

COVER STORY: SURVEY OF U.S. CATHOLICS

Does Catholic education make a difference?

We should expect that a growing number of young adults will have more individualistic views of their relationship with God.

Did you ever attend a Catholic school or college for any of your education? Table 14

(percent)

	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II
Attended a Catholic elementary school	42	59	45
Attended a Catholic high school	22	33	29
Attended a Catholic college or university	11	13	12

Catholic high school or college attendees have more education, income Table 15

	Catholic high school		Catholic college or university	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
College graduate or more	44%	28%	61%	28%
Household income \$75,000 or more	49%	32%	54%	35%

Catholic high school and attachment to the church Table 16

(percent)

Attended Catholic high school

	Yes	No
Catholic church is quite important or among the most important parts of your life	77	67
Pray daily or more	70	59
Would never leave the Catholic church	66	52
Often feel you cannot explain your faith to others (strongly disagree)	35	26
High commitment Catholic	26	19

Catholic high school and attitudes about parish life Table 17

(percent)

Attended Catholic high school

	Yes	No
On the whole, parish priests do a good job (agree)	93	91
Most priests don't expect the laity to be leaders, just followers (disagree)	51	44
Catholic churches are too big and impersonal (agree)	45	38
Willing to accept merging parishes (very acceptable)	42	33
Willing to accept closing the parish (not at all acceptable)	65	72
Catholics should have the right to participate in selecting priests for their parish	66	74
It would be a good thing if priests who have married were allowed to return to active ministry (strongly agree)	42	49