

Generational differences

Generational differences over time

(percent)

Table 3

Post-Vatican II Catholics

1987 1993 1999 2005
Gen X Millennials

Church among most important parts of my life	42	34	39	47	30
Attend Mass weekly or more	30	27	27	26	15
Would never leave the church	54	47	47	53	33
Can be a good Catholic without					
Marrying in the church	56	65	71	68	77
Attending Mass every week	76	79	81	76	95
Individuals have final say on abortion	51	49	52	44	77
Church leaders have final say on abortion	24	15	10	22	6
Individuals have final say on birth control	69	62	79	60	77
Church leaders have final say on birth control	9	8	6	11	10

Vatican II Catholics

1987 1993 1999 2005

Church among most important parts of my life	42	44	46	36
Attend Mass weekly or more	40	42	42	35
Would never leave the church	57	53	60	58
Can be a good Catholic without				
Marrying in the church	57	69	68	70
Attending Mass every week	57	77	75	76
Individuals have final say on abortion	51	42	52	43
Church leaders have final say on abortion	28	19	27	30
Individuals have final say on birth control	69	62	70	64
Church leaders have final say on birth control	11	12	13	13

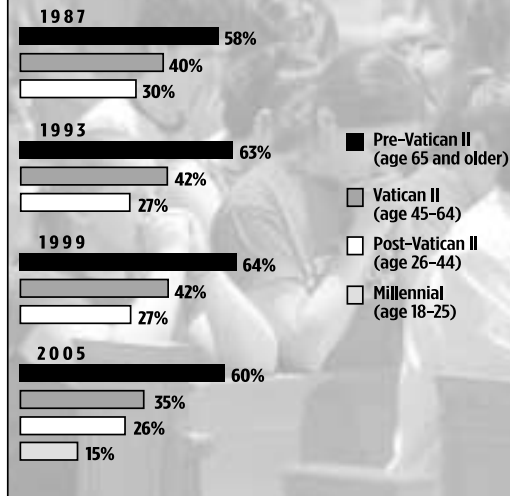
Pre-Vatican II Catholics

1987 1993 1999 2005

Church among most important parts of my life	61	61	66	59
Attend Mass weekly or more	58	63	64	60
Would never leave the church	78	81	78	69
Can be a good Catholic without				
Marrying in the church	45	51	61	58
Attending Mass every week	65	69	71	69
Individuals have final say on abortion	37	36	40	31
Church leaders have final say on abortion	42	31	29	33
Individuals have final say on birth control	40	46	58	46
Church leaders have final say on birth control	23	23	21	20

Attend Mass weekly or more

Figure 2



We will know soon enough if these findings are a mere aberration or a sign of things to come.