

COVER STORY: SURVEY OF U.S. CATHOLICS

Center of Catholic identity

Can you be a GOOD CATHOLIC without this? <i>Percentage saying yes</i>	Table 1			
	1987	1993	1999	2005
Without believing that Jesus physically rose from the dead			23	23
Without believing that in the Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus			38	36
Without donating time or money to help the poor	44	52	56	44
Without obeying the church hierarchy's teaching regarding abortion	39	56	53	58
Without donating time or money to help the parish		57	60	58
Without obeying the church hierarchy's teaching on divorce and remarriage	57	62	65	66
Without their marriage being approved by the Catholic church	51	61	68	67
Without obeying the church hierarchy's teaching on birth control	66	73	72	75
Without going to church every Sunday	70	73	77	76

How IMPORTANT to you? <i>Percentage saying "very important"</i>	Figure 1	
	Helping the poor	
Belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead		84
The sacraments, such as the Eucharist		76
The Catholic church's teaching about Mary as the Mother of God		74
Having a regular daily prayer life		54
Participating in devotions such as eucharistic adoration or praying the rosary		50
The Catholic church's teachings that oppose same-sex marriage		47
Church involvement in activities directed towards social justice		47
The Catholic church's teachings that oppose abortion		44
The teaching authority claimed by the Vatican		42
The Catholic church's teachings that oppose the death penalty		35
A celibate male clergy		29

Creedal beliefs are the main boundary markers of the faith: belief in Jesus' resurrection and belief in the real presence in the Eucharist.