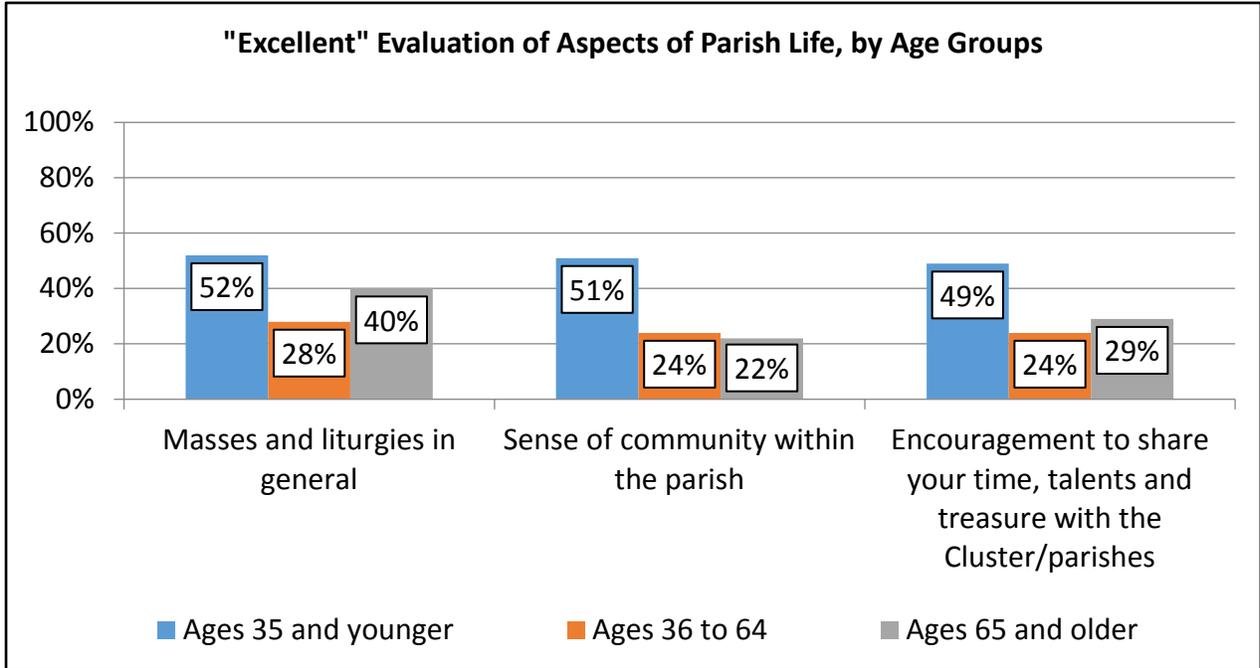
Registered parishioners at St. Catherine are among the most likely to evaluate as “excellent” the Masses and liturgies in general and the sense of community within the parish.

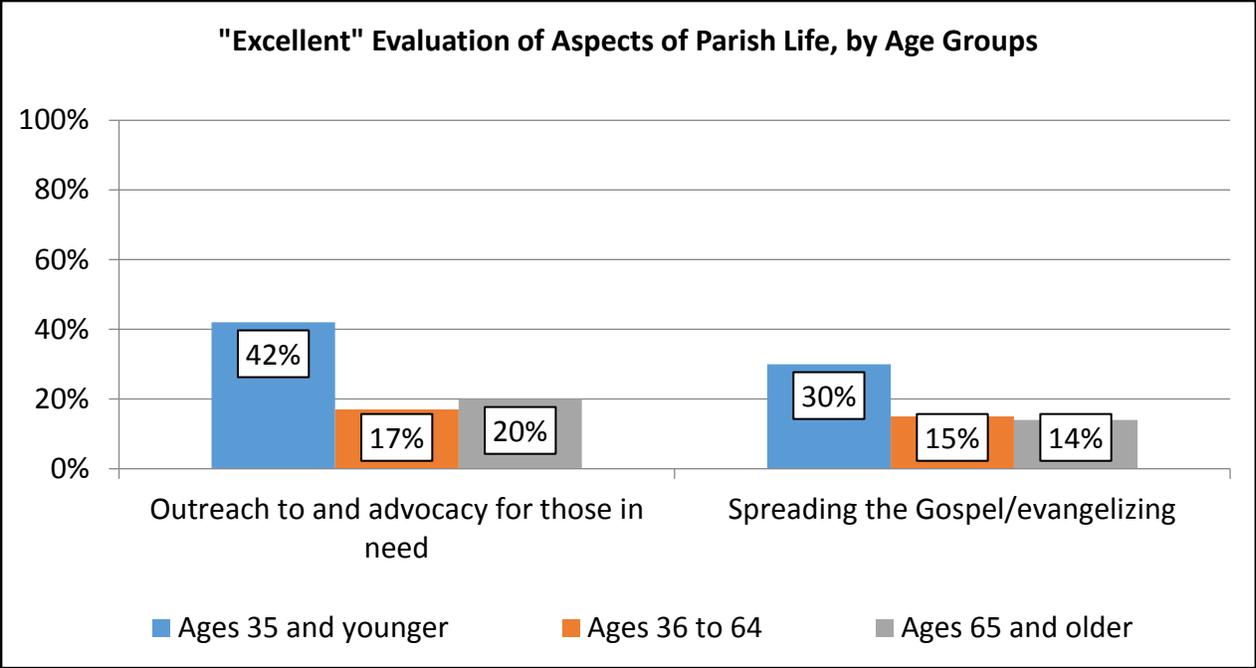
<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Masses and liturgies in general	37	38	27
Our Cluster of Catholic Churches overall	32	38	20
Sense of community within the parish	30	28	20
Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish	29	27	26
Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith	22	30	19
Vision provided by parish leaders	22	27	21
Outreach to and advocacy for those in need	14	21	23
Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing	14	19	15

- Those registered at St. Francis Xavier among the most likely to say the following aspect of parish life are “excellent”: Masses and liturgies in general, the sense of community within the parish, and efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.
- St. Joseph registrants are among the least likely to give the following aspects of parish life a positive evaluation: Masses and liturgies in general, the Cluster overall, the sense of community within the parish, and efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Differences by Age Groups

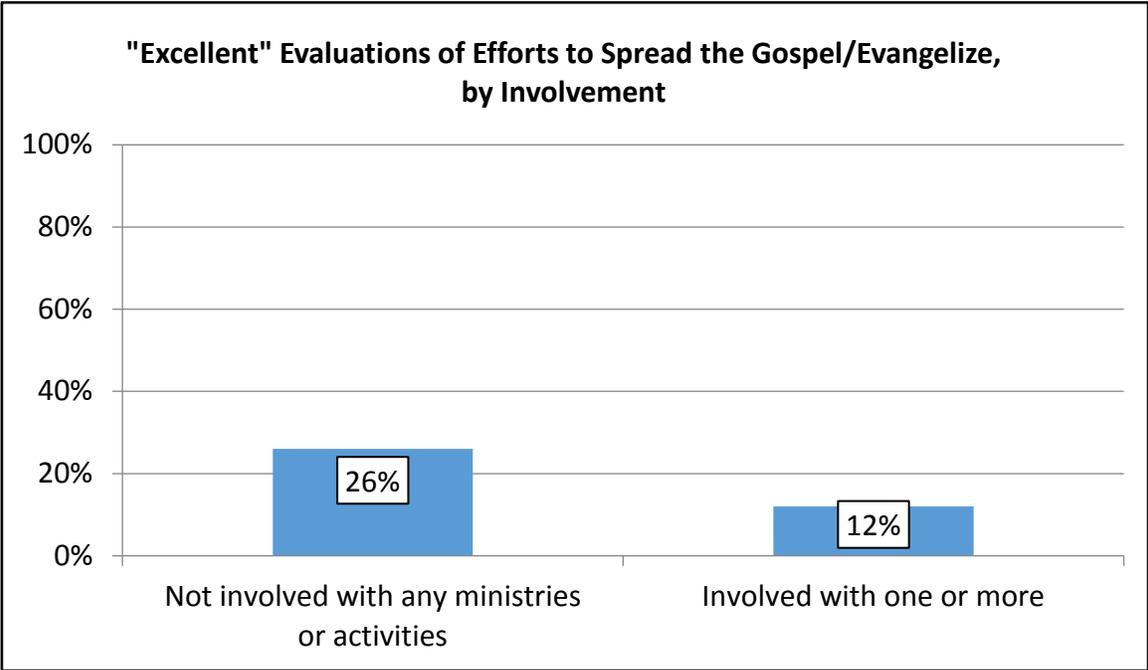
Those ages 35 and younger are especially likely to give an “excellent” rating to each of the elements of parish life presented in the three figures below.





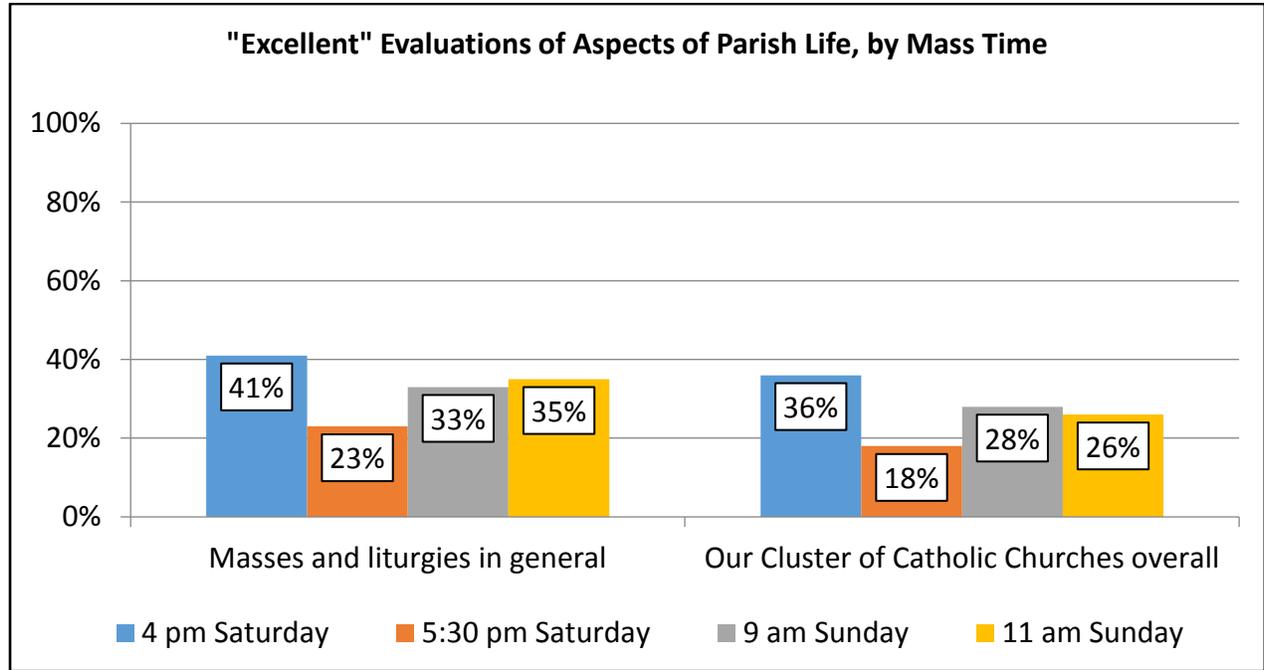
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to give an "excellent" rating to parish efforts to spread the Gospel or evangelize.



Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass are *least* likely to give the Masses and liturgies in general and the Cluster overall an “excellent” evaluation.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Similarly, 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 efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.

Evaluation of Persons and Programs

Respondents were asked to evaluate certain parish leaders and staff below, as well as various programs. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

Combined Positive Evaluations

With one exception (social activities), between 85% and 94% give each of the persons and programs presented in the table below a positive evaluation.⁸

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Weekly bulletin	94	–
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph	88	92
Cluster website	88	–
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier	87	92
Pastor	87	–
Pastoral Associate	86	–
Director of Music	85	–
Social activities	70	72
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their positive evaluations of persons and programs at the parish.

⁸ Some of the questions concerning these persons and programs have low non-response rates (such as the Pastor, weekly bulletin) while others have larger non-response rates (such as the Cluster website). To view all non-response rates for this series of questions, see Appendix I.

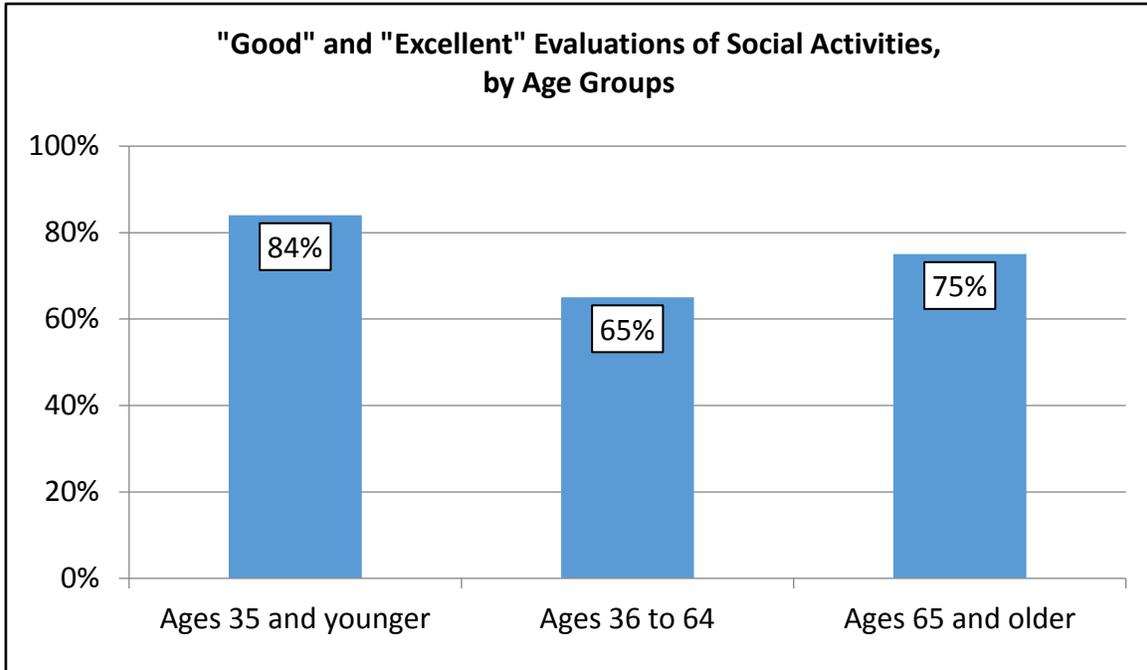
Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Joseph's are most likely to give a positive evaluation to the friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph.

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>			
<i>Percentage responding "Good" and "Excellent" combined</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Pastor	91	90	83
Pastoral Associate	82	83	90
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier	84	87	92
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph	82	77	92
Director of Music	86	91	82
Weekly bulletin	95	98	93
Cluster website	85	88	89
Social activities	70	72	69

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and younger are most likely to give a combined “good” and “excellent” rating to the social activities at the parish.



“Excellent” Evaluations

About half give an “excellent” rating to the friendliness of the parish staff at both St. Joseph (50%) and at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier (47%).

Please evaluate the following persons and programs		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Weekly bulletin	53	–
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph	50	51
Director of Music	48	–
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier	47	51
Pastor	47	–
Cluster website	44	–
Pastoral Associate	36	–
Social activities	21	27

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

- The weekly bulletin is rated as “excellent” by 53% of responding parishioners. Some 44% give as high an evaluation to the Cluster website (44%).
- The Director of Music (48%) and the Pastor (47%) receive an “excellent” evaluation from about half of respondents. Some 36% rate the Pastoral Associate as highly.
- Some 21% give social activities at the parish an “excellent” rating.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their “excellent” evaluations of persons and programs at the parish.

Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

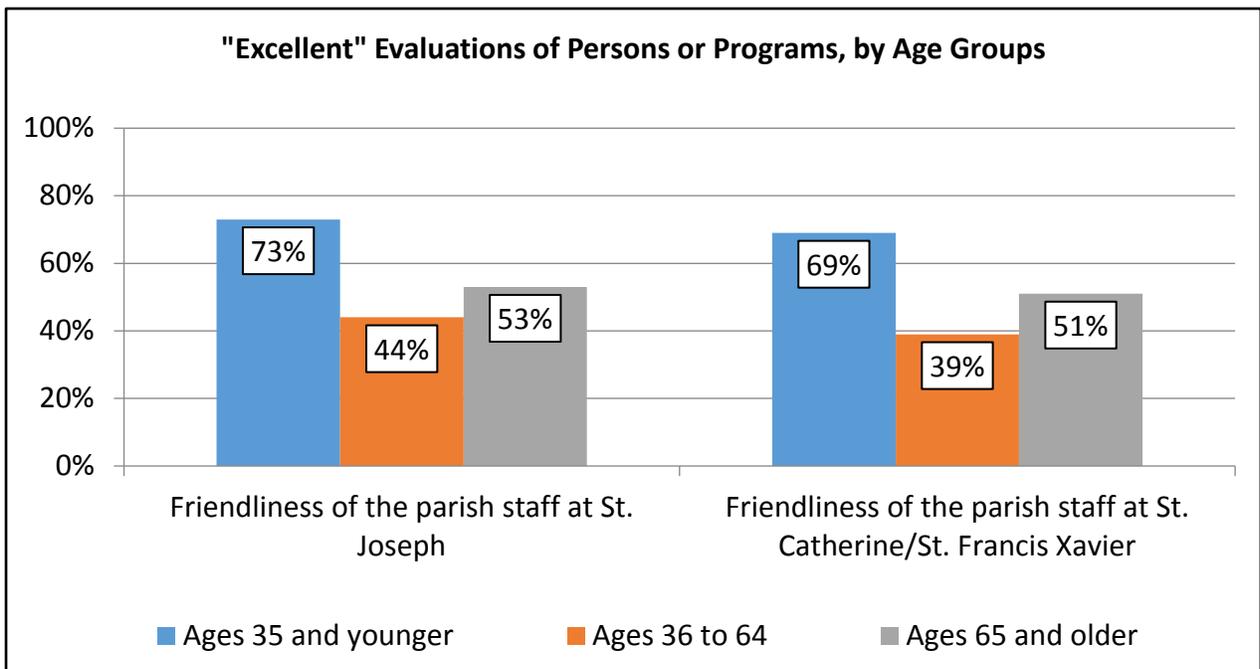
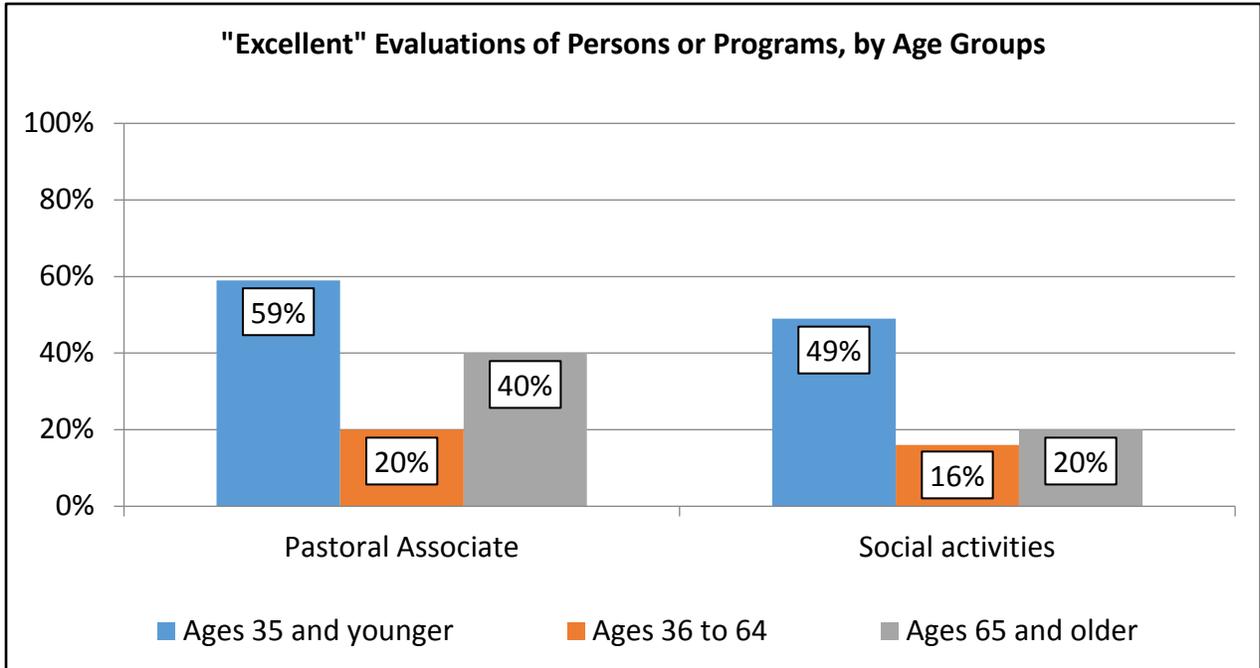
Registrants at St. Catherine’s are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to the Pastor, but are *least* likely to give as high of an evaluation to Director of Music.

<i>Please evaluate the following persons and programs</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Weekly bulletin	52	57	53
Pastor	52	42	41
Cluster website	46	41	45
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Catherine/St. Francis Xavier	43	46	49
Friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph	40	46	52
Director of Music	38	57	52
Pastoral Associate	28	36	37
Social activities	26	8	21

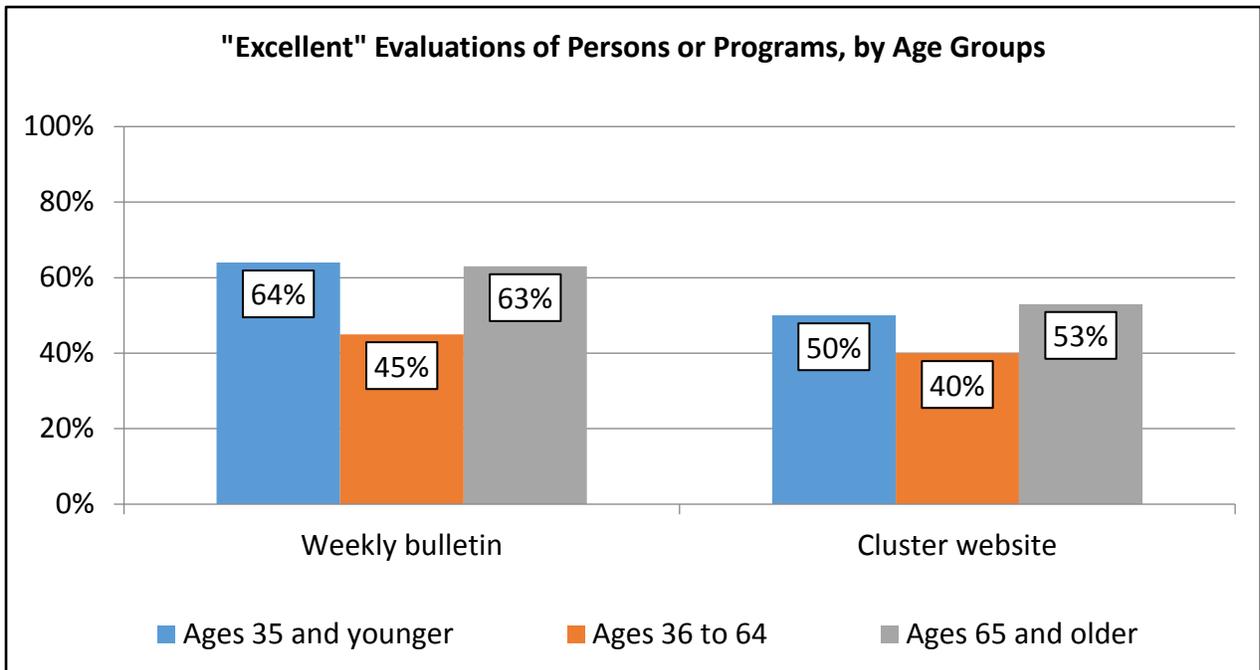
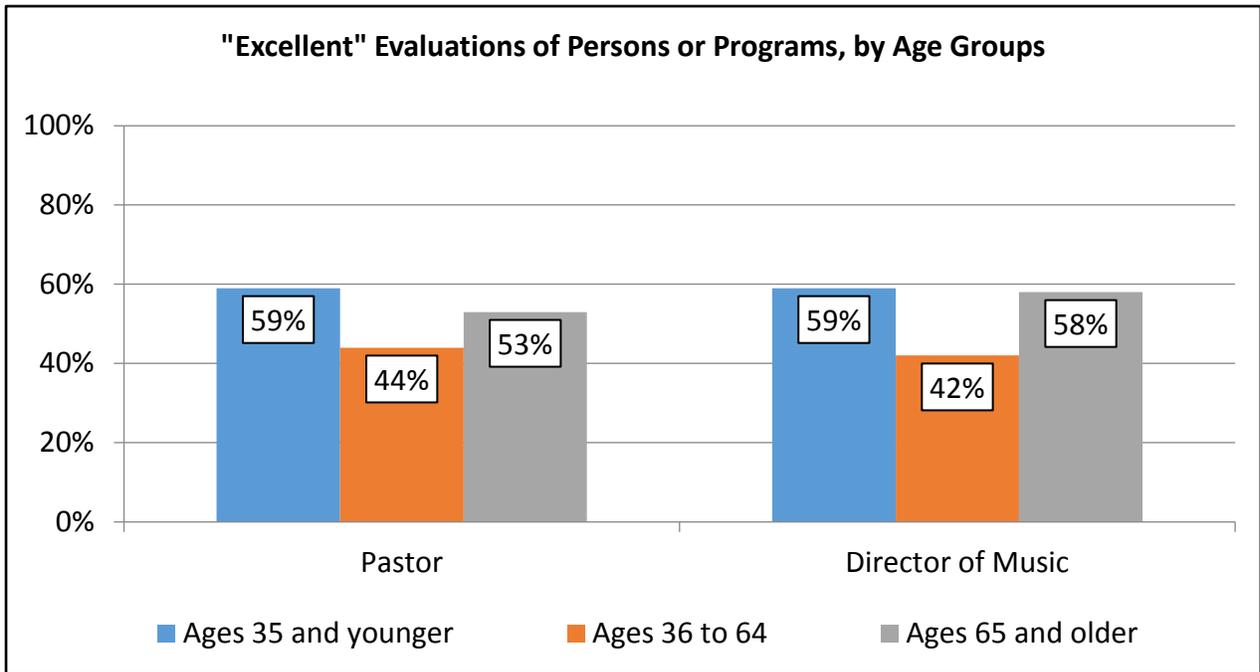
- Those registered at St. Joseph’s are most likely to rate the friendliness of the parish staff at St. Joseph as “excellent.”
- Social activities are least likely to be seen as “excellent” by those at St. Francis Xavier’s.

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and under are especially likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the persons and programs presented in the two figures below.

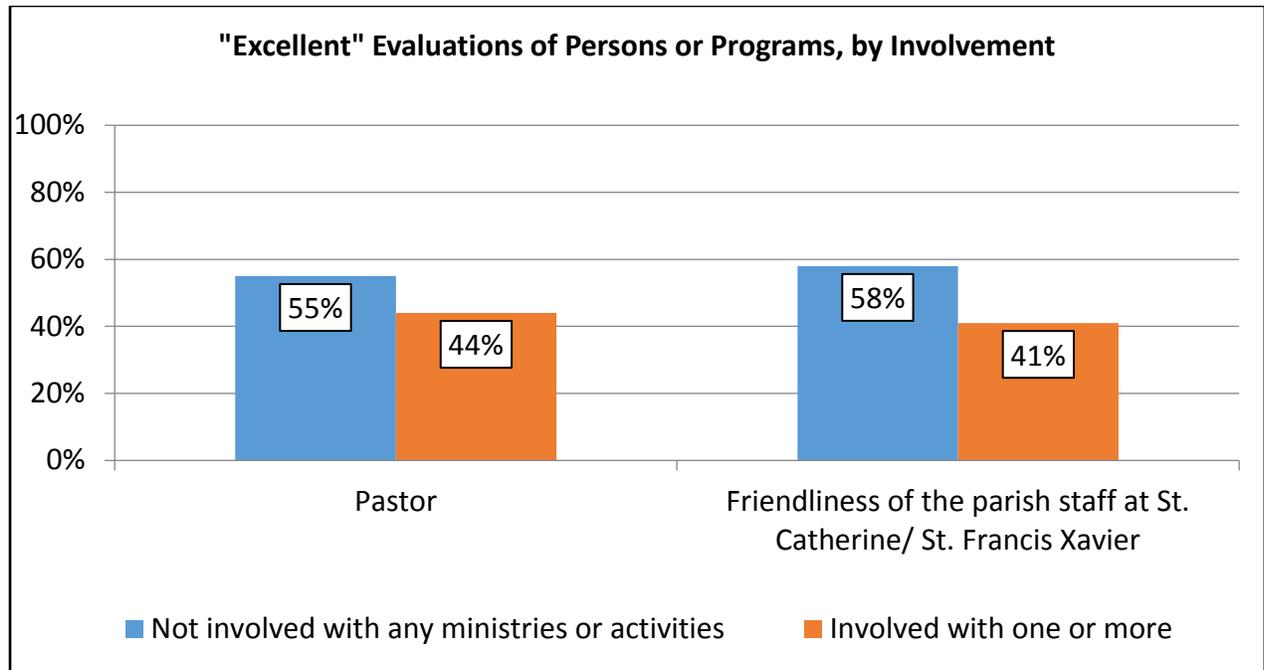


Those of the youngest and oldest age groups are especially likely to give an “excellent” rating to the persons and programs presented in the two figures below.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the personnel presented in the figure below.



Differences by Mass Time of Response

Those responding at the different Mass times at the Cluster do *not* differ significantly in how they evaluate Mass-specific items such as the Director of Music.

Evaluation of Faith Formation and School Personnel and Programs

Responding parishioners were asked to evaluate certain faith formation and school programs as well as the personnel involved in each. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

Combined Positive Evaluations

Nearly nine in ten positively evaluate the Director of Youth Ministry (89%) and youth ministry (88%).

<i>Please evaluate the following faith formation and school personnel and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Director of Youth Ministry	89	–
Youth ministry program	88	73
Principal of Divine Providence Academy	85	–
Quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy	83	–
Divine Providence Academy overall	81	–
RCIA (process for adults to enter the Church)	69	–
Sacramental preparation programs for children and youth	67	–
Children’s religious education/formation ⁹	64	83
Faith formation for adults	63	71
Director of Religious Education	55	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Just over eight in ten rate these aspects of the school positively: the principal at Divine Providence Academy (85%), the quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy (83%), and Divine Providence Academy overall (81%).

⁹ This program and other formation programs have non-response rates between 36 and 45 percent due to limited family participation in those programs. Likely for the same reason, the three school-related questions have non-response rates between 35% and 44%. For the non-response rates to all questions, see Appendix I.

- RCIA (69%), sacramental preparation programs for children and youth (67%), and children’s religious education programs (64%) receive a “good” or “excellent” rating from about two in three respondents.
- Faith formation for adults is given a positive evaluation from 63% of responding parishioners.
- Some 55% evaluate the Director of Religious Education positively.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 15 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to youth ministry (88% compared to 73%).

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 19 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to children’s religious education programs (64% compared to 83%).

Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

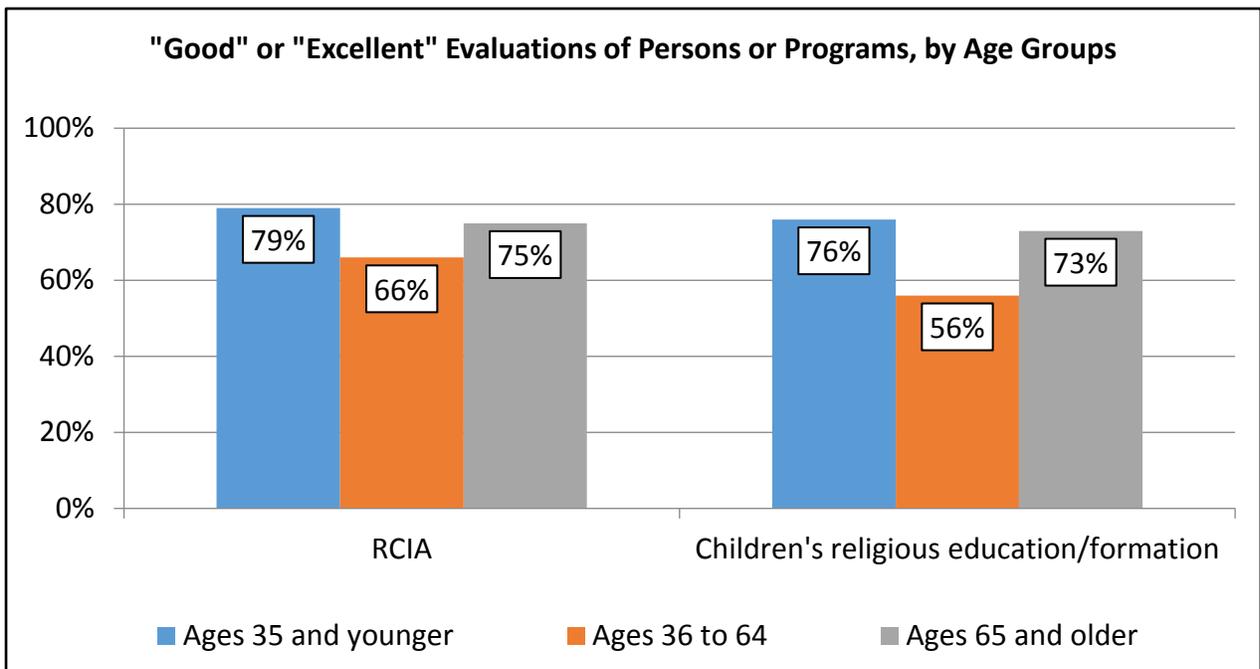
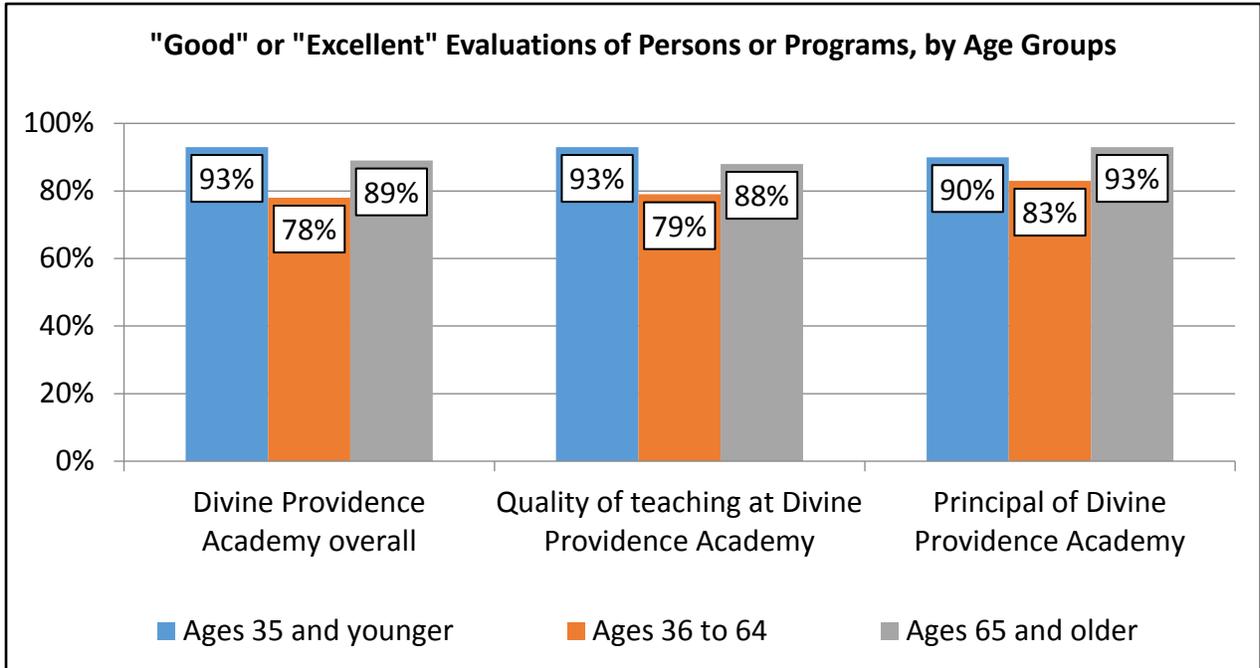
Registrants at St. Catherine’s and St. Francis Xavier are particularly likely to give a positive evaluation to the youth ministry program, principal of Divine Providence Academy, quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy, Divine Providence Academy overall, sacramental preparation programs for children and youth, children’s religious education programs, and Director of Religious Education.

Please evaluate the following faith formation and school personnel and programs
Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined

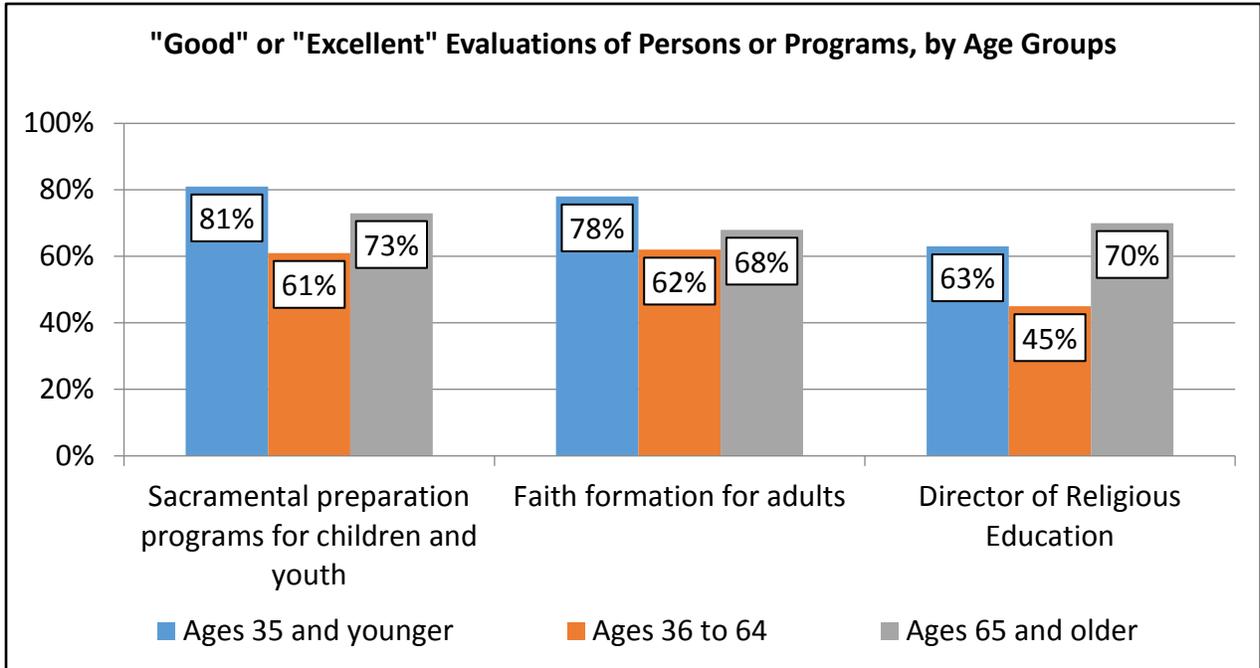
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Director of Youth Ministry	93	96	87
Youth ministry program	92	96	84
Principal of Divine Providence Academy	89	95	81
Quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy	89	81	76
Divine Providence Academy overall	88	86	73
Sacramental preparation programs for children and youth	74	75	57
RCIA (process for adults to enter the Church)	73	73	65
Children’s religious education/formation	70	80	51
Faith formation for adults	67	59	59
Director of Religious Education	61	73	41

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 36 to 64 are *less* likely than others to give a combined “good” and “excellent” rating to the persons and programs presented in the four figures below.

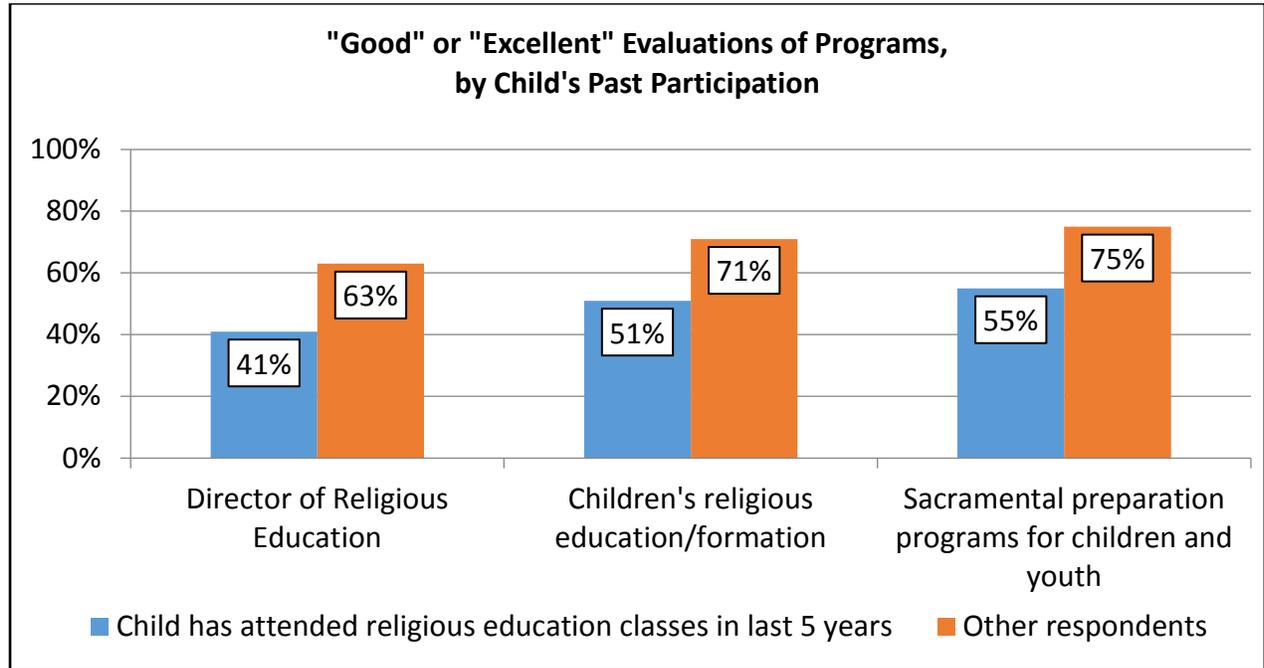


Those ages 35 and younger are most likely to give a combined “good” and “excellent” rating to the sacramental preparation programs for children and youth and to faith formation for adults. Those ages 65 and older are most likely to give a positive evaluation to the Director of Religious Education.



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are *less* likely than others to give a “good” or “excellent” rating to efforts to the Director of Religious Education, children’s religious education/formation, and sacramental preparation programs for children and youth.



“Excellent” Evaluations

Half or slightly less give an “excellent” evaluation to the Director of Youth Ministry (51%) and youth ministry (46%).

<i>Please evaluate the following faith formation and school personnel and programs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Director of Youth Ministry	51	–
Youth ministry program	46	31
Principal of Divine Providence Academy	45	–
Quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy	44	–
Divine Providence Academy overall	35	–
Sacramental preparation programs for children and youth	28	–
Children’s religious education/formation	26	39
RCIA (process for adults to enter the Church)	25	–
Director of Religious Education	20	–
Faith formation for adults	19	27

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

- More than a third say the principal of Divine Providence Academy (45%), the quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy (44%), and Divine Providence Academy overall (35%) are “excellent.”
- About a quarter give an “excellent” rating to the parish’s sacramental preparation programs for children and youth (28%), its children’s religious education programs (26%), and RCIA (25%).
- The Director of Religious Education (20%) and faith formation for adults (19%) receive an “excellent” rating from two in ten responding parishioners.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 15 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the parish’s youth ministry (46% compared to 31%).

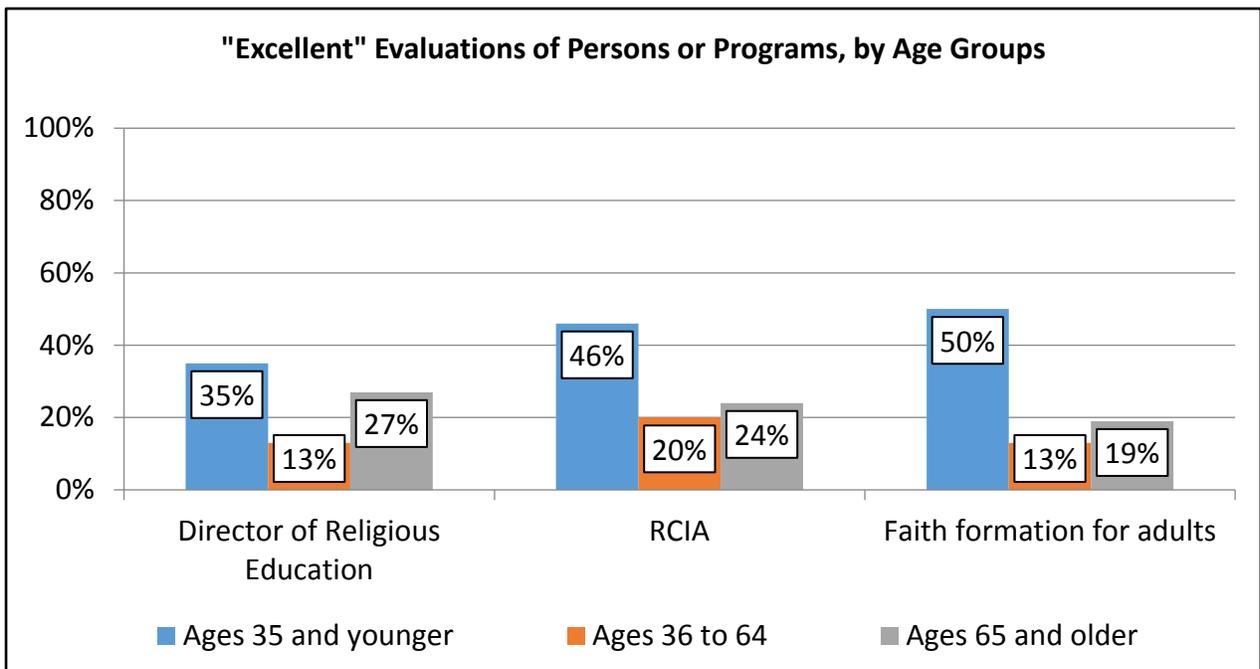
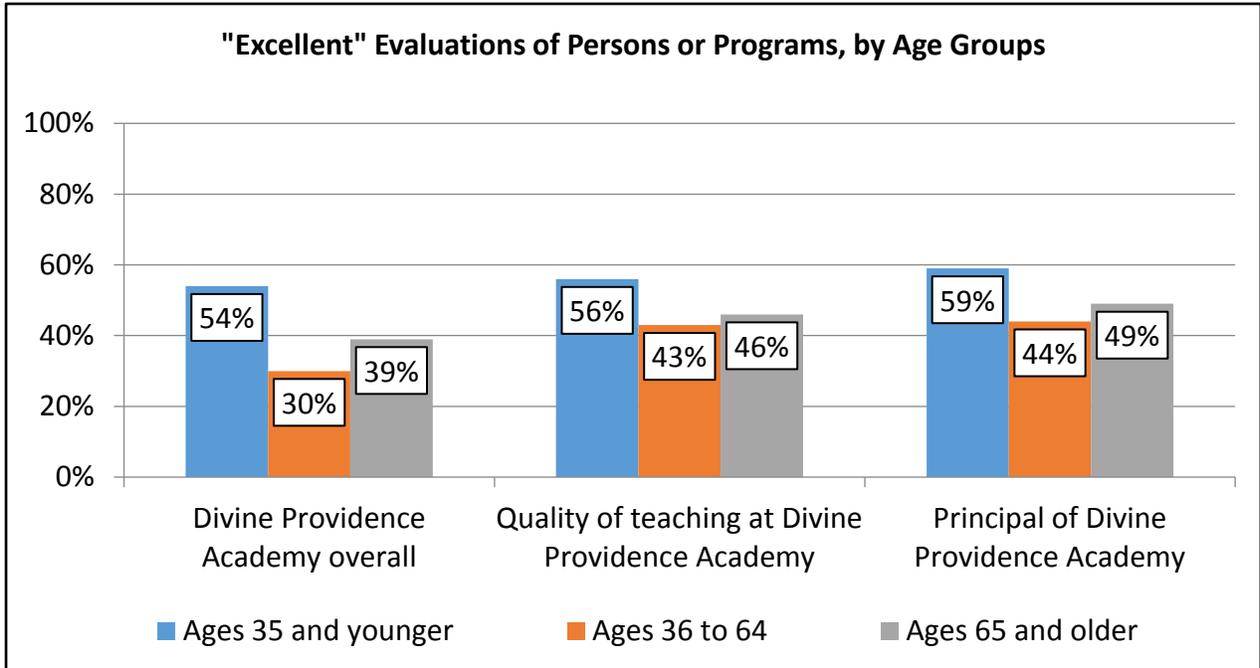
Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

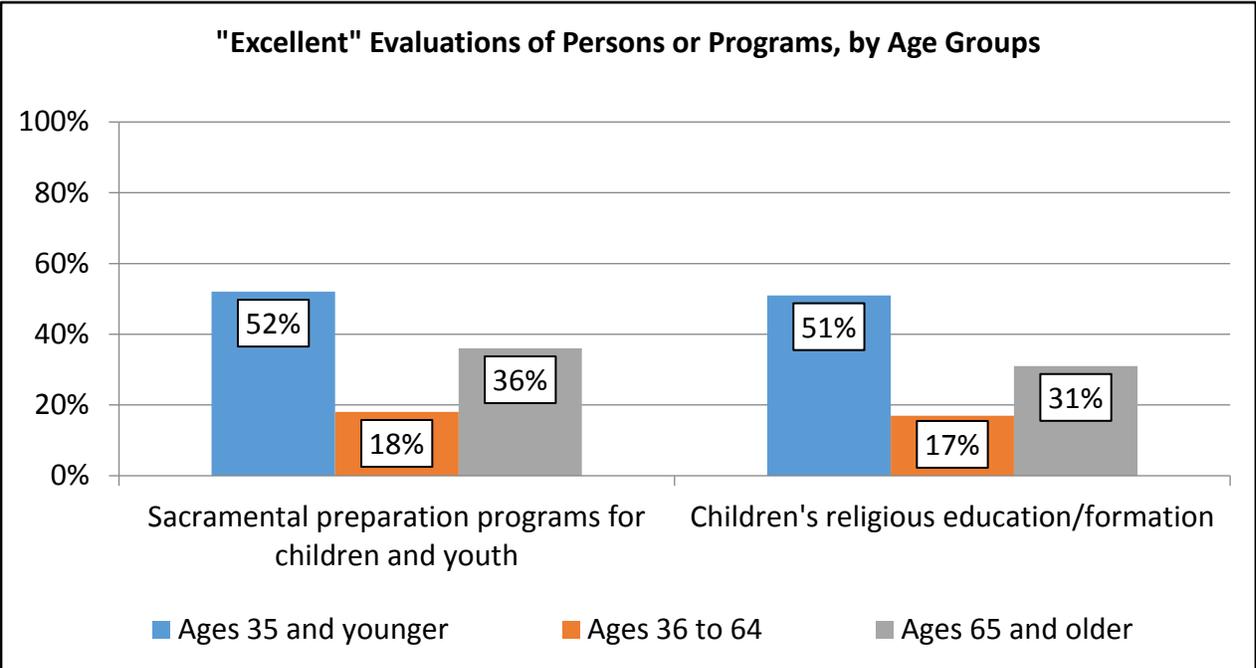
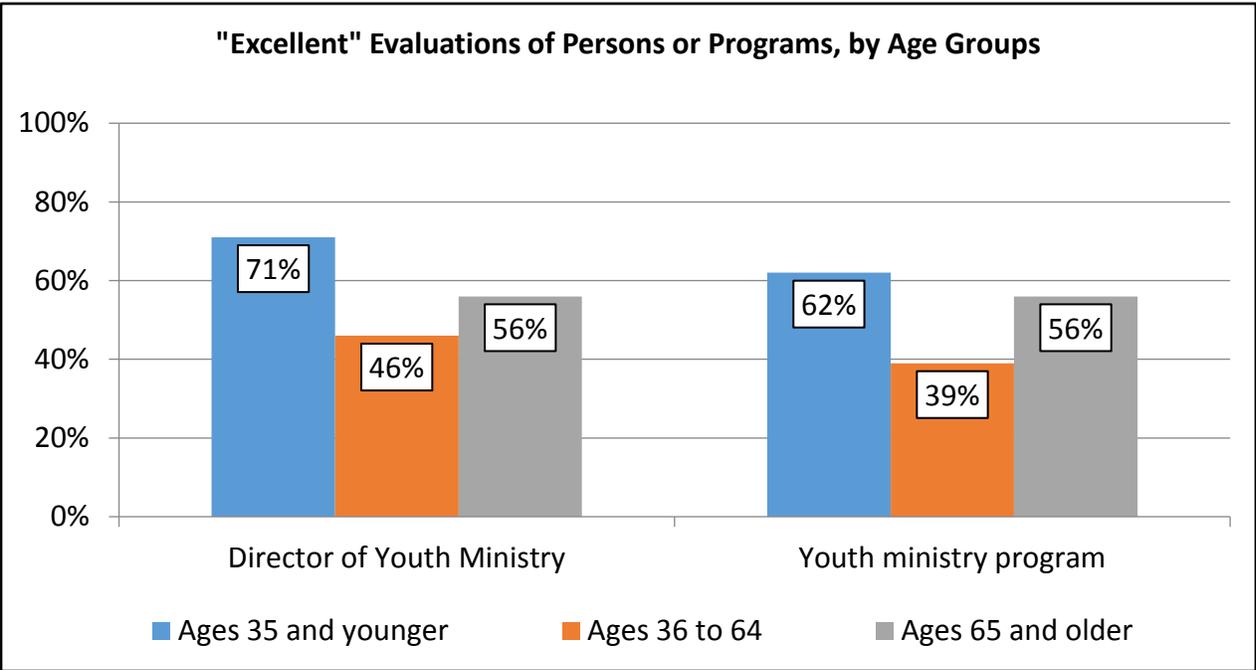
Registrants at St. Catherine’s are most likely to rate the quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy and the RCIA process as “excellent.”

<i>Please evaluate the following faith formation and school personnel and programs</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Director of Youth Ministry	57	48	50
Quality of teaching at Divine Providence Academy	49	38	42
Principal of Divine Providence Academy	48	42	48
Youth ministry program	45	42	50
Divine Providence Academy overall	39	36	30
Sacramental preparation programs for children and youth	31	38	25
Children’s religious education/formation	30	28	22
RCIA (process for adults to enter the Church)	30	23	20
Faith formation for adults	22	14	17
Director of Religious Education	20	23	15

Differences by Age Groups

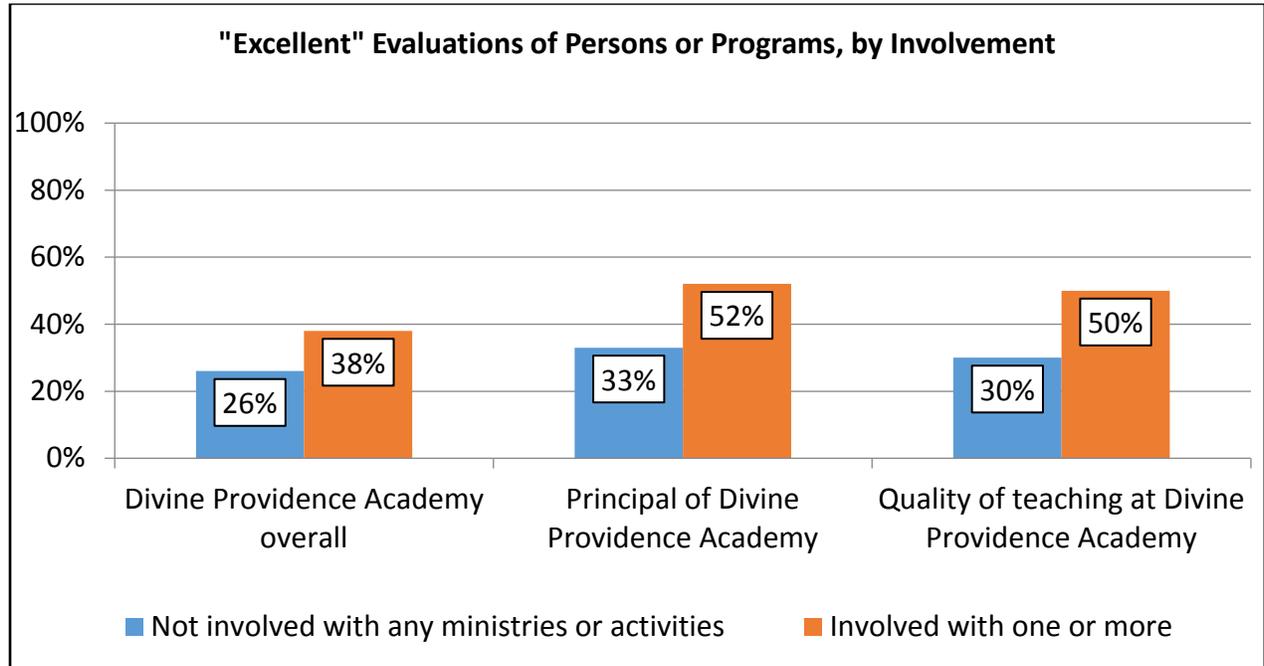
Those ages 36 to 64 are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the persons and programs presented in the four figures below.





Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the aspects of Divine Providence Academy presented in the figure below.

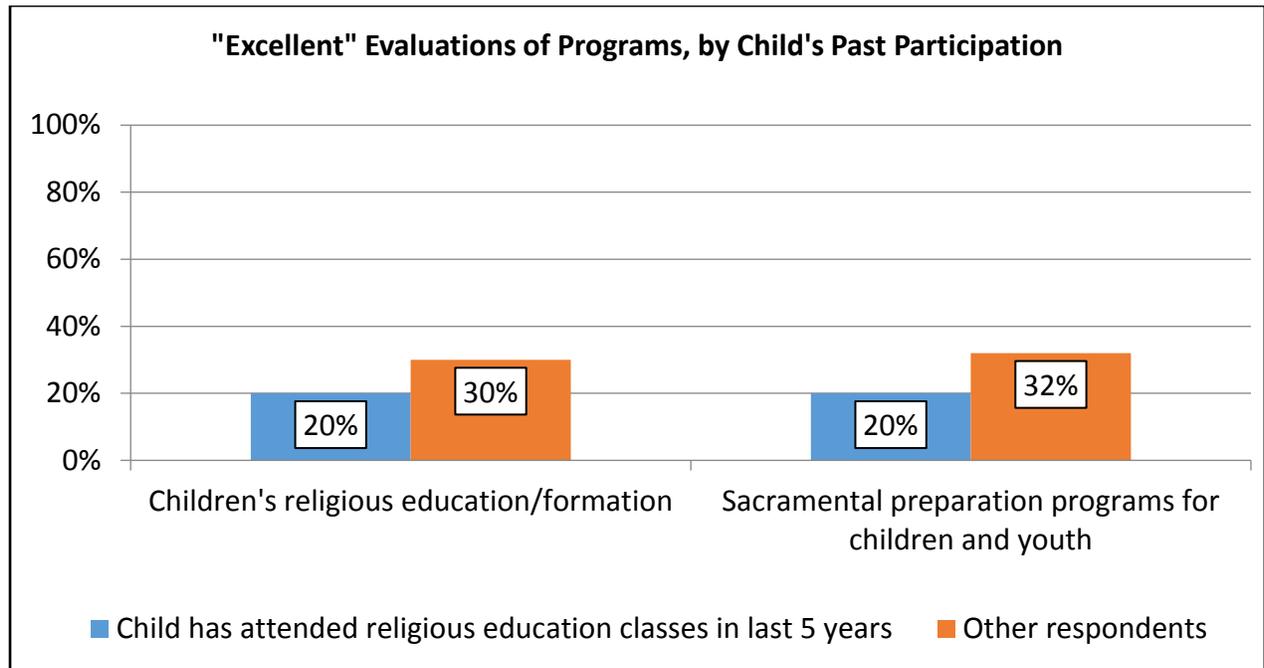


Differences by Past Attendance at the Parish School

Those whose children have attended the parish school in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate aspects of Divine Providence Academy, including its overall quality, the quality of the principal, and the quality of the teaching.

Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to children’s religious education/formation and to sacramental preparation programs for children and youth.



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

Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses

Responding parishioners were asked to evaluate specific areas of the weekend Masses at Conklin's Cluster of Catholic Churches. The responses offered ranged from "poor" to "excellent."

Combined Positive Evaluations

Weekend Masses in general receive a positive evaluation from 90% of respondents.

	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
	%	%
Decorations and environment	93	88
Weekend Masses in general	90	93
Hospitality or sense of welcome	89	85
Homilies	87	87
Music	81	82

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

About nine in ten rate the following areas of weekend Masses positively: the decorations and environment (93%), hospitality or sense of welcome (89%), and homilies (87%). The music receives a positive evaluation from 81%.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their positive evaluations of areas of weekend Masses at the parish.

Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

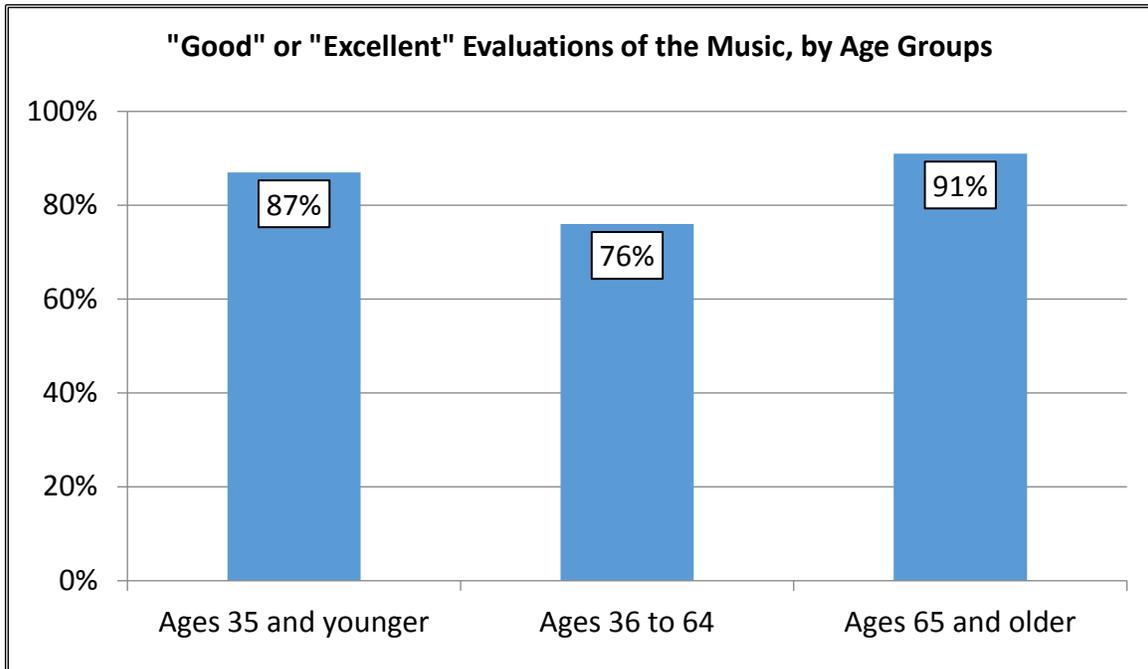
Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to rate the hospitality or sense of worship positively.

Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend
Percentage responding "Good" and "Excellent" combined

	St. Catherine %	St. Francis Xavier %	St. Joseph %
Decorations and environment	92	98	94
Weekend Masses in general	92	96	88
Homilies	87	93	89
Hospitality or sense of welcome	85	98	88
Music	82	82	81

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 36 to 64 are *less* likely than others to give a combined "good" and "excellent" rating to the music.



“Excellent” Evaluations

Some 41% rate the weekend Masses in general as “excellent.” More than four in ten give as high of an evaluation to the other areas of weekend Masses presented in the table below.

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

	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Catholics In Pew Nationally*
	%	%
Decorations and environment	46	48
Hospitality or sense of welcome	42	49
Homilies	42	48
Weekend Masses in general	41	59
Music	41	48

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

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 18 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to the weekend Masses in general (41% compared to 59%).

Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

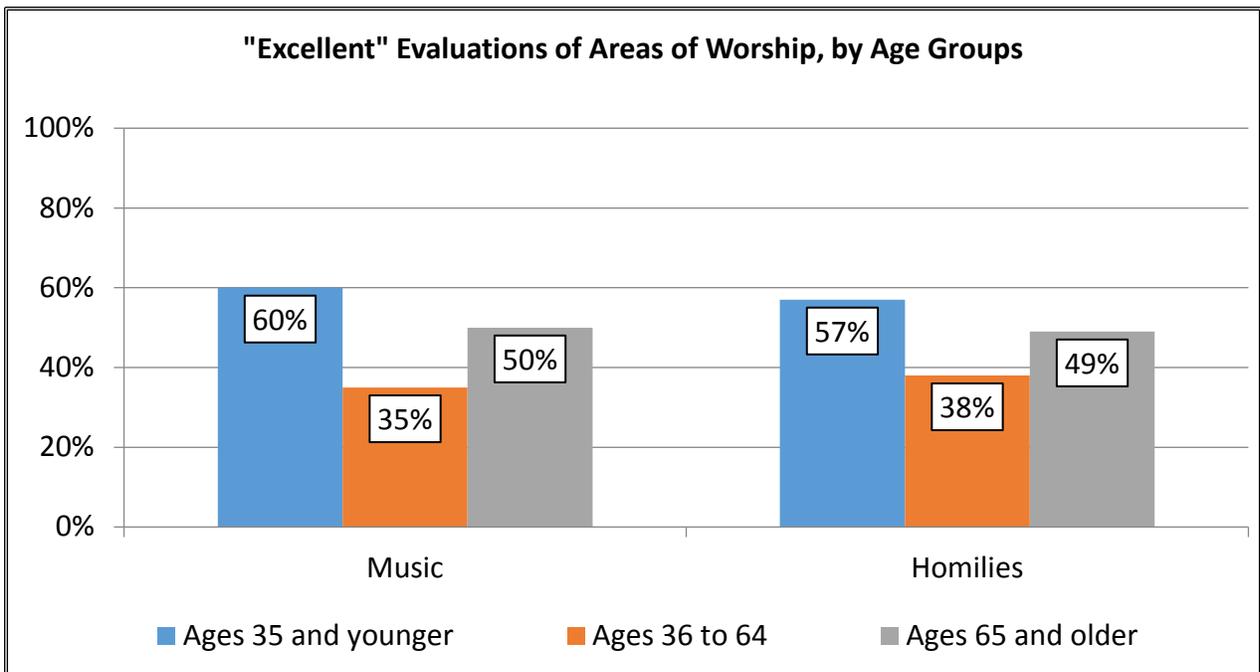
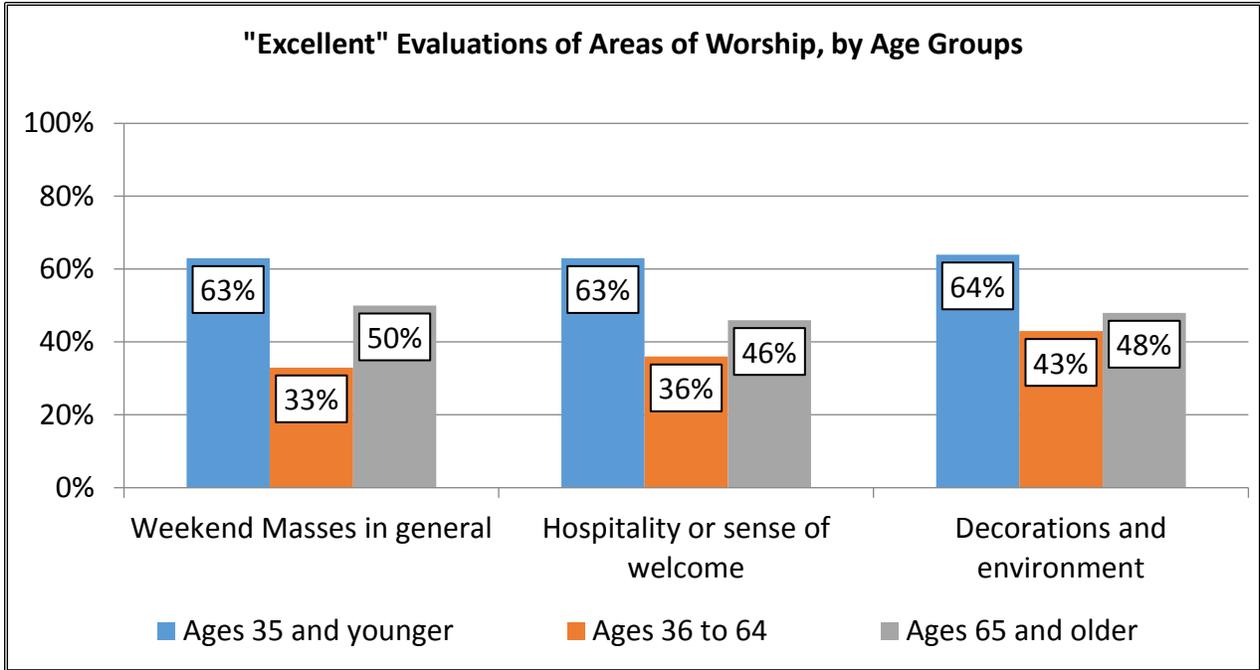
Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to the weekend Masses in general, the hospitality or sense of welcome, and the music.

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

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Weekend Masses in general	41	48	37
Hospitality or sense of welcome	36	57	39
Decorations and environment	48	51	45
Music	38	51	40
Homilies	39	42	43

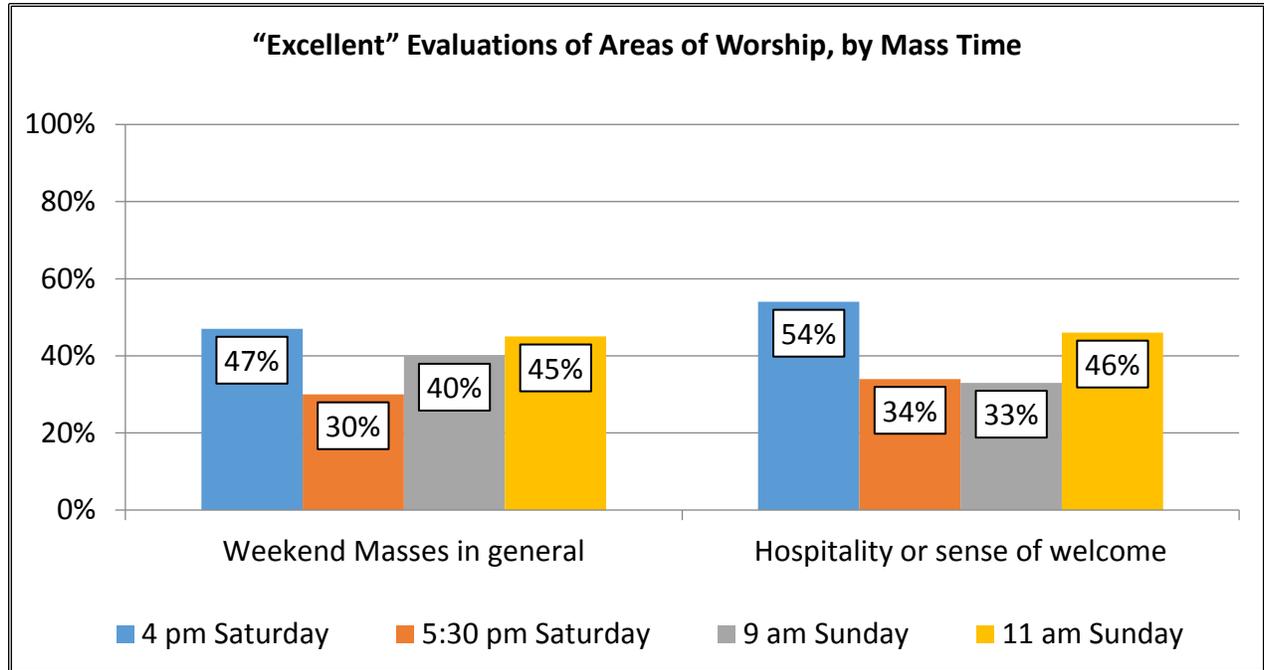
Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and younger are especially likely to give an “excellent” rating to all five of the areas of weekend Masses evaluated in this section.



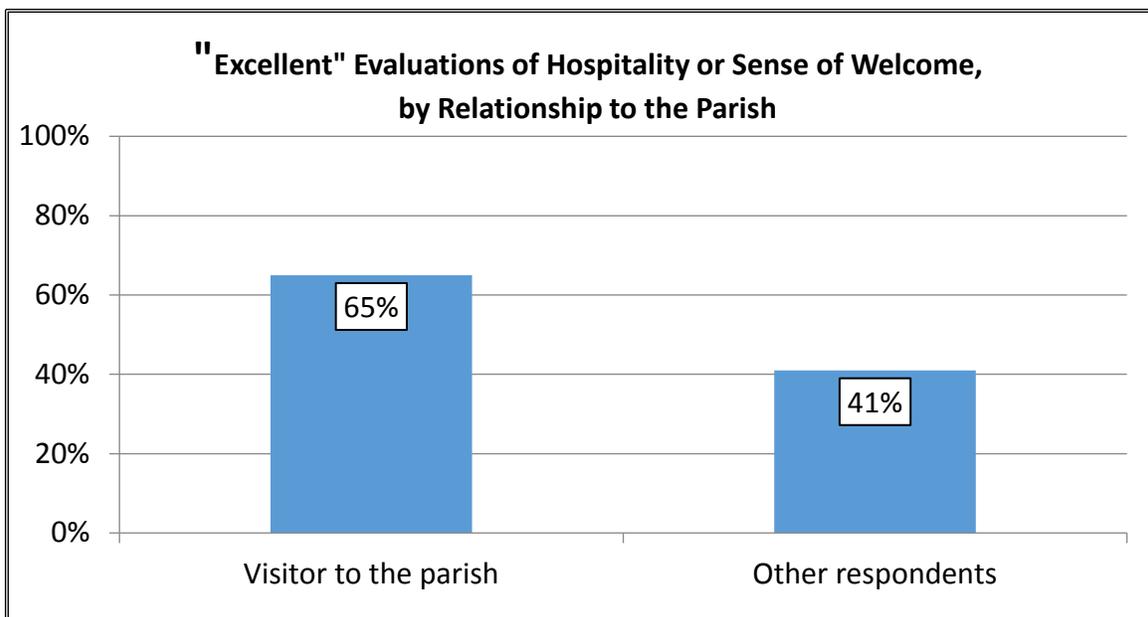
Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass are *least* likely to give the two areas of weekend Masses presented in the figure below an “excellent” rating.



Differences by Relationship to the Parish

Visitors at the parish are more likely than others to give the hospitality or sense of welcome an “excellent” rating.



Evaluation of Parish Efforts

In this subsection of the survey, respondents were asked to evaluate some specific parish efforts related to communication, involvement and inclusion in parish life, and formation. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

Combined Positive Evaluations

Communication with parishioners with parishioners receives a positive evaluation from 76%.

Please evaluate parish/Cluster efforts to:		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Communicate with parishioners	76	80
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster life	72	82
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster ministries	68	82
Foster spiritual growth	68	81
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	68	80
Meet the needs of those with disabilities	64	–
Help you to meet other parishioners	50	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- About seven in ten give a positive evaluation to efforts to invite parishioners to participate in parish/Cluster life (72%) and in parish/Cluster ministries (68%).
- Parish efforts to foster spiritual growth and to offer a Catholic view on current issues are given a positive rating from 68% of responding parishioners.
- Nearly two in three (64%) rate efforts to meet the needs of those with disabilities as “good” or “excellent.”
- Half say the parish is “good” or “excellent” at helping them to meet other parishioners (50%).

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 10 to 14 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to these parish efforts to:

- Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster ministries (68% compared to 82%)
- Foster spiritual growth (68% compared to 81%)
- Offer a Catholic view on current issues (68% compared to 80%)
- Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster life (72% compared to 82%)

Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are *least* likely to rate efforts to participate in parish/Cluster life as “good” or “excellent.”

<i>Please evaluate parish/Cluster efforts to:</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Communicate with parishioners	78	72	73
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster life	71	65	74
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster ministries	69	61	71
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	67	74	65
Meet the needs of those with disabilities	67	69	60
Foster spiritual growth	62	69	71
Help you to meet other parishioners	52	49	45

“Excellent” Evaluations

Communication with parishioners receives an “excellent” evaluation from 23% of responding parishioners.

<i>Please evaluate parish/Cluster efforts to:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Communicate with parishioners	23	37
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster life	23	29
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	21	33
Foster spiritual growth	20	35
Meet the needs of those with disabilities	19	–
Invite you to participate in parish ministries	18	39
Help you to meet other parishioners	12	–

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

- About two in ten rate as “excellent” efforts to invite their participation in parish/Cluster life (23%) and in parish ministries (18%).
- Parish efforts to offer a Catholic view on current issues (21%) and to foster spiritual growth (20%) receive an “excellent” evaluation from about two in ten respondents.
- Two in ten rate efforts to meet the needs of those with disabilities (19%) as “excellent.”
- Some 12% say the parish is “excellent” at helping them to meet other parishioners.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 12 to 21 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to these parish efforts to:

- Invite you to participate in parish ministries (18% compared to 39%)
- Foster spiritual growth (20% compared to 35%)
- Communicate with parishioners (23% compared to 37%)
- Offer a Catholic view on current issues (21% compared to 33%)

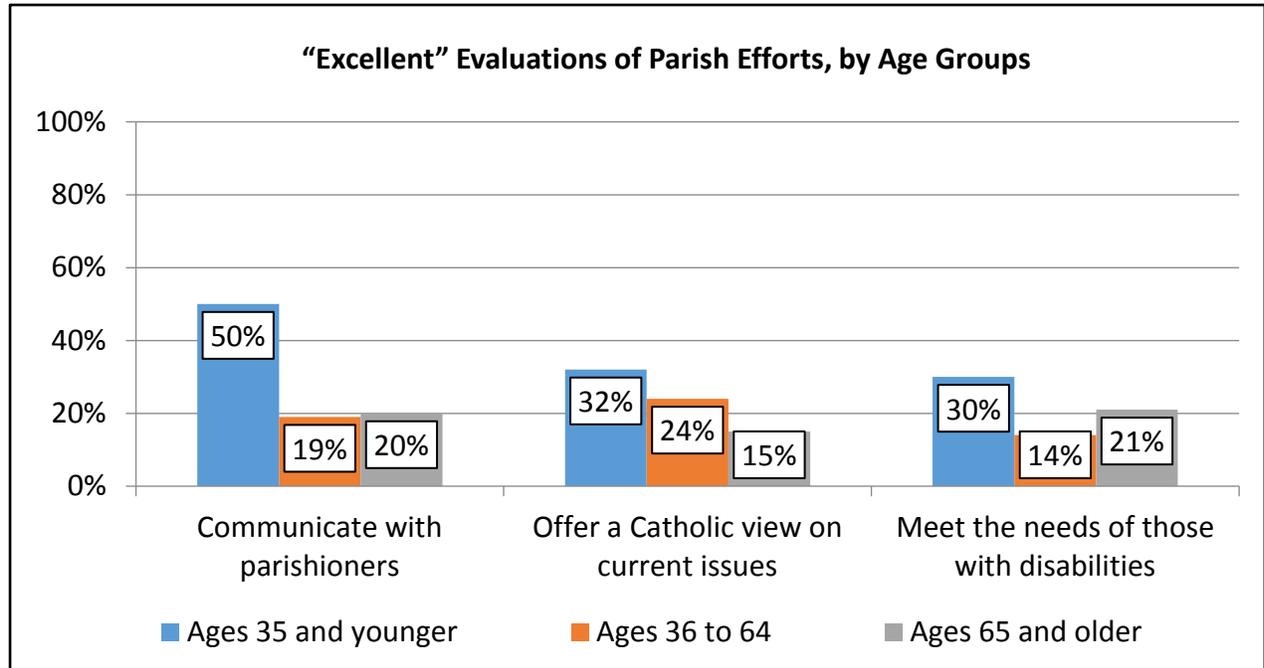
Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Catherine’s are most likely to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to communicate with parishioners. Those at St. Francis Xavier, on other hand, are most likely to rate efforts to meet the need of those with disabilities as highly.

<i>Please evaluate parish/Cluster efforts to:</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Communicate with parishioners	28	17	21
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster life	24	26	20
Meet the needs of those with disabilities	21	26	15
Offer a Catholic view on current issues	21	23	18
Foster spiritual growth	21	23	17
Invite you to participate in parish/Cluster ministries	19	24	15
Help you to meet other parishioners	14	12	11

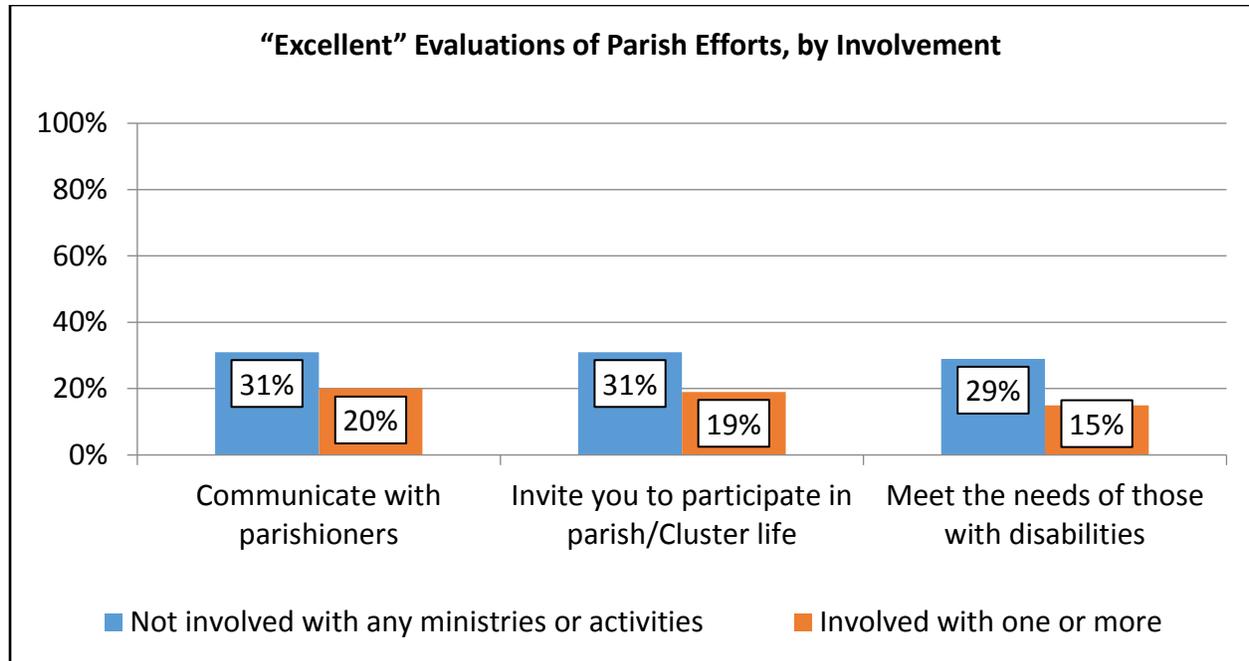
Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and younger are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to the parish efforts presented in the figure below.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those *not* involved with any ministries or activities at the parish are more likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to the three parish efforts presented in the figure below.



Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life after Clustering

Responding parishioners were asked to evaluate how well certain personnel and ministries have been functioning since the three parishes have been clustered together. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

Nearly nine in ten give a positive evaluation to the first three aspects of parish life after the clustering: the shared weekday Mass schedule (87%), sharing the parish ministerial staff (87%), and the shared youth ministry program (86%). About three in four rate these aspects positively: the shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program (77%), the shared weekend Mass schedule (75%), and the shared religious education program for children (74%).

<i>Please evaluate the following aspects of parish life after our three parishes have been clustered together</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” and “Excellent” Combined %	“Excellent” Only %
Our shared weekday Mass schedule	87	30
Sharing our parish ministerial staff (such as our Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister)	87	29
Our shared youth ministry program	86	40
Our shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program	77	29
Our shared weekend Mass schedule	75	29
Our shared religious education program for children	74	30

Forty percent give an “excellent” evaluation to the shared youth ministry program. About 30% rate each of the other shared aspects of parish life after the clustering as high of a rating.

Comparison among the Cluster Locations

“Good” and “Excellent” Responses Combined

St. Joseph registrants are *least* likely to give the following a positive evaluation: sharing the parish ministerial staff, the shared weekday Mass schedule, the shared weekend Mass schedule, the shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program, and the shared religious education program for children.

<i>Please evaluate the following aspects of parish life after our three parishes have been clustered together Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>			
	St. Catherine %	St. Francis Xavier %	St. Joseph %
Sharing our parish ministerial staff (such as our Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister)	93	97	78
Our shared weekday Mass schedule	92	95	81
Our shared youth ministry program	89	100	84
Our shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program	84	96	66
Our shared religious education program for children	81	85	61
Our shared weekend Mass schedule	77	80	62

“Excellent” Responses Only

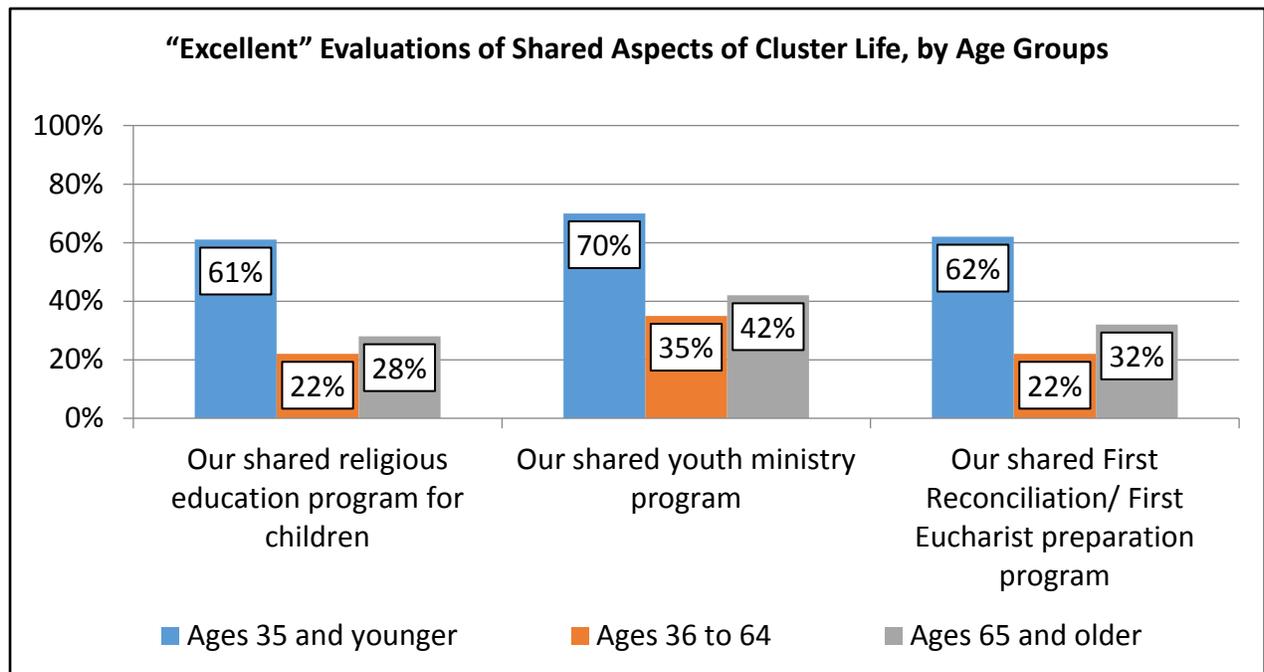
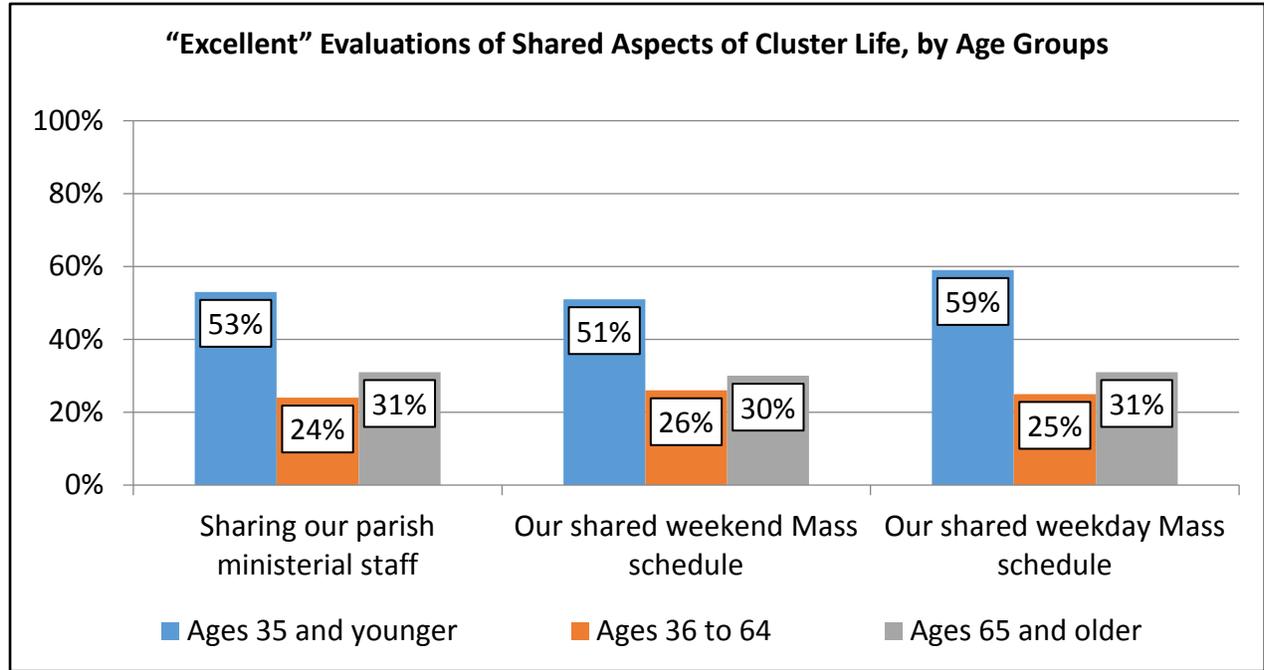
St. Joseph registrants are *least* likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to the shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program, the shared weekend Mass schedule, and the shared religious education program for children.

***Please evaluate the following aspects of parish life after
our three parishes have been clustered together***
Percentage responding “Excellent”

	St. Catherine %	St. Francis Xavier %	St. Joseph %
Our shared youth ministry program	43	36	40
Our shared First Reconciliation/First Eucharist preparation program	34	29	23
Our shared weekend Mass schedule	33	39	22
Our shared religious education program for children	33	37	22
Our shared weekday Mass schedule	32	32	25
Sharing our parish ministerial staff (such as our Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister)	28	26	30

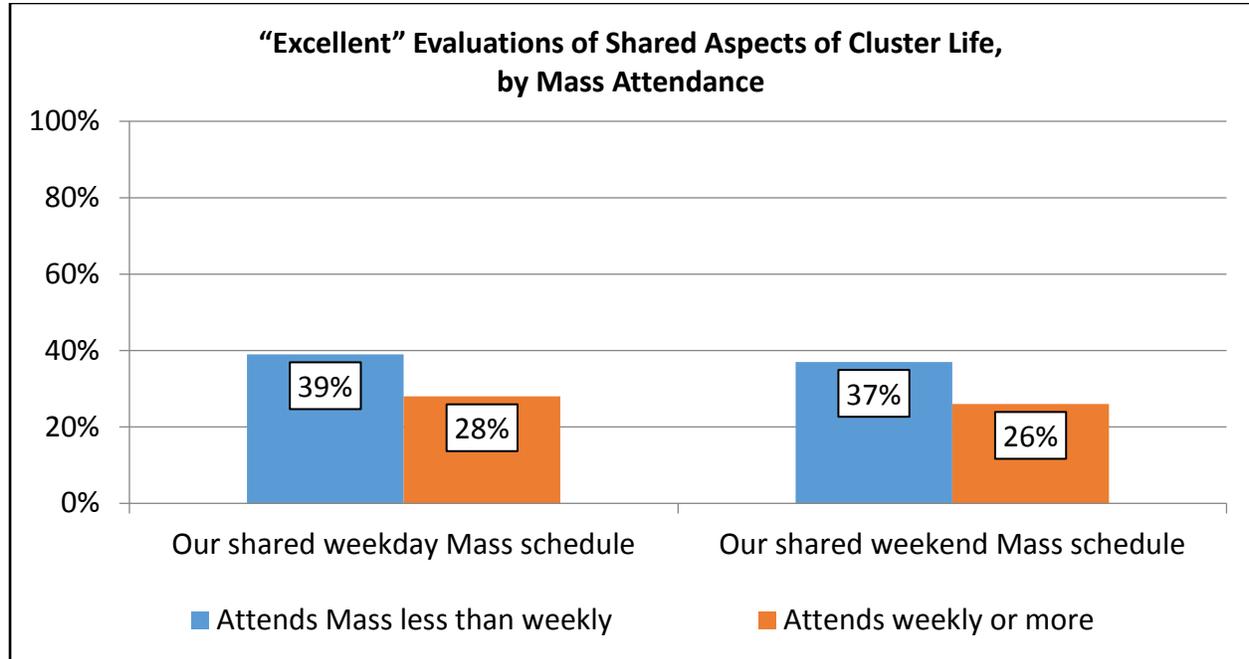
Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and younger are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to shared aspects of parish life shown in the figures below.



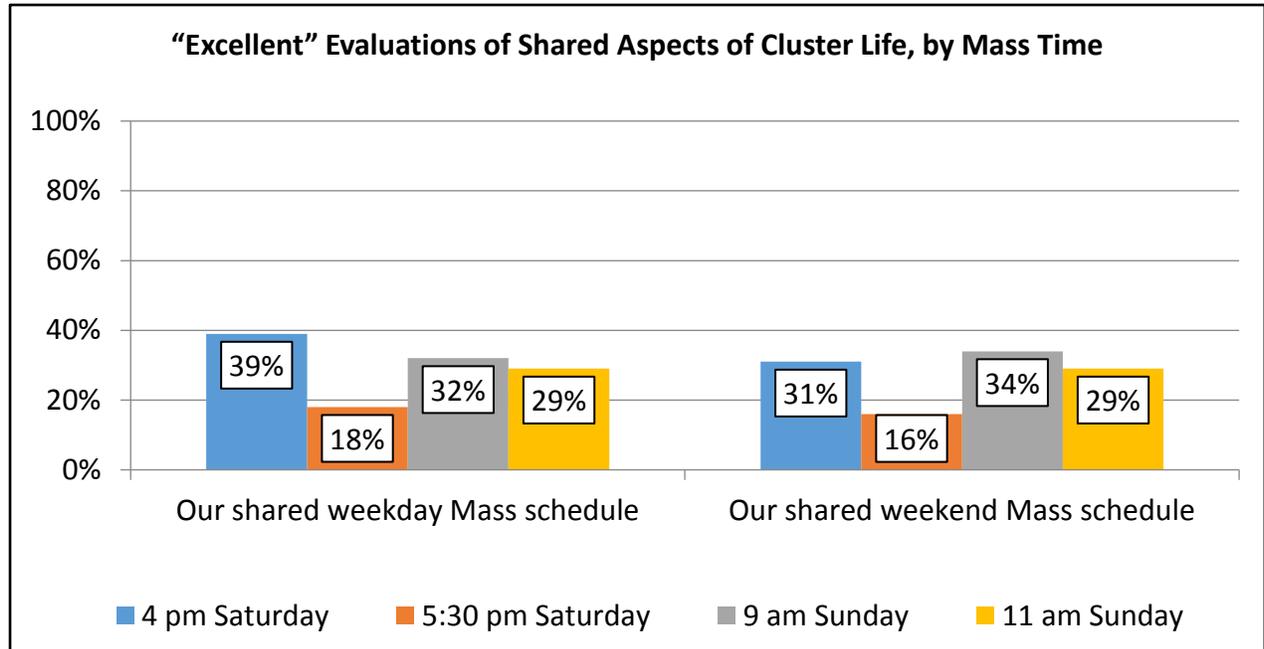
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass *less* than once a week are more likely than others to give an “excellent” rating to the shared weekday and weekend Mass schedules.



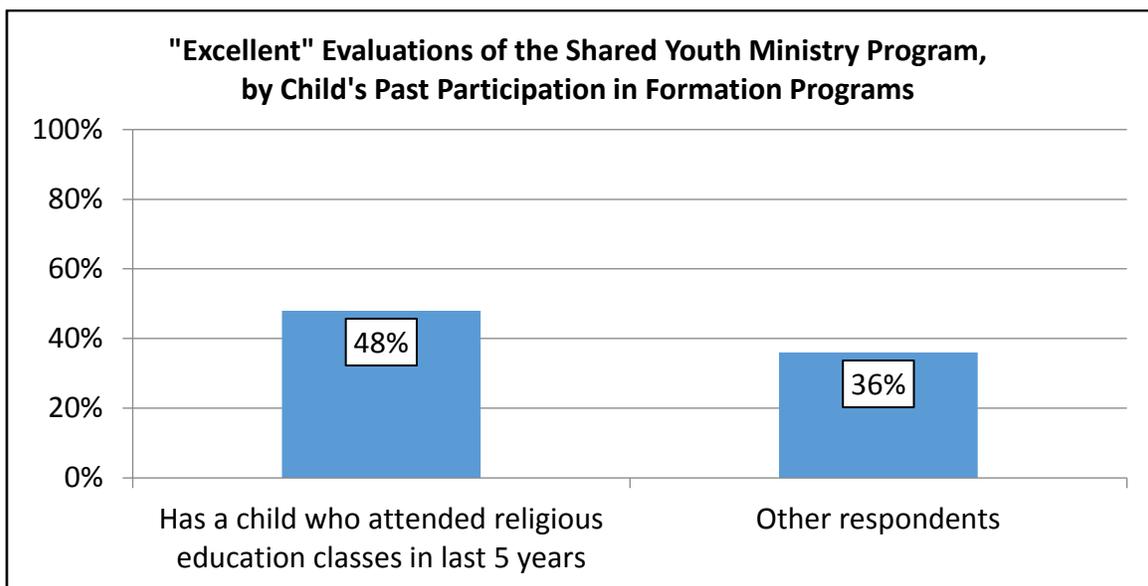
Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 5:30 p.m. Mass are *least* likely to give the shared Mass schedule for weekday and weekend Masses an “excellent” evaluation.



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” evaluation to the shared youth ministry program.



Evaluation of Parish Outreach

In this subsection, respondents were invited to evaluate how well the parish reaches out and ministers to different groups. The responses offered ranged from “poor” to “excellent.”

Combined Positive Evaluations

With three exceptions, at least half of respondents give a positive evaluation to the parish outreach given to all of the groups presented in the table below. Outreach to teens (85%) is especially likely to be seen as “good” or “excellent,” with outreach to those divorced or separated (41%) least likely to be evaluated positively.

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Good” and “Excellent” combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	85	73
Children (ages 4 to 12)	71	77
Those grieving	68	72
Those sick or homebound	67	80
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	65	75
Visitors and guests	60	81
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	60	78
Married couples	59	72
Those in financial need	58	69
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	58	67
New parishioners	56	70
Widows or widowers	55	61
Single parents	47	52
Single adults	44	53
Those divorced or separated	41	54

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

Non-response Rate

Perhaps due to being unfamiliar with parish outreach to some groups, non-response rates are at least 40% for outreach to the following groups:¹⁰

- 46% for single parents
- 43% for those in financial need
- 43% for those divorced or separated
- 41% for single adults
- 41% for widows or widowers

While it is impossible to know why a respondent did not provide a response to a question, these high non-response rates might be suggestive that the parish has not made these programs well known.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 12 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to outreach to teens (85% compared to 73%).

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 10 to 21 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give a “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to the following groups:

- Visitors and guests (60% compared to 81%)
- Adults ages 36 to 64 (60% compared to 78%)
- New parishioners (56% compared to 70%)
- Those sick or homebound (67% compared to 80%)
- Married couples (59% compared to 72%)
- Those divorced or separated (41% compared to 54%)
- Those in financial need (58% compared to 69%)
- Senior citizens (65% compared to 75%)

¹⁰ For the non-response rate for all questions in this section, see Appendix I.

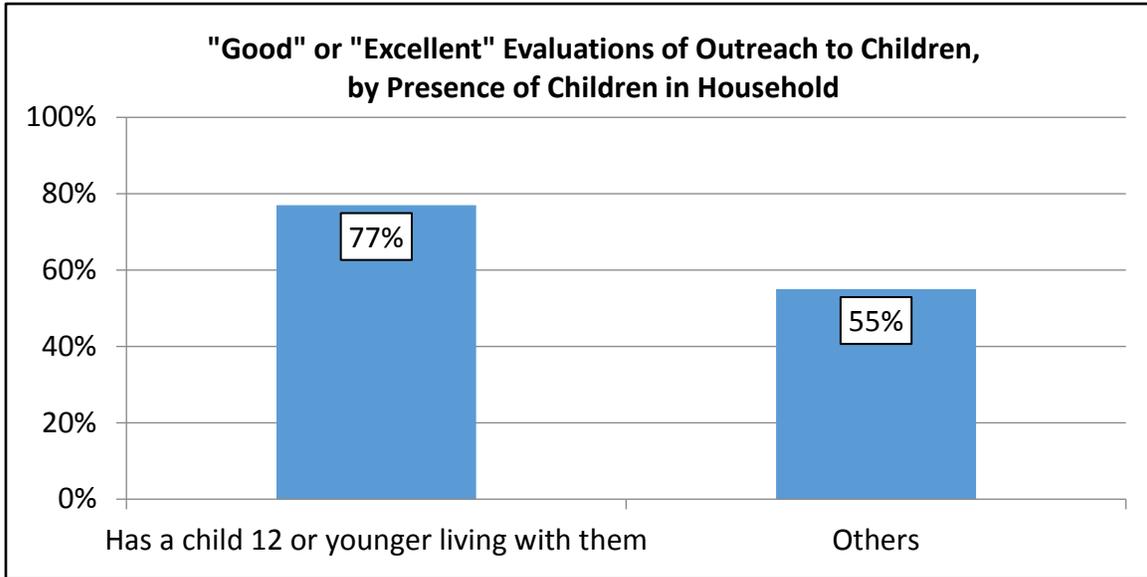
Comparison of Positive Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to give outreach to the following groups a positive evaluation: those grieving, adults ages 36 to 64, young adults, visitors and guests, new parishioners, those in financial need, single adults, single parents, and those divorced or separated. St. Joseph registrants, on the other hand, are *least* likely to give as high of an evaluation to parish outreach to senior citizens, young adults, and new parishioners.

<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:</i>			
<i>Percentage responding "Good" and "Excellent" combined</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	87	83	85
Children (ages 4 to 12)	74	73	68
Those sick or homebound	67	70	62
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	67	66	57
Those grieving	65	80	65
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	62	68	55
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	61	72	47
Visitors and guests	59	79	53
New parishioners	59	71	46
Married couples	59	63	54
Those in financial need	56	68	58
Widows or widowers	55	61	54
Single adults	44	58	38
Single parents	43	67	42
Those divorced or separated	38	70	38

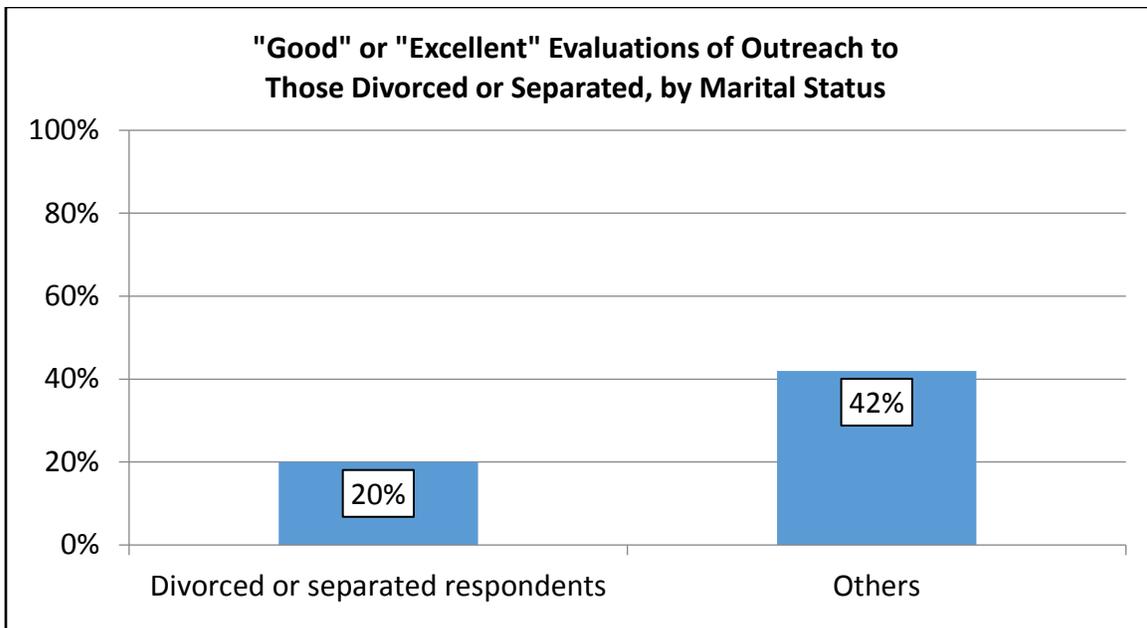
Differences by Children Present in the Household

Respondents with children or stepchildren living with them are more likely than others to give a combined “good” or “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to children ages four to 12.

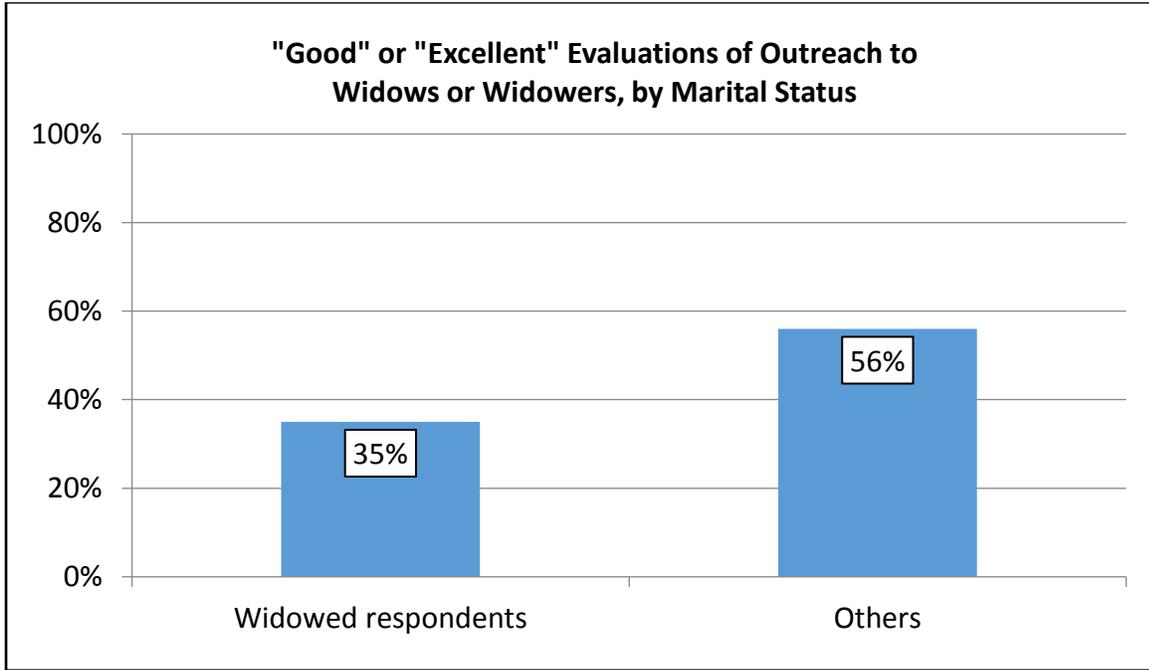


Differences by Marital Status

Divorced or separated respondents are *less* likely than others to give a combined “good” and “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to those divorced or separated.



Widowed respondents are *less* likely than others to give a combined “good” and “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to widows or widowers.



“Excellent” Ratings

Some 38% of respondents give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to teens. Concerning other age groups at the parish, between 15% and 25% give as high a rating to outreach to children (25%), senior citizens (22%), young adults (18%), and adults ages 36 to 64 (15%).

Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:		
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	38	30
Those sick or homebound	25	38
Children (ages 4 to 12)	25	33
Those grieving	25	31
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	22	34
Married couples	19	26
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	18	27
Visitors and guests	16	39
Those in financial need	16	28
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	15	31
New parishioners	15	29
Widows or widowers	15	22
Single parents	14	17
Those divorced or separated	12	19
Single adults	12	17

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

- Twenty-five percent give an “excellent” rating to parish outreach to those sick or homebound and to those grieving. Outreach to those in financial need get as high of a rating from 16%.
- Parish outreach to married couples receives an “excellent” evaluation from 19%, with slightly fewer giving as high of rating to outreach to widows or widowers (15%), single parents (14%), those divorced or separated (12%), and single adults (12%).
- About one in six say the parish is “excellent” in its outreach to visitors and guests (16%) and new parishioners (15%).

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 12 to 23 percentage points *less* likely than those at parishes nationally to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to the following groups:

- Visitors and guests (16% compared to 39%)
- Adults ages 36 to 64 (15% compared to 31%)
- New parishioners (15% compared to 29%)
- Those sick or homebound (25% compared to 38%)
- Senior citizens (22% compared to 34%)
- Those in financial need (16% compared to 28%)

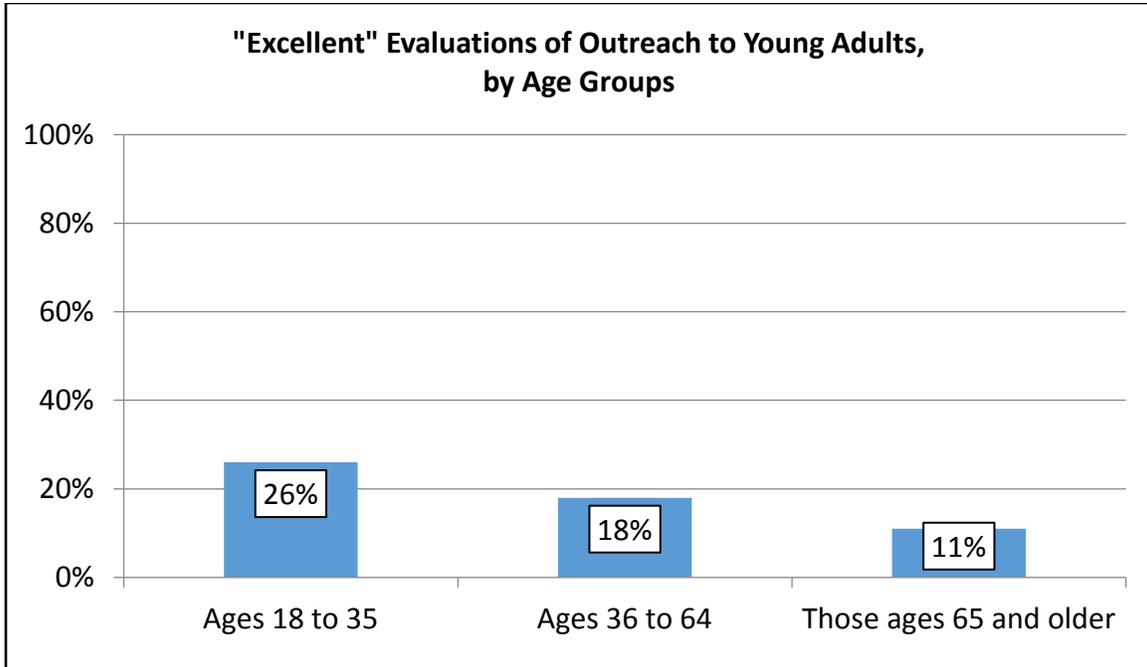
Comparison of “Excellent” Evaluations among the Cluster Locations

St. Francis Xavier registrants are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to those sick or homebound, young adults, married couples, visitors and guests, and those divorced or separated.

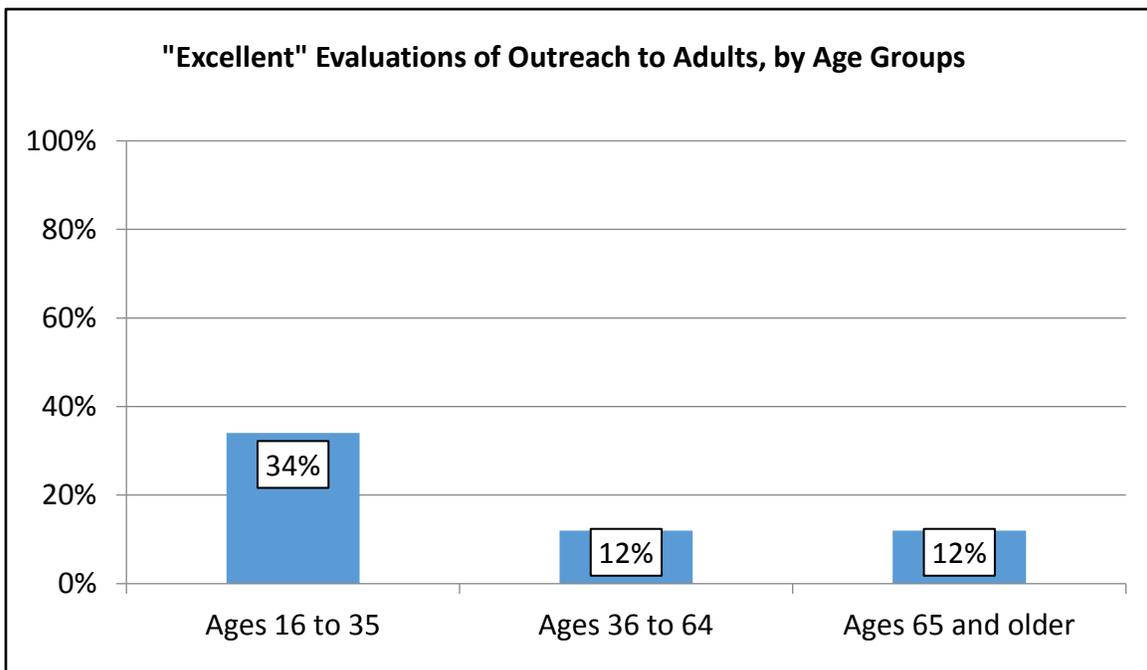
<i>Please evaluate parish outreach to these groups:</i>			
<i>Percentage responding “Excellent”</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	45	38	36
Children (ages 4 to 12)	24	33	25
Those sick or homebound	23	39	22
Those grieving	22	30	26
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	19	23	21
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	16	31	16
Married couples	14	30	18
New parishioners	14	23	15
Single parents	14	21	14
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	14	19	13
Widows or widowers	14	18	15
Those in financial need	13	21	19
Visitors and guests	12	24	18
Those divorced or separated	11	22	12
Single adults	11	19	13

Differences by Age Group

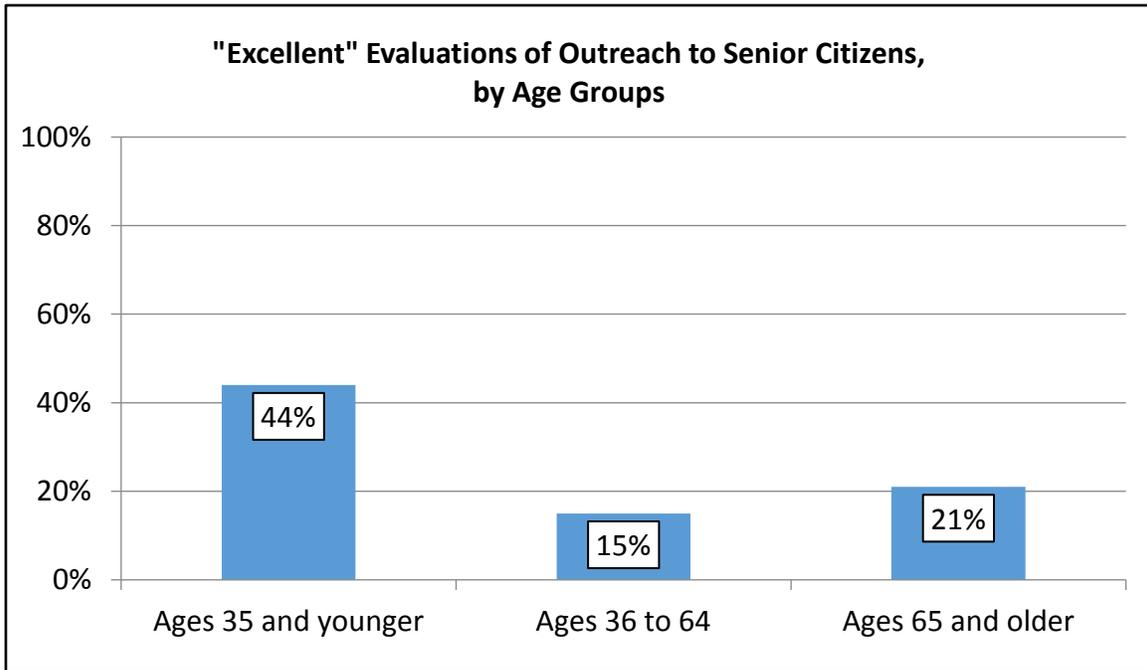
A quarter of those ages 18 to 35 give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to young adults.



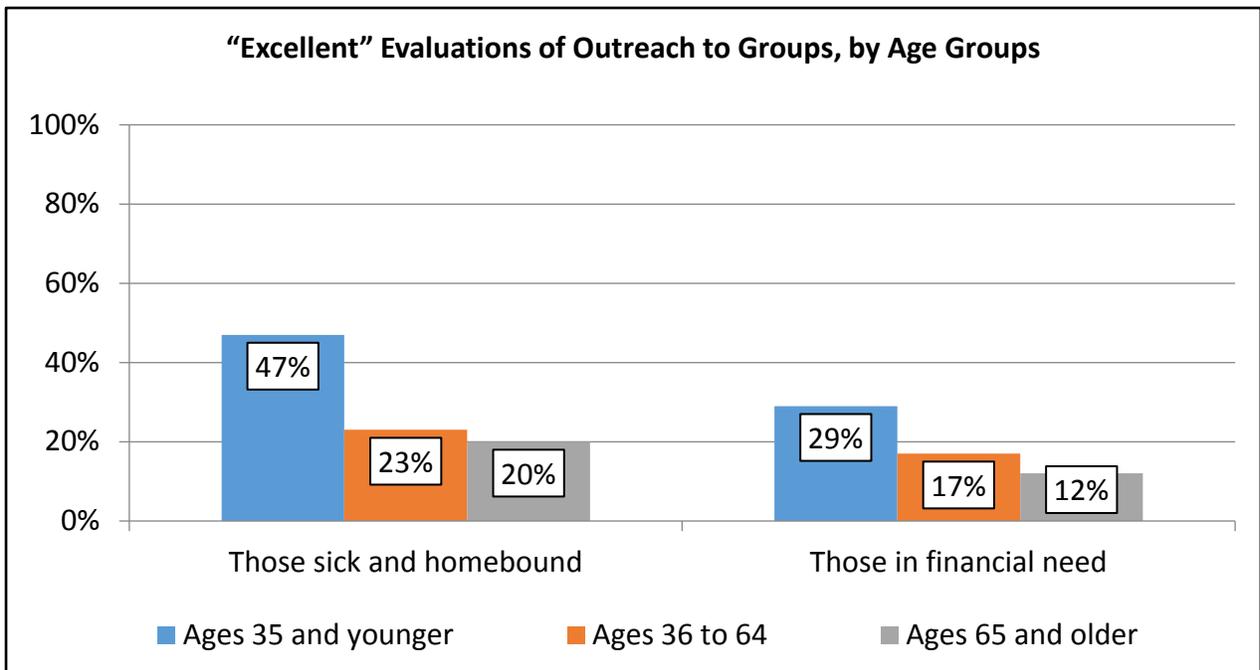
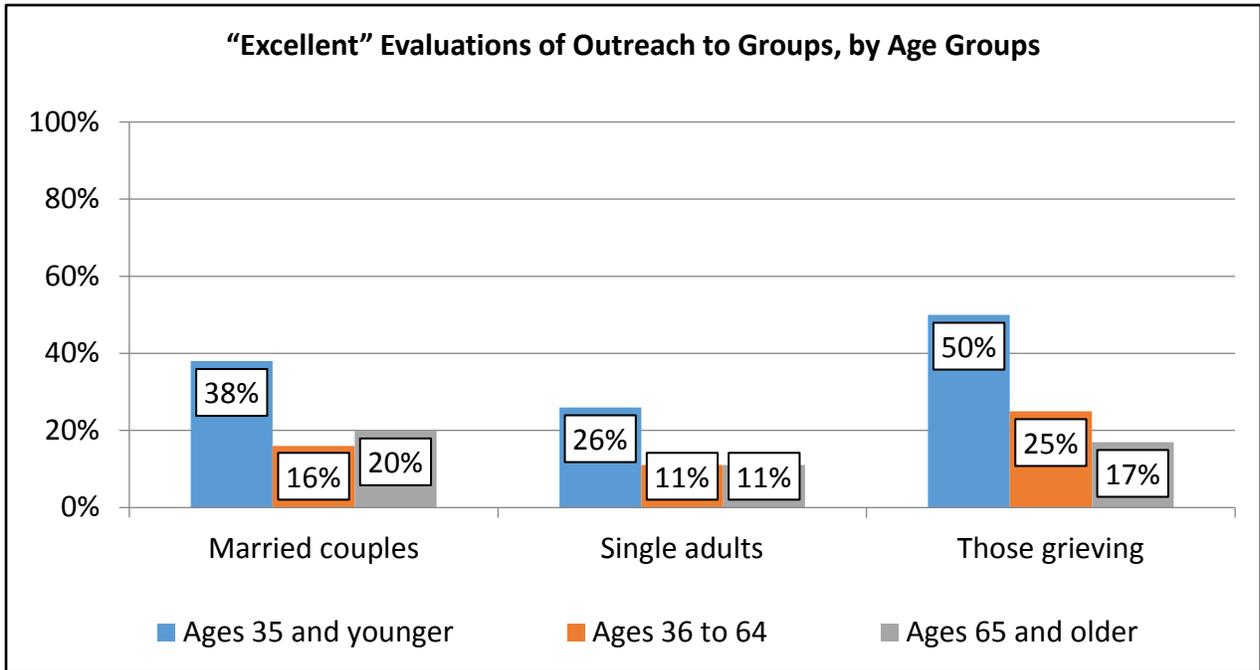
About one in ten of those ages 36 to 64 rate parish outreach to adults 36 to 64 as “excellent.”



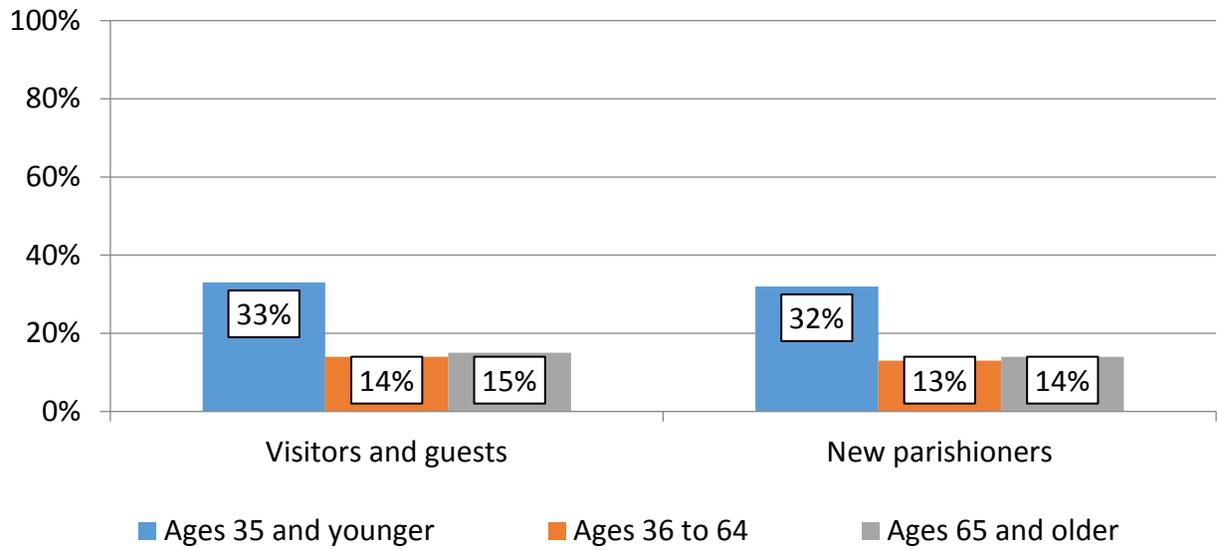
Two in ten of those age 65 or older rate as “excellent” parish outreach to senior citizens.



Those ages 35 and younger are most likely to give an “excellent” evaluation to outreach to the groups presented in the three figures below.

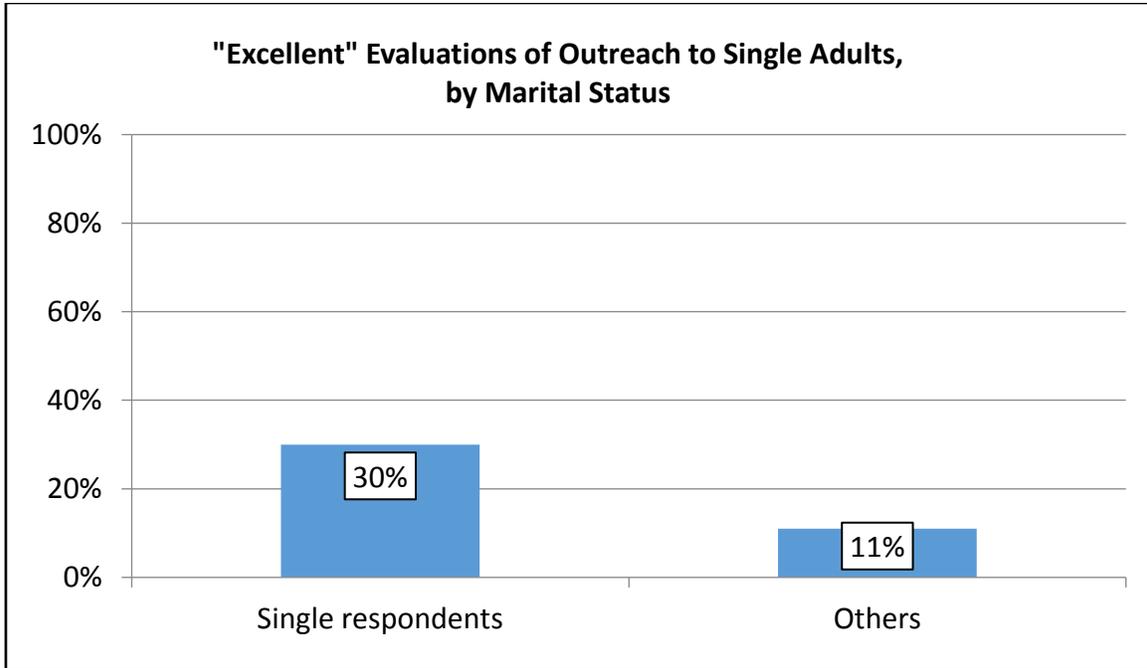


“Excellent” Evaluations of Outreach to Groups, by Age Groups

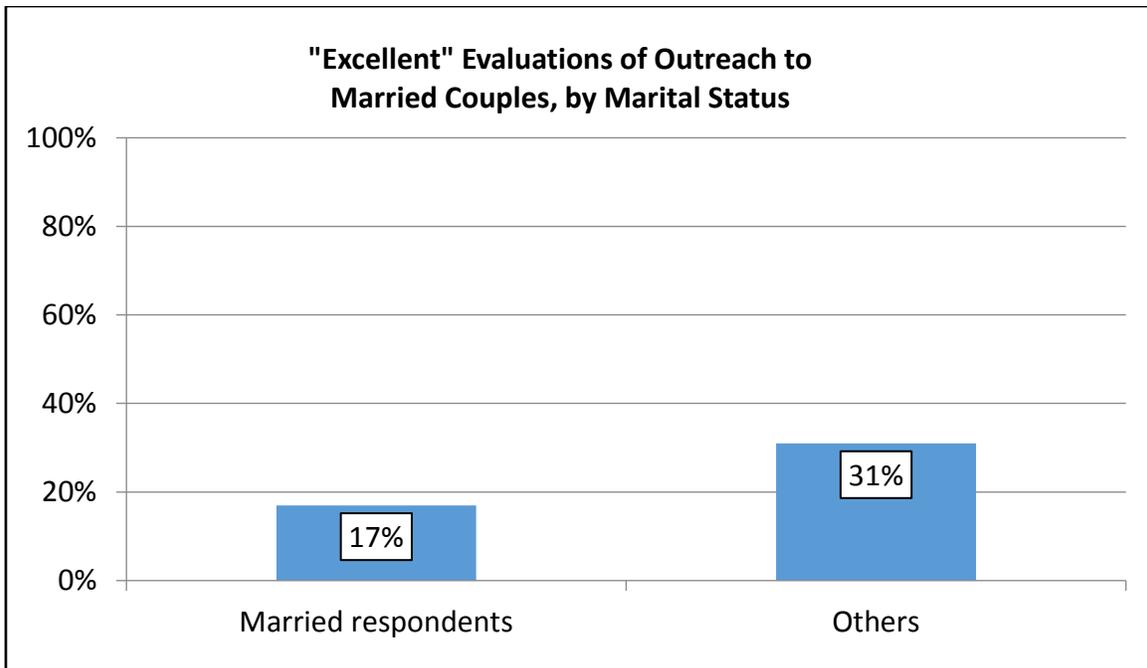


Differences by Marital Status

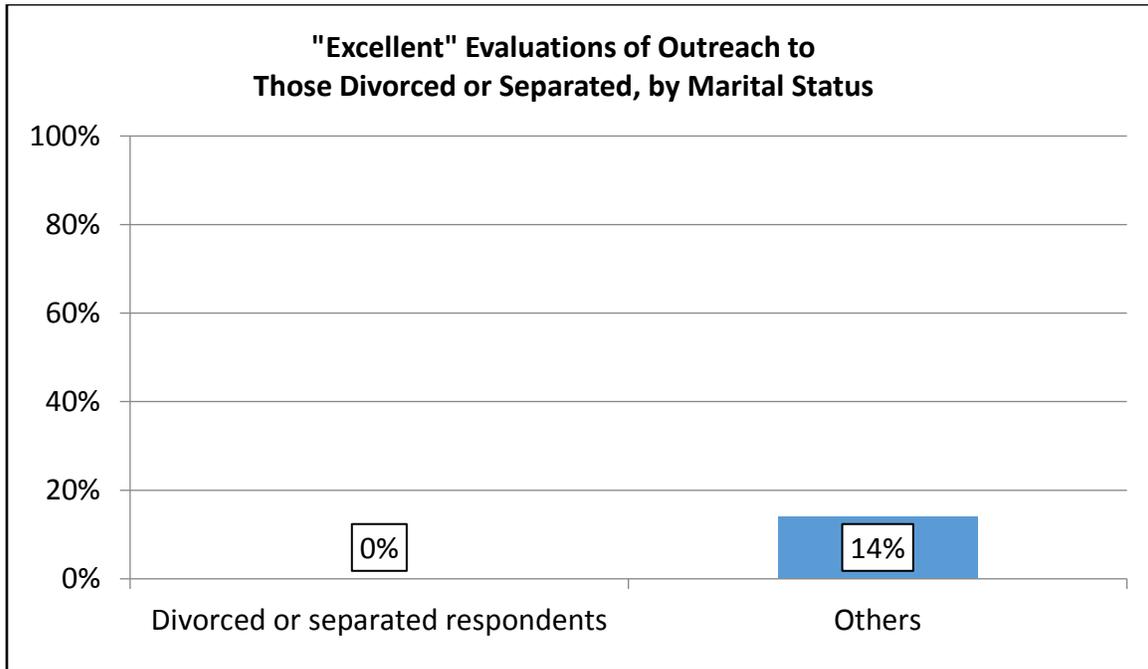
Single respondents are more likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to single adults.



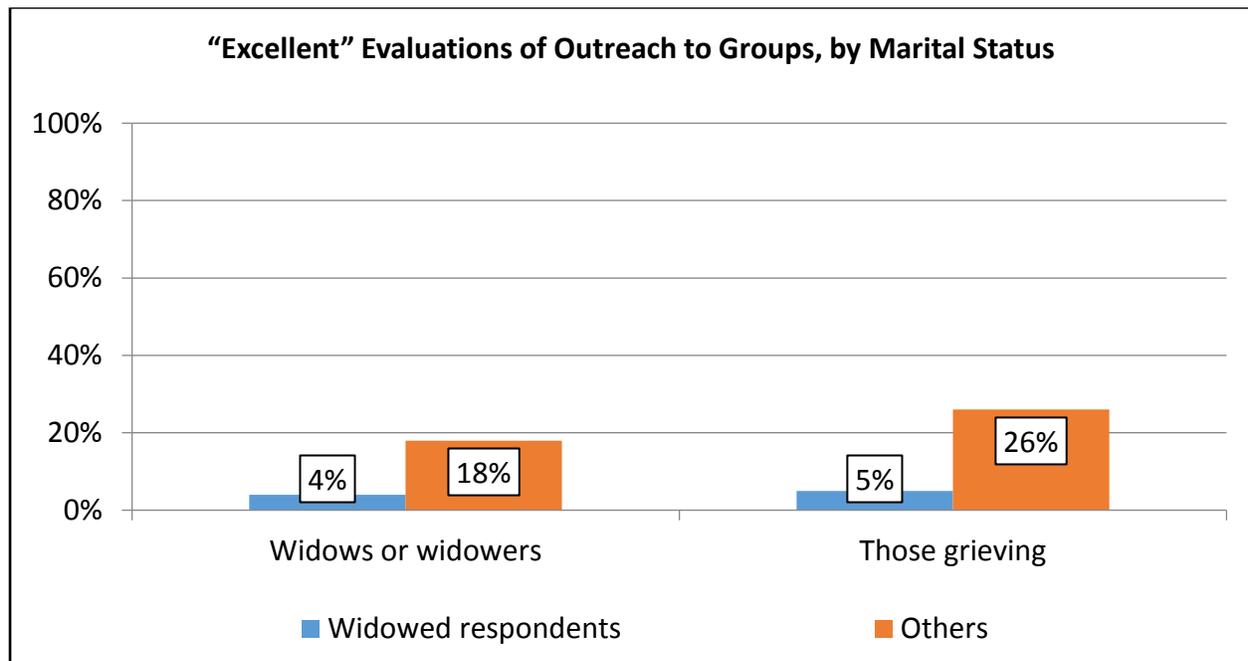
Married respondents are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to married couples.



No divorced or separated respondents give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to those divorced or separated.

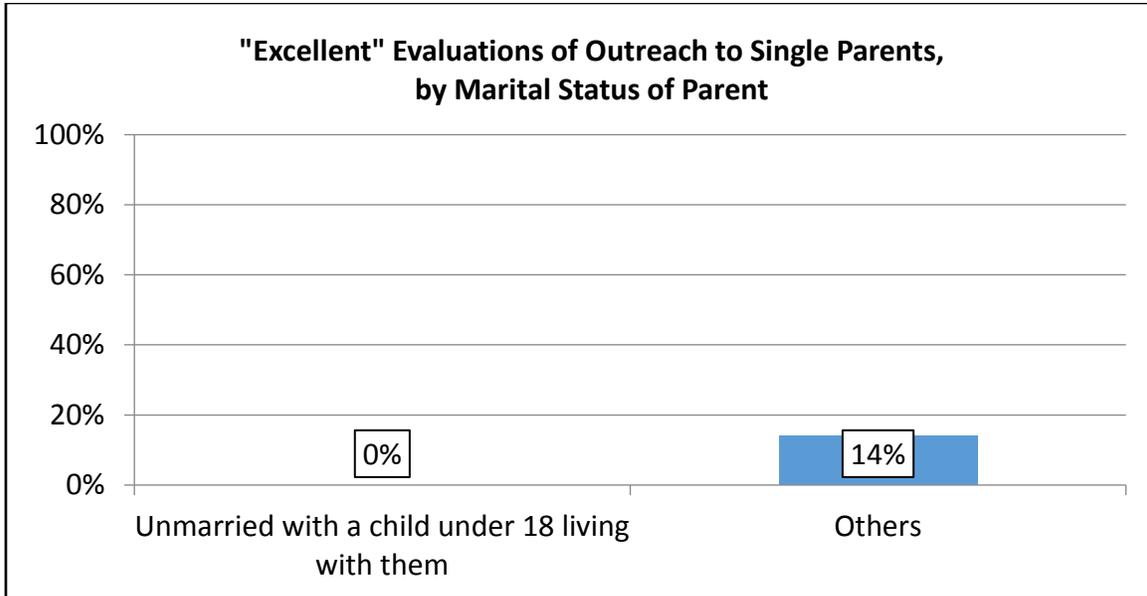


Widowed respondents are *less* likely than others to give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to widows or widowers and to those grieving.



Differences by Marital Status of Parent

No unmarried respondents with a child under age 18 living with them (five respondents) give an “excellent” evaluation to parish outreach to single parents.



Differences by Relationship to the Parish

Visitors at the parish are more likely than others to give parish outreach to visitors an “excellent” evaluation.



Top Priorities for Parish Outreach

Respondents were asked to choose the three groups from the list in the previous section that the parish should give most priority to for outreach.¹¹

Outreach to teens (43%) and young adults (44%) is listed as a top priority by more than four in ten respondents. Fewer list other age groups among their top three priorities for parish outreach: children (26%), senior citizens (17%), and adults ages 36 to 64 (16%).

Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach	
	One of Top Three Priorities %
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	45
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	44
Those sick or homebound	28
Children (ages 4 to 12)	26
New parishioners	26
Those grieving	22
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	17
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	16
Those divorced or separated	14
Visitors and guests	13
Widows or widowers	12
Those in financial need	12
Married couples	11
Single adults	6
Single parents	4

- Less than three in ten list the following groups in need among their top three priorities: those sick or homebound (28%), those grieving (22%), and those in financial need (12%).
- A quarter or less list outreach to new parishioners (26%) and visitors and guests (13%) among their top three groups.
- One-seventh or less lists any groups defined by their marital status among their top three groups for parish priority: those divorced or separated (14%), widows or widowers (12%), married couples (11%), single adults (6%), and single parents (4%).

¹¹ Forty-six percent did not provide a response to this series of questions.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

The top five groups for parish outreach listed among St. Catherine registrants are young adults (48%), teens (47%), children (28%), those sick and homebound (27%), and new parishioners (26%).

Groups Listed Among One's Top Three Priorities for Outreach			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Young adults (ages 18 to 35)	48	42	41
Teens (ages 13 to 17)	47	54	40
Children (ages 4 to 12)	28	19	24
Those sick or homebound	27	31	29
New parishioners	26	15	30
Those grieving	25	27	17
Adults (ages 36 to 64)	17	15	14
Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)	15	19	20
Those divorced or separated	15	8	16
Widows or widowers	14	8	11
Those in financial need	9	23	13
Visitors and guests	8	4	14
Married couples	6	8	14
Single parents	4	4	3
Single adults	1	4	11

- St. Francis Xavier registrants are most likely to list these five groups for outreach priority: teens (54%), young adults (42%), those sick and homebound (31%), those grieving (27%), and those in financial need (23%).
- The top five groups for parish outreach listed by St. Joseph registrants are young adults (41%), teens (40%), new parishioners (30%), those sick and homebound (29%), and children (24%).

Differences by Age Group

Respondents ages 35 and younger are most likely to list these six groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- Teens (51%)
- Young adults (49%)
- *Tie:* those grieving (29%) *and* new parishioners (29%)
- *Tie:* children (20%) *and* adults ages 36 to 64 (20%)

Adults ages 36 to 64 of the Vatican II Age Group are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- *Tie:* teens (42%) *and* young adults (42%)
- Those sick or homebound (32%)
- New parishioners (28%)
- Those grieving (22%)

Those ages 65 and older are most likely to list these five groups as one of their top priorities for parish outreach:

- Young adults (49%)
- Teens (43%)
- Children (38%)
- *Tie:* Senior citizens (25%) *and* those sick or homebound (25%)

Priority for Parish Needs

In this subsection of the report, respondents were asked how much priority they give to the parish needs shown in the table below. Responses ranged from “no” priority to “high” priority.

“Medium” to “High” Priority Combined

With two exceptions (both related to having more prayer opportunities), eight in ten or more give at least “medium” priority to each of the needs listed in the table below.

What priority do you give the following for the parish?		
<i>Percentage responding “Medium” and “High” Priority combined</i>		
	“Medium” and “High” Priority Combined	“High” Priority Only
	%	%
Youth ministry (high school age youth)	94	58
Children’s religious education/formation (kindergarten through 8 th grade)	92	52
Visitation of the sick and homebound	91	51
Ministry to those grieving	87	45
Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster	87	43
Young adult ministry	86	46
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	84	35
Divine Providence Academy	81	51
Adult faith formation	80	30
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	72	21
More small group prayer opportunities	63	19
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Parish need related to passing on the faith to the next generation are especially likely to receive “high” priority, with 46% to 58% giving “high” priority to youth ministry (58%), children’s religious education/formation (52%), Divine Providence Academy (51%), and young adult ministry (46%). Adult faith formation receives “high” priority from 30%.
- Visitation of the sick and homebound (51%) and ministry to those grieving (45%) receive “high” priority from roughly half of responding parishioners.

- Some 43% place “high” priority on developing a parish sense of community.
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy is given “high” priority from 35%.
- Two in ten place “high” priority on having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration (21%) and more small group prayer opportunities (12%).

Comparison of Priority Given to Needs among the Cluster Locations

Needs Given “Medium” and “High” Priority Combined

Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to give “medium” or “high” priority to developing a deeper sense of community at the Cluster. Those at St. Joseph, on the other hand, are relatively less likely to give as much priority to Divine Providence Academy and adult faith formation.

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Youth ministry (high school age youth)	95	97	94
Children’s religious education/formation (kindergarten through 8 th grade)	94	94	90
Visitation of the sick and homebound	89	95	92
Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster	88	95	82
Divine Providence Academy	88	88	75
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	86	86	82
Ministry to those grieving	85	93	87
Young adult ministry	85	91	86
Adult faith formation	85	87	76
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	77	77	69
More small group prayer opportunities	63	61	66

Needs Given “High” Priority Only

St. Catherine registrants are most likely to give “high” priority to Divine Providence Academy.

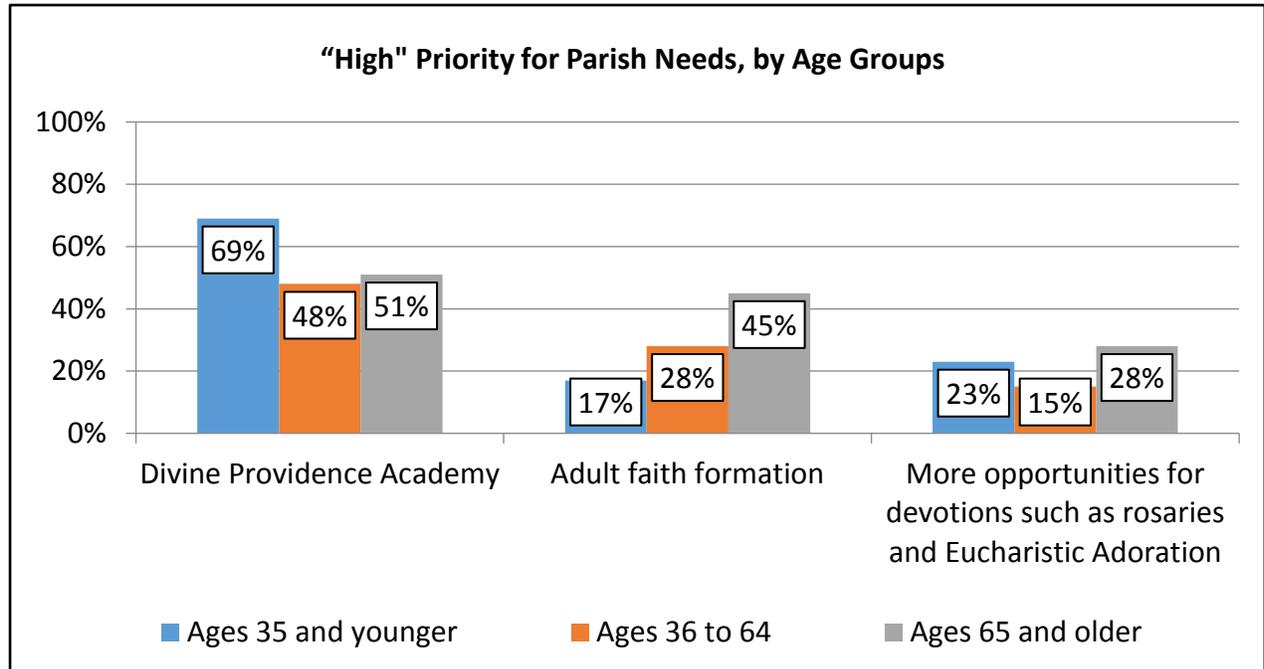
What priority do you give the following for the parish?			
<i>Percentage responding “High” Priority only</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Divine Providence Academy	62	47	45
Youth ministry (high school age youth)	58	53	61
Visitation of the sick and homebound	56	56	45
Children’s religious education/formation (kindergarten through 8 th grade)	53	49	56
Young adult ministry	46	53	46
Ministry to those grieving	43	53	43
Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster	43	38	43
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	37	38	30
Adult faith formation	33	37	27
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	25	21	17
More small group prayer opportunities	22	21	18

- St. Francis Xavier registrants are most likely to give “high” priority to ministry to those grieving and adult faith formation.
- Those at St. Joseph, on the other hand, are relatively less likely than others to give as much priority to visitation of the sick and homebound.

Differences by Age Group

Four in ten of those ages 18 to 35 place “high” priority on young adult ministry, compared to 45% of those ages 36 to 64 and 53% of those ages 65 and older.¹²

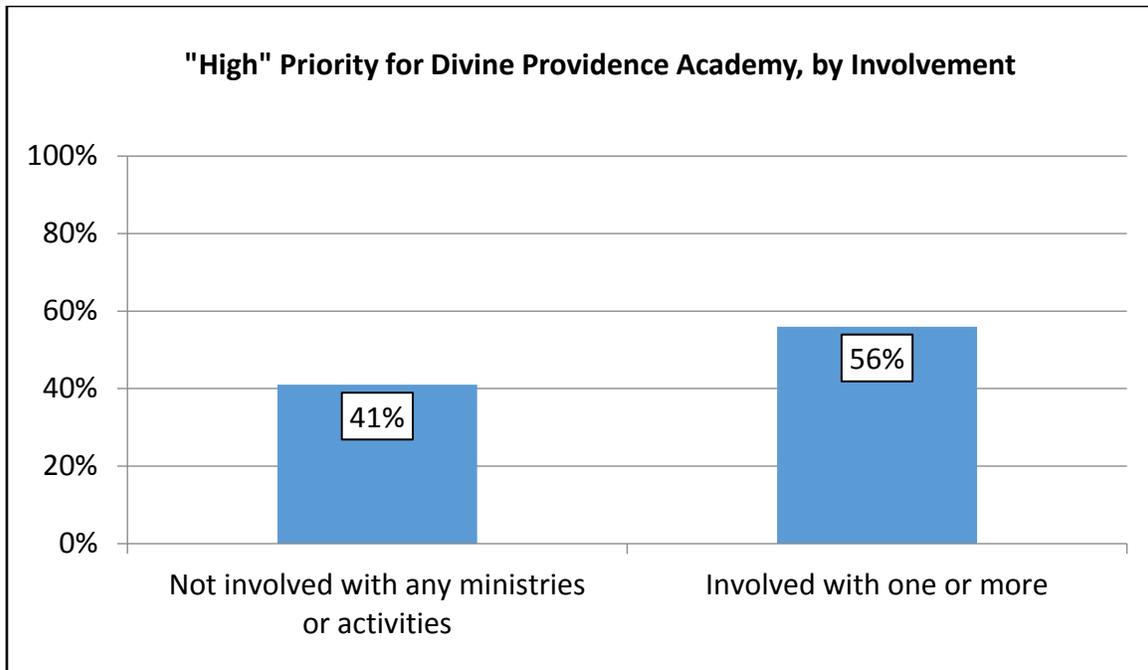
Those of the youngest age group are most likely to give “high” priority to Divine Providence Academy. Those of the oldest age group, on the other hand, are most likely to give “high” priority to having more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration.



¹² This difference is not shown in the figure because it does not meet standard statistical tests for significance. It should be treated as merely suggestive of a real difference.

Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than other respondents to say the parish should give Divine Providence Academy “high” priority.



Top Priorities for Parish Needs

Respondents were asked to choose the three needs from the list in the previous section that the parish should give most priority to.¹³

About a third or more list the following as top priorities for the parish: children’s religious education/formation (38%), visitation of the sick and homebound (38%), Divine Providence Academy (35%), youth ministry (34%), and developing a deeper sense of community at the Cluster (32%).

Needs Listed Among One’s Top Three Priorities	
	One of Their Three Top Priorities %
Children’s religious education/formation (kindergarten through 8 th grade)	38
Visitation of the sick and homebound	38
Divine Providence Academy	35
Youth ministry (high school age youth)	34
Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster	32
Ministry to those grieving	26
Young adult ministry	25
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	21
Adult faith formation	16
More small group prayer opportunities	11
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	5

- A quarter or slightly fewer list the following among their top three priorities: ministry to those grieving (26%), young adult ministry (25%), and providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (21%).
- One in six or fewer lists the following needs: adult faith formation (16%), more small faith group prayer opportunities (11%), and more opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration (5%).

¹³ Some 39% did not provide a response to this series of questions.

Comparison among Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Catherine are most likely to list these among their top needs: visitation of the sick and homebound (49%), Divine Providence Academy (45%), children’s religious education/formation (36%), ministry to those grieving (32%), and youth ministry (28%).

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	49	46	26
Divine Providence Academy	45	21	34
Children’s religious education/formation (kindergarten through 8 th grade)	36	39	46
Ministry to those grieving	32	29	21
Youth ministry (high school age youth)	28	39	41
Young adult ministry	27	29	24
Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy	21	25	18
Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster	21	18	35
Adult faith formation	14	11	18
More small group prayer opportunities	11	11	8
More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration	9	0	5

- Those registered at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to list these needs among their top three: visitation of the sick and homebound (46%), children’s religious education/formation (39%), youth ministry (39%), ministry to those grieving (29%), and young adult ministry (29%).
- St. Joseph registrants are most likely to list these needs: children’s religious education/formation (46%), youth ministry (41%), developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster (35%), Divine Providence Academy (34%), and visitation of the sick and homebound (26%).

Differences by Age Groups

Respondents ages 35 and younger are most likely to list these seven needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Divine Providence Academy overall (48%)
- Children's religious education/formation (41%)
- Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster (36%)
- Youth ministry (34%)
- Visitation of the sick and homebound (30%)
- Young adult ministry (27%)
- More small group prayer opportunities (20%)

Adults ages 36 to 64 are most likely to list these seven needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Children's religious education/formation (41%)
- Divine Providence Academy (40%)
- Visitation of the sick and homebound (38%)
- Youth ministry (37%)
- Developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster (33%)
- Ministry to those grieving (26%)
- Providing opportunities for parishioners to help the needy (24%)

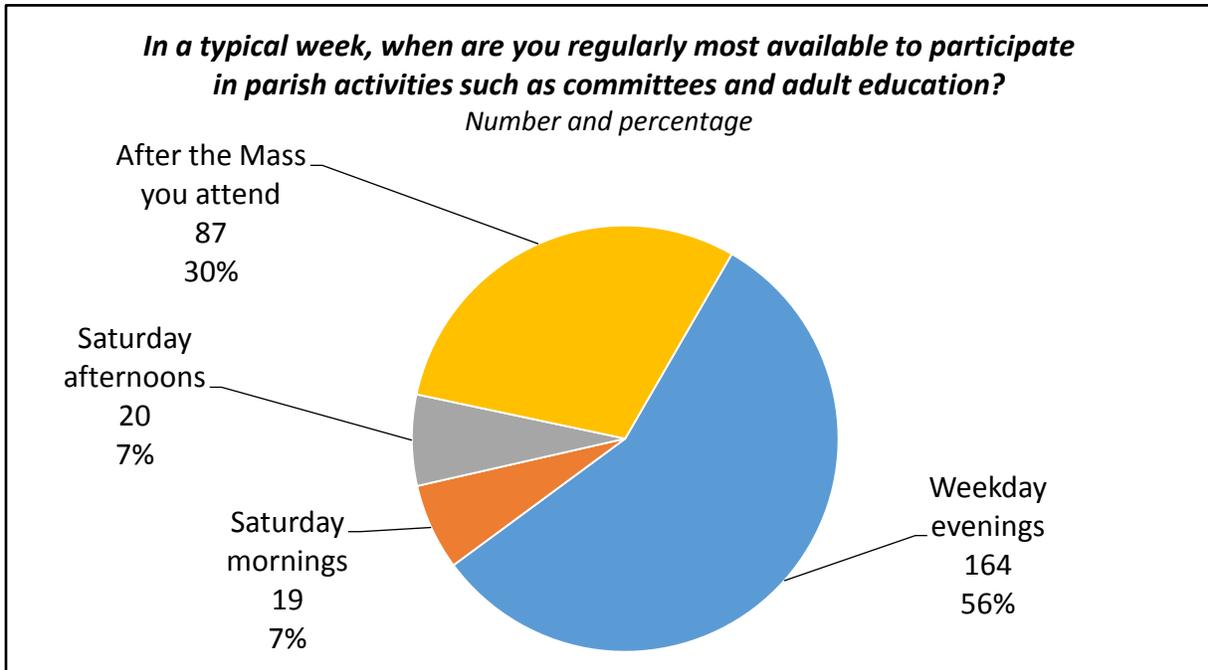
Those ages 65 and older are most likely to list these seven needs as one of their top priorities for parish needs:

- Visitation of the sick and homebound (39%)
- Children's religious education/formation (34%)
- Youth ministry (32%)
- *Tie:* young adult ministry (29%) *and* developing a deeper sense of community at our Cluster (29%)
- Ministry to those grieving (27%)
- Adult faith formation (22%)

Times of the Week Available

Responding parishioners were asked to identify the one time period in a typical week they are regularly most available to participate in parish activities such as committees and adult education. The percentage identifying each of four time periods offered are presented in the figure below.

The time of the week when respondents most commonly say they are available to participate in parish activities are weekday evenings (56%), followed by after the Mass they attend (30%).



Comparison among Cluster Parishes

Responses among those at the different Cluster parishes are similar, with 56% to 59% of those registered at all three sites reporting being regularly most available to participate in parish activities on weekday evenings. Some 27% to 33% are regularly most available after the Mass they attend.

Differences by Age Groups

Roughly four in ten of those ages 35 and younger report that they are regularly most available to participate in parish activities on Saturday afternoons (45%) and on weekday evenings (37%).

	Ages 35 and Younger	Ages 36 to 64	Ages 65 and Older
Weekday evenings	37	61	66
Saturday mornings	8	8	5
After the Mass you attend	10	7	6
Saturday afternoons	45	24	24

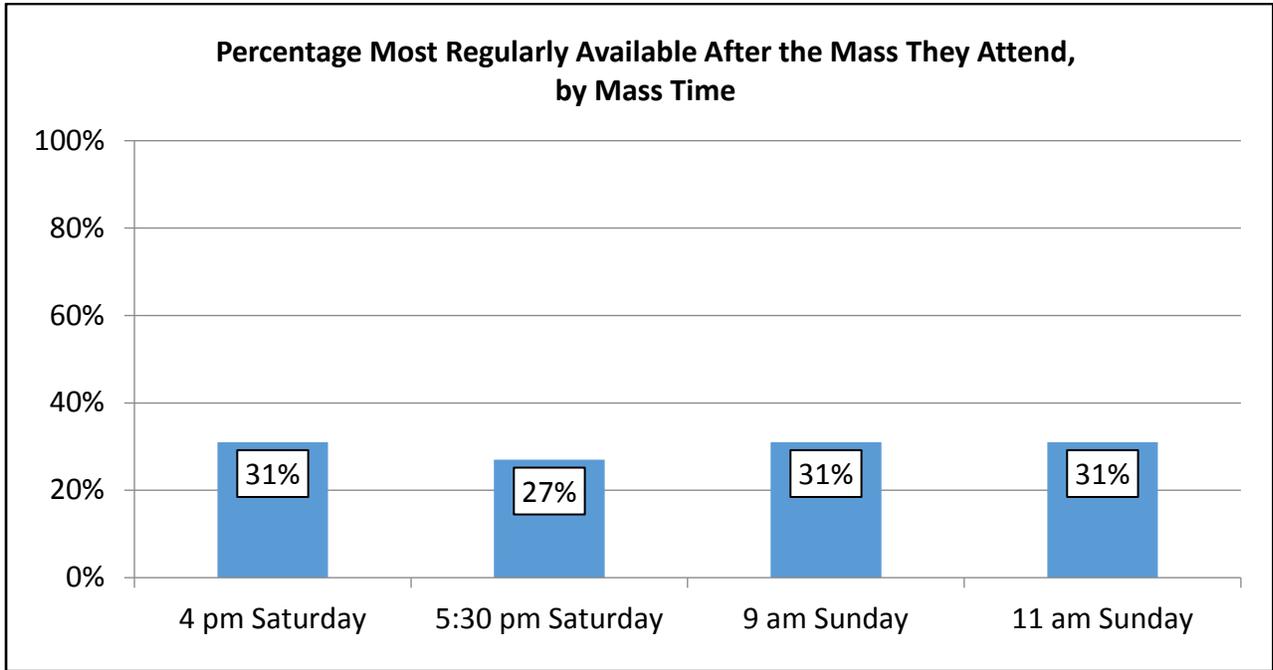
Those ages 36 to 64 (61%) and ages 65 and older (66%) are most likely to report being regularly most available to participate in parish activities on weekday evenings.

Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one parish ministry or activity (61%) are more likely than others to regularly be most available to participate in parish activities on weekday evenings. Those currently not involved in any more mixed, with 46% regularly most available on weekday evenings and 33% most available after the Mass they attend.

Differences by Mass Regularly Attended

The figure below shows the availability after the Mass they attend for those who responded at the various Mass times.



Attitudes about Parish Life

In addition to the evaluative and needs-assessment questions presented in the subsections above, responding parishioners were also asked to indicate their level of agreement with some statements about the parish, with their choices of responses ranging from “strongly” disagree to “strongly” agree. These findings are presented below.

Statements “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agreed with

Ways of communicating related to the weekend Masses are particularly likely to be seen positively. Nearly all respondents “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they listen to the announcements at Mass (98%) and that the bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life (96%). Fewer at least “somewhat” agree that they feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster (80%), that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information (76%), and that they use parish social media as a source of information (52%).

Please respond to the following about parish life		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agree combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
I listen to the announcements at Mass	98	–
The bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life	96	90
I am made to feel welcome at this parish	94	–
I am able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed	91	–
I feel included in parish life	88	87
I support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of Our Cluster’s major priorities	83	–
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	81	48
I feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster	80	83
I have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information	76	–
Our Cluster has come together as a community	71	–
<i>If applicable:</i> I am seriously considering sending my child(ren) to Divine Providence Academy	61	–
I use parish social media (Facebook, Twitter) as a source of information	52	–
<i>*Source: Cumulative average from parishes conducting CARA Parish Life Surveys</i>		

- Some 94% agree “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they are made to feel welcome at the parish, with 88% agreeing that they feel included in parish life.
- Ninety-one percent at least “somewhat” agree that they are able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed. Seven in ten (71%) agree that the Cluster has come together as a community.
- Eight in ten (81%) agree at least “somewhat” that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- More than eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree that they support having Divine Providence Academy continue being of the Cluster’s major priority. A related question asked those with school-age children whether they would consider sending their children to the parish school.¹⁴ Some 61% at least “somewhat” agree that they are seriously considering sending their children to Divine Providence Academy.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are 33 percentage points more likely than those at parishes nationally to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (81% compared to 48%).

¹⁴ Some 22% of all respondents provided a response to this question.

Comparison of Agreement with Statements among the Cluster Locations

St. Catherine registrants are most likely to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor and that they feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster. They are *least* likely, however, to agree that they use parish social media.

Please respond to the following about parish life			
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agree combined</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
I listen to the announcements at Mass	97	95	99
The bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life	96	98	95
I am made to feel welcome at this parish	96	94	92
I feel included in parish life	94	91	87
I am able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed	91	80	97
I support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of Our Cluster’s major priorities	90	97	72
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	86	73	76
I feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster	85	73	66
Our Cluster has come together as a community	74	77	65
<i>If applicable:</i> I am seriously considering sending my child(ren) to Divine Providence Academy	70	83	56
I have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information	69	72	85
I use parish social media (Facebook, Twitter) as a source of information	45	58	57

- St. Francis Xavier registrants are most likely to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of the Cluster’s major priorities and that (if applicable) they are seriously considering sending their children to Divine Providence Academy. They are *least* likely to agree, however, that they are able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed.
- Those registered at St. Joseph are most likely to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they are able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed and that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information. They are *least* likely, however, to agree that they support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one

the Cluster's major priorities, that (if applicable) they are seriously considering sending their children to Divine Providence Academy, that they feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster, and that the Cluster has come together as a community.

Strong Agreement with Statements

As above, ways of communicating related to the weekend Masses are particularly likely to be seen positively. More than six in ten “strongly” agree that they listen to the announcements at Mass (74%) and that the bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life (61%). Fewer “strongly” agree that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information (55%), they feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster (35%), and that they use parish social media as a source of information (32%).

Please respond to the following about parish life		
<i>Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree only</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
I listen to the announcements at Mass	74	–
The bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life	61	58
I am able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed	59	–
I support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of our Cluster’s major priorities	59	–
I am made to feel welcome at this parish	56	–
I have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information	55	–
<i>If applicable:</i> I am seriously considering sending my child(ren) to Divine Providence Academy	47	–
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	46	21
I feel included in parish life	43	49
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	35	38
I use parish social media (Facebook, Twitter) as a source of information	32	–
Our Cluster has come together as one community	26	–

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

- Some 56% “strongly” agree that they are made to feel welcome at the parish, with 43% agreeing that they feel included in parish life.

- Six in ten (59%) agree “strongly” that they are able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed. A quarter (26%) agree as strongly that the Cluster has come together as a community.
- Fifty-nine percent “strongly” agree that they support having Divine Providence Academy continue being of the Cluster’s major priority. A related question asked those with school-age children whether they would consider sending their children to Divine Providence Academy.¹⁵ Some 47% “strongly” agree that they are seriously considering doing so.
- Some 46% agree “strongly” that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches are more than twice as likely as those at parishes nationally to “strongly” agree that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor (46% compared to 21%).

¹⁵ Some 22% of all respondents provided a response to this question.

Comparison of Strong Agreement with Statements among the Cluster Locations

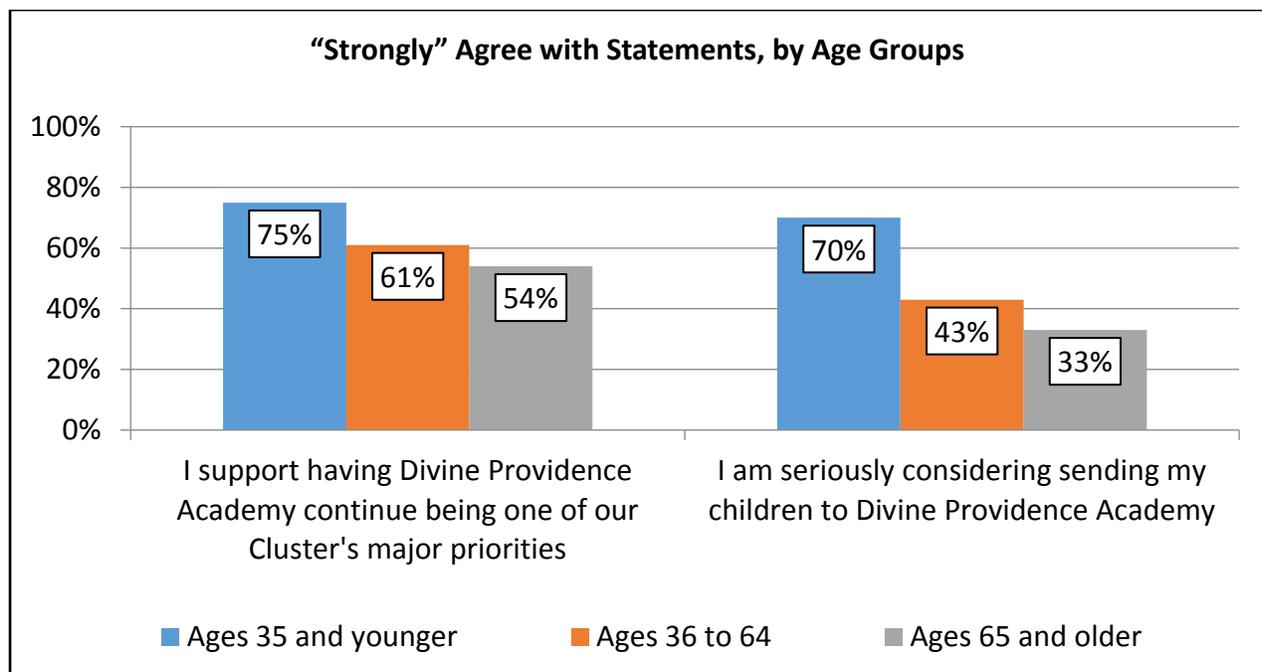
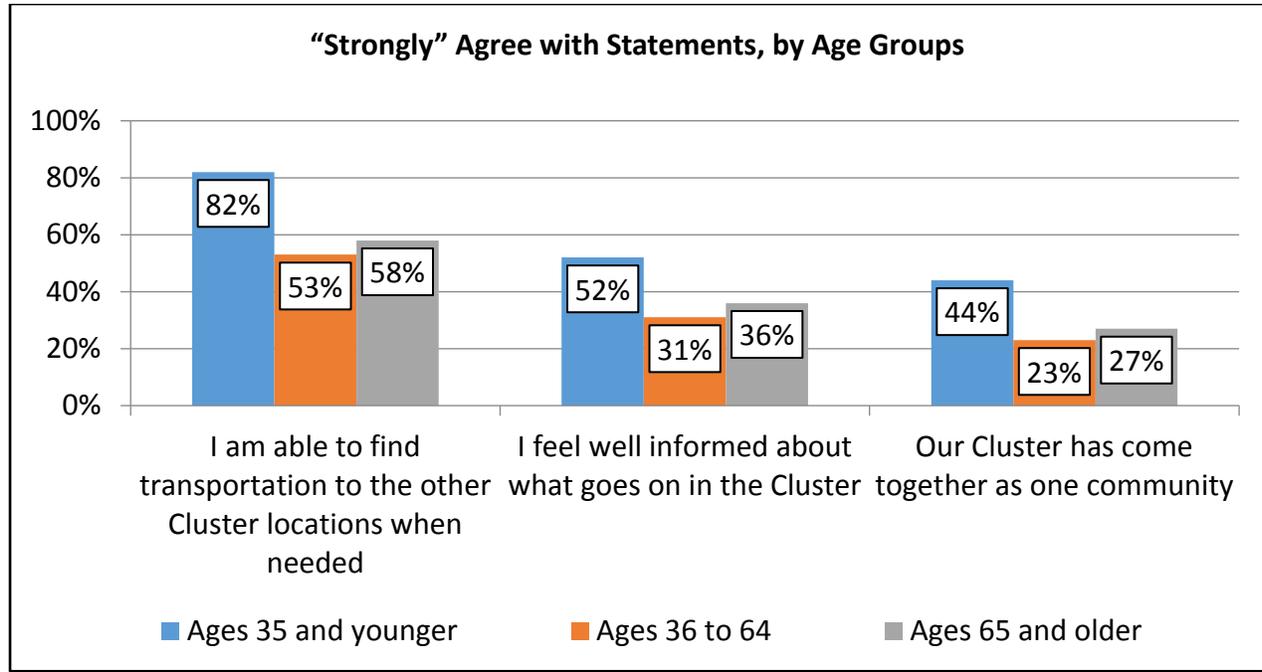
St. Catherine registrants are most likely to “strongly” agree that they support having Divine Providence continue being one of the Cluster’s major priorities, that they are seriously considering sending their children to Divine Providence Academy, and that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.

Please respond to the following about parish life			
<i>Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree only</i>			
	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
I listen to the announcements at Mass	79	75	71
I support having Divine Providence Academy continue being one of Our Cluster’s major priorities	68	59	49
The bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life	64	65	58
<i>If applicable:</i> I am seriously considering sending my child(ren) to Divine Providence Academy	63	33	44
I am able to find transportation to the other Cluster locations when needed	62	52	61
I am made to feel welcome at this parish	57	77	51
I have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information	51	38	64
I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor	51	38	43
I feel included in parish life	44	48	44
I feel well informed about what goes on in the Cluster	37	33	32
Our Cluster has come together as a community	29	32	24
I use parish social media (Facebook, Twitter) as a source of information	28	27	38

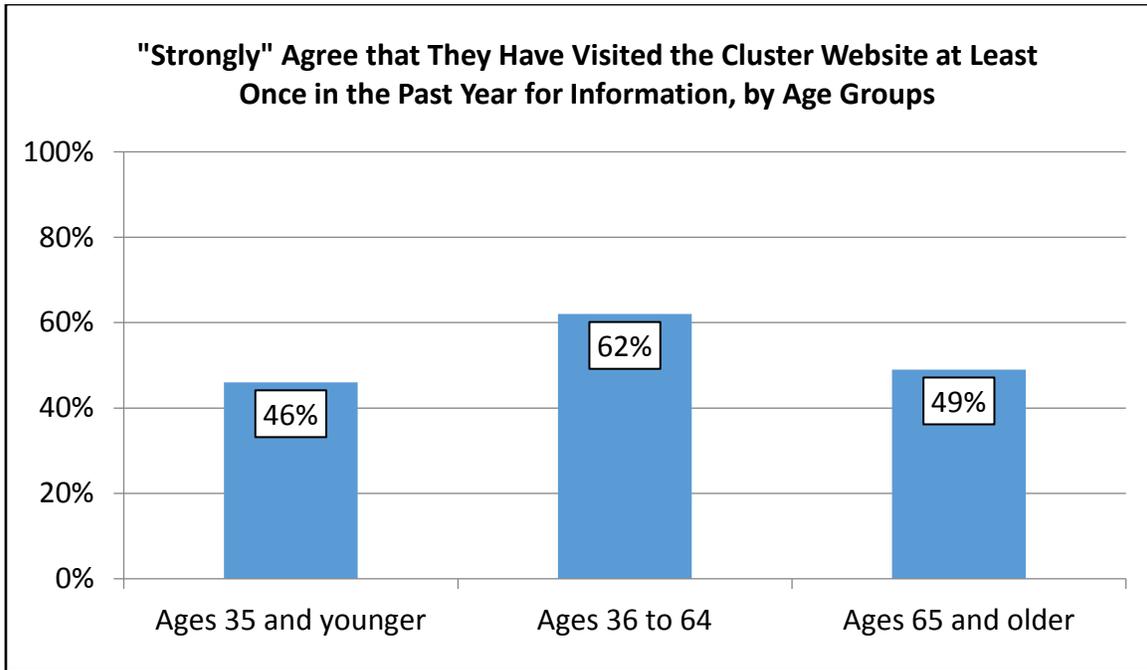
- Registrants at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to “strongly” agree that they are made to feel welcome at the parish. They are *least* likely, however, to agree as strongly that they are seriously considering sending their children to Divine Providence Academy, that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year, and that they would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- St. Joseph registrants are *least* likely to “strongly” agree that they support having Divine Providence continue being one of the Cluster’s major priorities and that they are made to feel welcome at the parish.

Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 35 and younger are especially likely to “strongly” agree with the statements presented in the figures below.

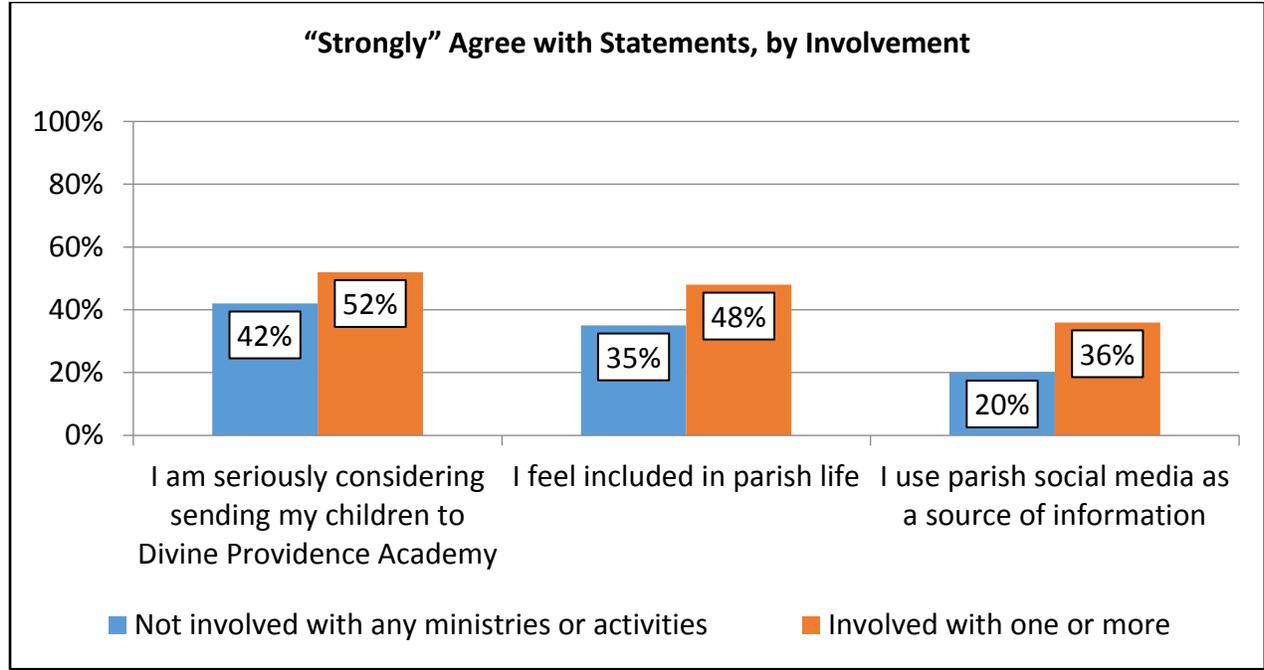


Those ages 36 to 64 are most likely to “strongly” agree that they have visited the Cluster website at least once in the past year for information.



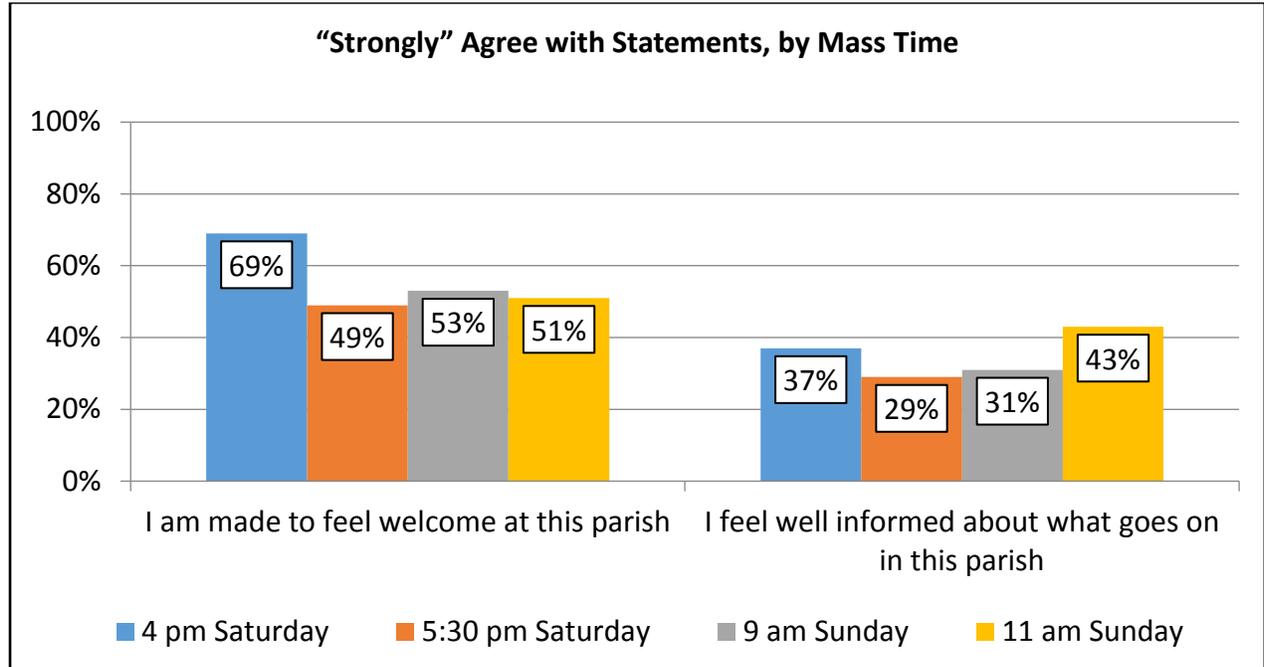
Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree with the statements presented in the figure below.



Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass are especially likely to “strongly” agree that they are made to feel welcome at the parish. Those responding at the 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses are especially likely to agree as strongly that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish.



Attitudes about Stewardship

Responding parishioners were also asked to indicate their level of agreement with some statements about stewardship. Their choices of responses ranged from “strongly” disagree to “strongly” agree.

Statements “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agreed with

Nine in ten (91%) agree “somewhat” or “strongly” that they understand the concept of stewardship.

Please respond to the following about stewardship		
<i>Percentage responding “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agree combined</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
I understand the concept of stewardship	91	85
I want to volunteer more for this parish/Cluster	69	75
I would volunteer more if someone personally invited me	58	61

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

- Seven in ten (69%) at least “somewhat” agree that they want to volunteer more for the parish/Cluster.
- Some 58% agree at least “somewhat” that they would volunteer more if someone personally invited them.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their agreement with the statements in the table above.

Comparison of Agreement with Statements among the Cluster Locations

Registrants at St. Catherine are most likely to “strongly” agree that they want to volunteer more for the parish/Cluster. Those at St. Francis Xavier are most likely to “strongly” agree that they would volunteer more if someone personally invited them.

Please respond to the following about stewardship
Percentage responding “Somewhat” and “Strongly” Agree combined

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
I understand the concept of stewardship	93	89	90
I want to volunteer more for this parish/Cluster	74	68	64
I would volunteer more if someone personally invited me	60	70	51

“Strongly” Agree

Some 55% “strongly” agree that they understand the concept of stewardship.

<i>Please respond to the following about stewardship</i>		
<i>Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree</i>		
	Our Cluster of Catholic Churches	Parishes Nationally*
	%	%
I understand the concept of stewardship	55	51
I would volunteer more if someone personally invited me	23	24
I want to volunteer more for the parish	16	25

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

- Twenty-three percent agree “strongly” that they would volunteer more if someone personally invited them.
- One in six (16%) “strongly” agrees that they want to volunteer more for the parish.

Comparison to Parishes Nationally

Respondents at Our Cluster of Catholic Churches do *not* differ significantly from those at parishes nationally in their agreement with the statements in the table above.

Comparison of Strong Agreement with Statements among the Cluster Locations

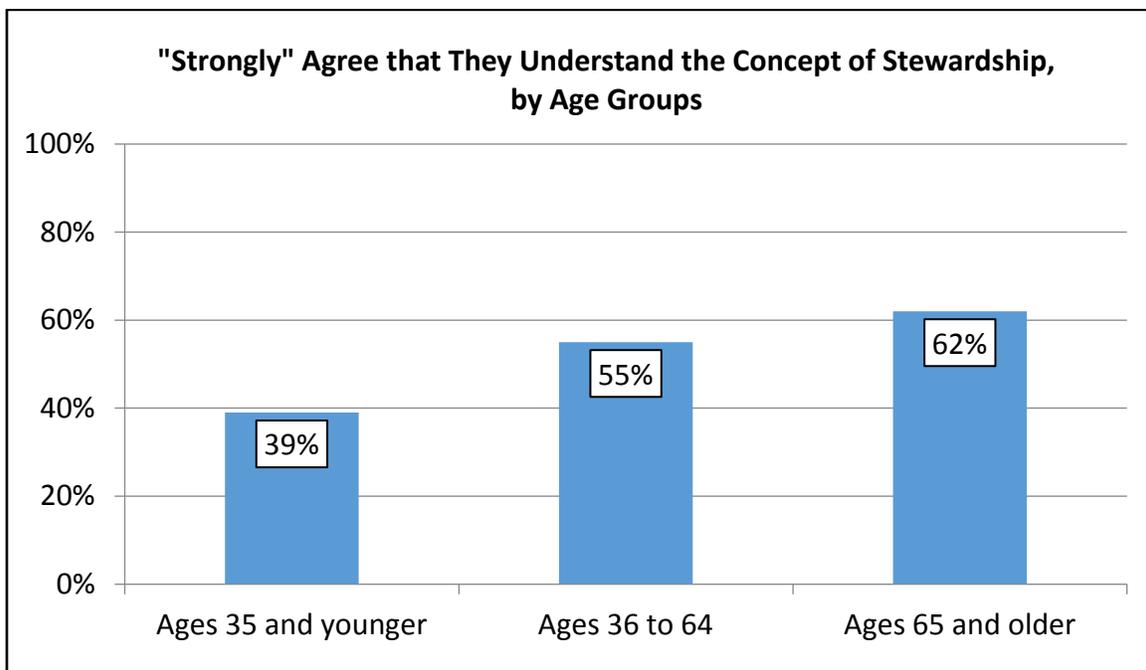
St. Catherine registrants are most likely to “strongly” agree that they understand the concept of stewardship and that they would volunteer more if someone personally invited them.

Please respond to the following about stewardship
Percentage responding “Strongly” Agree only

	St. Catherine	St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph
	%	%	%
I understand the concept of stewardship	65	43	50
I want to volunteer more for this parish/Cluster	20	14	13
I would volunteer more if someone personally invited me	29	10	20

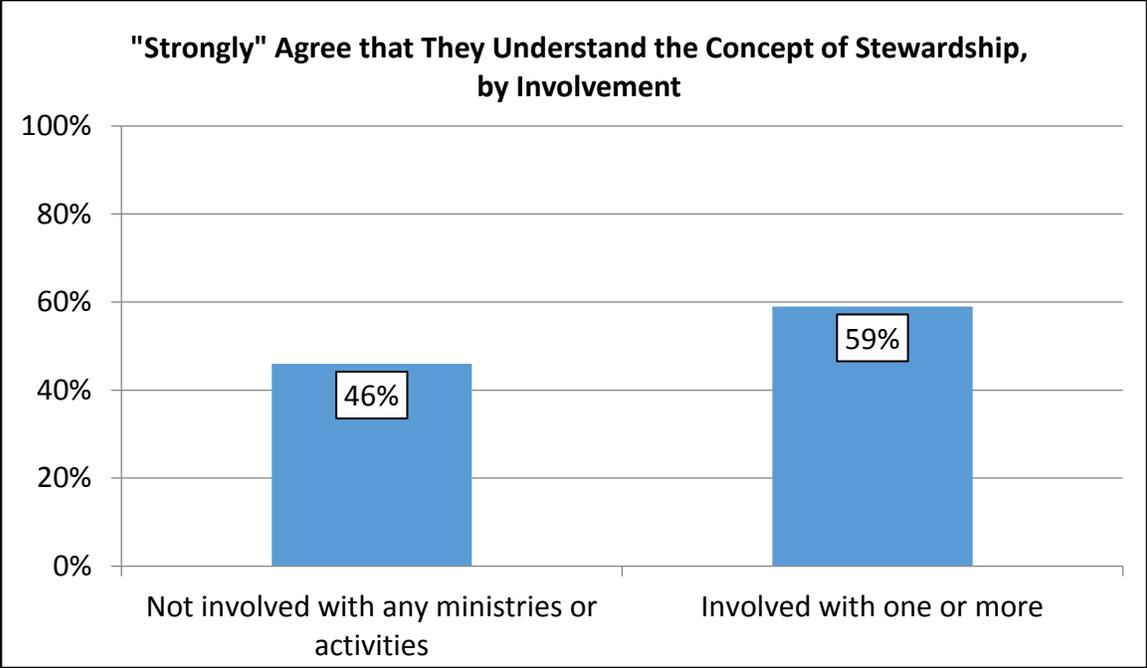
Differences by Age Groups

The older the age group, the more likely its members are to “strongly” agree that they understand the concept of stewardship.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree that they understand the concept of stewardship.



Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions

