

COVER STORY: SURVEY OF U.S. CATHOLICS

Belief in church as mediator slips

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

Acceptable parish accommodations to the priest shortage

Table 11

Percentage of laity who said "very or somewhat acceptable"

1985 1993 1999 2005

Bringing in a priest from another country to lead the parish				89
No resident priest but only a lay administrator and visiting priest	39	56	51	54
Fewer than one Mass a week	28	41	41	40
No priest available to visit the sick	24	41	34	38
No priest available for giving last rites	15	30	21	20

Possible responses to the priest shortage

Table 12

Percentage saying it would be a good thing if

1985 1993 1999 2005

Married men were allowed to be ordained	63	72	71	75
Priests who have married were returned to active ministry			78	81
Celibate women were allowed to be ordained as priests			63	61
Married women were allowed to be ordained as priests			54	54

Church as mediator by generation (percent)

Table 10

	Pre-Vatican II	Vatican II	Post-Vatican II	Millennials
Sacraments such as Eucharist are "very important"	82	75	74	77
Sacraments are "essential"	63	52	51	38
Have married in the church	90	70	66	75
Attend Mass weekly or more	60	35	26	15