


Passing on the Faith: The Challenge and the Blessing!



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Objectives:

- Assess the current ministry territory
- Identify engagement as a ministerial lens
- Consider Catholicism as a comprehensive way of living

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Going, Going, Gone

The Dynamics of Disaffiliation
in Young Catholics

Quantitative (Surveyed Data 2015)

Followed by

Qualitative (Storied Data 2017)




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In Your Experience


Do you know someone who has left the Catholic Church?

Hold them in your mind ... Think about the circumstances or experiences that led to their leaving.




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Religiosity and Practice




| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Abiders (20%) | Adapters (20%) | Assenters (31%) | Avoiders (24%) | Atheists (5%) |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|

A Faith of their Own, Pearce and Lundquist Denton



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Rise of the "Nones"



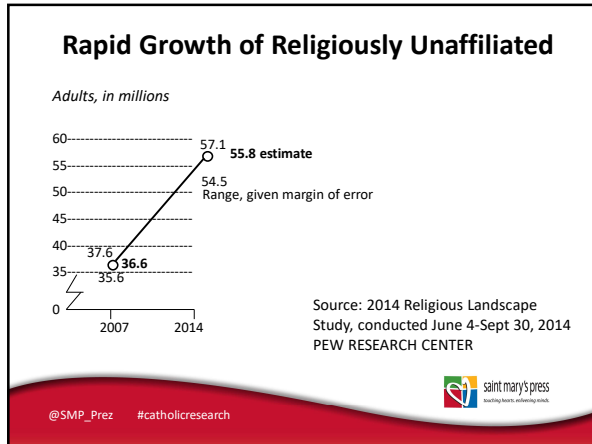
36%

Of 19-25 year olds identify themselves as unaffiliated with any religion.

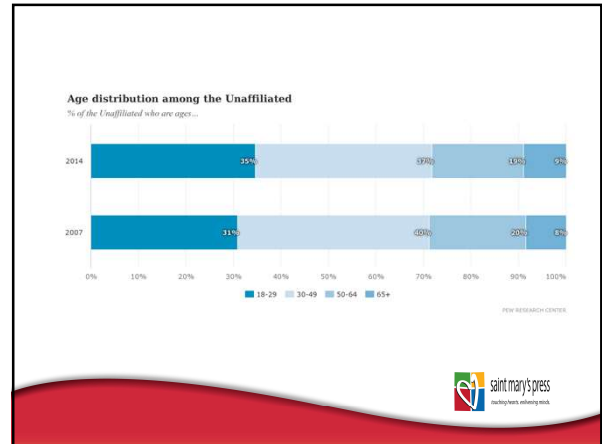
... 39% of Catholics marry in the Church

Over 26 million former Catholics ...

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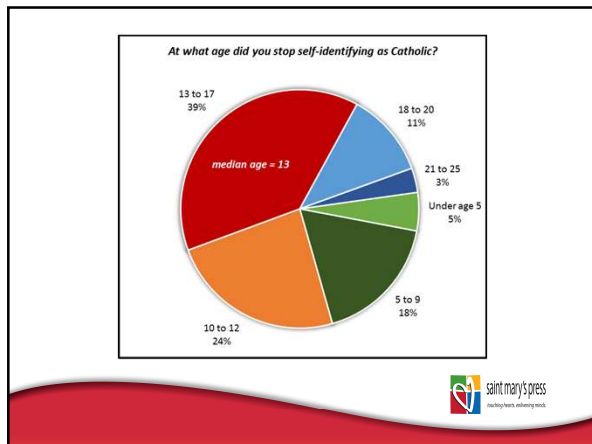


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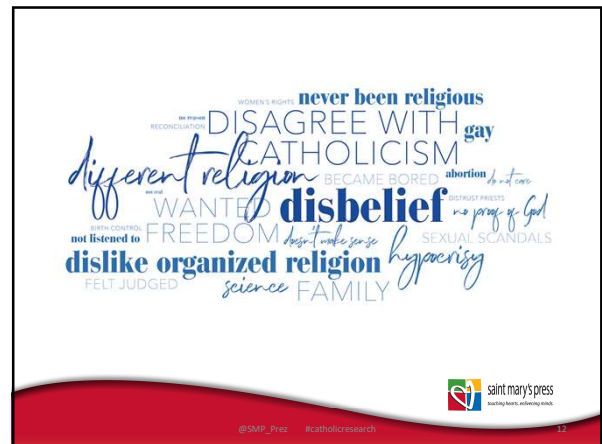
At what age did disaffiliated young adults report that they stopped identifying as Catholic?

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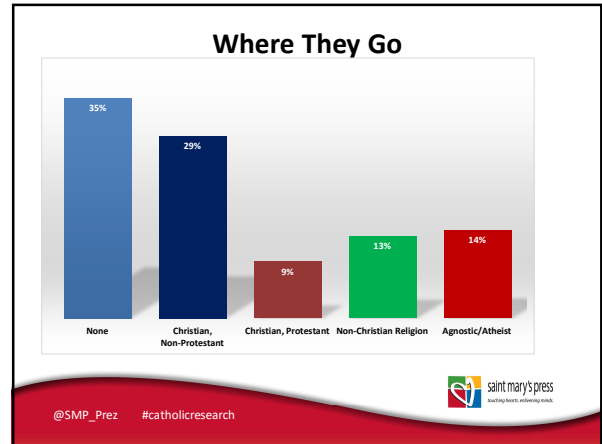
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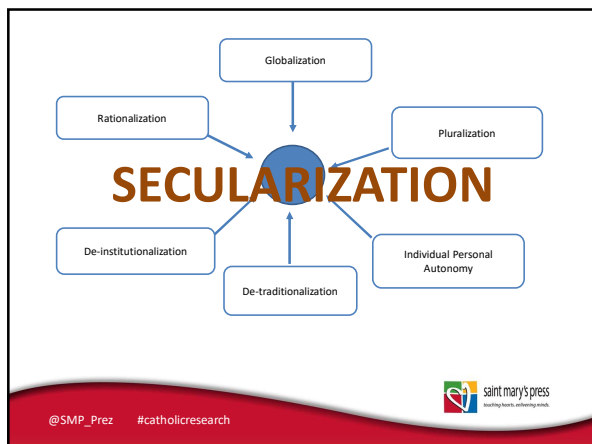
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Trust in Institutions

| Institution | 1970s | Today |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| • Big Business | 26% | 18% |
| • The Medical System | 80% | 39% |
| • The Presidency | 52% | 36% |
| • Television News | 46% | 21% |
| • Congress | 42% | 9% |
| • Newspapers | 39% | 20% |
| • Public Schools | 58% | 30% |
| • Banks | 60% | 27% |
| • Organized Religion | 65% | 41% |

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Trust of Church Leadership

Pew Survey July 2019

- 28% of all Catholics have scaled back both Mass attendance and donations
- 15% of Catholic weekly Mass goers have scaled back attendance and 20% have scaled back donations

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Trust of Church Leadership

The challenge in an era of diminishing resources:

- Institutional preservation ↔ organizational mission
- Maintenance ministry ↔ missionary ministry
- Sustainability must emphasize mission and vision

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“teachers of the faith can no longer rely on a pervasive Catholic culture to form their students. That culture no longer exists...”

--Patrick Manning PhD,
Seton Hall Seminary

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| Catholic Markers | Past 17 Yrs |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Infant Baptism | ↓ 34% |
| Adult Baptism | ↓ 52% |
| RCIA | ↓ 24% |
| First Communion | ↓ 19% |
| Confirmation | ↓ 8% |
| Marriages | ↓ 44% |
| Annulments | ↓ 59% |
| Funerals | ↓ 17% |
| Secondary School | ↓ 14% |
| Elementary School | ↓ 40% |
| Parish R.E. | ↓ 30% |

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“fewer and fewer Catholics recognize the relevance of the sacraments for their lives.


...

Yet none of this is to say that spirituality and religion are on the way out.”

--Patrick Manning, PhD

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Crafting a Religious Identity in a Secular World




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Religious Identity

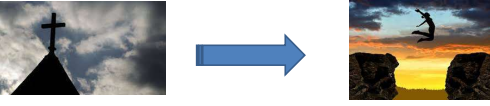
- Provides a perspective from which to view the world, rooted in a set of basic principles and values to be lived out
 - * A sense of meaning and purpose
- The sense of group membership to a religion as it pertains to self-identity
 - * A sense of connection, recognition



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Crafting a Religious Identity



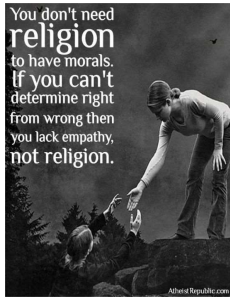
Religious identity is increasingly . . .

Personally Constructed and Piecemealed




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They see themselves as moral and committed to living a moral life, but reflect Peter Berger's observation about secularism – "I can be ethical without religion."



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Affiliation

- High Engagement
- Sacramental Life - Mass
- Doctrinal Adherence
- Communal Involvement
- Financial Giving
- Ritual Practice
- Prayer & devotion
- Ongoing Catechesis




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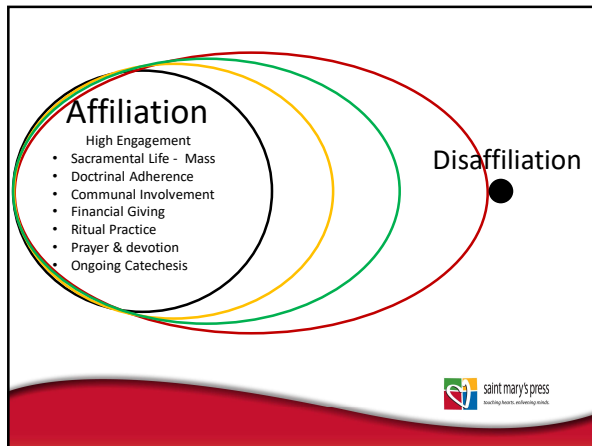
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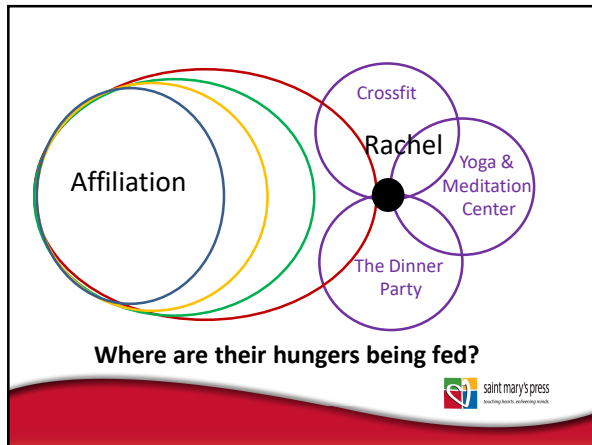
Rachel's Story "Finally!"

Those Who Have Disaffiliated:

- Do we know who they are?
- Do we miss them now that they are gone?
- Do they know they are missed now that they are gone?



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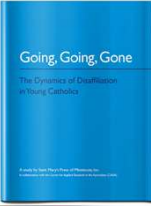
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Reflection


- *What do you hear in the data and stories of those who have disaffiliated that resonates with your experience?*
- *What insight or learning has emerged or is emerging for you, as you listen to the storied data?*
- *What do you most hope the Church can learn from the lived experiences of the disaffiliated - what is the grace of their stories for the Church?*

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