



*A study commissioned by The Peyton  
Institute for Domestic Church Life*

**Future Faithful Families  
Project: Successfully  
Raising Catholic Children  
to be Active Catholics as  
Adults**

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CARA is a national, non-profit, Georgetown University affiliated research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers, to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism. CARA's longstanding policy is to let research findings stand on their own and never take an advocacy position or go into areas outside its social science competence.

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**The Peyton Institute  
for Domestic Church Life**

HOLY CROSS  
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Created by Holy Cross Family Ministries in collaboration with Pastoral Solutions Institute, The Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life was formed to create a collaborative think tank of distinguished theologians, social scientists, and pastoral ministry professionals noted for their work and writings on family life.

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## Executive Summary

In late 2020, The Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to study families where parents had successfully raised children to adulthood as weekly Mass attenders active in the faith. In the last 15 years, an abundance of research has focused on young Catholics who leave the faith. This study explores the patterns in the lives of families who remain Catholic and active in the Church over a generation. CARA explored existing survey data, fielded a new survey, and conducted interviews with parents and adult children who are active in the faith.

### **Surveys**

According to the General Social Survey (GSS), in the 1970s, an average of 36% of those who were raised Catholic in the United States remained Catholic as adults and attended religious services weekly (peaking at 40% in 1977). This average percentage declined to 32% in the 1980s, 25% in the 1990s, and 21% in the 2000s. In the 2010s, this averaged 15% and was 14% in the 2018 study. Examining the GSS data from 2010 to 2018, we can identify the following about the children raised Catholic who remain in the faith as adults:

Those who remain active Catholics are...

- More likely to be women than men (58% compared to 42%).
- Disproportionately likely to be married (59%) compared to 50% of those who remain Catholic but don't attend religious services weekly and those who leave Catholicism and are former Catholics now.
- More likely to be born outside the United States (29%) compared to 18% of former Catholics.
- More likely to be raised in a household with their mom and dad present (81%) compared to 72% of Catholics who are not weekly attenders and 63% of former Catholics.
- More likely to have a great deal of confidence in organized religion (39%) compared to 20% of Catholics who are not regular religious service attenders and 15% of former Catholics.
- More likely to be readers of Scripture (78%) compared to 41% of those who don't attend religious services weekly and 54% of former Catholics.
- Disproportionately more likely to have a Catholic spouse, if married, (75%) compared to 58% of those who don't regularly attend religious services and 12% of those who are former Catholics.

Outside of demographics and religious practice, the survey data also indicate some conservative leaning when it comes to politics among those who grew up Catholic and are weekly religious service attenders now. They are also generally happier in life and in their marriages (among those married) than Catholics who more infrequently attend religious services or who left the faith. The active Catholics are more trusting of others than infrequent attenders. Active Catholics are more likely to feel three or more children are ideal than former Catholics. Active Catholics are more likely to have beliefs consistent with Church teachings on matters related to life and sexuality.

In 2022, CARA, in collaboration with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), conducted the national survey using the AmeriSpeak® Panel. The survey was offered in English and Spanish, and it was administered in two modes depending on the preference of the respondent provided during the panel recruitment: 1) self-administered by the respondent online via the Web; or 2) administered over the telephone by a live interviewer. The survey included 1,031 respondents resulting in a margin of sampling error of ±4.45 percentage points. The survey was in the field from July 11, 2022 - August 2, 2022. From

this study we can understand who the parents of those children who have become adults and remained Catholic.

Consistent with the GSS estimate, 15% of adult Catholics say they are parents of children who are now adults who remained Catholic and attend Mass weekly. These parents who have raised the children to be active Catholics as adults are more likely than other Catholic parents to have:

- Been Confirmed Catholic (100%).
- Been through parish-based religious education (52%), Catholic primary school (58%), Catholic secondary school (29%), and Catholic college (14%).
- Registered with their parish (100%).
- Involved in their parish outside of attending Mass weekly somewhat or very much (60%).
- Been to confession at least once a year (69%).

Demographically, taken as a whole, the Catholic parents most likely to raise their children to adulthood to be active Catholics are: Hispanic, married, with Bachelor's degrees, living in the South, and earning an income equivalent to the U.S. median family income.

### ***Interviews***

Interviews were conducted with parents and their adult children recruited through CARA's survey and through the social media of the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life and CARA. These were, for the most part, conducted through Zoom with a small number done by phone. Participants were primarily asked about how the children were raised. The findings from these interviews include:

- Participants were asked about how Catholic the community or communities were that they raised their children in. No consistent pattern is evident among participants with some living around many Catholics and others around few, if any, Catholics.
- Participants were asked about the other Catholic families they knew when they were raising their kids. Most indicated some had remained Catholic but that others left the faith. This is consistent with prevailing trend in retention nationally. Although some noted more success among Catholic parents that they know. This likely reflects differences between communities in which the families resided.
- Participants were asked about the parental roles in faith formation. Some homeschooled their children, others worked in a Catholic school or in a parish as a religious educator. Most indicated at some point, but not necessarily in the response to this query that living the faith at home and in the community as an example to their children was important to them. Mothers were more likely to indicate playing a central teaching role. Fathers tended to be limited somewhat by work and travel and more often see themselves as living a life that can be a role model for their kids. Some also indicate being inspired by how they were raised and emulating this when they began to raise children.
- Participants were asked to describe the amount of time they spent together as a family. Some of the most common elements noted by parents was an emphasis on Sunday being oriented toward Mass. On weekdays, it is common for the participants' family to eat dinner together with prayer before the meal, and focusing on religious practices at home. Many reported spending

more time together than the average family. However, there is a mixture of responses regarding the amount of time they were able to spend together. The primary limitation was related to parent work schedules.

- Participants were asked to describe the degree of affection, affirmation, and/or warmth of their home. Participants generally evaluate their household as warmer and more affectionate than the average family. Multiple participants indicated they are “huggy.” Fewer said they were more affectionate vocally but not physically. In some homes this is more common for the mother to express warmth than the fathers who sometimes have a more detached and stern approach to parenting. None of the participants described their household as less affectionate or warm than the average family home.
- Participants were asked about the ability of children to speak to parents and feel like they are genuinely listened to and supported socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Most indicated very good communication. The adult children were a little less likely to indicate there was as much communication as parents indicated. Often there were indications that mothers were easier to speak with while fathers were quieter or avoided because they were seen as an authority figure by the child.
- Participants were asked about the ability of children to speak to their siblings and feel like they are genuinely listened to and supported socially, emotionally, and spiritually. In most cases participants indicated there was good communication between siblings. However, some note some sibling rivalries and complications given differences in age and life stage. Participants have larger than average families and thus are more likely to have more distance between their oldest and youngest child. Fewer indicate a lack of communication between siblings.
- Participants were asked to what degree a loving-guidance approach to discipline (i.e., modeling, teaching, encouraging, and supporting good behavior) over more heavy-handed or punitive approaches to discipline (i.e. spanking, yelling, removing privileges, grounding, etc.) was used in raising children. Commonly, participants indicated using a mixture of these two approaches. Sometimes they were more heavy-handed when their children were young and became more loving-guidance when their children were teenagers. Often, the fathers were more disciplinarian than mothers but not always. Some did indicate using spanking. There is no one pattern or description that seems to be overwhelmingly common.
- Participants were asked about parental roles in teaching good behavior and in approaches to discipline. Most often participants indicated they shared equally in teaching good behavior and discipline. Although at times, roles were slightly different. These were described in the previous inquiry about their methods of discipline and guidance.
- Participants were asked about the importance of family rituals such as family meals, family prayer. Game nights, family days, holiday traditions, celebrations. Participants were also described who was responsible for planning and maintaining these rituals. Participant families often have their own cultures and routines. Some of this is dependent on the parent’s careers. Some live in rural communities, others are in the military and lived in many places, some have work schedules that made some routines challenging. Youth sports are noted as a complication by some. However, a near constant in the responses about rituals were shared meals and

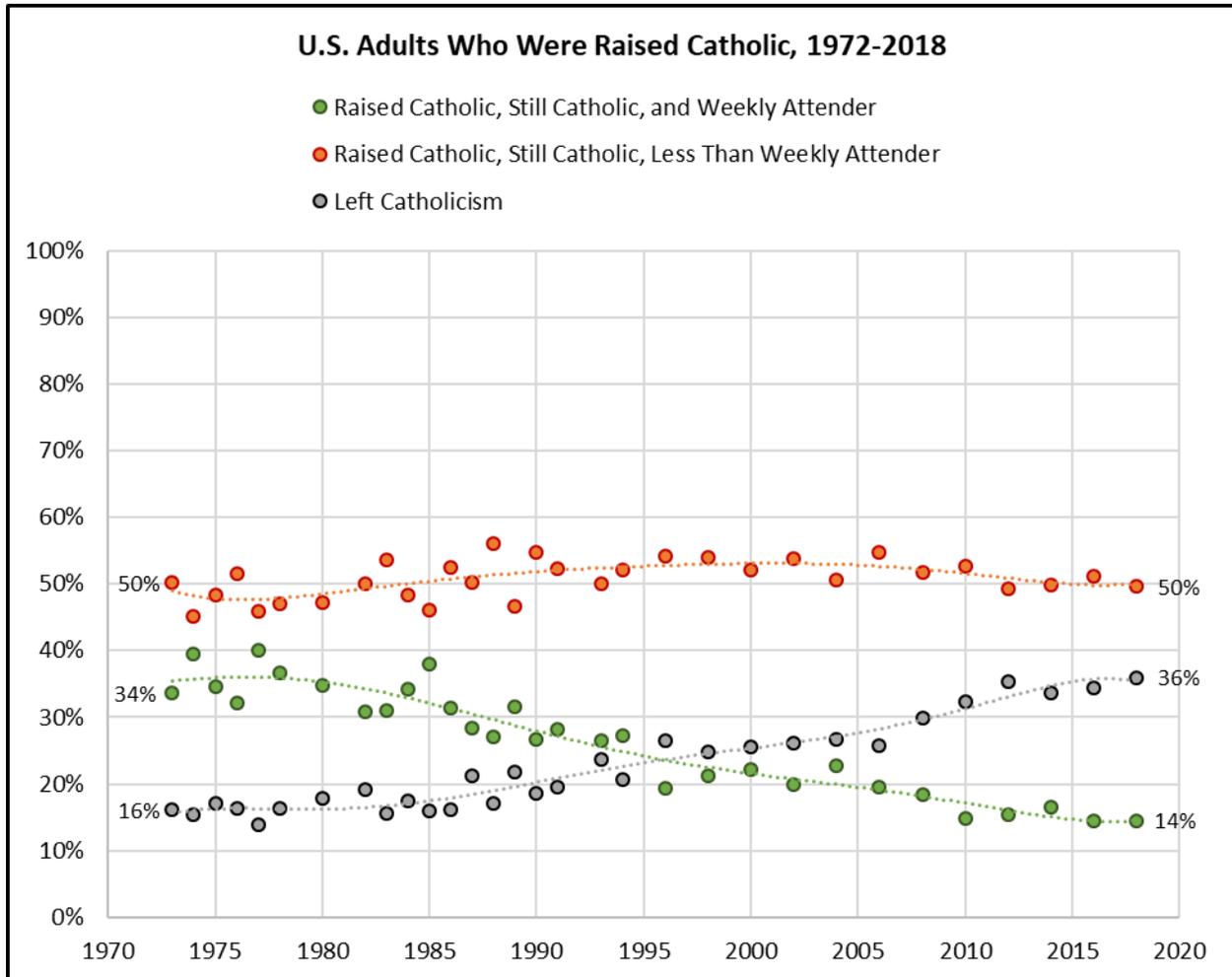
prayer. Many also indicated having game nights, travel routines, and get togethers with relatives and other families. Most indicate, no matter what the routines, that faith was a part of them.

- Participants were asked how often their family worked on household chores or projects together (as opposed to individually). Many of the participants have large families with older children who have started their own families while still having some of their children at home currently. Some of the discussion of chores covers what these younger children in the parent households currently do. Most assigned chores and there were shared responsibilities that rotated. Fewer note doing chores collectively as a family. Others exclusively did assigned chores. A small number did not give their children chores and instead had them focus solely on schooling and getting good grades.
- Participants were asked to describe how they had fun together as a family. Most include things like outdoor activities, vacations, watching movies together, and playing games.
- Participants were asked to describe how they prayed together as a family. Nearly all participants reference prayer before meals. Some said the Rosary frequently and some note prayers before bed time. Prayer routines seem to vary with the age of the children.
- Participants were asked how often their family made a point to have intentional conversations about faith, life, and the way they related to each other as a family. Participants described different variations in which they discussed faith. The most common were discussions at dinner. Others did so on a case-by-case basis.
- Participants were asked about how their family approached holidays. All participants shared traditions for Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter. Many of these activities are based on older family traditions and others relate to ethnic or national identities. Most include decoration, meals, and faith practices.
- Participants were asked about the importance placed on attending Mass weekly in their family. All participants emphasized the importance of weekly attendance and going to Mass on other days of obligation. This appears to be critically important in the formation of a habit of attending that the children continue upon leaving home.
- Participants were asked about how often they brought meals to others, or donate clothing and other items to those in need. They were also later asked how often their family engaged in charitable service and/or ministry together as a family (as opposed to engaging in separate, individual service or ministry) in their parish or community. Almost all participants report doing service and/or giving to charity. Many did so through their parish or other Church-related organizations. Some chose to do something as a family such as helping refugees or locals who needed assistance on their own.
- Participants were asked about how often their family hosted other people/families in their home. (e.g., dinners, barbecues, games, etc.). It was very common for participants to host family, friends, and clergy over for dinners and faith-related activities.

- Participants were asked about any other factors that they thought were important in children raised Catholic remaining in the faith and active in parish life as becoming adults. A variety of tips were shared here that touched on many different themes. Because there was no set theme to the question responses varied.

## Raised Catholic: Who Stays and Who Goes?

The General Social Survey (GSS) is a nationally representative survey of U.S. adults conducted since 1973. This series is among the most widely used by social scientists to understand the population of the United States.<sup>1</sup> This survey includes questions about the respondents' current religion, the religion they were raised in, and their frequency of religious service attendance. From this we can identify, the share of Catholic adults who were raised Catholic and stayed Catholic as adults and attends religious services weekly (i.e., for Catholics this is Mass attendance). This is shown in the figure below for the surveys conducted between 1973 and 2018.<sup>2</sup>



In the 1970s, an average of 36% of those who were raised Catholic remained Catholic as adults and attended Mass weekly (peaking at 40% in 1977). This average percentage declined to 32% in the 1980s,

<sup>1</sup> The GSS was analyzed by the University of California, Berkeley through their Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) archive. This is accessible here: <https://sda.berkeley.edu/archive.htm>

<sup>2</sup> A 2020-21 survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of this report the data for the religion one was raised in was not available. Even if it were, Mass attendance in 2020-21 was not necessarily representative of respondents' pre-pandemic habits.

25% in the 1990s, and 21% in the 2000s. In the 2010s, this averaged 15% and was 14% in the 2018 study.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1972, an average of 51% of those who were raised Catholic, remained Catholic as adults but attend Mass less than weekly when surveyed. This was a high of 55% in 2006 and lowest at 46% in 1977. Thus, the raised Catholic population has been shifting over time in the United States with fewer remaining Catholic and having weekly attendance and more leaving the faith all together. Those who remain but attend Mass less than weekly have been a steady percentage at about half the raised Catholic population.

The Pew Research Center's report *Faith in Flux* (2011) showed that most who decide to leave the faith they were raised in make that decision before the age of 24.<sup>4</sup> Among those raised Catholic who leave, about half become religiously unaffiliated and the other half adopts a new religious affiliation. Among those who become unaffiliated the most common reason given was "just gradually drifted away." The most common reason among those joining another faith say their "spiritual needs not being met."

A 2018 study commissioned by St. Mary's Press and conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) surveyed of former Catholics between the ages of 15 and 25.<sup>5</sup> In many regards, the findings of the study are parallel to the patterns identified earlier by Pew. Yet, the study provided addition details by surveying teenagers. The median age at which these former Catholics said they made the decision to leave the faith was 13. Respondents were asked to describe why they left in their own words. The most common response is they stopped believing in God and/or religion.

Social scientists have identified a variety of hypothesis why young Americans are leaving the faiths they were raised in as this is not a unique phenomenon with Catholicism. According to the GSS, the number of U.S. adults having no religious affiliation has increased from 5% in 1972 to 29% in 2021. The primary hypotheses are:

1. Political backlash or a feeling that religions have become too political and/or conservative
2. Broad social disengagement from membership organization in general
3. A general process of secularization related to economic modernization
4. A growing incongruence between young people's image of God as being loving and forgiving and living in a world where the "problem of evil" remains ever present

Likely all of these factors are relevant. For example, among all those raised Catholic who were born between 1982 and 2003, 34% describe themselves as liberal compared to 27% of those born between 1943 and 1960 and raised Catholic. Younger people being raised Catholic today are more liberal than their parents and grandparents in their younger years. To the degree these young people perceive the Catholic Church to be conservative—they may feel the faith is incompatible to them.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Note that this figure excludes people who were not raised Catholic but who became Catholic as adults and attend weekly. Thus, it is not any representation of weekly Mass attendance for all Catholic adults. Attendance in any given week would also include Catholics, some raised Catholic and some not, who do not attend weekly but who by chance are attending the week observed.

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2009/04/27/faith-in-flux/>

<sup>5</sup> Can be ordered from: <https://www.smp.org/product/5926/Going-Going-Gone/>

<sup>6</sup> In the U.S. political context, the Catholic Church's position on issues is at times considered liberal, such as policies related to immigration, labor unions, wages, etc. Other policy positions on abortion or same sex marriage would be considered conservative.

What Americans do with their leisure time has undergone many changes in the last 150 years. Emerging from the Industrial Revolution, leisure time began to expand. As Claude Fisher has documented, from 1890 to 1940 there was a dramatic expansion in brick-and-mortar membership organizations that people began to join and have regular involvement in. In some ways this was the apex of American civic life.<sup>7</sup> Robert Putnam famously identified the impacts that television had on this pattern of leisure time behavior.<sup>8</sup> Americans turned more inward into their households and ceased to join or participate in membership organizations as they had in the recent past. There are many parallels to the impact of smartphones on youth and young adults today. “Generation Like” has embraced more tenuous forms of attachment in which liking and following are temporary connections online. The result of these forms of attachment has made many lonelier.<sup>9</sup> The Catholic Church is very much a brick-and-mortar membership institution. There are few things one can do sacramentally on a smartphone. Like many other membership organizations, it has seen declines in the frequency that people, especially young people, attend Mass and celebrate some sacraments as generalized social disengagement becomes more widespread in the country and culture.

Many post-industrial democratic countries have seen a generalized secularization occur as well as this disengagement. The importance of and/or belief in religion has waned in Europe, North America, as well as some countries in Latin America, Asia, and Oceania in the last 25 years. These patterns are strongly correlated with wealth or GDP per capita in World Values Study countries in the most recent polling as shown above and on the next two pages.

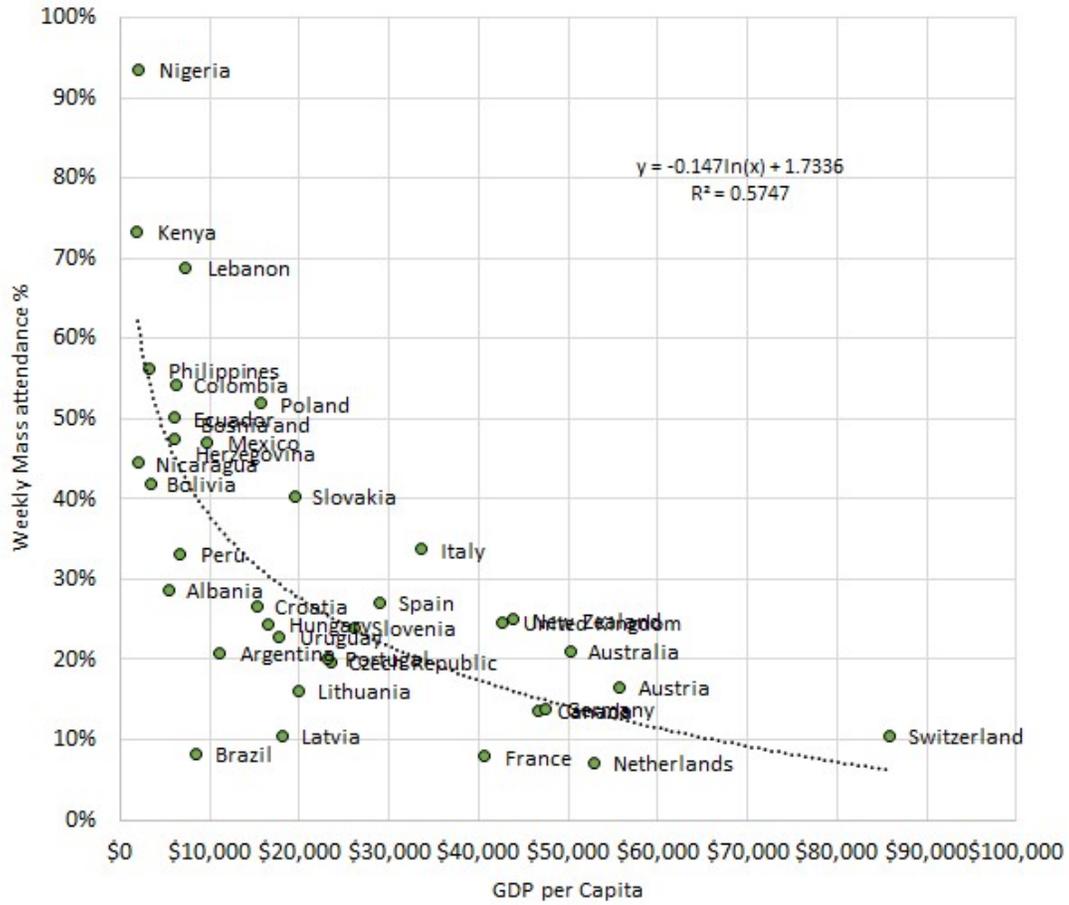
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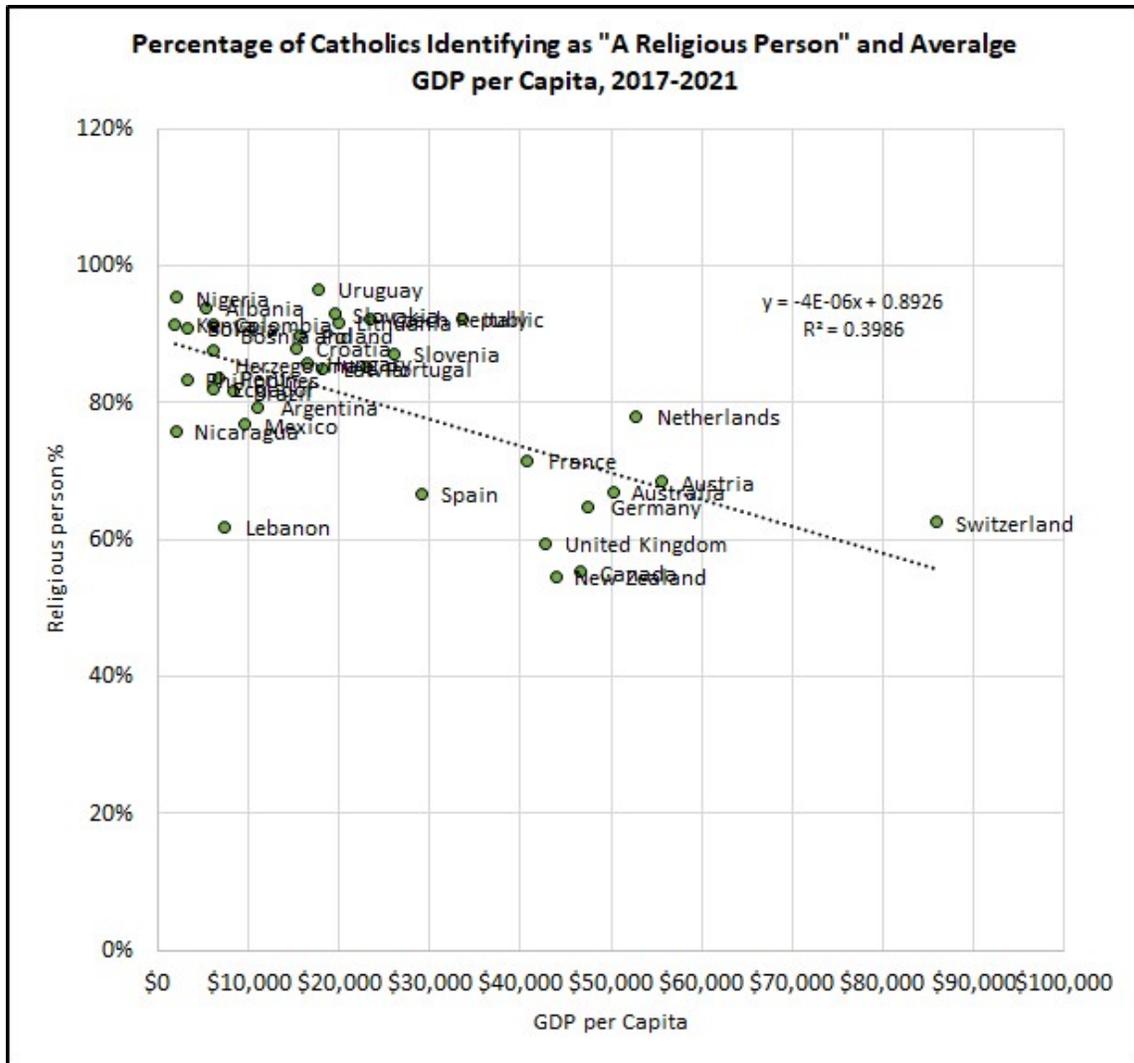
<sup>7</sup> Fischer, C. (1994). Changes in Leisure Activities, 1890-1940. *Journal of Social History*, 27(3), 453-475. Retrieved from: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3788982>

<sup>8</sup> Putnam, R. (1995). Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 28(4), 664-683. Retrieved from: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/420517>

<sup>9</sup> Twenge, J. (2021). Worldwide Increases in Adolescent Loneliness. *Journal of Adolescence*, 93, 257-269. Retrieved from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140197121000853>

**Catholic Weekly Mass Attendance Percentage and Average GDP per Capita, 2017-2021**





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CARA’s analysis of survey data from the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) in 2010 showed that some of the Catholics who entered a Catholic college and decided to leave the faith there before graduating were dealing with traumatic issues such as the death of a loved one or friend in a tragedy or during the war in Iraq.<sup>10</sup> This is the classic struggle with the “problem of evil.” It is complicated by the fact that a large share of young Catholics has an image of God as an all loving and forgiving deity rather than a judgmental or detached deity, unlike the patterns of belief for Catholics of the past. The combination of the “problem of evil” with this image of God seems to be something they struggle with and at times has led to disaffiliation.

<sup>10</sup> Gray, M. and M. Cidade. (2010). Catholicism on Campus: Stability and change in Catholic student faith by college type. Working Paper #9. Washington, DC: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

### ***From the View of those Raised Catholic***

How are those who were raised Catholic and who remained as such and attending Mass weekly as adults differ from those who remained Catholic and attend Mass less frequently and those who left the faith altogether? The GSS provides some important insights.<sup>11</sup> The analysis below focuses on Catholic adults surveyed from 2010 to 2018. This pooled sample of 3,827 adult Catholics allows for sufficient sub-group size and provides a focus on all recent available data from the GSS. The tables below emphasize questions where significant differences between sub-groups are evident.

As previously noted, in the 2010s, the percentage of those who were raised Catholic who remained Catholic and attending Mass weekly averaged 15% and this was 14% in the 2018 study. Below we compare this subgroup to those who remained Catholic but attended Mass less frequently and those who left Catholicism.

Women make up a larger proportion of those who remain Catholic and attend weekly than they do among former Catholics (58% compared to 51%).

<b>Sex</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Male (1,738)	42%	46%	49%
Female (2,089)	58%	54%	51%
	100%	100%	100%

Fifty-nine percent of the weekly attenders who remain Catholic are married compared to 50% of former Catholics. Eighteen percent of weekly attenders who remain Catholic are never married compared to 30% of former Catholics.

<b>Marital Status</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Married (1,707)	59%	50%	50%
Widowed (265)	9%	5%	3%
Divorced (599)	11%	11%	13%
Separated (163)	3%	4%	4%
Never married (1,091)	18%	30%	30%
	100%	100%	100%

<sup>11</sup> Note analysis of the GSS is limited to the questions fielded in the GSS, which CARA had no part in constructing.

<sup>12</sup> The reported N or number of respondents is unweighted to give indication of how many people were interviewed in the sub-group. The percentages in tables are calculated with weighted data to best represent the population share within sub-groups.

Weekly attenders who remain in the faith are twice more likely to have five or more children than those who attend less often or who leave the faith (14% compared to 5% and 6% respectively).

About one in five adult Catholics in 2021 were born outside of the United States. Catholics immigrating to the United States is one of the reasons the Catholic affiliation percentage has remained stable at about 23% for many years even with a declining retention rate for those raised Catholic in the United States. Catholics who were born outside the United States or who had parents or grandparents who were foreign-born make up larger numbers of those who remain Catholic and attending weekly than they do among those who left the faith altogether.

Sub-group (N)	Birthplaces		
	Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender	Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender	Former Catholic
<b>R born...</b>			
US (3,014)	71%	74%	82%
Elsewhere (818)	29%	26%	18%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Parents born in US...<sup>13</sup></b>			
Both yes (2,427)	54%	59%	68%
Neither born in US (1,079)	38%	34%	24%
	92%	93%	92%
<b>Foreign-born grandparents</b>			
None (1,292)	27%	34%	41%
One (251)	7%	6%	7%
Two (570)	14%	14%	17%
Three (127)	2%	4%	3%
Four (1,374)	49%	43%	31%
	100%	100%	100%

<sup>13</sup> Table omits seven other parental combinations accounting for 205 respondents (7.2%)

As shown in the table below, weekly attenders who remain Catholic are more likely to have been living with both parents at age 16 than those who attend Mass less often or who left the faith (81% compared to 72% and 63%, respectively).

Among those not living with parents at age 16, a higher proportion of those who left the faith were experiencing a separation or divorce among their parents compared to those who grew up and remained Catholic and attending Mass weekly (63% compared to 53%).

<b>Living with Parents at Age 16</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Parents at 16</b>			
Own mom and dad (2,638)	81%	72%	63%
Dad and stepmother (54)	1%	1%	2%
Mom and stepdad (199)	3%	5%	7%
Dad only (115)	1%	3%	3%
Mom only (568)	10%	14%	17%
Some other male relative (no female HH) (15)	0%	0%	1%
Some other female relative (no male HH) (52)	1%	2%	1%
Other relatives (aunt, uncle, grandparents) (74)	1%	2%	2%
Other (112)	2%	2%	4%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Reason Not Living with Parents</b>			
One or both died (246)	24%	22%	16%
Parents divorced/separated (680)	53%	58%	63%
Father absent in armed forces (6)	1%	1%	0%
One or both in an institution (12)	2%	1%	1%
Other reason (233)	21%	19%	20%
	100%	100%	100%

As shown in the table on the next page, those raised Catholic who remained Catholic and attend Mass weekly are more likely than others raised Catholic to not have a working mom when they grew up. Among those who leave Catholicism, 74% had a working mom. Sixty-nine percent of those who remained Catholic but who are not weekly Mass attenders had a working mom. Fifty-eight percent of those who remained Catholic and are weekly attenders had a working mom.

<b>Mother's Employment When R Was Growing Up</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Yes, employed (2,502)	58%	69%	74%
No, not employed (1,162)	42%	31%	26%
	100%	100%	100%

Those raised Catholic who remain in the faith and attend Mass weekly are more likely to self-identify as Republicans than those who attend Mass less often and those who leave the faith (28% compared to 18% and 15%, respectively). Former Catholics are more likely than those who attend weekly and remain Catholic to identify as leaning towards the Democrat Party (18% compared to 10%). It should be noted that the plurality of all sub-groups are Democrats.

<b>Politics</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Party Affiliation</b>			
Democrat (1,291)	35%	33%	31%
Leans Democrat (569)	10%	14%	18%
Independent, other party (749)	19%	24%	25%
Leans Republican (423)	8%	11%	11%
Republican (385)	28%	18%	15%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Political Ideology</b>			
Extremely liberal (135)	2%	3%	5%
Liberal (507)	8%	11%	17%
Slightly liberal (452)	9%	13%	13%
Moderate (1,460)	36%	45%	36%
Slightly conservative (503)	17%	15%	12%
Conservative (498)	22%	10%	14%
Extremely conservative (123)	6%	3%	3%
	100%	100%	100%

A plurality of all sub-groups self-identifies their political ideology as moderate. However, those who remain Catholic and attending Mass weekly are more likely than those attending Mass less often and those who leave the faith to self-identify as conservative or extremely conservative (28% compared to 13% and 17%, respectively).

As shown in the table on the next page, those who remain in the faith and attend Mass weekly are more likely than those who leave the faith to say they are "very happy" today (38% compared to 31%). Among those raised Catholic who are now married, those who remain in the faith and attend weekly are more

likely than those who attend Mass less often or leave the faith to say they are “very happy” in their marriage (69% compared to 59% and 57%).

<b>Happiness</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>R's Happiness</b>			
Very happy (825)	38%	31%	31%
Pretty happy (1,475)	51%	56%	54%
Not too happy (370)	11%	13%	15%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Married R's Happiness with Marriage</b>			
Very happy (770)	69%	59%	57%
Pretty happy (410)	28%	37%	40%
Not too happy (36)	3%	3%	3%
	100%	100%	100%

Among those raised Catholic, those who stay Catholic and attend Mass weekly are more likely than those who attend Mass less often be generally trusting of others.

<b>Beliefs About People</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>People...</b>			
Try to be helpful (827)	51%	43%	50%
Looking out for themselves (821)	46%	47%	43%
Depends (140)	4%	10%	7%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>People...</b>			
Take advantage of you (708)	35%	42%	40%
Try to be fair (953)	57%	51%	54%
Depends (123)	9%	7%	6%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>People...</b>			
Can trust (558)	34%	28%	34%
Can't be too careful (1,155)	63%	68%	63%
Depends (74)	3%	4%	3%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly attenders are more likely than Catholics attending less often to say people are helpful (51% compared to 43%) and less likely to say people would take advantage of others (35% compared to 42%).

Those raised Catholic who remain in the faith are more likely than those attending Mass less often or who have left the faith to have “a great deal” of confidence in organized religion (39% compared to 20% and 15%, respectively). Catholics who attend Mass weekly are more likely than those who have left the faith to have “a great deal” of confidence in education (33% compared to 22%) and in major companies (23% compared to 15%).

<b>Confidence In Institutions</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Organized Religion</b>			
A great deal (422)	39%	20%	15%
Only some (1,006)	53%	59%	47%
Hardly any (315)	8%	21%	38%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Education</b>			
A great deal (534)	33%	31%	22%
Only some (961)	50%	54%	60%
Hardly any (284)	17%	14%	18%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Major Companies</b>			
A great deal (322)	23%	17%	15%
Only some (1,130)	64%	65%	65%
Hardly any (299)	14%	19%	20%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Congress</b>			
A great deal (155)	11%	9%	6%
Only some (835)	50%	51%	41%
Hardly any (752)	39%	40%	53%
	100%	100%	100%

Respondents were asked about some important things for a child to learn to prepare for life. As shown on the next page, a plurality of those raised Catholic who remain Catholic weekly Mass attenders believe the most important thing to learn is “to work hard” (37%) followed by “to think for one’s self” (31%). Those who remained Catholic but do not attend Mass weekly selected “to think for one’s self” (37%) followed by “to work hard” (31%). Former Catholics also selected “to think for one’s self” (45%) followed by “to work hard” (22%).

*If you had to choose, which thing on this list would you pick as the most important for a child to learn to prepare him or her for life?*

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Obey</b>			
First (315)	16%	13%	12%
Second (301)	11%	13%	11%
Third (438)	21%	19%	14%
Fourth (1,066)	43%	40%	43%
Fifth (401)	9%	15%	20%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Popular</b>			
First (12)	1%	0%	1%
Second (33)	2%	1%	1%
Third (66)	2%	3%	2%
Fourth (490)	15%	19%	22%
Fifth (1,920)	80%	76%	74%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>To think for one's self</b>			
First (1,002)	31%	37%	45%
Second (495)	21%	20%	17%
Third (459)	19%	19%	19%
Fourth (433)	23%	18%	15%
Fifth (132)	6%	6%	4%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>To work hard</b>			
First (701)	37%	31%	22%
Second (852)	29%	34%	36%
Third (727)	26%	26%	32%
Fourth (206)	7%	8%	9%
Fifth (35)	2%	2%	1%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>To help others</b>			
First (491)	16%	20%	19%
Second (840)	38%	31%	35%
Third (831)	32%	33%	33%
Fourth (326)	12%	14%	12%
Fifth (33)	3%	2%	1%
	100%	100%	100%

As shown on the next page, respondents who remained Catholic as adults and attend Mass weekly are more likely than those who attend less than weekly or who left the faith to spend a social evening with relatives once a week or more often (42% compared to 36% and 36%, respectively). Weekly attending

Catholics are significantly more likely than those attending Mass less often or who have left the faith to go to a bar or tavern at least monthly or more frequently (62% compared to 35% and 30%, respectively).

<i>Tell me which answer comes closest to how often you do the following things?</i>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Spend a social evening with relatives?</b>			
Almost daily (340)	15%	16%	13%
Once or twice a week (608)	27%	20%	23%
Several times a month (484)	18%	21%	18%
About once a month (448)	17%	18%	16%
Several times a year (400)	15%	14%	17%
About once a year (183)	6%	7%	7%
Never (117)	2%	3%	5%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Spend a social evening with someone who lives in your neighborhood</b>			
Almost daily (123)	6%	5%	4%
Once or twice a week (405)	17%	16%	13%
Several times a month (279)	10%	11%	10%
About once a month (395)	17%	15%	14%
Several times a year (329)	18%	12%	15%
About once a year (246)	8%	10%	11%
Never (804)	26%	32%	33%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Spend a social evening with friends who live outside the neighborhood</b>			
Almost daily (74)	4%	3%	4%
Once or twice a week (417)	14%	18%	15%
Several times a month (563)	20%	21%	21%
About once a month (618)	24%	24%	24%
Several times a year (431)	18%	16%	19%
About once a year (226)	10%	8%	9%
Never (253)	100%	100%	100%
<b>Go to a bar or tavern</b>			
Almost daily (19)	4%	1%	1%
Once or twice a week (179)	14%	8%	7%
Several times a month (247)	20%	12%	9%
About once a month (333)	24%	14%	13%
Several times a year (395)	18%	15%	15%
About once a year (342)	10%	13%	14%
Never (1,066)	10%	37%	42%
	100%	100%	100%

Half of those who remained Catholic and attend Mass weekly believe the ideal number of children are three or more compared to 37% of former Catholics.

<b><i>What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?</i></b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
None (14)	0%	0%	1%
One (53)	2%	2%	3%
Two (1,148)	38%	44%	50%
Three (717)	29%	33%	25%
Four (255)	17%	10%	10%
Five (35)	3%	1%	1%
Six (16)	1%	1%	0%
Seven or more (13)	0%	0%	1%
As many as you want (257)	10%	10%	10%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are less likely than those attending less often or former Catholics to think abortion should be legal on demand (20% compared to 45% and 54%, respectively) or when the women’s health is endangered (73% compared to 90% and 88%, respectively).

<b><i>Should it be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain legal abortion if...</i></b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>The woman wants it for any reason</b>			
Yes (1,109)	20%	45%	54%
No (1,328)	80%	55%	46%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>The woman's own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy</b>			
Yes (2,110)	73%	90%	88%
No (302)	27%	10%	12%
	100%	100%	100%

As shown on the next page, weekly Mass attending Catholics are more likely than those attending less often or former Catholics to think sexual relations between two adults of the same sex is “always wrong” (54% compared to 25% and 21%, respectively).

***What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex?***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Always wrong (758)	54%	25%	21%
Almost always wrong (87)	6%	5%	42%
Wrong only sometimes (159)	4%	8%	27%
Not wrong at all (1,395)	36%	62%	10%
	100%	100%	100%

There are no statistically significant differences in responses between the sub-groups related to approval or disapproval if spanking children as discipline. Majorities of each group agree or strongly agree that spanking is sometimes necessary.

***Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that it is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard, spanking?***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Strongly agree (504)	19%	19%	21%
Agree (1,105)	42%	45%	42%
Disagree (705)	27%	28%	27%
Strongly disagree (234)	12%	9%	10%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are less likely than former Catholics to way they watch five or more hours a day watching television (12% compared to 22%). Recall this is related to the social disengagement hypothesis of the emergence of the religious unaffiliated.

**Hours a day watching television**

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
None (180)	4%	5%	10%
One (564)	26%	21%	25%
Two (723)	29%	31%	28%
Three (437)	20%	17%	15%
Four (282)	9%	10%	10%
Five or more (394)	12%	16%	22%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are less likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to disagree or strongly disagree that “a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work” (34% compared to 23% and 26%, respectively).

***A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Strongly agree (749)	25%	30%	30%
Agree (1,171)	42%	47%	44%
Disagree (533)	27%	19%	22%
Strongly disagree (115)	7%	4%	4%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are more likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to agree or strongly agree that “a preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works” (43% compared to 33% and 32%, respectively).

***A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Strongly agree (150)	8%	6%	5%
Agree (694)	35%	27%	27%
Disagree (1,314)	45%	51%	52%
Strongly disagree (403)	12%	17%	16%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are much more likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to say “no, never” do family members put pressure on them about the way they live or organize their life (78% compared to 52% and 54%, respectively).

***In general, do your family members put pressure on you about the way you live or organize your personal life? (2018)***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
No, never (202)	78%	52%	54%
Yes, but rarely (58)	10%	26%	19%
yes, sometimes (62)	9%	18%	21%
Yes, often (15)	1%	3%	5%
Yes, very often (7)	25	1%	1%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are much more likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to have read or listened to a reading of scripture during the last 12 months (70% compared to 41% and 54%, respectively).

***During the last 12 months, have you read or listened to the reading of any holy scripture such as the Bible, Buddhist sutra, Koran, Shruti, Torah, or other religious scripture, not counting any reading that happened during a worship service? (2018)***

<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Yes (195)	70%	41%	54%
No (188)	30%	59%	46%
	100%	100%	100%

Among those who are married, weekly Mass attending Catholics are more likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to be married to a Catholic spouse (75% compared to 58% and 12%, respectively).

<b>Married Respondents: Partner's religious preference (2016)</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
Catholic (880)	75%	58%	12%
Other Christian (483)	22%	21%	30%
Something else (334)	3%	21%	68%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are less likely than those who attend less often and those who have left the faith to not have an opinion about whether having children increases people's standing in society (21% compared to 35% and 36%, respectively).

<b>Attitudes About Children (2012)</b>			
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Raised Catholic, Remains Catholic, Less than Weekly Attender</b>	<b>Former Catholic</b>
<b>Having children increases people's social standing in society</b>			
Strongly agree (15)	3%	3%	2%
Agree (122)	32%	28%	29%
Neither agree or disagree (135)	21%	35%	36%
Disagree (125)	40%	31%	29%
Strongly disagree (16)	4%	3%	4%
	100%	100%	100%
<b>Having children restricts the employment and career chances of one or both parents</b>			
Strongly agree (12)	6%	3%	2%
Agree (136)	32%	29%	40%
Neither agree or disagree (64)	11%	16%	16%
Disagree (158)	42%	45%	32%
Strongly disagree (42)	8%	7%	11%
	100%	100%	100%

**Attitudes About Children (2012), cont.**

**Children are a financial burden on their parents**

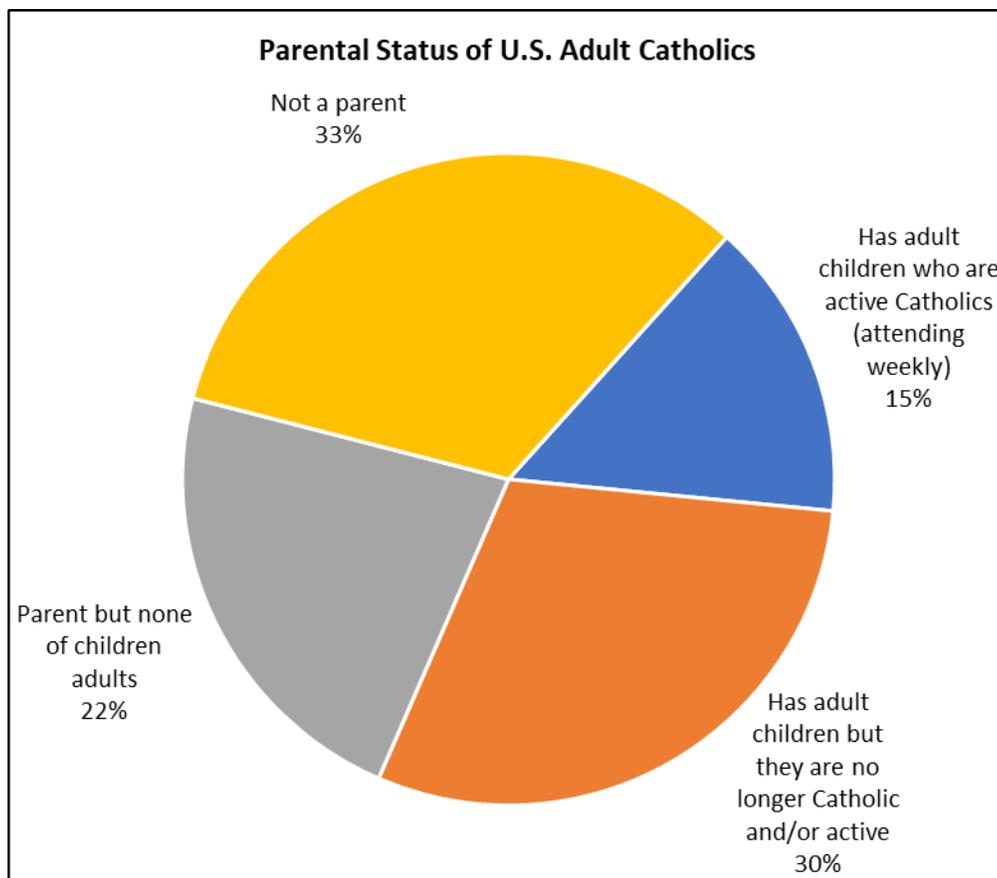
Strongly agree (19)	4%	5%	4%
Agree (99)	16%	18%	30%
Neither agree or disagree (59)	10%	15%	14%
Disagree (170)	52%	47%	33%
Strongly disagree (69)	18%	15%	19%
	100%	100%	100%

Weekly Mass attending Catholics are more likely than those who have left the faith to disagree that having children restricts the employment or career chances of one or both parents (42% compared to 32%) or that children are a financial burden on their parents (52% compared to 47%).

Note that the findings discussed in this section represent associations or correlations, these should not be assumed to be deterministic or even directly causal. Instead, these results establish patterns of lifestyles and behaviors *associated* with children being raised to adulthood and remaining actively Catholic. Certainly, by chance alone, exceptions would exist that would run counter to these associations. At the same time, these patterns are evident in three separate data collections utilized in this study, two being quantitative surveys and the third being qualitative interviews, as explained in the remainder of this report. These associations appear to be robust to the degree that these findings are triangulated among these three separate research efforts.

**From the View of Catholic Parents in 2022**

In 2022, CARA, in collaboration with National Opinion Research Center (NORC), conducted the national survey using the AmeriSpeak® Panel in its ongoing series of CARA Catholic Polls (CCP), which began in the 2000. The survey was offered in English and Spanish, and it was administered in two modes depending on the preference of the respondent provided during the panel recruitment: 1) self-administered by the respondent online via the Web; or 2) administered over the telephone by a live interviewer. The survey included 1,031 respondents resulting in a margin of sampling error of ±4.45 percentage points. The survey was in the filed from July 11, 2022 - August 2, 2022. The primary purpose of the survey was to recruit participants for the qualitative interview process using probability-based survey sampling. In this survey, respondents who had children were asked, “Are any of your children now adults?” followed by “Do any of your adult children self-identify as Catholic and still attend Mass regularly (i.e., weekly attendance).” The section that follows describes sub-groups of Catholics using the responses to these questions. Sixty-seven percent of the 57 million adult Catholics in the United States are parents (representing 38.2 million people). Of these Catholic parents, 67% have children who are now adults (representing 25.6 million people). Of these parents with adult children, 33% say their adult children self-identify as Catholic and still attend Mass weekly (representing 8.4 million people). Of these parents, 33% currently attends Mass weekly themselves (representing 2,772,000 people or 5% of adult Catholics).<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup> As of August 2022, which has still been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, among all adult Catholics 16% attends Mass weekly compared to about 24%, prior to the pandemic in 2019. Thus, current attendance levels may not reflect pre-pandemic levels of attendance—especially among older populations who may be more concerned about being infected in group settings.

Overall, if we look at adults in the United States who self-identify as Catholic, they can be categorized into these four groups in the preceding figure. Fifteen percent have adult children who are Catholic and attending Mass weekly. This is nearly identical to the 14% estimate for the size of this population in the 2018 GSS.

A total of 145 respondents are parents, active in the faith (i.e., weekly Mass attenders), who have adult Catholics who are active in the faith. A total of 316 respondents has adult children but they are no longer active in the faith or no longer identify as Catholic. A total of 293 respondents has children but none are adults yet. A total of 277 respondents are not parents.

How are these Catholics different than those in other groups? The section on the next page explores sub-group differences related to background, demographics, and Church participation.

The table below shows differences between the parent groups in terms of the background and religious activity. Of all those parents who have children who are now adults active in the faith, 95% have been Confirmed, 84% are registered with a parish, 52% went to a Catholic primary school, and 43% goes to confession at least once a year. Yet, only a third of this group attends Mass weekly themselves currently. When isolating those who currently attends weekly and who have children who are adults active in the faith, 100% are Confirmed and registered with a parish. Sixty-nine percent of this group goes to confession at least once a year, 60% are “somewhat” or “very” involved with their parish outside of Mass, and 58% attended a Catholic primary school.<sup>15</sup>

<b>Differences in Background of Adult Catholics by Parental Status</b>					
<b>Sub-group (N)</b>	<b>Attend weekly and has adult children who are active Catholics</b>	<b>Has adult children who are active Catholics</b>	<b>Has adult children not active Catholics</b>	<b>Has children under 18</b>	<b>Does not have children</b>
Converted to Catholicism (84)	16%	13%	7%	8%	7%
Has been Confirmed (886)	100%	95%	90%	81%	78%
Went to parish-based religious education as a child (599)	52%	40%	44%	38%	46%
Went to Catholic primary school (413)	58%	52%	42%	23%	43%
Went to Catholic secondary school (226)	29%	29%	22%	15%	29%
Went to a Catholic college (79)	14%	9%	8%	7%	7%
Currently registered with a parish (566)	100%	84%	57%	61%	43%
Currently attends Mass weekly (155)	100%	33%	15%	12%	13%
Somewhat or very involved in parish outside of Mass (154)	60%	27%	11%	18%	17%
Attends confession at least once a year (261)	69%	43%	18%	21%	24%

<sup>15</sup> Again, some caution should be made with assumptions about current levels of Mass attendance given the survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic when Mass attendance frequencies may not reflect what is desired or behavior prior to the pandemic.

There are differences in the likelihood Catholic parents will have adult children active in the faith. For example, 16% of non-Hispanic white adults have adult Children who are active Catholics and 38% have adult children who are not active Catholics. Thus, 30% of non-Hispanic white Catholics with adult children have raised Catholics who remain active in the faith.<sup>16</sup> By comparison, 78% of Asian parents, 47% if black parents, and 39% of Hispanic parents have adult children have raised Catholics who remain active in the faith. Note however, that there were fewer than 100 Asian or Black respondents, given their fewer number in the Catholic population, which limits their use as isolated subgroups. This is not the case for the samples of non-Hispanic white and Hispanic white which can provide reliable sub-group estimates.

	<b>Non-Hispanic</b>			
	<b>white</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Asian</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	16%	11%	28%	28%
Has adult children not active Catholics	38%	17%	31%	8%
Has children under 18	18%	32%	19%	16%
Does not have children	29%	40%	22%	48%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Among the most likely to have raised children to adulthood who remain active in the faith are those with a bachelor’s degree only (44% of parents with adult children). Those with less than a high school degree are among the least likely to have raised children to adulthood who remain active in the faith (20%).

	<b>Less than HS</b>	<b>HS graduate</b>	<b>Vocational</b>	<b>BA degree</b>	<b>Grad degree</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	5%	20%	16%	11%	14%
Has adult children not active Catholics	20%	35%	38%	14%	24%
Has children under 18	32%	13%	14%	36%	34%
Does not have children	43%	32%	24%	38%	27%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<sup>16</sup> Divide 16% by (16% + 38%) equaling 30%

Among the most likely to have raised children to adulthood who remain active in the faith are those who are married (37% of parents with adult children).<sup>17</sup> Those less likely to have raised children to be adults active in the faith are those who are divorced (22%) or widowed (23%).

	<b>Married</b>	<b>Widowed</b>	<b>Divorced</b>	<b>Separated</b>	<b>Never Married</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	22%	19%	17%	10%	3%
Has adult children not active Catholics	37%	68%	57%	22%	4%
Has children under 18	29%	5%	10%	37%	17%
Does not have children	12%	8%	16%	32%	76%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Forty percent of Catholic parents with adult children in the South have children who remain Catholic and active in the faith as adults. By comparison this is the case for 29% of Catholic parents with adult children in the Northeast and Midwest. A third of these parents in the West have adult children active in the faith.

	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Midwest</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	16%	13%	17%	13%
Has adult children not active Catholics	39%	32%	25%	26%
Has children under 18	18%	23%	29%	19%
Does not have children	27%	32%	29%	42%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

<sup>17</sup> Never married register slightly higher at 43% but as can be seen in the table, only 7% of the never married have adult children compared to 59% of married Catholics.

Parents with adult children who are in the \$30,000 to \$99,999 annual household income bracket are most likely to have adult children who remain Catholic and active in the faith (40%). By comparison, only 18% of those in homes earning less have adult children active in the faith and only a third of those with incomes of \$100,000 or more or year have raised children to adulthood that remain Catholic and weekly attenders.

	<b>&gt;\$30K</b>	<b>\$30K-59K</b>	<b>\$60K-99K</b>	<b>&lt;\$100K</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	7%	18%	19%	15%
Has adult children not active Catholics	33%	27%	30%	31%
Has children under 18	25%	17%	24%	24%
Does not have children	35%	38%	27%	30%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

There is not a lot of differences across generations in Catholics raising children to adulthood who remain Catholic and active in the faith. This is the case for 36% of the Silent Generation, 29% of Baby Boomers, 35% of Gen-Xers, and 33% of Millennials.

	<b>Silent (b. 1925-42)</b>	<b>Boomers (b. 1943-60)</b>	<b>Gen-X (b. 1961-81)</b>	<b>Millennials (b. 1982-05)</b>
Has adult children who are active Catholics	31%	23%	19%	2%
Has adult children not active Catholics	55%	55%	35%	4%
Has children under 18	0%	1%	23%	40%
Does not have children	14%	21%	22%	54%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Taken as a whole, the Catholic parents *most likely* to raise their children to adulthood to be active Catholics are Hispanic, married, with Bachelor’s degrees, living in the South, and earning an income equivalent to the U.S. median family income. They are also likely to have attended Catholic primary school, be Confirmed, and currently registered with a parish. The likely go to confession at least once a year, are “somewhat” or “very” involved with their parish outside of Mass.

## Qualitative Interviews

CARA initially randomly sampled U.S. pastors and bishops in late 2020 sending them information about the project and a request for any families they personally knew (i.e., referral sampling) that would fit the sample frame and might be interested in participating in a 30-minute interview. CARA and The Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life also reached out on their social media for any volunteers who were weekly attending Catholic parents of adult children who attend Mass weekly. This occurred repeatedly in 2021 and 2022. A list of a group of potential interview participants was maintained throughout the project. Interviews began in June of 2021 and were completed in February 2023. During that time CARA was also able to interview some of the qualifying participants from the 2022 survey CARA conducted with NORC. All interview subjects received a \$50 incentive. In most cases, CARA interviewed the parents or parent and then asked for contact information for any of their adult children who are Catholic and attends Mass weekly to invite them for an interview.

A total of 171 indicated interest through a link provided on the social media sites or through contacts generated by pastors and bishops. Additionally, 21 individuals from CARA's survey of adult Catholics who met the criteria of being a parent to an adult active Catholic indicated their willingness to be interviewed.

One issue in generating the list that was of concern was that some of those who responded to the social media invitations were subjects living outside of the United States but who were presenting themselves as in the United States.<sup>18</sup> Interviews were not conducted with these individuals. The second issue of concern was a greater lack of response from the adult children than the parents who had been interviewed. It is well known in the social science research fields that it is often easier to recruit participation from older adults than young adults and this was evident in this study.<sup>19</sup>

Six interviews were conducted among the 21 recruited from the survey. Other could not schedule an interview or did not respond to inquiries. Two declined to be interviewed after expressing interest. Twenty-two interviews were conducted from the social media and pastor recruits and their family members. The total number of participants interviewed was 28 when the decision was made by the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life to close data collection.

The excerpts from the interviews provided below were lightly edited. For example, we remove repeating words or phrases (keeping only one use), uses of words like "um" and "like" that do not provide insight, and any identifying information about an individual. Also unrelated tangents are removed from within some comments—especially when these include identifiers. Some of the simplest questions elicited the exact or very similar response from more than one participant. These are in some cases limited in the examples to avoid repetitiveness. These do not represent a full transcript of the interviews. Instead, these are organized examples of comments that reflect the qualitative analyses of the interviews.

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<sup>18</sup> These messages of interest would come all at once in blocks of as large as 15 individuals. Their IPs were checked. Some were using VPNs and appeared as being in New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Interviews were scheduled with some of those appearing in the United States. When these began, the participant would not turn on their camera, and audibly appeared to be in a call center setting. They were thanked and told the interview could not continue. Eventually it became easy to identify these blocks of interest and they were then avoided.

<sup>19</sup> Parents were actively showing interest in being a participant by responding to the invitations to do so by email, social media, or survey question. These parents supplied contact information for adult children who were not equally as interested in participating.

Note that qualitative research does not use the same methods of quantitative research (e.g., probability-based random sampling, percentages of response, etc.) and participants are not surveyed. The surveys describe the populations of interest this study focuses on. These provided the demographic and background profile. The interviews, the qualitative portion of this study, seek to recruit families which fit the sample frame of active Catholic parents raising children to adulthood to be active Catholics themselves. Qualitative research explores their family life in the participants own words. The goal of such research is to reach “saturation.” This refers to “the point in data collection when no additional issues or insights are identified and data begins to repeat so that further data collection is redundant, signifying that an adequate sample size is reached.”<sup>20</sup> Hennick and Kaiser’s systematic meta-analysis identifies that saturation is typically achieved in 9 to 17 interviews or 4 to 8 focus groups.

## Social Context

**Participants were asked about how Catholic the community or communities were that they raised their children in.** No consistent pattern is evident among participants with some living around many Catholics and others around few, if any, Catholics. Examples include:

- *I would say most of them [friends and neighbors] were Catholic.*
- *It's mostly Catholics.*
- *Mostly Catholic.*
- *I would say a Catholic majority.*
- *I would say mostly Catholic. Most of the people I think were people that we knew from church and parents of our kids' friends. We've never had a large circle of friends. Our family has always been just enough to satisfy our entertainment quotient.*
- *It's predominantly Catholic.*
- *I would say about half and half.*
- *Not the largest [Catholic] population. About the median.*
- *I'd say we had a fair amount of Catholic families around us.*
- *We were military so we moved a bit in middle school. A lot of the people that we were closely associated with were Catholic.*

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<sup>20</sup> Hennink, m. and B. Kaiser. (2022). “Sample Sizes for Saturation in Qualitative Research: A systematic Review of Empirical tests” in *Social Science and Medicine*. 292 (114523). Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953621008558>

- *For like the first 10 or so years they were mostly Catholic and then once I got a little older I started joining more clubs. I had speech and debate and robotics and my swim team and then it was kind of more primarily non-Catholic. Still a lot of Christians but not as much Catholic.*
- *During their childhood I would say I had a lot of Catholic neighbors and Catholic friends. They were mostly raised in a Catholic setting although there were other types of people. I mostly dealt with Catholic people simply because we shared the same faith and all of that.*
- *It was less Catholic I would say depending on the time, because we moved around quite a bit. We actually lived in England for a while and then we didn't really have many Catholic friends but then we were in Spain for a few years too and there most of our friends were Catholic and had similar viewpoints. So it kind of depended where we were at the time.*
- *We actually live in a fairly rural suburb of Connecticut. I would still call it suburban but it's definitely a 10-minute ride into town to go to anything and that's where the church is located. But it's also where a lot of the other worship houses and different things are so I'd say it's fairly mixed. It might be predominantly Catholic but probably not.*
- *Not necessarily the people immediately around me. I went to a public school so I had a lot of friends there. We did a lot at the church so it became my friend group.*
- *Right around our house I don't think it was anything overt or anything. I think most people pretty much kept it to themselves especially on the theological side.*
- *We're in a pretty rural area so I would say more non-Catholics.*
- *No not really. When the boys were little, we actually didn't know many Catholic families at all. We started to be around a lot of Catholic people when they were in middle school.*
- *No. In fact almost none of my personal friends were Catholic. I did have friends that were kids of my parents' friends who were Catholic.*

Others note that they often sought out other Catholics or were around Catholics due to their schooling choices. Examples include:

- *I think we made that choice consciously if not unconsciously but we tended to put more effort into the relationships that we made at church or through our social context in our Catholic circles. We have relationships with people who are not Catholic but we don't foster them as much. I guess we don't spend as much time with them or we're not as drawn to them.*
- *We had many different faiths. A lot of people from different denominations right in our neighborhood but we were homeschooling. We were very close to about maybe four or five families. Our little bubble. Those four or five families wanted to instill the value Catholic identity.*
- *I grew up in a Catholic environment. My wife and I both grew up cradle Catholics, went to Catholic grammar school, high school, and colleges. We have three children. All of them went to*

*Catholic grammar school, one of them went to Catholic High School and all of them went to Catholic colleges.*

- *We control our community so I would say mostly Catholic and that our children have been homeschooled. Here on campus, we've got a tremendous Newman Center. They've got Catholic housing just across the campus and it's probably the most active Newman Center in the country. My children are like mostly engaged, the adult ones, in a primarily Catholic environment you know they take their classes and so forth and interact with a lot of non-Catholics and are friends with a number of non-Catholics. When we homeschool, you know we do some activities with non-Catholics. Like our kids are active in swimming and track and things like that and be in a very secular environment but then when we have our friends, we primarily would say like almost entirely everybody's Catholic. I mean that's the focus of our social relationships.*

**Respondents were then asked to reflect on the Catholics they were describing in the previous discussion and recall if those who they still knew remained Catholic.** Most indicated some had remained Catholic but that others left the faith. This is consistent with prevailing trend in retention nationally. Examples include:

- *Half. But that's a guess.*
- *It was probably 50/50. Some left. Some stayed.*
- *Half.*
- *Half and half.*
- *I would say it's been half and half. Some have just totally lost the faith others are nominally Catholic. So they still will go to Mass like for Christmas and Easter. Then there are a few that have kept their faith.*
- *I mean it's probably about 50/50 of the people we know. We have some friends that have four sons and none of them have really stayed in the church. They kind of turned into the classic holiday Catholics. They go to church on Easter and Christmas and that's about it. Yet they still want you know baptisms. Then we have some other friends that their kids have stayed quite religious. Sometimes it's a split in a family. My youngest son's in-laws have two girls. One of them is completely agnostic and then the other girl, who married my son, is very religious.*
- *A lot of the people that I knew from then, a lot of their kids have left the faith. Not all but a lot. Especially going into college they got lost it in college and some of them were very, very strong in their faith too. So you know it's really surprising to see what's happened.*
- *Absolutely. There's not a family I could think of that doesn't have at least one child that's left and we know some big families because we're homeschoolers. We know people with eight, ten children and to a person they have struggled. It's one of the most common themes that I've heard.*
- *Most of them [children] did [leave the faith].*

- *I would say the majority of them [parents], like 90 percent, have kids who've left the faith. It's sad but yeah that's what we observed.*
- *They [parents] are running into some bumps because the region where they live it's hard to find and maintain that true Catholic identity. This area is dying. They don't have young people. We moved from New York 18 years ago to Charlotte and I just felt like that's what helped us sustain it. In the South you have to know your faith and be in love with it. We're in the Bible Belt so we thought coming down here there was not going to be that many Catholics. It's the opposite. The Catholics that are here, if they're serious enough, I mean it's strong. I think that you have to live your faith. Our friends did live their faith but now those kids are also struggling with their faith. Some of them. Not all. But some.*
- *I happen to be a deacon so I deal with a lot of people in our parish who are older and also have been dealing with a lot of wakes and funerals. The neighborhood where we are at is a generally older population. It's an aging area. The general sense is that the people have to pre-plan their funerals and write out what they want for their funerals and prepay it so they'll get a Catholic funeral because their children really aren't interested in anything related to the Church.*
- *We've had a lot of friends, you know being military we live in different bases around the country. We're often having play dates with other parents when the girls were young saying they wish they could put their kids in a Catholic school but they just couldn't afford to do it. We sacrificed quite a bit to keep our girls in Catholic school. I made the girls go to church every week and other parents didn't require their children to go to church. I don't know personally what their struggles are because we don't really talk about it. I don't know what they did differently.*
- *Yes. There were two main families that I now know. We don't really stay in touch but I have heard about them as adults and I do know that a couple from the same family, two boys, two brothers are not only not Catholic anymore but almost actively fighting against. They were very against like their sister going into the convent and that kind of stuff. But another family, as far as I know, everybody in that family is still Catholic and practicing.*
- *Some of them. How do I put this? They all seem to have like a prodigal son or something. They all seem to have at least one that took off [from the faith].*

Some noted more success among Catholic parents that they know. This likely reflects differences between communities in which the families resided. Examples include:

- *They [other Catholic parents] have been just as successful [as us].*
- *By and large most of them would be Catholic. You hear some that are like not so much [Catholic]. One family all the kids are solid Catholic and another one they might marry somebody who's not Catholic another one they kind of don't go to church. But I would say by and large probably 80 percent of their children have remained Catholic.*
- *I think like one or two maybe left of faith but I think for the most part they're still Catholic.*

- *So it's interesting because a few of our really close friends were the you know Christmas Easter type. The kids really didn't attend [Mass] on a regular basis. My wife's friends are very Catholic. My friends are more scattered. One thing that we were very like happy about was my best friend from high school he never went to church or Mass when we were growing up. He got married and still didn't really go. They have three boys as well now. He started going [to Mass] and became really active in the church. We didn't really take credit for it or anything but it felt like we were always setting the example of going to Mass and participating in all the sacraments. So it's nice to know that they picked it [the faith] back up and are still doing it to this day.*
- *I know the one friend that I still really talked to from high school she is still Catholic. And then my other friends as much as I've seen mostly on Facebook got married in Catholic churches. So I assume, I don't know how practicing they are, but they look like for the most part that I've been able to see they're still practicing Catholics. I know one that I was close friends with, he was Catholic and he got married in the church.*

## **General Faith Formation**

**Parent participants were asked to describe their role in their children's faith formation and adult children were asked to describe their parent's roles in this.** Some homeschooled their children, others worked in a Catholic school or in a parish as a religious educator. Most indicated at some point, but not necessarily in the response to this query that living the faith at home in the community as an example to their children was important to them. Mothers were more likely to indicate playing a central teaching role. Fathers tended to be limited somewhat by work and travel and more often see themselves as living a life that can be a role model for their kids. Some also indicate being inspired by how they were raised and emulating this when they began to raise children. Examples include:

### **Mothers**

- *To me, I was the role model. If I wasn't doing the things I was asking them to do, why would they do it? If I wanted them to pray the Rosary I did it with them.*
- *I came to understand that I was the heart of the home and that heart had to lead to God. I was always hungry for the faith so I pursued it and I brought my kids along. As a mother our job is to show the way to the father in the natural realm but also in a supernatural realm. So everything I do is pointed that way. I was their primary educator. My husband supported the homeschooling but he wasn't very involved [in the homeschooling]. Whether they are homeschooled or they were in public schools we were taking advantage of parish religious education as well. I started to see the value in creating community in the church that we weren't necessarily getting because we were homeschooling and they were only hanging out with other homeschool families. I started to see an elitist attitude so we began becoming more involved in the parish formation programs.*
- *My husband and I were a little wonky back then. My husband played in a guitar Mass. And I was a reader at church. I did not really see a problem with the religious education in Catholic schools. What I saw was kids were starting in the second grade to make sexually oriented comments to my children. I feel like they must have been watching television and thought it was funny. I finally*

*just said I can't let my daughters be polluted by this. We started hanging around the homeschool community. It's not like it was a plastic bubble or anything but at least as a mother I was able to make choices for what kind of activities my kids were involved with. In what their curriculum was. It was very faith-based and whenever I could get Catholic-based social studies or history books I would do that. I had them reading a lot of classic literature and a lot of good catechetical books.*

- *In the beginning when we had like the seventh child he [the father] was more involved [in homeschooling]. Then when they got older it was mainly me.*
- *I taught them religion mostly. My husband worked. I was at home. They went to Catholic schools. We always went to church together. I was the one with the prayers at home.*
- *I tried to get them [the children] to Mass and pray with them. As a family we do prayer every night. I stayed home with them and we also homeschool. We did the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day for a while but we have not been consistent. We often talk about God. I have a very strong relationship with Jesus. I have very strong faith. It has never really wavered. They [the children] are around that a lot with me, all the time, so they see you as a role model.*
- *I taught my children religion class. It's part of our homeschooling curriculum. I taught every one of them from kindergarten to senior year of high school. We wanted them to go to parochial school. It was the early 1990s and it was kind of a population boom. We were going to have to put them on a waiting list. Even in kindergarten I did not want them to start in public schools. I wanted to start early and share the faith. It's been a very deliberate effort on our part from the day our children were conceived to keep them in the faith. It's a battlefield out there.*
- *I think first of all [my role was] to raise good children. I think I was a little too strict with them but that was my thing to keep them in the Church. What the Church is all about is to realize how to be a good Catholic. It wasn't hard.*
- *I think I was the driving force as the girls were coming up. Making sure they were baptized and that they received all their sacraments. We both shared in that a bit but since I was raised Catholic I knew the timeline. Plus with him being in the military during those early years it really was on me to make sure because he was travelling. It was kind of a box to check you know when you get to high school you will be confirmed after that I was pretty open like that is the end of my responsibility. Then after if you are living under my roof you'll go to church with me every Sunday.*
- *I always had to make sure faith was not some separate category. I modeled the way we raised our kids very much after the way I was raised. Being Catholic is part of our identity. It doesn't fit into a box on Sunday or prayer time in the evening. You can't contain it that way. We're breathing, we are living our faith. It comes out in conversation. Whether it's a current event or a relationship or something going on in school, you are always looking to present it through the lens of faith. Not being explicit about it. I don't think things need to be rubber stamped "Catholic." This was one of the greatest gifts my parents gave me and I tried to do the same along with my husband. The truth exists and we know it. What a beautiful thing. What a counter-cultural thing to tell your kids, that there is a right and a wrong. There is an absolute and*

*we can know what these are and we can discover them together. You may not know all the answers but we can explore. We can seek truth together.*

- *I never looked at it as a role or something that I had to do. It was just something that I did. I am a convert and we had our children very soon after my conversion. So I was pretty new to the faith. I think [husband's name] have a great contrast between us. We both set different kinds of examples. We are both very much into Natural Family Planning and I was never afraid to be overt in statements that I made about how they [the children] should live their lives. When they were teenagers they hated me because if I came to their door I would ask if they were virgins. The kind of stuff people just didn't do in those days. We would have long talks in the evening when the kids were older about issues that would come up. We were both Natural Family Planning instructors.*

### **Fathers**

- *I saw my role as the spiritual leader of the family. My main responsibility in that sense was to be the guide of the family in spiritual matters to make sure that we are on track. Heaven is our goal and to keep the children in the faith was most important.*
- *I needed to be the breadwinner at work. She's [the mother] been 100 percent the last ten years [doing the homeschooling]. She also has a background as an administrative assistant so she is really good with her organizational skills.*
- *I just felt like I needed to represent the Catholic religion. We went to church every Sunday.*
- *I would say my role as a father... I did my best to teach them the Catholic way so they could be well grounded. I can't remember a day without my daughter saying the Rosary. That was something I taught her and my sons. I would say my role as a father was to educate them.*
- *They [the children] went to a Catholic school. I think you need the support in the home from the Catholic parents to reinforce what is going on in school. I have taught religion in our local Catholic school for 50 years now. I would say substantially less than half the parents go to church at all. With our children, we brought them to church on a regular basis and reinforced the teachings at home.*
- *Our parents were good Catholics so they gave us a good example of how to teach our kids. It's really kind of modelling.*
- *I think we both [father and mother] shared in it [faith formation]. She was the driver and I was the support factor. It was the same in my family. With my military background [and travelling] it was the same with my dad who was in sales you know so he travelled an enormous amount of time. So there are some limitations to it.*
- *I could always do better. We try to say our daily prayers together in the evenings. My wife and I always have a routine. We do morning offerings. You try to do things as an example. I like to go to the Adoration chapel and pop in for 10 to 15 minutes before work. I have zero tolerance for*

*weekends. Weekends are for Mass. We don't do other things. We don't do athletics. So it's [Mass] a priority.*

- *My approach was merely to be open about issues that were current in their lives no matter what stage they were at. Talk to them bluntly about life and try to live that life the same way I was asking them to [live].*
- *As a father I wanted to make sure they were practicing and especially stayed close to the Blessed Virgin. We were always at the Shrine [name]. So they [the kids] were always involved in that. [Name] was an altar boy, [Name] and [Name] were always at Mass. I was connecting them with these at the Shrine here and with the meaning of the music. In retrospect I probably should have been a bit more upfront. I've always had a belief to not be too overbearing. Let the kids find their own way. But now in retrospect I wish I had been more forward about it.*
- *Just trying to set a good example. Not just like in going to Mass and extra-curricular things that are available but just being an honorable person. Being fair. Not trying to cheat anybody who needed help. The Corporal Works of Mercy. Volunteering in different places where we could. My wife is much more... you know she'll pray about everything on a daily basis. She will read the spirit daily websites. She works for a parish now.*
- *Just the basic things. We went to Mass every Sunday. We tried to go on Holy Days of Obligation. We said prayers over their beds when we brought them home. That just continued until they started saying prayers. We made them go to Mass with us every week. Prayers at dinner, every meal. We got them in the habit. It's just kind of habitualized.*

### **Adult Children**

- *[About mother] I think it [mother's role] was obviously important. I went to Mass with her. She was very on top of us. I would say my dad's role was probably strongest. My dad wasn't on top of us but he prayed the Rosary every day out loud. He went to daily Mass. He prayed the Liturgy of the Hours out loud so we could all hear it. It was a little bit different than my mom who was more involved in a way but that could sometimes go wrong if she got too involved. My dad was just a more steadfast presence.*
- *Mom was definitely the driving force behind our faith. I never really saw my dad [involved in faith formation]. He would pray with us but he never initiated it. It was always mom. Mom was always kind of the more outspoken one. She was the teacher. She was a stay-at-home mom. She would read from the Catechism or readings for the day or just books like The Chronicles of Narnia. Dad was just kind of silent but he was always there and participating. I remember nightly prayer. Mom would go around starting with the youngest and go all the way up [to the oldest]. It was always extemporaneous prayer. Dad was always very then and done. All right "Name of the Father..." and let's go to bed. I would say mom was more of a teacher and dad was a role model. He was always trying to take care of us all like God the Father. He was a good model for that.*
- *Mom was a stay-at-home mom. Us kids were homeschooled. I think she had a big role just being with us all day. I look up to her. She was a convert. She pushed us to grow deeper in our faith.*

*We weren't around him [dad] as much, He was there at nights and on weekends. He would bring us to Mass. We would say prayers together. He was very encouraging about faith and the religious side.*

- *I remember they both [mom and dad] taught religious education at the church. I had them for one year. Church was always a priority. We would sit down and talk as a family. We would have a cycle of priests come by. We had them over for dinner. My mom and dad were similar.*
- *My dad was definitely a lot more involved with the church [than mother who had been raised Baptist]. My mom did Catholic Daughters for a couple of years. I really think that was the most she did. My dad was in the Knights of Columbus. I remember going and making breakfast tacos with him early in the morning many days. He taught religious education. Taught me in the second grade actually. He was always up at the church. That was his kind of place to volunteer. He took us a lot.*

### **Rite of Christian Relationship**

**Participants were asked to describe the amount of time they spent together as a family.** Some of the most common elements noted by parents was an emphasis on Sunday being oriented toward Mass. On weekdays, it is common for the participants' family to eat dinner together with prayer before the meal, and focusing on religious practices at home. Many reported spending more time together than the average family. However, there is a mixture of responses regarding the amount of time they were able to spend together. The primary limitation was related to parent work schedules.

- *I would say definitely more [than the average family]. We were a fun family. Always eating dinner together at the table.*
- *Sunday would be a day that was totally dedicated to going to Mass. Making it a family day and leisure. We didn't work on Sundays unless the plumbing broke or something and I had to do it. It was a day that we really tried to keep separate. We do it to this day. I think that was a way to show that you know God calls us to relax, to worship him. Being in his presence and in the presence as a family. We would do things together. We may go on a little pilgrimage. There is a little shrine nearby. It's not something that we do every Sunday but it was something that we incorporated into their childhood. Making it really evident that's our faith. It is important. You know read Saints stories. You read about Saints as heroes. You know kids are always looking for heroes. We were involved in scouts or sports or those kinds of things. There were the social groups that they had. We really tried to limit outside activities but not to an exclusion so one thing we thought was we want the children to be involved in our parish and to have a connection there. We encouraged our oldest son to be an altar server and our daughters were musically inclined and had good voices so from a very young age they sang in the choir. They started to have more of an affinity for the liturgy for sure. I made it a priority to try to make it home for dinner every night. That didn't always happen because I work schedules and such but you know I made the sacrifice to make sure that I was there as often as I could. It was really more around deadlines that would push me to work late but the family meal was very important and that was an everyday kind of thing.*

- *I spend a lot of time with my family once I'm back from work. We would sit together at the table and we would say some prayers before eating. Also say some prayers before we go to bed. I would say I spent a lot of time with them once I was back from work. I spent two to three hours with my family together with my wife. If they were less busy we could sit together and they could tell me about the day and how the day was. I could try to educate them to guide them. I know they need a lot of counseling. I really did my best in the evening if they didn't have anything in terms of homework or chatting on the phone they would sit together. They could share their problems with me and all of that and I could see how I could counsel them.*
- *Dinner time is important. Regrouping every day. Maybe not getting the quality time with having so many kids but you know we definitely have lots more time together. I'm praying the Rosary every day. Gathering for that it was our time.*
- *We had our first two children 18 months apart. She [my wife] had been a teacher in the public school system and she essentially stayed home with the children for 13 years. We then had another child and so we had the three children. Then she went back to work but only on a part-time basis in a preschool. She was the major caregiver of the children at home. I had a job which was pretty demanding. I'll give you an anecdote. At one point I was traveling some distance to work because I had changed jobs and had to relocate where we lived. So I was traveling in the morning. I'd leave at about five o'clock in the morning and get home about nine o'clock at night. My then two-year-old daughter asked my wife, "Where does daddy sleep at night?" because she only saw me on the weekend. I was sleeping at home in the house every night but the children never even saw me. So it was primarily her responsibility to raise the children when they were very young.*
- *I think we spent much more [time together than the average family]. We were a tight family. We were very close. I know there can be some variation depending on people's occupations. Like growing up my dad was a sales person. So I'm sure he would have loved to spend more time with me.*
- *I work constantly with our kids. We have 10 kids yeah so that's like that's what we do. I work. I come home. I eat. I spend time with kids. Go to Mass and repeat. If we compare it to other people I'd say yeah, I mean because the kids are at home all day long so my wife's constantly with them. Then I get home and then I'm driving around to different events. But I'm spending a lot of time with them.*
- *I mean always. We tried not to watch a lot of TV. I mean we watched like movies on the weekends and things but we tried not to watch TV during the week. Especially like as we were getting older we would always have dinner at the table. When I was in high school and middle school my parents would have my brother and I cook dinner like once a week. We'd be in the kitchen with my parents and always talking. So that was always a lot of like bonding, talking. We've always had a lot of time with my dad and a lot of time with my mom. She's really good about that. She was the one who had usually the more intense job. She's a doctor so we spent a lot of time with, my brother and I, we both spent a lot of time with my dad growing up and still now actually.*

- *Most of the time. We did a lot together. We didn't have much money. We took vacations to visit family. We would visit grandparents, aunts, and uncles.*
- *I mean certainly attending Mass every Sunday. It's probably more frequent than any other just in that. We were dirt poor. We did all kinds of family stuff that was free. I mean we were a camping family too. So we spent a lot of weekends when the girls were coming up on weekend camping trips. You know take the RV or the travel trailer out to the beach, to the forest, wherever so you know that was inexpensive fun. We didn't go on vacations. We didn't go to amusement parks very often. We didn't do a lot of that you know. Weekend stuff, we always did family stuff.*
- *I had the summers off because I'm a teacher so I was with the girls a lot. I would say we do spend a lot a lot of time together.*
- *I think probably a little bit more than average. My boys were got into music and that was their thing. So they're both musicians. They didn't get into sports. They didn't do a lot of extracurricular stuff besides the music. I think they were probably around more but we also made time to make sure that they were around more. My wife and I we always had a dinner at home. We always had dinner together. Even if you know we went out for dinner the boys came along. We tried to all we always, I mean probably 95 percent of the time, we had dinner together through high school.*
- *When we first moved into the neighborhood I was still commuting back into New York city so at that point I was really gone like 14 hours a day and that lasted for about four years. Then we merged with a different company and ended up relocating to Stanford so I was only like an hour away. At that point it kind of totally shifted. I got to spend a lot more regular time at home. I was working seven to five but at five o'clock I would usually be out the door and be home by six. That was a little bit easier to spend time with [the kids]. You know we always had dinners on a regular basis. The kids were involved in sporting events. Different things.*
- *Yeah. In fact that's what I tell people now about homeschooling. I always called myself a reluctant homeschooler because it's a really hard thing to do. It's a big commitment. But looking back on it now that our kids are grown that's like the number one thing that I appreciate about it. Just the time that we spent together. Like quality time is quantity time you know. That's how it works. You can't buy that and you can't even schedule it. You're the greatest influence in your child's life when you're spending that kind of time together.*
- *I would say we spend a lot. We spend most of it together. My parents didn't like us to go out or go to friends' houses unless they really knew what we were doing. They had jobs that maybe made it a lot more possible. My mom was a homemaker so she works from home and then my dad was a teacher so he actually had quite a bit of time off or working from home.*
- *I mean we both worked. I was a nurse and he was a teacher. I truly marvel that my children turned out as well because we tried so hard. We both had to work you know that's the way it was. But we kept the family together. One of us was always with them and it never failed. I work nights. He works days but we were always together at least at least for one meal a day.*

- *We did most things together. I would say especially the two girls. [Son's name] kind of went off on his own. When he was younger did most everything as a family.*
- *I would definitely say a little bit more [time together] than like the typical family. We would have like outings. We would have kind of date nights with our parents. Like our mom would take out, there's three girls in my family, so she would take out the girls one night or my dad would take out the boys and just like go to a restaurant or go hang out. We would go get ice cream after Mass. Like a lot of the activities since I have nine siblings. So a lot of our activities we ended up doing like together. Like a bunch of kids would go to taekwondo together.*
- *My kids were involved in things like they went to horse riding lessons and I did stay involved with the American Heritage Girls Organization for a couple years after I pulled the girls out of school but then it got to be when they were all together they were all talking about school and you know my girl started to feel left out. We had these other extracurricular activities. We have property across the border in Indiana where we would go spend time with extended family grandma and grandpa. We'd go on vacations. Go to the beach all that kind of stuff so just spending a lot of time together doing fun things and extracurricular activities.*
- *I would say we were pretty average. [Husband's name] made an effort to always take them places and do things. At the time, I was happy to get them out of the house. You would take them boating. You would take them places and I'm thinking when they were young you were in scouting. He became a scout master so he could lead the scouts for the church and that gave them experiences with you. When they were a little older, the trips you took you know. You would take them day sailing. We had a water ski boat. We would go water skiing. We did a lot of stuff together. You did the trail trips. My idea of camping is the suite at the Hilton.*
- *I'd say it's probably about the same [as other households] overall. I remember though when our kids were younger we definitely had a rule. My husband and I, we said no more than two nights out a week. I have spent more time with my children because I've noticed with my friends a lot of times they have a need to get out and socialize more whereas I didn't have that much of a need. I do like a mom's night maybe once a month and my friends would want to go out like maybe once a week or once twice a month or something. My husband, he wanted to go out more than I did I'd say in the beginning but now more recently the last like I don't know 10 years or so he's been home more often too. We did have a rule where we said no more than two nights out per week between my husband and I so he could go out once and I could go out once. But we're not so good about that anymore. Although my husband has wanted to spend more time with the kids the last 10 years. Our kids have been in sports more. We always put a focus on having dinners together as a family.*
- *It's changed. I would say at one time yes that would be the case [spending more time together than the average family]. But now I work full-time and it's become very difficult in the last seven years. Because of the pandemic I did work from home. I worked for the church they pretty much closed down. We were working from home and the kids were going to school.*
- *Just in a normal week. I don't really know. I want to say more. I know that it was very important to us to have dinner together. That was always a thing. Once a month we would do something called family fun night and that was mom and dad who had always kind of organized that.*

*Sometimes it would be going out somewhere and doing something as a family. Sometimes it would be just staying in the house and I don't know playing board games or something. But then there was always the night prayer. I would say a little bit more [time together] than in general than I saw around me, my friends, my neighbors, my school friends.*

**Participants were asked to describe the degree of affection, affirmation, and/or warmth of their home.**

Participants generally evaluate their household as warmer and more affectionate than the average family. Multiple participants indicated they are “huggy.” Fewer said they were more affectionate vocally but not physically. In some homes this is more common for the mother to express warmth than the fathers who sometimes have a more detached and stern approach to parenting. None of the participants described their household as less affectionate or warm than the average family home.

- *I think it's [warmth in home] more than average. I'm a very demonstrative loving person and I tell my kids all the time how much I love them. When I think how proud I am of them I feel like I have a close relationship with even the adult children who are married and gone.*
- *We had a very affectionate home. We were huggers.*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, I would say an 8.*
- *I would say high [affection]. We were crazy about each other too. I always thought that was important that the kids see loving parents.*
- *I think it's pretty warm. I think you know above the average. We say “I love you” all the time with my kids. I am on the huggy side of things. I always say “I love you.” That's even within my family. You know I have a brother who's a Navy SEAL and I still say “I love you” and he says it back to me. So uh I think it's important we do that. I would say that it is above average in our family as far as the verbal telling each other that we love each other.*
- *He's gotten a lot better as that happens with a lot of guys. I think they get older and they kind of mellow out and now he's more huggy and affectionate. Now he says “I love you” and he gives hugs. I think my third daughter really just kind of wrapped him around her little finger too. Which was a little bit different with her. He was he was more of the disciplinarian with the older two.*
- *For me, I would say I was affectionate towards them. But for them, I could hear a couple of times when they told my wife that I was a bit strict to them. That was because I was trying to make them not to make some mistakes in life.*
- *In terms of love and affection, I showed them a lot of love and affection. I would always take care of them, know their problems, go to them and meet them if they were going through something.*
- *Above average for sure. We are all still real close.*
- *I'm very kind and very accepting and tolerant of a lot of things. I generally have a positive disposition. I was raised in a home where my parents both worked but everything was very*

*pleasant and very supportive and encouraging. I just I didn't realize that things weren't like that everywhere and my husband unfortunately was raised in a divorced family. His mom she had a drug and alcohol addiction although she was able to work. It was extremely traumatic so my husband didn't like have an understanding. He definitely lost his temper a lot. To sum up, I would definitely have been like the more loving and caring but at the same time my husband is a really neat person to spend time with. His faith is very strong. His self-image is somewhat low but the kids have a lot of fun with him. Over the last like four years, our oldest son we noticed that he was having trouble. Kind of like an Asperger's type thing. I mean he's totally over it now but we ended up having him talk to a Catholic counselor. The man recommended that my husband give him more hugs and do nice and say more reaffirming things and try to like just really build the relationship. I think my husband learned from that. So he's trying to do that a lot more with all the other kids.*

- *That's hard to speak to. I would I would say more [affectionate than the average household].*
- *Their friends [the kids] have said things into their adult life about how they thought our family was pretty cool.*
- *We were strict parents but we were loving parents.*
- *I'd say it's about the same. Maybe a little bit more than average. It's hard for me I didn't come from a very affectionate home myself. So I tried to model my behavior on other my friends' fathers that I thought were doing a good job. I tried to talk with my sons I literally did things I called them son. I don't think my dad ever called me son. He always called me by name. I tried so hard to be more affectionate especially as the boys grew older because I didn't want them to get distant from me.*
- *I think probably pretty average. I mean my parents weren't doting or anything. We weren't spoiled or anything. We got a lot more attention than some people so I guess that's you know more love in that way. I think about the same.*
- *I'd say more similar to other people like us based on the girls' description of their friends. Sometimes they would tease us like you know because we weren't openly affectionate all the time like maybe other parents are.*
- *I would say yeah. We show our affection for each other in different ways. We'll always say I love you but we're not big physical touch people so we're not like hugging each other. I feel like we're more active service kind of love language. You can still tell that like we all love each other but it's in like a different way.*
- *We're very kind of New England personalities. We're not a huggy, touchy kind of people. When they're little [kids] it was always hugs and kisses going to bed and that sort of thing but I think people have different personalities for that and we tend to be a little more standoffish than maybe even the average. But you know being very positive with our kids but also being careful that it's not like this fake positivity that I think is kind of culturally correct these days where it's like telling them great job no matter what. I want it to mean something you know we want to tell them the truth. I even remember one specific time where a friend kind of admonished me for*

*telling my daughter she hadn't done something quite right and I wasn't saying it in a mean way but she was saying be encouraging. I said I don't think it's encouraging to tell them they did something right when it wasn't right. I'm encouraging them to learn the right way.*

- *I would say it would be about the same [as the typical household]. I'm the oldest of 10 so I did get a little bit of the brunt of my parents being very overwhelmed which at the moment I didn't really understand. Now I do. So it felt many times that we were less [affectionate].*

**Participants were asked about the ability of children to speak to parents and feel like they are genuinely listened to and supported socially, emotionally, and spiritually.** Most indicated very good communication. The adult children were a little less likely to indicate there was as much communication as parents indicated. Often there were indications that mothers were easier to speak with while fathers were quieter or avoided because they were seen as an authority figure by the child.

- *We asked our daughter the other day and she said that was one thing she could always do was come back to us and ask questions because she knows we would answer them.*
- *Oh yes. We always had an open dialogue with them. Especially [wife's name]. I mean I was a father of course and it always seemed like [wife] was always more of the icebreaker but the girls especially would come to her and then she'd fill me in. But they never had a problem coming there.*
- *Our household is a very verbal household. I deliberately bring up controversial things all the time. We debate. It drives my wife crazy because she sees it as she sees it as kind of strife. But I see it as let's talk about these things. Let's debate. I want to honor your side. I might think you're wrong. I think we're very verbal about those things and I always like say you know if there's something that is challenging let's apply critical thinking on this whole thing. We have those constant conversations on a one-to-one basis. I don't know if they [kids] share everything with me which I'm fine with but I think they could if their struggles with their faith or at least if they had questions about the logic of it or why do we believe in those things. Or you know I think they would have no problem bringing that stuff up yeah.*
- *Yeah for sure that was something we tried to be conscious of. Kind of cultivating in a deliberate way. Going back to the way I was raised I can look back now and say we were encouraged to ask anything we wanted. There was no shame in asking a question or not understanding something. And that was part of the gift that I think my parents gave to us was you could talk about anything and the church actually has the answers that you're looking for. You can ask any questions you want and if I didn't know the answer well, we can we can look into that together you know and kind of learn that together. Especially with regard to kind of less culturally popular Church teachings like on same-sex marriage or that kind of thing. With my teenagers they would come home. Especially the ones that ended up going to school and you know they were hearing different things at school and I remember one of my sons asking me saying it just feels mean like to tell people that that's wrong. So that was a real opportunity to look into like why does the Church teach this? It's not just a set of rules and the goal of the Church and ultimately the goal of God is our happiness. So looking at why the church teaches particular things that maybe aren't very culturally popular I mean in that in that light like the church wants what's good for us and it wants us to be happy and this is not something that's going to lead to our happiness or the*

*happiness of that kid that sits next to you in class that thinks this is okay. So just always trying to frame it in that way but also with that that openness. Not that we have all the answers and but just knowing it's not about a set of rules. It's about a path that is for our own good.*

- *I've had some really good conversations with them. I think from a faith-based standpoint they usually came and talked to you [the mother] and you know love, life stuff like that. But when it came to you know performing in sports or dealing with difficult people, or job stuff I've talked to them. We share in that.*
- *Yes. They [kids] are easy to talk to. They would come to us. We talked a lot.*
- *There's three of them. I would say the oldest my daughter who's going to be 29 in a month, she I don't think she would have any problem coming to us. My middle son is probably the toughest of the bunch. My youngest is 21 and he is like all in on everything. Yeah that was something easy for them to do [talk to parents] not necessarily about faith but just in general like talking. Probably easier for their mother than for me. I think that might be like a father thing. I don't know how much of this is you know passed on hereditary or your own experience growing up. I was really close to my mom. My dad was very quiet. Never said a word. I didn't have a bad relationship or anything but we just never really like clicked. He would like you know come watch all my soccer games and sporting events and everything else basketball games, baseball games, etc. So it wasn't like bad but it just like he was not a communicator. He liked being there. He liked just absorbing and observing. You know more of an introvert perhaps.*
- *They [kids] are very comfortable. I can't get a word in edgewise.*
- *We're pretty close to our girls. I would say I talk to them pretty much every day and we're fortunate they've always come to us and talked to us. You know obviously there are those things that kids keep to themselves you know but even now more so later in life as they've gotten older you know we don't have to hear it all. Sometimes I have to tell them they don't have to share everything. They're in college. I don't need to know everything.*
- *I can't remember a time when they shared a problem with me that I didn't try my best to make sure I saw it solved and all of that. My wife was also good to them because she also played a role as a good mother in educating and bringing them up most of the time. I could see they could run to her for a problem if they were scared to come to me because they were scared I would scold them. It was a joint thing. I and my wife together were able to raise them. I'll always look for a way to educate them. My wife, that was the same thing she did.*
- *Yeah, I think generally they're pretty open in that communication. You know there's been a few times obviously when you know they're not and they're trying to hide something but I think that's kind of normal for kids growing up. So I think generally, even today, they still come to me with problems. Now they're both married they're living separately they still come to me with problems and questions and those things.*
- *I think so because you're with them 24/7. There's a lot of conflicts to work out but those are the opportunities where you live the virtue of forgiveness and obedience. They see that your faults and their faults and that we could learn to live with each other.*

- *I could always talk to my mom about anything.*
- *My older [daughter] she does feel comfortable asking things. She tells me what she is doing. Tells me when things aren't right.*
- *My mom, I could always talk to. Recently I am starting to talk to my dad more in kind of a more personal way. He was always my dad, always like kind of the authority figure. I didn't mean it's not that I couldn't go to him with problems and things but I think my mom was usually the first choice.*
- *I just felt like I'm so blessed that my children come to me and tell me "Mom this boy said this to me today in school" and you know so that then I would get involved. I'd start calling parents and stuff. My level of conversation with my daughters, still even to this day, is very high. My youngest daughter especially she shares everything.*
- *They went through Catholic grade school Catholic high school. I think that if they had any hesitancy [about their faith] we never heard it. Speaking specifically about doubts, our family dinners involved discussion about the faith a lot of times.*
- *I think there's varying levels of comfort that children have in sharing what's going on within them with their parents. I think that has to do a lot with the parents. We have to be vulnerable too you know and let our children know that we're not perfect. In that they can say okay mom and dad forgive each other. It's just real. We're not going to agree with everything but there's a way how to handle it and not kill each other. You have a choice. Do you want to make this better? We all have to work together and talk about it but sometimes depending on the child's temperament, we have different temperaments of course, and we have a couple where their temperaments are definitely more withdrawn. Sometimes they may not want to find the perfect time to talk to us and when it's loud all day long sometimes it might get lost in the shuffle. So you have to be aware of that. Parents have to study these things and understand and just be open to those things that your family needs.*
- *Yeah, they [parents] always made it like open to us [kids] like if we needed anything we could come to them and talk to them. I mean obviously those conversations aren't always easy but we knew that if we needed someone to talk to they were there.*
- *I didn't really go to them [parents] with doubts or anything like that. I would kind of seek my own answers online through books. C.S. Lewis was a great influence. I never really spoke to them about it [any doubts]. However, I'm not trying to defend this, just an observation, I have noticed my little brothers and sisters. They are extremely comfortable bringing up doubts and talking about the faith with my parents. With us older siblings as well.*
- *It depends they [parents] were always there and they always wanted to know what was going on. They didn't always understand the best but I mean that's all right. My parents did set me up with a really good youth program and so even if I didn't really go to them with questions I did go to the like [organization] youth ministers that we had. So they made sure that I had that even if it wasn't through them if that makes sense.*

- *I'm laughing because it depends which child you talk to. Again my oldest has accused me multiple times of not being empathetic not listening. Not being there for her. She is the only one that has said that to me. When those words are said to the other children they say that's not our experience with mom so I think between me and her if there's something there the other children like my one of daughter is 25. She's married and has a new baby she's constantly calling me and saying mom can we meet for coffee I really need to talk. So we talk and then I have another daughter with my three daughters that are not the oldest one but the other three I'm very close and with my sons as well. I feel like I have shared a warm relationship with them and they feel like they can come to me now. The two older ones once they met their spouses that kind of ended. Which is good and normal and natural and that's how it should be. I have a 21-year-old who still comes to me with his internal strife and the two younger boys they're teenagers they're not quite sure they do know they can come to me with anything but you know they're still a little awkward with that.*

**Participants were asked about the ability of children to speak to their siblings and feel like they are genuinely listened to and supported socially, emotionally, and spiritually.** In most cases participants indicated there was good communication between siblings. However, some note some sibling rivalries and complications given differences in age and life stage. Participants have larger than average families and thus are more likely to have more distance between their oldest and youngest child. Fewer indicate a lack of communication between siblings.

- *The kids have quite the reputation of being there for each other and being close close-knit and loving each other and respecting each other. Yes, they do fight but I think one of the key elements that we gave them and that was given to us actually it was quite the gift in our marriage was looking at temperaments and looking at personality Myers-Briggs. We did them all we did Enneagram. We did Myers-Briggs. We did temperaments and I found that was so helpful as in my parenting but also with each other because it was so easy in a in a fight to see their personalities at work and be able to say this person is not doing this because they're just trying to make you mad. They're doing it because this is who they are. This is who God made them and so I feel like that really built a lot of respect and to this day they're all crazy for this personality and temperament thing and they talk about it all the time.*
- *I think so. Yeah definitely [the kids are there for each other and communicate].*
- *Yeah, that definitely is the goal of mine and they're still even as young adults in communication with one another quite a bit. I know as their mom there are some things that they probably wouldn't come to me with but they feel comfortable, like especially now, with our two youngest boys who are teenagers at home. I know that they text their older brothers and ask things that maybe they're not going to come to me with. I feel like that's a beautiful thing actually. That's part of God's plan for the family.*
- *Yes. They still do. They still call each other. They are godparents to each other's kids.*
- *The kids, sure they did well. So we had five and in quick succession probably in six and a half years. They were close. Then we had our last daughter five and a half years later so she definitely was out of the group but mothered by her older siblings. They really looked after her. They had a*

*lot of time together. A lot of unstructured time and this was all before the internet all before phones so they really played down in the basement and created stuff. To this day they have a lot of memories that they share. It was also the advent of video. We used to take pictures or movies of stuff that they do. They love to go back and watch it.*

- *They were always there for each other. They protected each other. They always cared for each other in case anyone fell sick.*
- *We were always really close. We're brothers so we don't talk that deeply yeah but I never felt like I couldn't.*
- *Yeah, I definitely think so. Just being homeschooled I feel like I am very close with my siblings.*
- *Yes, especially the two girls who are basically their best friends more or less. That doesn't mean that they didn't have this little bit of a sibling thing once in a while going on. But they had no problems talking to each other about anything. [Son's name], he's a few years older so I he was also in some ways very independent.*
- *Yeah, they were literally only 14 months apart and they have been best friends since day one and they still are to this day. I know that they talk amongst themselves about a lot of things and sometimes they'll bring that to me and my wife but not always. You know a lot of times they'll get an answer just between the two of them. That's has always happened since they were little kids. They were just Inseparable and they almost are even though they live in different cities now they we still get together and they get together a lot more than we get together.*
- *Yes. There's nine of us [siblings] in total. Some are more comfortable going to others. But we all have somebody.*
- *The oldest two were only 16 months apart the first time but the younger one being six years behind she was kind of left out a little bit. I think she came to me probably more often than going to her sisters and she goes to them now obviously. She's expecting her first child so she's constantly asking big sisters for advice and stuff. But I think just the age difference made me more of her buddy than her older sisters because they were busy and working and going off to college and involved in all kinds of things.*
- *They get along. They're getting closer now. But they're very, very different. How we raise two girls so close in age, in the same household and produce two totally different children you know is just amazing to me. I still can't figure out how it happened there they're very different people but they've always been friends minus the occasional sisterly sibling rivalry stuff. They've really gotten closer just since they've been in college. There was a period in their teen years, they were so very different, they were not very close and that was partly because our older daughter was very into dance, in a high-level ballerina and she would go every summer for like four summers in a row she would travel to camps and they were six weeks long. That's at a time when they should have been hanging out. They weren't because big sister wasn't there. Even during the school year the older sister was dancing six days a week so they definitely grew apart. Now they're much closer. Like the younger one has gone up to Dallas that's where the older one goes*

to school and visited her on several occasions for the weekends. They're much closer now than they were as teenagers.

- *I don't think it was hard for them [to communicate]. I'm not really sure why because the two older ones were two years apart and I guess it was like boy girl and totally different personalities. My daughter was kind of like an old soul. Very toe the line, goody two shoes with everything. Studied really hard just got great grades, etc. My son who's two years younger than her I don't think I've ever seen him even pick up a book when he was in school. He still did well but it's like he was more street smart. But I think the two of them got along. They didn't really butt heads you know it wasn't contentious, there was no fighting or anything like that but they were always kind of like tease each other playfully.*
- *I think that comes with age. It's just a learning right trial and error. But I see it with my older kids. My younger kids go to them. They look to them for wisdom and you know. I can say they have each other's back.*
- *They got along very good when they were younger. When they got older it wasn't the same. In the last two or three years their relationship has gotten better.*
- *Yes, I think they [siblings] would have been there. I know some of them have struggles in their faith.*
- *There's a little bit [of communication]. They're a little bit separated geographically from each other. As I mentioned, my daughter with the two older children lives up in the Albany area which is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from where the other two lives so uh we get together for family gatherings and so forth and so on but it's not as if they're close enough to have a continuing close relationship. But we certainly get together.*
- *That's a tough one. I think that like some of them can relate to each other and have that but not all of them even feel like they want that. We're actually trying to make an appointment soon with a family counselor. I think that we could all do this family chat and the kids, they enjoy spending time with each other. They make a point to do stuff together but I don't know if I'd really say like warmth. My daughter with her [medical issue], she hasn't talked to anybody. We have a couple of really extreme extroverts and they just can't help but talk about their problems. I don't know. Like for the level of warmth, from like zero to ten, I'd probably say maybe like a five. But then again, we get comments from other families that are like "oh you guys are so like loving" and it's like we just don't see it. At Mass, maybe we'll put her arm around and the kids look after each other and I mean they don't fight as much as other people's kids. So I'd say we're about five.*
- *I have one sister. I don't think we fought like sisters. I don't think I ever felt really that comfortable talking to her about anything. Even now, I mean she's a bit older too. We just never really talked about anything.*

**Participants were asked to what degree a loving-guidance approach to discipline (i.e., modeling, teaching, encouraging, and supporting good behavior) over more heavy-handed or punitive approaches to discipline (i.e. spanking, yelling, removing privileges, grounding, etc.) was used in**

**raising children.** Commonly, participants indicated using a mixture of these two approaches. Sometimes they were more heavy-handed when their children were young and became more loving-guidance when their children were teenagers. Often, the fathers were more disciplinarian than mothers but not always. Some did indicate using spanking. There is no one pattern or description that seems to be overwhelmingly common.

- *The first one [loving-guidance approach]. We tease all the time that we give way too much freedom because we're, neither my husband nor myself, are very good at follow through and like consequences. I'm a sanguine so I just forget and they say children knew that mom. Give her an hour she'll forget. She punished us. We found that it was more effective to guide and give freedom to make the choices but with some children that's not you know as effective and so we've had to step in at times and do a little bit harder. So like you said more punitive but for the most part it's the guidance and loving and freedom to make choices. So it was a discipline like grounding, sending them to their room, that kind of. We tried to do natural consequences. Yes removal from the situation or distraction. Right now with these two teens I struggle with this but they're video gaming. I'm like okay if you've gone over your curfew. Then the the next day you don't get any video gaming.*
- *The first one [loving-guidance]. Yeah because we we both came from a background that was not the first one and we wanted to instill that in our children. We thought encouraging, the first one with some very loud voices yeah.*
- *No it's more definitely more support. It's definitely more supportive. My wife is a preschool teacher and in dealing with that environment clearly she you know she was the one that would lead on it. It would be a supportive and a guiding approach to things yeah.*
- *We were definitely in the former category which was more nurturing, talking, loving whatever. Not that I didn't raise my voice occasionally but I would never do the other stuff. Spanking no or any type of disciplinary action no. Yeah we didn't really need to, which was awesome.*
- *I'm trying to think. I could talk so much about this. I'd say that we were definitely more of the like the role modeling. When we saw behaviors that were unacceptable we would have family meetings. We'd do modeling. We'd pretend like we were misbehaving and then we'd kind of show like this is not what we're supposed to be like. This is what we are supposed to do like practicing manners like please and thank you. We do a thing like for Mass for our kids. It was sad to me because one of my friends they would bring their kids in the back of the church and they'd pinch them if they're misbehaving. But what we would do like a Mass treat where we'll go to the grocery store afterwards and get something you know but if a child is misbehaving during Mass, this is just one example, but if they're misbehaving during Mass then they don't get the the Mass treat. It usually only takes one time and then they learn that. We have ADHD tendencies on my husband's side. Very strong. One our daughter was diagnosed with ADHD so she got on medication. It's been wonderful but our other kids haven't wanted to pursue getting diagnosed but um they're able to control themselves. We would withhold privileges and take away access to screens and stuff like that, iPads or whatever. They would be withheld from them if they did something wrong. But then we also have had trouble. My husband has had a lot of trouble with yelling. Not with spanking. He never would get physical with the kids. Well he did spank a couple*

*times but actually it was out of anger and he did apologize because he realized that he was wrong. If he's yelled at the kids he is always like, every single time, he's always apologized.*

- *Time primarily in the room sometimes grounding, taking away privileges. It was isolation from the family you know for several minutes or just privileges. I guess mostly privileges just trying to make some consequence and allow them to be take an action. Hopefully it sinks in that you know it's not worth doing.*
- *I think eventually we tried the first option. I think we probably succeeded you know 75 percent of the time. Now obviously there were times when they got grounded or their privileges taken away. There was a time when we did spank them. But that wasn't the go-to. We usually tried to reason with the boys to try to get them to see what they had done and why it wasn't a good thing.*
- *For me I would say I did use both of them because I could remember a couple of times where my children did a lot of wrongs when I asked them not to go out and they did that. They came back a bit late. I could remember I gave them some ground rules of not stepping out of the house for a couple of days. For me I think that made them see me as a strict father but I was simply doing my best not to make them make mistakes. But also in terms of love and affection I also showed them a lot of love and affection. I would always take care of them. Know their problems. Go to them and meet them if they were going through something.*
- *We were strict parents but we were loving parents.*
- *I think a mixture of both leaning more towards the consequences and raising voice. My mom was mostly the disciplinarian again because my dad was usually at work and by the time he got home we had figured out our problems. Mom did spank us every so often. I deserved it usually talking back to her pretty severely. I definitely got grounded but it wasn't like often I got grounded like for getting a zero on a assignment because I decided I didn't want to do my homework that week. My mom, the threat was always like she would use a wooden spoon but the threat was my dad's belt. I mentioned that to my dad the other day and he's like "I never would have done it. I'm glad I guess the threat worked but I never would have actually done." That's nice yeah good to know I guess. I think for most day-to-day things my mom tried to just like guide us.*
- *I did both. We always told the kids "I love you." Did they get spanked? Yes. Did they get grounded? Yes. I am very strict with my kids.*
- *You know what? Sometimes that loving guidance approach just doesn't work. You need more. You try but then you go you know sometimes it has to be discipline to get through to these kids. Our one son especially. When we would do more of a disciplined punitive type thing it would work. But yeah he was tough. But now he's the most wonderful kid you'd ever want to meet so with three kids of his own that are driving him crazy. So yeah he's going through the same thing. My mom used to say the same thing about me when I would tell her something that's going on in my house and my kids you get to experience the other side.*
- *I would say my toolbox is filled with both of those languages. I've tried you know. I was raised in a household where people raised their voices and you got spanked. You know I do that but then I*

*also understand that I fail and I'd be the first one to kind of talk to my kids about like I I'm sorry if I feel like that I was unjust in my in my approach to discipline. I'll actually admit that to my kids and often if I do I try to be humble in that approach. As far as like you're grounded, you know I'm kind of a wimp on that kind of stuff. I try to reason with them. I try to whatever but it's a mixture of both. It's kind of a squirrely answer.*

- *That's a tough question. We believed in discipline. I think we were more loving and supportive. Expected obedience too.*
- *My parents were a good mix. They were always authoritative like but it wasn't just arbitrary. They'd say what you did wrong you, why it was wrong, or they would explain it. I would know why what I did was wrong. I mean when I was young I remember getting spankings because I was kind of a brat.*
- *I would say it's definitely still a combination of both I think. I forgot I'm a Psychology major so I've heard this authoritative and I forgot what the other one is called. I think I don't remember the name for it but the loving I feel like they're more love and guidance. There is still more like spanking when we were littler but I don't know as I got into my middle school and high school age, they definitely stepped back a lot with like discipline and it was a lot more like trying to understand where our problems were coming from instead of like disciplining us. I was having having some troubles with school early in high school. Instead of like punishing me for it my parents tried to see where the root of the issue was like trying to find how I actually ended up getting diagnosed with ADHD. I really appreciated that about them instead of just seeing the issue and punishing me for that. They would like try and find the root of the issue.*
- *I kind of feel like I'm more the former [loving-guidance] and my husband's more the latter [heavy-handed] for sure. We didn't subscribe to any particular kind of trendy parenting philosophy or anything like that. I have always felt that kind of balance in our approach to discipline and I feel like it's ordained by God really just a more masculine and a more feminine approach. We've always approached things like there are consequences when you choose wrongly and sometimes as the mom I kind of want to protect my kids from those consequences. I've always been grateful to my husband when he intervenes and says no we're gonna follow through and this is the consequence for this this wrong behavior. You just hate when your kids are choosing the wrong way and you don't want them to have to suffer the consequences of it but I I really believe that is part of a loving approach is guiding your children through that sometimes. It's not what they would choose and it's not pleasant but sort of that more punitive approach can be a very loving and teaching model as well.*
- *That would be dependent upon the situation. I will say when my kids were younger and probably and especially before I started homeschooling I think it was school being involved in school that stressed me out. By the time we were starting to homeschool I had chilled out quite a bit because I just found homeschooling so relaxing. I talked to my girls. We tried to teach them why this is the best thing, faith wise, to do things but if something needed to be done my husband was definitely more like the spanking and stuff. But I would take privileges. I remember one time my oldest daughter did something and I had threatened her and said if you don't do this you're not going to horse lessons today. So she didn't follow through and do what I told her and she and I said okay that's it because I'm not the kind of person who makes a threat and then doesn't*

*follow through with it. I remember she was laying in her room. Her bedroom is up above mine and I was laying below her in my bedroom crying because I felt so bad doing like that to her. I felt like she's got to learn so I could do the heavy-handed stuff when needed and but generally speaking I mean I think mostly the spanking stuff was when they were small. If they were playing with an outlet we'd rather hurt them with a little spanking than have them electrocute themselves. We would generally speaking more like taking away privileges or just talking about repercussions and that kind of stuff.*

- *I would say I play a good cop bad cop thing. She would be even-handed you know with a loving approach. I would usually be a hard liner. We kind of played off each other where I was more the just disciplinarian and [wife's name] would have been the more probably even hand one but we both agreed on how this should be done. We never tried to go against each other especially in front of the kids. So we were pretty unified that way.*
- *Yeah I was just a disciplinarian. I think each of us did both. I was prone to, the kids will tell you they knew when I was mad because I would slam cupboards you know. I was definitely not a model mother. I just never felt that punishing was always the way to look at something. We definitely did believe in corporal punishment when they were small. There's no doubt about that.*
- *I would say heavy-handed when they were younger. We kind of set the stage early. Then as I get older we continued with the grounding and taking away privlidges.*
- *As I was growing up it was more of the second [heavy-handed]. A lot of raised voices and then I only remember being spanked once and I think I think it was so traumatizing for my mom actually that she never did it again. But as I got older I did notice moving more towards the first, the more loving model approach. Especially in my my mother I can see a very intentional approach to "I am not going to raise my voice right now."*
- *I think it was more of the heavy handed discipline.*

**Participants were asked about parental roles in teaching good behavior and in approaches to discipline.** Some participants provided an answer to this question in their previous response about their parenting approach. In these cases, the question was not asked because an answer was already recorded. Thus, fewer examples are provided for this specific inquiry. Most often participants indicated they shared equally in teaching good behavior and discipline. Although at times, roles were slightly different.

- *Well because I was home with them most of the time it would be me. But then you know of course I would tell him or even call him up at work if he had to talk to one of the children so he could you know put his authority in. They respected that. I'm more of the harsh one than he is. We're older though so it's hard to run after them anymore. But we had our fair share running after them. But that didn't work out because we were just exhausted.*
- *I would say equal. Except for time my husband's job was a very high demand and he would work incredibly long hours each week. So I was the more visible one. But I think it's equally important to him and he would step in as needed as well. In general, you might see other parents using some kind of a skill and you think wow you know I should have incorporated that. I kind of wish I*

*was a little more of a tough mom with the boundaries and the curfews and the consequences. Just because I think the boys they need it. I feel like I've been a little bit of an absent parent for them. I really regret that having to go back to work. Not being here in the Summers. I haven't had the time to build the relationship with them that enables that guidance and freedom kind of approach to parenting.*

- *I think we were both responsible yeah.*
- *I would say we were both equal. I guess I was the head of the household and she would discipline.*
- *I think we were pretty equal, my wife and I, 50-50 kind of. We learned earlier the boys were like I said they've always talked a lot amongst each other and we learned early on that they had tried to pit us against each other. You know, "hey dad can I do this?" And I'm like "yeah sure whatever" and then my wife would come over and say "well I said they couldn't do that anyway." So we really quickly kind of got on that same page of okay well you know, Hey dad can I do this?" I'm like, "well what'd your mom say? Did you talk to her about this yet?" And the boys were honest enough to say "well no I haven't talked to her yet" or and they would do the same thing with my wife they said "well I haven't talked to dad yet" you know so a lot of times we would just get together and talk about something. Or if it wasn't a major thing I would say "yeah sure that's fine." So I think I think generally it was a 50-50 when it comes to both the discipline and also the talking things out with them.*
- *We were both responsible for this.*
- *Well I spent most of the time with the children because I stayed home. I saw in front line and kind of triage so whenever anything happened some degree of discipline for sure from me but there was always the prospect of accountability to do when he came home so I mean if they had a problem they were going to be a lot more inclined to come to me rather than to [husband's name].*
- *Equal. I was stricter.*
- *I mean it seemed like I was secondary in that stance only because I was away during the day and then would come home to maybe sort something out that wasn't resolved during the day and trying to figure out what was going on. I would met out some discipline if necessary.*
- *I think we shared the disciplinary activities. When the children were very young my wife was the one who had essentially a hundred percent of the contact with them. I was only there on the weekends. But as they you know got into the teen years of course it's a different kind of an environment and I guess in that sense I was the more of the stricter one. I had more of a presence in their lives later on.*
- *I guess we shared it but I think I depended more on when he was the better disciplinarian. He was the better values teacher. When I ran into anything he would be the better one to reason with the kids.*

- *I think my wife would definitely be more responsible. She was a stay-at-home mom for a number of years. If there was any discipline it would probably be more coming from me in terms of that. But I don't remember really exercising that authority a whole lot. Like maybe once you know on occasion when it was you know necessary.*

## **Rite of Family Rituals**

**Participants were asked about the importance of family rituals such as family meals, family prayer. Game nights, family days, holiday traditions, celebrations. Participants were also described who was responsible for planning and maintaining these rituals.** Participant families often have their own cultures and routines. Some of this is dependent on the parent's careers. Some live in rural communities, others are in the military and lived in many places, some have work schedules that made some routines challenging. Youth sports are noted as a complication by some. However, a near constant in the responses about rituals were shared meals and prayer. Many also indicated having game nights, travel routines, and get togethers with relatives and other families. Most indicate, no matter what the routines, that faith was a part of them.

- *The one thing we has as a ritual was dinner together with prayer and prayer before bed.*
- *The kids love games. Oh my goodness even now as adults they go to each other's houses and play games. So games was huge. We had family game night. We had something we called family adventure night where we would plan three activities and we wouldn't tell them it was an adventure. You know they got to be surprised where we were going. Always ended with ice cream. So that was never a surprise. We went camping a lot. We have a lake nearby with a beach and we would go up there for the day and do a cookout and hang out for the day. So we try to get them all involved. We did start watching TV once. Netflix became a thing which I hate but before that we didn't really watch TV before streaming was a thing. For the most part they watched PBS for about an hour in the afternoon and that was it.*
- *We were always having get togethers at home. We were always in tune to our kids as they were growing up with friends and families to invite. We were always having gatherings. We went vacationing. Going away with the kids and implementing our faith with that. It [faith] was just always there.*
- *The comment from most of the kids who have spouses has been "oh my gosh your family has so many traditions and rituals." So yeah I think I went a little overboard. But we do we have them around liturgical seasons. We have a home shrine. A prayer space in our home. It was erected 25 years ago and it's been the center of our home and everything. I didn't even realize how important it was until I was looking through family pictures one time and every single time we had any picture graduation birthday anything but that's where we open gifts that's where we do everything in the in the home shrine.*
- *Yes. I would say all those things together [family dinners, game nights, holiday traditions, celebrations] especially when they were young. Always, always together as a family. We always tried to have everyone on every vacation, family Christmas, and New Years. They have the same traditions. It hasn't really changed much. ... if I had to pick one [responsible for rituals] it'd be my*

wife. She made sure that everything was kind of the same and put it together you know. But I was always helping. But she was usually the planner.

- *Definitely. [Eating together] every night. Dinner is at a certain time. We all sit down. We pray. We eat together. We always tried to be with family whether that was here locally or traveling around. We had our own little way of celebrating Christmas and Thanksgiving. We are happy with just the four of us often. I don't I don't think the girls ever felt like they missed out because they didn't know that and we didn't really live close to extended family. A lot of times it was the four of us in an RV with a half a turkey breast and a box of Stove Top. It's interesting to hear them talking about their friends' extended families and we didn't have what they had. We just couldn't because we were so far away because we were military.*
- *I think they [family rituals] were important to me because I grew up with that. We had some traditions. We didn't really have family game night but we would we would always we would have our Sunday dinner meal in the middle of the day or early afternoon. Then we kind of all go for a drive usually somewhere and it was just you know it's sort of a family ritual. I love those types of things that happened.*
- *We would go to church followed by breakfast together. Dinners together aloways. Yes, prayer at meals. Moom was more likely to plan [rituals].*
- *We did do those kinds of things. We did have dinner then after dinner we'd all play a game. There was a couple years there the boys really loved Monopoly and so we played Monopoly. There is a couple of the board games we played a lot growing up with the boys and we would just do that you know just every once in a while. Someone would suggest it and it wasn't even always my wife or I sometimes the boys. We did a lot of things together, especially when the boys were in high school and even in junior high. The boys and I would go for mountain bike rides. My wife generally would go with us but we would do things like that. Even to this day we're still doing things like that. The boys and I will get together and we'll all come over here for dinner. We'll go in the backyard and start the fire pit and have a cigar you know that kind of thing. ... My wife for sure [was more responsible for maintaining rituals]. My wife you know was a cradle Catholic born and raised and so she had that a lot of that already whereas you know I wasn't raised Catholic. She had the the knowledge base to draw from you know. She said hey we should do this you know. We used to do this and I said yeah that's great and I'd read up on it and she would tell me about it and we'd implement that.*
- *Having five children you know we were always at basketball games, baseball games, whatever. We supported them. We were always there for them to do things around the house here. We weren't game night people. Homework was a big deal. We all sat around the table and they all did homework together. We were able to help them in that. We did things like road trips or like down to the beach.*
- *Yes. Definitely. We all ate together—breakfast and suppers. Big meals with prayer.*
- *Athletics in the evenings were getting in the way and then my job I had to stay late often. Then the kids had to swim at seven so there's some of those things that interfere with that [dinner]. Usually on the weekends we had large meals together. There was a prayer before meals. Prayers*

*if the kids were awake. We would do the morning offering together. Then in the evening we'll do prayers together. We might take on a special devotion every once in a while. I would say very consistent with the evening prayer and we follow a formula of what what are we thankful for? We pray. We do an Act of Contrition. Examine and then end with a Magnificat.*

- *We do our things together. Go to the pool or the beach or just go for walks. So yes we do it a lot together.*
- *For me, I would say we're both equal because I did my best and she did her best in some areas where the children couldn't confide in me they went to her. She also played a role as an amazing wife and made an amazing mother. So yeah it was both of us who played the role.*
- *Family dinner was every day. We would try not to even sign our kids up for sports or activities that would interrupt supper. Not to say that that never happened every once in a while we were gonna have to eat a late dinner when we get home. We hardly ever ate out. I fixed supper every day. We were always sitting at the table together. We didn't really have game nights but we would just kind of spontaneously say you know let's play games or something. We did have one thing that we did with my mother and father-in-law who had property in Indiana. We went out there every Sunday. The girls sometimes would take friends with them and they would dress up in these long dresses pretending like they were pioneers and they would play out there. I would go pick up my mom and bring her down like twice a year to visit with us for two weeks. My dad died right after our oldest was born. I absolutely loved my husband's mom and dad. They were the best. They're the best in-laws a girl could ever have.*
- *Game nights always. We would always have meals together whenever it was possible with my work schedule. I did have to travel some on the job so sometimes I'd be away. We always tried to have at least dinner together. The dinner meal was almost always a family gathering with grace before meals all the time.*
- *Before any of us were in high school, we would regularly eat together. Then once we started getting into school, my brother was doing like college classes in high school and then like I joined a swim team and stuff. At night we would be busy. He would be doing a lot of homework or I would be at some practice so then I think the last couple years that I was living at home we didn't really have like a strict schedule like being together every night. I can remember we've always had a nightly prayer time. That's been something that's always been very consistent. I can't think of one day when like we haven't done that together and even now that I moved out like we'll do like a video call and do our nightly prayers together.*
- *There were a lot of family rituals. I could remember a couple of times we took breakfast together as a family and also in the evening we took dinner as a family. I would ask them to say a prayer before we take our meal. We pray together as a family most times. It was mostly in the evening before we go to bed. We did a lot of holiday trips together. We would go visit grandparents on the other side of the state. We did a lot of family rituals and holidays and all of that together.*
- *Pretty much [ate dinner together]. Sports would sometimes get in the way. But that [dinner together] always was a goal and something that we strived for. When all the kids were little it was easier to do. Then being homeschoolers we were big sports families. So all of my boys would*

*play sports and there were some seasons where I had boys on five different teams. Dinner time is crazy. But being homeschoolers it made it possible some of those days certainly but not every day. Some of those days we'd make lunchtime our main meal we shared together. So kind of you know putting that value on it. It wasn't so much about the fact that you're kind of sharing that meal together but I found that having that routine and structure in place was really just a helpful part of our everyday normal schedules as a family. That there was that kind of coming together and everybody has to eat. So it made sense for it to be like gathering around the table. We weren't real structured with it like you know some families do like discussion questions at the dinner table. We never did that sort of thing. But I always appreciated the fact that getting together for a meal and then especially if they're hanging around it all afterwards it kind of happens naturally. You kind of can connect with each other through that. We always pray grace before meals. We watch movies. When the kids were littler it was different. You know we had complete control over their schedules. One thing that we would always do is a longer like family vacation in the summertime. That was always really important to us. Never had a lot of money. So it was generally like road trips and that kind of thing. A lot of sports. We have a field outside and it's set up for volleyball and spike ball and when our kids are home that's what they want to be doing out there.*

- *Movie night. Yeah especially when I was younger because it was easier. We weren't involved in as much. My sister graduated when I was a freshman in high school so after that it was harder to get the family together because she moved for college. We would eat dinner together and game nights weren't always a big thing. I think mostly because we were too competitive but we'd watch movies together a lot. My brother and I were in the Boy Scouts and my parents were both like troop leaders so that was one weekend a month we would all be together. In high school we were out of country so we would do like weekend trips and that was just family. Like no TV, no nothing. We were traveling we were doing things together. My dad was in the Reserves when I was young all through elementary school. So he would be gone for like a weekend or even sometimes a week at a time for training. So those were weekends that my mom was going to do something so we would have movie nights and go someplace. We'd have sleepovers in my mom's room and it was like a special weekend. We would do all the things my dad didn't want to do like watch all the stupid romantic comedy movies and things like that. So my mom made a big deal of that and stuff and me my sister and my mom would hang out. So that was always fun.*

**Participants were asked how often their family worked on household chores or projects together (as opposed to individually).** Many of the participants have large families with older children who have started their own families while still having some of their children at home currently. Some of the discussion of chores covers what these younger children in the parent households currently do. Most assigned chores and there were shared responsibilities that rotated. Fewer note doing chores collectively as a family. Others exclusively did assigned chores. A small number did not give their children chores and instead had them focus solely on schooling and getting good grades.

- *We did it all together. No assigning.*
- *We did a lot of yard stuff together. Raking leaves together. When most of them were younger we would all get out there to wash the car together. It wasn't something just one person would do. We had a neighbor comment "do you all do everything together?"*
- *We would do some of the cleaning together. Both rooms and the kitchen.*

- *I would say that sometimes it would be like laundry as a family project. Like we're all folding this and getting this put away right now because it's not going to happen otherwise. Especially when the kids were younger I did kind of individually assign sometimes in a really organized way and sometimes in a less organized way. That was really important to me to do first of all for my own sanity. I couldn't be doing everything with all the kids under the age of 12 at one point. I did find that it really took discipline on my part because sometimes it's just easier to do it yourself. I really had to be deliberate about teaching them. It takes time. It takes effort. It takes so much longer to do but I found that that really paid off in the long run if I did make that effort. At one point I remember I had not just the chore charts but each of the different chores I had broken down like a list of here are the steps if you're going to put in a load of laundry. These are what you do or if you wipe down the bathroom. Here's what you do loading the dishwasher or whatever it was. Just being that deliberate about it. But I always really valued it a lot. Ultimately, I feel like it's for their own good that they learn through that. First of all they gain self-confidence when they gain these life skills. They need them anyway and they kind of gain you know self-esteem and being a contributing part of a community in that way.*
- *I would say it was a shared responsibility. For me that did the dishes, the children could do the dishes all the time. I'll do the dishes or my wife could cook or teach them how to cook and prepare a meal so for me. I would the chores were kind of separated between this and that so this one could know when he's washing this one could know when he's doing the dishes and all of that.*
- *A little bit of both [shared and individual chores]. The boys were assigned specific chores but then when you we're having a cleaning day it was like a family event. we'd all take you know Saturday morning or whatever someday and just we cleaned. The boys would clean their room. They would clean their bathroom while I was cleaning whatever. My wife is cleaning whatever. So we kind of did everything together. At that point then we would go out and get a pizza or something as a positive reinforcement kind of thing.*
- *Both individual and together. Chores in the house and out. For example, they [kids] would gather eggs. They were very responsible. I am grateful for that.*
- *We live on six acres in the country and our kids are all very responsible. They've all changed diapers. They all know how to mow the lawn. They know the riding tractor. We've got animals that they've all taken care of. You know it's not like "oh today is whatever this hour." They've all taken these responsibilities. Yeah, definitely and they've helped me out quite a bit.*
- *Doing the dishes, they took turns with that and you know once they were old enough to help with dusting and running the sweeper and stuff we they had their assignments and they had to do them.*
- *My wife was the organizer of those activities and the children all had chores to do and to get an allowance as they were growing up they had responsibilities in the home in helping with the care of the home. When they were younger helping in the kitchen when they were older and mowing the lawn and so forth and so on.*

- *Yeah, we're always revamping. Like we have to do that right now. They have to help because like otherwise we can't maintain anything here. It's just way too hard. They have kind of ebbed and flowed but they've always had responsibility. They've never been able to not do anything. It's too long to explain in all the details but like I know they say with their friends don't have to do anything.*
- *We rotated it. I think I still have the magnetic buttons that went on the refrigerator under each person's name for what their job was for that day or that week. All had jobs. That was something that I might change if I would go back. I think that my tendency still to this day is that I can do it better so just do it yourself. I had a hard time delegating jobs to the kids. I think that was a shortfall. They rode their bikes to the Catholic school and then four of them worked at the dental office after school. They came and picked up papers and stuff. They had jobs.*
- *Chores were rotating trying to be fair and not trying to match chores to capabilities. I also thought you could learn an awful lot when you're at home so we taught all the children to cook and that was kind of part of science class. I would want help in the kitchen or we'd have two of the children work together with dishes and as far as cleaning the house you know you have common chores that need to be done. I taught the children how to do the laundry and then for some, since this was an issue, I would have very specific this is the rule-based me list of what it means to clean a living room.*
- *They had their own schedules and work together to make things happen.*
- *We had our own set of chores. My sister and I would switch off who did what each week. One week someone would be in charge of pets so we had to feed all the animals and water them after dinner. One would be in charge of doing dishes that week. Then the next week we would switch. But my dad mowed the lawn and took care of that. My mom did the laundry. So I think for the most part we had our own set chores. Then there were just other things to help out that my mom would ask with.*
- *We had a chore list on the fridge and we had little magnets so every week we would swap my brother and I. I mean there were just normal day-to-day chores. We did I guess a few projects together. My mom does some woodworking stuff. So we were able to help her with that every once in a while. We painted well. When we moved we would paint the house.*
- *It was more individually assigned. I mean it would be me and my two brothers would go take care of the animals and then because we have a hobby farm. Then someone would be in charge of the dog or someone would be in charge of like sweeping. Then it would rotate every day. One day I would do the kitchen the next day my brother would clean the kitchen.*
- *I would wake up in the morning. I would deal out the chores more than he would and I would say this needs to be done that needs to be done and you better do it.*
- *Everybody had chores. I would tell them what to do and they did it.*
- *It was individually [chores] and I [adult child participant] was very terrible at doing them.*

- *I would have to say that usually what happened was [wife's name] and I usually ended up doing most of the job. I'm one of those "I'll take care of it." You know that type of thing and [wife's name] was kind of the same way. I think because of that maybe the kids got off with it light. They didn't have the responsibilities. Choice wise, they probably should have in some ways. I mean the two girls, they were very good in school and stuff when we probably took a lot of the responsibility with chores away from them. I don't know if that was right or wrong but that just happened to be how it fell in line where you talk a little bit about this.*
- *We made it very clear from the time when they entered school and in Catholic school and then a college prep high school that their job was to get good grades and to keep their rooms clean and that was pretty much it. They helped when I asked them to or told them to but they were expected to get good grades.*
- *I don't think we really made them do chores to be totally honest. I think my wife and I really did the bulk of it and occasionally they might pitch in here or there. But we didn't make that really part of the experience or they had certain responsibilities or chores.*

**Participants were asked to describe how they had fun together as a family.** Some participants previously described this in their comments on family rituals. Most include things like outdoor activities, vacations, watching movies together, and playing games.

- *I grew up on the coast. We went fishing. Did a lot of fishing. We would go camping a lot. My mom would take us to go do something or my dad would take us to go camping. My mom didn't always get to go camping especially when we were older because she started working. I feel like we did more stuff with one parent or the other rather than all four of us. But if we did, it was usually fishing.*
- *The one activity which gave me a lot of memories was the meals together. We did a lot of meals together, which was really great. At the table we could laugh and play as a family. Also they could share their problems and if any of them were holding a grudge they would speak at the table. I and my wife would look for a way to resolve it so things didn't escalate. Also on the holidays, for me, were great. I could see they had a lot of fun time during the holidays, especially when we visited my grandparents and their grandparents rather. It was a really fun moment for them. They enjoyed it.*
- *We always had fun around the house. Just the little things. For example, we had a basement and the kids would set up a roller rink down there.*
- *We used to get a membership to a museum in the city of Chicago once a year. So we'd go several times a year. That would be a big deal because we're 27 miles outside the city. It'd be a full day. We'd take a lunch you know. We would go spend hours there. Between Christmas and New Year's we'd always go into the city and we'd explore a new neighborhood. So it might be different shops, little museums, and Little Italy. You can get a real flavor for the neighborhood. You might pop into a church. You might see things that you know you wouldn't see necessarily around the neighborhoods. Get a feel of different areas, different cultures. So it was a lot of fun.*

- *We went on vacations. We just had fun being together. We could laugh as the night went on. We would start supper time and we'd start talking. Then they would do their homework. We would all sit together. We did things like amusement parks. Hershey Park and Knoebels.*
- *We did a lot of outdoor stuff. We would go on hikes together. All four of us all over hiking and camping and that's one of the things that we've always done together. We would do family little short trips. We jump on the train and go somewhere for the weekend. Yeah it was fun. it was cool. I mean it was it was a great experience.*
- *There are certain movies that we like. Our family movies like The Sandlot. We can quote certain movies like all four of us. We watch them again and again. The benefit of being away from family is you know folks they would they would always send loud obnoxious or multi-piece toys at the holiday. So I recall a floor full of Polly Pockets. We had to entertain ourselves so you know the girls had a little pop-up tent for the living room. We had blanket forts and all that type stuff. The house was just as much theirs as it was ours.*
- *One thing we were able to do is to close off the garage. We put in a pool table. They loved games. Monopoly, puzzles, and others. If there was a game we had a real good time.*
- *We would always have a vacation every summer. The children never went away to camp. Our town happens to have a town pool. Before that was built we used to bring the children to a pool club which was in our immediate neighborhood. In the summertime we would take them to the town first of all and then to the pool club that we belonged to. Later to the town pool. We went to Disney and we would usually try to take a vacation someplace. Sometimes we went to Williamsburg, Virginia for a few days at a time. When we weren't on a vacation we were at home using the local pool facilities. All three of my children became lifeguards because of their experience with the water. So when they were teenagers they were able to get jobs as lifeguards at these various pool facilities that we had and lakes. We'd go to Gettysburg. We would take road trips. We had relatives in Florida. We would drive down to Florida with the kids for a couple of weeks.*
- *We used to do really nice vacations every year. We would plan those out in advance whether it was Disney a couple times or several times or going to Canada, Vermont, etc. Those were always nice. We always like tried to do more interesting stuff. On weekends, probably mostly Sunday afternoons, there's plenty of places to kind of see around us so like the Coast Guard Academy, aquariums, Mystic Seaport. We always like also being outside a lot. We would go skating if the pond was frozen. Things like that.*
- *We go places together but I would say we really like cooking food together. I would say that my kids really enjoy that. Sometimes we'll throw on some classic rock music or whatever and then cook together. We have a place, a cabin, out here so we'll do fishing or water sports together. We'll go ice fishing together.*
- *When they were teenagers, we had the ski boat. That was largely what we did in those days was water skiing. A couple of the kids played football but we were not the football parents that went to all the games and were rah-rah. I was never good at playing with children but you were. You*

*were good at taking them to do things and going and doing things. Then when you got a sailboat and he took them sailing on the bay and they went sailing all the time.*

- *We would go to the park or we fished a lot together. We were in the boat a lot and we would just stop and have shore lunches. Go out and throw the frisbee around or play some baseball or something like that. We go to movies occasionally. They'd pick out a movie and then we'd all go. I have to say we're pretty close I guess that way we did pretty much everything together. Tried to keep the family together as much as possible.*
- *We did a lot of puzzles. On Sundays, we would go to church and eat out after. Saturday was for watching movies.*

**Participants were asked to describe how they prayed together as a family.** Some participants previously described this in their comments on family rituals—especially prayer before family meals. These were often referred to as well in describing parental roles in faith formation. Nearly all participants reference prayer before meals. Some said the Rosary frequently and some note prayers before bed time. Prayer routines seem to vary with the age of the children.

- *Our family prayer life has always been a part of what we do. Part of our every day. But what it looked like has definitely changed through the years. When all the kids were little it was easy. Just everybody come sit right now we're gonna do this right now. Sometimes the Rosary. Not always the Rosary. Then we found we had to get more flexible in fact it was sort of a mind shift that I had to make. At one point when our kids were older and they were doing sports or involved in school activities or jobs I was kind of waiting for the perfect moment everybody's home and everybody's ready to pray right now. That never happened. So when I realized that it was like okay we need to just have a set time each day where this is happening. I set an alarm on my phone to go off and it's like family prayer time and you just take whoever's there and you pray with whoever's there. Sometimes it was a lot and sometimes it was just a few. I found that that was that was a little bit hard for me as a mom to kind of let go of that ideal of what it should look like. But that was ultimately what saved us and you know made it so that we continued praying as a family in any way, shape, or form.*
- *Definitely [prayer] before dinner. At night too. Before bed we stayed and prayed with them [kids].*
- *When the boys were in high school we were saying a Rosary not daily but we were saying Rosaries in the evenings a couple times a week. Sometimes we'd miss it depending on how things went. We started saying Rosary before Mass. We did that every Sunday but we rotated through all the different Mysteries. Pretty soon we had a large group of people saying the Rosary with us so we've always kind of done things like that. So it's kind of second nature to the boys I think because I know they they have both continued it continued praying at meals and other other times in their own lives now.*
- *We weren't that good about like doing a daily Rosary when our kids were younger. Now when we got involved with the homeschool group that was good because we would get together with all these other families. That was another kind of one of our rituals that we did too because we met twice a month and then we would all pray a Rosary at a big giant family gathering all in a*

*big room. You know, go around the circle and everybody took their turn praying a Hail Mary and then it would go to the next person. Of course you know obviously we were involved in our church and went to mass every Sunday and Sunday a lot of times especially once we started homeschooling there was prayer before meals. My youngest daughter, she's the one who got it started praying a daily Rosary here in the house.*

- *Once I got a bit older I think this was probably close to when my sister was out of the house if not after she was out of the house, we would maybe pray like a Rosary together every so often. But really it was prayer before meals. I know my parents like prayed to me when I was really little because I have a prayer book my mom told me. They would both go in there and read the prayers together with me and I would read them apparently but I don't really remember that. It was mostly praying before meals. I remember when I was young we would all of us would say prayers before bed. I don't I don't remember when we stopped doing that. When we were traveling we would go visit churches and things usually pray the Rosary or something at the church.*
- *At first of course it was nightly prayer with the whole family and then when the kids were older we ended up having to move to morning prayer. Then you know early band camp we couldn't do that anymore it's moved all over the place. But we've tried and struggled to keep prayer. I think it was so important to the family when Covid hit. They actually started doing a Zoom prayer meeting house to house as a family. They wanted to be together for the Rosary or it would be a more informal. My husband and I weren't raised praying so we started very awkwardly you know teaching the Our Father and the Hail Mary. Then somebody introduced me to the the hand prayer when they were little. We started doing that and that brought in more spontaneous prayer. I remember one of them wanted to do this as a family and they said we want to learn new prayers every week. I would find another prayer we learned the Saint Michael prayer. I would print them up and put them on cards and we still have all those cards. Just this last week one of them said "hey do we still have the cards?" and "let's pray that today." When one of them started playing the guitar we started singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Sometimes the Rosary.*
- *On rare occasions we would do the Rosary together as a group. That wasn't that often. In the family we would be reinforcing their religious education even through the teen years when they didn't want to go with you to church and so forth. They had to and understood that that was a responsibility that they had. It was reinforced by their education.*
- *Yeah definitely. Every night. Every night that we could. We have dinners at a certain time. We all sit down. We pray. We eat together. Large holidays we always tried to be with family whether that was here locally or traveling around.*
- *I mean we started to pray the Rosary every day. Usually at noon. I was obviously at work most of the time. There was an abortion mill that opened in [city] some years back. We had a that as our intention. Then other intentions as well. We drew the children into that time of prayer and then obviously evening prayer at bedtime. Trying to make that a part of their their daily life reflecting on the day. Intentions were always big on who can we pray for. Who do you know that needs prayer. We would try to do liturgical prayers during meals so seasonal you know obviously you go through the mechanics of saying that same wrote prayer. We wanted to try to make it more reflective and during Advent we did the Jesse tree. We always would have a Biblical reading too.*

- *When they were home, definitely morning prayer and Rosary. That was a staple. Now my older children, most of them, do the Liturgy of the Hours. I think most of them or all of them pray.*
- *Oh yeah, there's prayer before meals. If the kids are awake you know, like if I'm leaving, we'll do the morning offering together. In the evening we'll do prayers together. We might take on a special devotion every once in a while. During the COVID lockdown we would do Divine Mercy. So we take things on here or there. But I would say very consistent with the evening prayer and we follow a formula of what what are we thankful for, we pray, we do an Act of Contrition. We end with a Magnificat. All our kids know like The Magnificat by heart.*
- *I guess the most common would be like at meals, before meals. We would try to take them to any type of like spiritual things at the church. We would go to like if there was like an adoration or like a special Mass or a Novena or anything like that we would try to get them to go to that.*
- *My father would, he'd definitely encouraged us to pray with him the Rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours. With the younger ones he's just been reading it out and having them listen. They don't have to participate if they don't want to.*
- *We've always had a nightly prayer time and that's been something that's always been very consistent. I can't think of one day when we haven't done that together. Even now that I moved out like we'll do a video call and do our nightly prayers together.*
- *We always pray before our family meals. We were praying with before meals and after Then most the other prayer times we'd probably read and sometimes girls would join us. When that happened it wasn't on a regular schedule type of thing.*
- *I would ask them to say a prayer before we take our meal. We pray together as a family most times and it was mostly in the evening before we go to bed.*
- *We always pray Grace before meal and our family prayer life has always been a part of what we do. Part of our everyday. But what it has looked like has definitely changed through the years. When all the kids were little it was easy. Like just everybody come sit right now and we're gonna do this right now. Sometimes the Rosary but not always. Then we had to get more flexible. In fact it was sort of a mind shift that I had to make. At one point when our kids were older and they were doing sports or involved in school activities or jobs that I was kind of waiting for the perfect moment. Like oh everybody's home and everybody's ready to pray right now and that never happened. So when I realized that it was like okay we need to just have a set time each day where this is happening and I did like set an alarm on my phone to go off and it's like family prayer time. You just take whoever's there and you pray with whoever's there and sometimes it was a lot and sometimes it was just a few. I found that was a little bit hard for me as a mom to kind of let go of that ideal of what it should look. But that was ultimately what saved us and you know made it so that we continued praying as a family in any way shape or form and outside of that.*
- *I'm a very private prayer. I have my little prayer area in the house and to be honest I'm not even sure the girls know that. We pray before meals.*

- *We weren't big Grace sayers. One of our projects this year was to try and do something we've never done which is saying grace before meals and it's kind of working. One child is really into praying with her kids but we didn't really go into that much. Church, yes. We were always in church. Like I said they were in so many things you know by the time we get home at 10 or 11 o'clock at night from whatever they were doing homework.*

**Participants were asked how often their family made a point to have intentional conversations about faith, life, and the way they related to each other as a family.** Some participants previously described this in their comments on parental faith formation roles, family rituals, as well as their descriptions of family prayer. Participants described different variations in which they discussed faith. The most common were discussions at dinner. Others did so on a case by case basis.

- *Oh yeah. We have these kinds of conversations. We talk about bringing the faith into our lives. About morals and values. We've had some tough situations as a family. The kids have had doubts and questions. They will ask, "Why does this happen?" I have to explain to them that they can't lose their faith.*
- *At the dinner table and at other times.*
- *I remember a summer when my uncle died. It was a big tragedy in our family. My aunt, my cousins, it made us all a lot closer. We could talk more about things. We always had that we believed in God. Faith helped us get through these things.*
- *Yes. We didn't avoid that [intentional discussions of faith]. That was our responsibility.*
- *I guess it would be difficult to separate that out [prayer and conversations] and you know. Obviously if something came up it wasn't like there was a part of the day where it felt like homeschooling. As they got older, they would go to my husband more often if they had some serious faith question.*
- *Earlier in the evening if they had a problem they could talk with me and I'd teach them. I would try to get them true. I would try to make them understand why the disciples did this and why in this place. So that would help them build up their faith and all of that.*
- *They [intentional conversations] were very common. If like one of us did something that they didn't think was right they'd say why they didn't think was right and like the consequences it could have later on in life. He is very close to the Carmelites so he would go like to his weekly meetings and then we'd talk about that too as a family.*
- *I can't imagine the questions. Her and her husband are both philosophy Ph.D.s at [college] and then my other son's the priest and then one with the five grandkids, he's always listening to all the podcasts and so is my other daughter. So everything they're learning they are just you know speaking about everything. We've had that for many years even when our kids were just in college or older ones they worked for [educational organization] so they interview all these Catholics professors and everything. They would just come home and tell us and we would just have discussions you know like mind-blowing discussions.*

- *I'd say more so later on when I was maybe like a junior or a senior in high school. That was kind of when I had become more interested in the faith for myself so that was when I like started maybe asking more questions and I can definitely see that in like my younger siblings. They definitely will ask questions about the faith and will have like conversations and debates and stuff about different topics.*
- *I remember from a pretty early age we would like over dinner discuss faith stuff or I mean just kind of everything. Faith would come up pretty often um and I mean that was all throughout my life. I can't really pinpoint an exact conversation and say this is what we talked about but I remember having lots of conversations like that I mean usually they were over dinner.*
- *Sometimes we were a little structured about it. We would want to talk with them about a particular topic or something that was in the news. So we would be okay deliberate about it you know deciding we're going to talk about this right now. But more often than not it was things that would come up in conversation or things that we'd be aware of that are happening among their friends or among other families in our local community. It would give us an opportunity to kind of discuss those from a faith-based perspective and answer any questions that they had. What I found was really helpful was kind of modeling for them not being afraid of these conversations because there's so many things in the culture that if you don't own that topic with your kids the culture is going to own that topic with your kids. You need to be able to say the word sex to your kids. You need to be able to talk with them about drugs and alcohol and whatever else is going on out there. My husband especially was very deliberate about we're just going to use these words and we're going to talk about these things because they're things they're going to be hearing about anyway and I don't want it to become this like mysterious thing that we haven't we haven't spoken about.*
- *I'm a deacon. I have been very heavily involved in my faith all of my life. When the children were reaching actually almost out of the house and on their on their own, my wife ended up with a very, very serious case of breast cancer at stage two where she had to go through a year of severe chemotherapy. Very, very aggressive chemotherapy followed by radiation miraculously she ended up free of the disease. Almost 30 years later and she's still here even though she had additional doubts with breast cancer. It was not a recurrence of the old one it was new ones actually she's had breast cancer three times. That has definitely kept us very close to the church and constantly reinforcing with our children the value and the need for prayer and asking for God's guidance and Direction and intervene in intercessory prayer. Also in perpetual adoration in our parish. My wife and I were both heavily involved in that. So we were always teaching CCD long before I considered becoming a deacon. My wife was also doing that she was also teaching in a Catholic preschool and so there was a constant presence of the church in the home and so it was you know we would answer questions of you know if the children brought questions about faith and so forth we had no difficulty in dealing with it.*
- *Oftentimes when children are very young they're perhaps too young to go to parish religious education it was just kind of talking about the faith and introducing them to the faith. We probably didn't have conversations. We would movies, watch documentaries even when they were younger like Veggie Tales sure. It was so you know they would kind of get exposure to that*

*through those tapes and those types of things. I don't think we really like sat down and really had some discussions about faith necessarily.*

**Participants were asked about how their family approached holidays.** Many described practices involving prayer in their previous comments on family prayer. All participants shared traditions for Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter. Many of these activities are based on family traditions and others relate to ethnic or national identities. Most include decoration, meals, and faith practices.

- *We always had the tree. For a long time we went to Midnight Mass until my husband and I got too old to stay up that late. Always went to grandma and grandpa's house on Christmas Eve. I think then we just always stayed home. I always wanted to be at home on Christmas Day. I didn't want to have to drag my kids out places on Christmas. So we were together on Christmas Day and had our meal and presents. All that kind of stuff. Just kind of standard routine. We had a big Nativity set that my mother-in-law actually made in her ceramics class and that's always out. Very obviously faith-based and and we do daily Advent reflections. Try to focus more on Advent when it's Advent.*
- *Around Advent we prepare the wreath and have all the anticipatory rituals that went with it. We buck the trend because we said there is no Christmas music in our house until Christmas Eve. We put the Christmas tree up on Christmas Eve and we'd light it. The children really latched on to those [rituals] and they do them themselves often with twists based upon who they're married to. They still talk, They still do some of the things we did when they were growing up. They really see the richness of it and we've always tried to extend the Christmas season beyond Christmas Day because if you cut out the jolity to some degree and you make it an Adventist season of anticipation and preparation you're ready to celebrate when Christmas comes. Then the stores are taking all the trees out in three days. We'd always keep the tree up as long as we could which would be sometimes as late as February. We would have a celebration of Epiphany. We'd all set aside a gift and open that. We'd have the three kings cake with cards and coins. We'd have an epiphany play that they would put on. So we were really trying to make it more than just a day. Likewise for Lent it was really a season of anticipation and sacrifice. We'd have little sacrifices that children could do. They pick one in the morning you know a secret one. We would just do more service to other people's alms. You know sacrifice. We do Stations of the Cross. Even at home we'd have our own little Stations of the Cross. We've got a lot of art in the family and we'd have laminated pictures and candles. We were engaging all the different senses in the Church. You know the sounds and smells and sight. I knew that that reaches you at a very deep level and even in adulthood I would remember the smell of incense brought about really great memories from my childhood. So likewise I think we wanted to be able to reach the very deep part of the children with what makes you Catholic. We talked about Our Lady of Guadalupe. We would celebrate St Lucy's day. I'd make a St Lucy's Day cake. I had a really great book on you know celebrating the liturgical year. I would really try to work on it and try to get the children to get involved too. [Husband's name] always supported that. We didn't really celebrate Halloween. We celebrated All Saints Day. The children would go to a party and they would dress up as a saint. As a part of school they'd have to write a report about that saint so they came to know the Saints in an intimate way and that really helped when they were old enough to be confirmed. They knew more about the lives of the Saints. It wasn't just a perfunctory picking of a name. It was like they really knew about those Saints.*

- *For Lent and Advent we fasted as a family and we didn't have desserts like during the whole 40 days. We also tried to go to Mass more often and just maybe keep more prayer as a family. Then we really celebrated the feast days too. Make sure that there was dessert and that my mom would always buy soda for the kids on like Christmas and Easter and other holidays of the Church. So yeah we did celebrate it.*
- *We would eat. My wife is a great cook. Always deserts. We played games. We'd have Christmas stories. We used to cut down our tree and then they'd decorate it [the kids].*
- *Since very early on we had Advent calendars for the boys when they were littler. We also did the Advent wreath and we had the prayers around the wreath. We started with the boys when they were a little older. Probably in middle school we started fasting on Fridays and abstaining from me on Fridays especially during Lent. We took them to the Stations of the Cross. We were in the military so we were in Germany where the boys were in the last part of middle school and then all the way through high school. We got to go to a lot of different religious events in Germany where we were also in France and Italy. So they got to see it from that perspective too get to partake in that. So I think that kind of helped them.*
- *Christmas Eve together. We always went to the Mass together. We went every week. Then we'd have a nice meal afterwards. They'd usually get maybe one gift from [wife] and that night and the rest would come you know with Santa Claus. We always tried to keep in mind what Christmas was you know. What it really ment. The real meaning behind it. Easter was kind of the same. We always went to the Holy Saturday Mass. We still do that. The girls actually look forward to going to that and then we come home after that and then just have a small meal or something like that. On Ash Wednesday we'd also have, kind of a because it was the beginning of Lent, we'd have a more of a vegetarian kind of thing.*
- *We wouldn't put our tree up or decorate until Christmas Eve. So like the kids would go to bed and then they would decorate it and like you'd wake up. It's so weird today thinking that but it was really nice. Then it was kind of like when you got old enough to where you really didn't believe anymore and stuff then you got to help with the setup of the tree and decorating and everything else. So it kind of like morphed into that. I wish we had been more I would like to say that as parents we would we would have done more of that or been more consistent about establishing those types of things. We'd always go chop down a tree on Christmas for Christmas so we do that even to this day and kind of you know we just go to lunch afterwards. So um there are certain things we do that are really I think tradition. A kind of bonding.*
- *Particularly for Christmas. The agenda is set for Christmas Eve through the day after Christmas. Christmas Eve, it's always Mass then we eat chili and tamales. We celebrate my uncle's birthday. He opens gifts then we go through the different things. We have a prayer that we do. We have a procession throughout the house. We sing Christmas carols then we'll read Twas the Night Before Christmas and then kids go to bed and everybody else gets to kind of set up gifts and those kind of things. Then the next morning we wake up, do gifts, we eat breakfast casserole. The only time of the year we get breakfast casserole. Then we go through the rest of the day kind of exploring the gifts and celebrating. Just being family. The next day is definitely no clothes day which means pajamas.*

- *We had Holy Night supper for Christmas there was always a Holy Night supper. For a while there until the kids grew it seemed like Christmas night was the gathering place for especially your family. All the cousins would come. Everybody would come. There were times on Christmas that it was midnight and we were finally opening our gifts because there were so many people that come. We're Byzantine Rite so especially the first day of Lent it's a strict fast day no no meat, milk, dairy products and we try to carry a lot of that through during Lent. We did those things at Easter with blessing of the baskets and once again loads of family. Home seemed to be kind of the gathering place for a while there. I think like things like Holy Night supper and that stuff now that my kids are starting to do it in their own house. That's where we picked it up from yeah our parents were good examples too yeah.*
- *During Easter we could go to church together and hear the word of God. Ash Wednesday where ashes are put on your head. I taught them why if they get confused. I taught them why these rituals were important. Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus and all of that. So there were rituals that were followed on very strictly. I can't remember a time we didn't go without celebrating this ritual.*
- *Christmas was always the big holiday in our house. My family from out of town came in and we always went to church. We went to church with my grandparents. I remember it would be like all my dad's family. My mom's family lives really far away and so my grandma lives where we're at now. She lives here so it was easy for us to drive up and visit often. But for Christmas it would be grandparents, our family, my cousin's family. But not everyone would go [to Mass] so that was always kind of interesting because not all of them were Catholic. So we would kind of like leave for a little bit and then we'd come back and they'd be like hey you're back. So it wasn't the whole family. But I think Christmas was the big one that we did with family. We always celebrated Easter most of the time at our church. I remember doing like the Christmas Pageant when I was little. We did stuff for Good Friday again especially as I got older. I was up at the church a lot for a lot more. Like we did Stations of the Cross. I also alter served and they always need altar servers. So I was usually also requested by my priest to come in. So yeah I would think Christmas was the biggest one. We did pray around the Advent wreath for quite a while when I was younger in the Middle School. I think that kind of stopped. We had it out still and we lit the candles but we didn't pray together.*
- *My mom as a Lutheran. Her favorite day of the year was Good Friday just because that was when Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. For me, that's always been important. We always do like fasting during Lent. We do the Triduum at Easter. We do for Christmas like Advent it's kind of like a mini Lent with like abstaining from things like from meat and from sweets and stuff. We do the Advent like Yule Log or something we have the four candles. Yeah lots of traditions with that and a little Nativity scene and then the kids will do a nativity play. On Christmas Eve we do that and sometimes we celebrate feast days. Not a ton. I need to get better at that. My husband has a tradition too. His grandmother he grew up with. His mom, his grandma and his two sisters because his dad took his brother and left across the country. But his grandma, she was half Syrian or was she a hundred percent no she was 100 Syrian yeah. His mom, his half students had all these Syrian Lenten foods that she would make for Easter. So my husband really likes cooking. So that's been a huge thing.*

- *We put our tree up but we wouldn't decorate it my parents wouldn't decorate it until Christmas Eve. So like the kids would go to bed and then they would decorate it. When you got old enough to where you really didn't believe [in Santa Claus] anymore and stuff, then you got to help with the setup of the tree and decorating and everything else. We did sort of always like try to do things with them [the kids] on weekends. We would always go chop down a tree on Christmas Eve for Christmas. We do that even to this day. We just go to lunch afterwards. So there are certain things we do that are really I think a tradition of bonding.*
- *We had Polish traditions. A Christmas Day meal. We had these big wafers with the nativity on it. At Easter we would have a big meal.*

**Participants were asked how they lived their faith at home as a family.** At this point in the interviews, most participants had already described how they lived out their faith in home when discussing faith formation roles, prayer, rituals, and holiday traditions. A few chose to add additional context.

- *You come into this house and you know it's a Catholic home right away based on crucifixes, images, and statues. It's something that we breathe; Catholicism and people know it.*
- *There was a lot of liturgical stuff in our house. It wasn't overboard. We also have religious pictures in our house. Statues; we have a life-size statue of Mary out in the backyard that we've had forever and ever. One form or another you know rosaries hanging around there and stuff but if this is all done, it's we're not I wouldn't say we're pious. I wouldn't describe us as being overly religious. You know like it because we're all we're very typical normal people.*
- *We just get together. We do prayer. We have a bigger meal together every Friday. Going to Mass.*
- *We have a lot of Catholic accoutrements around the house. We've always put a crucifix over the beds. We have crucifixes over doors. We have icons. We have religious statues. The boys maternal grandmother would give that to them. These really beautiful Saint Michael statues when they were think going into high school. I gave them some rosaries. I gave them the rosary from my maternal grandfather. There's a lot of reinforcement around the house when it comes to religious items.*
- *I remember from a pretty early age we would, over dinner, discuss Faith stuff or I mean just kind of everything life. Faith would come up pretty often and I mean that was all throughout my life. I can't really pinpoint an exact conversation and say this is what we talked about but I remember having lots of conversations like that. I mean usually they were over dinner all of us. We had a lot of priests over for dinner. That was always fun too.*
- *It wasn't uh something that was limited to Sundays. It was about how Jesus fits into your daily life you know how prayer was answered whatever it might be or how I had a conversation at work with somebody about some you know. Arguments about the faith. You know someone brought something up and I kind of said well that's really not the church teaches or something or whatever. Kind of play that out around the dinner table as to what happened you know. So, it became a very natural conversation and it is to this day about the faith. How we, you know, talk about common subjects and topics that are in the news.*

**Participants were asked about the importance placed on attending Mass weekly in their family.** At this point in the interviews, most participants had already described their frequency of Mass attendance and the importance of it when discussing faith formation roles, prayer, and rituals. A few chose to add additional context. In the comments below and in responses to previous questions all participants emphasized the importance of weekly attendance and going to Mass on other days of obligation.

- *On Sundays it is absolutely non-negotiable. We are there [at Mass] like absolutely. Sports. Yes for sure that's a challenge. But I found that that this was a really great opportunity for us to communicate to our kids our family values. You're probably the only kid on the team who's not going to make that game or not going to make that practice. We would if we could. We'd accommodate it and try to go on Saturday evening or whatever but that wasn't always possible. So they understood that early on and we were always proactive with communicating with coaches about this. It is just you know part of our family's values. Sunday mornings used to be a kind of time set apart. Still is in our home. But I did find that it was actually an opportunity for our kids as much as they disliked it sometimes to be the weirdo and be the one kid who's going to stand out. I found it was an opportunity to be communicating to them this is part of who we are and we don't apologize for it and we make sacrifices for it because this is absolutely a value we have.*
- *Oh yeah. Before we did anything there was Mass. First, we have to go to Mass.*
- *I think you might have noticed before. It is important and definitely I mean you know we always, the boys always went to Mass. If there was a scheduling conflict then that we couldn't get out of then we went to a different Mass. We did what had to do to make sure the boys went to Mass and that was very important for us.*
- *We went to Mass regularly.*
- *I don't think there was any question about that. The two older ones were altar servers from the time they could be right through eighth grade or ninth grade. There was no pushback or anything on that type of thing.*
- *Going to Mass every week was a priority. We would do whatever it took to go to Mass. We would not miss it. Always. Even when we were on vacation.*
- *I think the only time I ever missed Mass as a kid I cried and it was because my mom was too sick to drive. I didn't understand it. I was maybe in fifth grade. I was like "we're missing church" and she was like "yeah but I have the flu." I think my dad was out of town doing something for work so she's like "we're not going" One of like the bizarre events of my childhood that we had one of those it might have been Easter though. It flooded really bad in Corpus and we tried to go and we got like halfway to church and my dad was like "yeah the water's halfway up the car door and we're turning around." I do remember that. But we tried to go to church and I was older so I understood that one a bit better. We went every Sunday. It wasn't really a choice. Even when traveling or anything we would always go to Mass.*

- *Obviously, we were involved in our church and went to Mass every Sunday. Once we started homeschooling we were going to daily.*
- *Absolutely [Sunday attendance] and Holy Days as well. Unless someone was sick.*
- *They [kids] do [attend Mass] every week. They do except sometimes we go at 7:30 in the morning on Sundays because my wife's mom is frail so she lives with us and we like to go early so we're back for her before she wakes up. So everyone makes sure they go but they all go at different times. It's rare that all of us are together at Mass.*
- *We try to go to Mass at least more than once or twice a week.*
- *The kids know that this was something that wasn't to be missed. I think the only time I ever really missed Mass was if I was sick. I made sure that even the younger kids, even though they couldn't receive communion, were always going to Mass. We wouldn't be able to leave them at home or with a grown-up or anything like that.*
- *It [Mass attendance] was very, very important.*
- *That was important. You know attending. We would never dream of missing Mass. I mean I know so many people now that call themselves Catholic but don't go to Mass. They don't get it you know. That was very important no matter what their ages were so they get the most out of it. We didn't believe in the cry room. They go to communion and confession. We took them to confession regularly and they did that at school too.*
- *Attending Mass every week was emphasized. Yes.*
- *We're really active. I would always take them to the church in my little car so they would be in attendance. All of them got baptized under the faith. I would say we did a lot of church activities and all of that together.*

### **Rite of Reaching Out**

**Participants were asked about how often they brought meals to others, or donate clothing and other items to those in need. They were also later asked how often their family engaged in charitable service and/or ministry together as a family (as opposed to engaging in separate, individual service or ministry) in their parish or community. The responses below are from both inquiries. Many covered everything they had to say in the first question.** Almost all participants report doing service and/or giving to charity. Many did so through their parish or other Church-related organizations. Some chose to do something as a family such as helping refugees or locals who needed assistance on their own.

- *We had kind of a unique situation. Our family, there were some refugees that came over here and we kind of ended up just befriending some refugee families. They're really close to us so we just spent a lot of time helping them out for a lot of years. Then our kids also help at Mass. All of our boys have served at Mass and our daughters have sang in the choir. Then there was like random things. Especially if they're doing something like helping to serve food at a shelter or*

*food pantries. Our daughters have done some Mother's Helper and babysitting for no cost for families that kind of need it. They've helped a local farmer guy pulling potatoes and that kind of stuff.*

- *We do a lot of donating of clothing. We also do service. Serving meals to those in need.*
- *We brought meals to people in need. Volunteered at a soup kitchen. We donated clothes. Volunteered at a men's shelter.*
- *With our family size we used to do a lot more of that. It would be anything from Dorothy Day's food pantry. Churches United for the Homeless, we've done the biggest thing that we've done and it's like really taken on our time. We've got new Americans that have come to this community and we got involved when a number of years ago. I think this is probably about 14 years ago when they first arrived and they were Catholics from Burundi. So we got really involved with taking them to Mass, rules of the road you know, how to get a bank card, what is a bank, how do you use a toaster. Like all that stuff. You know just befriending people in the beginning it was a lot more like service oriented and so that was really big part. And our kids all saw that.*
- *I am also a planner of mission trips. The meal thing. We were always doing that when the kids were younger and we there was actually a family who's a young son that had a drowning experience. He was he was in bad shape. He's still alive actually but he's bedridden and mostly pretty much a vegetative state. Although he does interact once in a while. My kids and I would go over there once a month to help her with her kids and because she still continues to try to homeschool. So that was probably one of the first things we did. I started first of all planning um mission trips to Kentucky to work with the priest down there. [Name]. Yeah amazing man. So I scheduled several field trips down there. After I quit scheduling them so much other people from the community started going down there. We would go down there and just do whatever father told us to do basically. Then I actually even planned a mission trip to Mexico.*
- *During Lent we would be deliberate about that. How we did that as a family, some of our most memorable months were where we deliberately would make a sacrifice as a family and set aside the money. Whether it was eating more simply and we're putting aside part of the grocery budget or skipping movies or whatever. Just putting that money aside. Then very deliberately with the kids in a hands on way going and shopping for the items. We're gonna purchase with that for the local food pantry or for the Crisis Pregnancy Center or something like that. So those times of year I think lend themselves naturally to that. Other than that, a lot of what they've done has come through our youth group at our Parish. My older kids especially were very active in the in the youth group at our local parish. They would do different activities like that and they would host fundraisers. They would go to the March for Life.*
- *We were not so much together but all of us were pretty heavily involved with the church in some capacity. All of us have volunteered for the church.*
- *Because there wasn't anything set up, my mom would always give. She knew all the poor people in the area, at least in Spain, when we lived there. She made friends with some of the gypsies that lived nearby and she would give them clothes. She would just be very present there to them.*

*Many times we didn't have much money either so we'd be getting help but she always showed us that even with a little you could help somebody out.*

- *I tried. It was very hard to find ways for us to serve as a family. When we were homeschooling we tried to do like Meals on Wheels and the kids still remember delivering meals to the elderly and the homebound. Then it was through our parish. He started a ministry where we would go to different stores and pick up their day old bread and then we would take it and deliver it to places. Different soup kitchens and things like that. They would distribute it then to those who are hungry. We did that for quite some time. We were part of the founding group and we would do that every Monday. We'd take her big old van and all the kids sort all this bread and then go deliver it. But I mean it was just really hard to find ways to serve with the kids.*
- *Something that the kids did and were encouraged to do, they helped in the church. They did a lot of stuff with the church.*
- *Not our whole family. At school I did two Saturdays a month. I went up to a church at like 5 am with my dad to make tacos for the homeless. There are a couple other big things that we did at the church but it was usually me and my dad at that point. My sister was out of the house. My mom, she didn't really like Catholic Daughters at our church. They were a bit snooty. I also didn't really like them that much. Knights of Columbus were nice. Just me and my dad*
- *Yeah, I think there's like little things my mom would bring us to. Like go do something we would volunteer at a place every once in a while. But I think that was our main way and then of course just like donating to our church and different charities.*
- *They were really young. I will say that the last from like 2016 until this past summer, so like six years, I actually worked at a soup kitchen food pantry. We were doing a lot of prepping meals. Really reinventing the way that people who were under the poverty line and needing assistants got meals especially with the pandemic, which is very challenging. My son and my wife came with me several times to help do that but not as not as much when they were younger. They would do the stuff that they could do through school for the most part. But we didn't do any additional like above and beyond.*
- *Service. Yes. We did things with the kids. We also did the parish Confirmation classes and Cursillo.*
- *For a while high school catechism. I used to brag that I had the first topless catechism class ever because I was breastfeeding the youngest baby. So we did that for a while and then then you taught catechism. [Husband's name] is always been involved in the community. We were among the first Eucharistic ministers in the parish. He reads at Mass. You went to St Vincent de Paul all the time. He was the [position] of the Knights of Columbus until COVID. There's a lot of that stuff is kind of diminished. I was never involved much at all except for teaching Natural Family Planning and I stopped doing that.*
- *The requirement at school, to be honest, that's where they saw most of the service. They were very much aware we didn't have as much money as other people. They knew we could give. You know they saw us giving at Mass every week. School would take them to a service project you*

*know cleaning up the yard, a church yard or something. We added a variety of service projects every year. For me, I can always do that every year.*

- *Yeah, but it was always a part of the family that we tried to keep close to the vest. We didn't want to make scenes about this. So we tried to do it a little bit more covertly. I always think of that one passage in the Bible where the Lord tells them you know not to let your one hand know what the other hand is doing. To keep it to yourself. That always was kind of important to me not to make a big scene about things. So we always tried to do it quietly as much as possible and we still try to do that. I mean not that I'm anything special or anything but I just I don't know there's always people out there doing more and the kids are the same.*
- *When we could I enlisted the boys help a lot. We were the sacristans at the military church. So that involved a lot in the military. The chapels are all shared spaces so we had the turn it Catholic and then turn it back into a religious or whatever afterwards. So we literally you know carried the crucifix out of the adoration chapel. We prepared, we brought the statue out, we opened the Stations of the Cross up. They were on these little things on the walls that had little doors over them. So we had to turn the space Catholic and then reset it. They got a very good understanding of how different Christian religions are. The boys were in the Boy Scouts. Do real neglected yard work on an old lady's house or an old guy's house. That was one of the things that the troop did really well. We just go clean up someone's backyard that hasn't been done in years because they're just old and they can't do it anymore. Also got the boys involved in the Knights of Columbus when they were in high school. They both became Knights.*
- *Our kids have to do service hours for different things at the church so there's always opportunities. We have an organization that helps unwed moms or singles. Yeah, so we've helped with our services there and continue to fundraise for them. So there's always opportunities at the church. It's always there and we're trying to do our part to help.*
- *I'd say we're active. I could remember a couple of times where we would help families during Christmas.*

**Participants were asked about how often their family hosted other people/families in their home. (e.g., dinners, barbecues, games, etc.).** Again, this was near the end of the interviews and some participants had already shared about doing this. It was very common for participants to host family, friends, and clergy over for dinners and faith-related activities.

- *It was more common because like I said earlier the children grew up in a neighborhood where we had a lot of um Catholic faithful. We would go together and also eat together. They could come over to my place or they could invite me and my family over to their place. Also, prayers were done together occasionally. We would put our hands together and pray together as Catholic faithful for the Church, for the priests, and the popes, and all of that.*
- *One of the key elements of my own deepening of faith in my husband's conversion, well he converted to Catholicism before this but was we were introduced to a movement in the Church. We became very involved in that. It taught us so much but it also put us in in community with other Catholic families who are striving for holiness. I think that was critical in our own children's formation as well to hang out with other families who are also striving for holiness. So, we had*

*them come every month to the house. We sit around talk about the faith and how to raise our kids in a holy way. How to be holy. So, they had that. We also had a lot of sisters and priests in the home as well, visiting, coming and leading retreats and stuff for the kids.*

- *We hosted Bible study here and I don't even know what else. I mean we were involved in all kinds of groups. Liturgy planning. All that kind of stuff. I would host people here a lot of times for that and Bible studies.*
- *Oh, I would say we did this a lot [host other people/families in home].*
- *We still do that. Even during the pandemic, we have what's called small groups in Charlotte so about 18 people that have been coming to our home for the last three years, every week, four times a year. That is very important for families to nourish their own spirituality and nourish their children's. The children have to see it. I think if you don't have that community you're going to risk having your children lose their faith because they're not seeing it in action.*
- *We would go hang out. Just hanging out with the families. Not for any kind of formation meetings or anything like that. Just kind of have Saturdays where we would go visit friends.*
- *Every Sunday, after Mass, we had another family that we helped who would come over sometimes. Then other families from church. Families from our robotics club. We would have them over and have a dinner or watch a movie. Or just hang out. They're typically all Catholic and we would pray together at the end of the night. We'd be like "hey let's say an Our Father Hail Mary, or Glory Be before we go our separate ways. We never did like Bible studies or anything like that together.*
- *We used to have a weekly family holy hour where we would have a video series that we would watch at the time. We'd have several families over usually it was after dinner and then desserts and such afterwards. So it was it was good and then the kids would all be playing afterwards and adults would just be you know socializing etc. That was pretty much a weekly thing and it went on for many years. We hosted different families that come and go. But that was a big thing.*
- *We see our household as a gathering place. People still roll in. It's good.*
- *We had people over a lot. Our faith really, really blossomed while we were overseas because we were around very like-minded people. I hadn't really been around those kind of people before my wife had as a child so that was kind of everything. We came together at that time period and we had other families that came over for dinner. That was a routine. So, there was a lot of very like-minded people in the house.*
- *Hospitality is just a really important thing. I find it challenging because it's hard. Especially when you're trying to raise your own kids and making that space for others. But we've always been very deliberate about doing that, inviting other families over.*
- *We would invite the neighbors. If they were close and then we did. there were some friends we'd invite them. so yes, we would have more people come then we would go to them.*

- *There are always other kids in the house or around.*
- *Every so often my friends from church would come over. It was usually a birthday or something. A lot of times we went over to their houses because their houses were a lot nicer. They had nice bedrooms and second floors and all sorts of fun things. It would just be my friends if anyone came over. My parents were friends with all the other parents so we would have them over. It wasn't necessarily like faith related. They would come over occasionally and I don't know like make tamales or something before Christmas. I love that tradition.*
- *Social. Yes. Faith component you know, we would only really do that for the sacrament type things you know so Baptism, confirmation, First Communion etc. We'd usually invite everybody to a restaurant. I don't know if we ever did it at the house. People would come back to the house regardless.*
- *We always invited our friends over for dinner. That was a routine. The boys got to meet a lot of seminarians from American College in Rome because we had seminarians that would come up and do things over Christmas and Easter and in the summer. We always had at least one or two big American style barbecues for them because that's the things they missed So there was a lot of uh very like-minded people in in the house uh when the boys were in in high school.*

**Participants were asked about how much emphasis was placed on practicing good manners (e.g. saying please thank you, excuse me, I'm sorry, etc.) both in the home and when the family went out to restaurants, activities, church, etc.** Many discussed this previously in discussing their parenting styles related to discipline as well as their roles in faith formation. All commenting here indicated the importance of manners.

- *Absolutely. We always stressed than. They learned to say things like "yes sir" and "no sir," and "thank you."*
- *We definitely emphasize that you know respect and good manners.*
- *That was it was very important. I had been brought up with... My mom was really very proper. When we had dinner and whatnot my wife is not as much but you know. Still that was very important for us. We would go out we ate out often. It was just easier for us to do that and we would make sure that the boys were behaved you know. Plus, with them kind having a lot of formative years around the military they learned a lot of manners that way too with the "yes sir" "no sir" "yes ma'am" "no mam" those kinds of things very prevalent.*
- *We read books and stuff on that. I think I there's a book called Skills, which I read when I went through the pastoral ministry program. I always thought that was one of the greatest books on just how to interact with people. I had my kids read that for high school. But my kids were also shy. I never really had to worry about them being rude in front of anybody because they wouldn't hardly talk. We definitely emphasized respect and good manners.*
- *Yeah. There was a really big emphasis on that [manners]. I'm glad.*

- *Quite a bit. That's one thing that's always annoyed [wife] and I is how children, the whole please thank you treating people with respect. That means a lot. We always emphasize that because we see that's something that's just it's not a part of the world anymore. It's emphasized pretty heavily. We just think it's respectful.*
- *I was brought up with good manners and holding doors for people, being of service to people. what can you do to contribute to a situation that makes it better? just being a light I think is important and a good manner says a lot to do with that.*

## **Participants Final Thoughts**

**Participants were asked about any other factors that they thought were important in children raised Catholic remaining in the faith and active in parish life as becoming adults.** Not all responses related to the question of raising children to adulthood in the faith. Substantive examples including advice include:

- *It's really important to pay attention to the example that you set because when I look at my own faith background some of the most powerful things my parents ever taught me they didn't actually explicitly teach me. They were just living it. I found my mother living a prayer life. I saw my dad who's a great academic a philosophy professor for many years on his knees praying the Rosary and that just made such a lasting impression on me. Like this great man of academia has this great faith life that there's really something there you know that really spoke to me. So I've tried to model like that for my own kids and I think parents really need to be cognizant of that. Do you want your kids to have set aside time when they're young adults for daily quiet prayer? Well are you doing it? Do they know you're doing it? Do they know that's a priority for you? Because they learn a lot more from what you do than from any particular lesson you might explicitly say or any book you might have them read. So very valuable. So I think parents really need to be aware of the ways in which they're living out their own lives and what values that speak to their kids.*
- *I think one big thing is sacramentals. I think they're just essential. Holy water in the house, blessing the house, religious artwork in all of our children's rooms. I've got the crucifix. They've got their selection of their patron saints. We're really enrobing the children in that world. We have a big Mary statue. It's just like it's an important part of who we are. Jesus is always there. The crucifix does remind you of his sacrifice and his presence. That becomes normalized to the children. Taking our children to reconciliation on a monthly basis. I try to establish good habits. Ultimately the decision is theirs. It's their relationship with Christ. Trying to model it as best we can. We know that we've failed many times but it's what we come back to. Even when the children recognize that we fail, we say you know we're trying. I apologize to the children when you make a mistake. You'd be humble enough to admit it to them. Dad isn't perfect. Dad doesn't know it all. Dad messed up. I think that takes a long way and showing that God's merciful to us. If you want to practice the faith and if you want to bring your children up in the faith it's a lifelong task and you've got to be ready to fight for the faith. You can't fight for something you don't love. You can't fight without the sacraments, the relationship with Christ, the knowledge of the Scripture.*

- *I think the most important thing and the weird thing is I think the most important thing is leading by example. My wife and I both do that. Especially when it comes to being religious and going to Mass. That type of thing. But again, I know people, we have friends who are very religious and attend Mass regularly and their children have fallen away so I don't know what else it is. I know there's other forces at work no matter what a person does it's hard to overcome those other forces. I think we kind of lucked out in the fact that our boys have stayed in. It was something that we've started from day one and we didn't ever really relent from it so it's mostly just the perseverance I guess. Really of making sure the boys understand how important this is and helping them to find their interest in it. Why they think it's important too.*
- *My sacrifices directly impacted the grace that was pouring out on my children. I actively and intentionally sacrifice and made resolutions and strove to keep them so that I could pour grace on my children. it's been one of the most beautiful gifts in the whole world and I feel so blessed that my children have kept the faith. I've watched my friend's children fall away, become atheist, and I've wondered because we did the same things you know. Wondered what was it? I truly think that people don't understand the connection between the sacrifice and the grace and now I feel like I'm just skating along now because I don't feel like I sacrifice nearly as much as I did once upon a time. I feel like I'm just still skating on that grace but hoping to get back to a place where I can actively bring grace. Help to channel grace on to my grandchildren now as well.*
- *If there's something that you don't understand within the faith and this is for a parent. If there's something you don't agree with in the Church, you got to get that out. You have to because it becomes like a cancer within the family. Because how do you expect to flourish and keep the faith if you yourself have a problem with it? Whether it's confession, priests not getting married, contraception was a huge one for us. We didn't understand why the Church had limitations. We just kept researching it. We prayed and said Lord you know teach us. Or what is it that you want us to know? Because if you're stuck there then you can't expect your family to flourish it's like a blockage. You're blocked.*
- *We were more parents than friends to our kids. We told them what to do. Not just let them go ahead and do what they wanted to do. It wasn't hard this way. We're their parents not their friends. Our daughter has said, "thank you for being my mother. I have enough friends."*
- *Parenting has to do with persistence. It's hard to understand in the beginning but just continue. Don't stop. You will begin to understand. The messages will come on strong.*
- *I think if you can put your kids in a Catholic College. I really believe that there's just so much in doctrines and indoctrination I can't say the word and just wild parties and stuff where people will get drunk and then make decisions that they wouldn't usually do. Our kids went to [college campus] so I they came out of there way stronger in their faith than we ever were. I think times call for desperate measures and we are in desperate times so people have to make really hard choices about where their kids go to school, where they go to college, all that kind of stuff.*
- *I think the capstone is really you've got to go to a legit Catholic College. They are not all Catholic in the sense of representing the faith, teaching the faith systematically, encouraging growth in the faith. So, we made a lot of financial sacrifices for our children to go to private Catholic*

colleges that we were known to be of sound and orthodox. You know you're continuing the patterns that you've established but you're also going to meet other families and other children that can help you feel like it's cool to be Catholic because you can do the best job you can but that ship's got to leave the port at some point. I mean [husband] and I realized that if you want to practice the faith and if you want to bring your children up in the faith it's a lifelong task and you've got to be ready to fight for the faith you can't fight for something you don't love. You can't fight without the sacraments, the relationship with Christ, the knowledge of the Scripture. We've had to, throughout our life, educate ourselves so that we could know the faith, live the faith, share the faith, and I just can't emphasize that enough.

- *My wife and I were pretty involved in the parish. Not just going to church on Sunday but involved in other activities in the parish. We were always involved in this, in the school of religion, and several other activities that we had. So, you had that as part of the social network of the people we hung around. I'm finding a number of older people, my own age now, who quite frankly had not been practicing the faith at all during the time that they were raising their children and of course now they have children who never go near a church. My parents were very, very devout, very involved in the local parish. That was one of the things that influenced me. The same thing happened with my wife.*
- *Natural Family Planning is the main reason why every one of our kids is a Catholic today. Not only just a Catholic. They're committed Catholics. They're still believing that the family life is what's important.*
- *My kids see me. I talk loud. Like I talk to God here or there. My kids hear me say "oh Lord help me out here" or you know mumbling something. so I think that just wearing it [the faith] on your sleeve, knowing that it's important, being proud about it is really important.*
- *My older daughter, in ninth grade, started breaking. Wanted to like end it. She once said to me "I feel like you're cramming Catholicism down my throat" and I'm like "That's exactly what I'm doing honey. That is my job as a Catholic mother. It is my job to teach you the faith and to make sure you have the faith. It's in your heart you can turn away. You can't forget about it. You can't unknow something." Then she started going to the Latin Mass and now she's a traditional Catholic where she wears the veil, goes to Latin Mass. She goes to Mass almost every day 6:30 a.m. She called me after Mass today and she goes "I went to Mass and I had breakfast I'm having a good morning." I did expect our younger one to break away and not come back for a while. She went to college and was like "good I don't have to go to Mass." Two months later, she was joining the [Catholic] youth group.*
- *I think kind of touched on it when I said that I had a youth group that I was very close to and my other sister was also very close to. So, my parents really did encourage us to find good friends and support systems within the church. My parents, it was definitely them, helped us to find a place that we could feel I don't know secure I guess. I realized a lot of the wisdom of my parents. We pray the Rosary every night together. We try to encourage them to find good friends. To go to altar serving and help out at church and make friends there. My Dad loved philosophy too and theology so he talked a lot about that. I would say I have incorporated a lot.*

- *For me it was really important that my parents never pushed me because there were times where I would question, especially when I moved away for college, of just “why are we Catholic? What is this?” And my parents never really... They were present. They were there and they're like “okay those are valid questions” but they were never offended. I suppose it was always a let's pursue, let's explore this and see what we can find. “Oh you don't want us involved with that? Okay great. You keep your answers on your own and you know let us know.” So they were always present and always living the faith themselves but never kind of forcing it on any of us.*
- *The prayer together. We would always go to adoration. I wasn't like the closest with my parents so like if there was a time where I needed someone to talk to, honestly, I kind of just went and would pray. We can go and like talk to God about anything. I was also really encouraged.*
- *To stay involved in their lives. I guess as much as possible. I mean I know they need privacy but just I think parents have to be aware of what's going on and kind of be watching the signs. [Wife's name] was always very much a part of their lives. They're not threatened by it but they will come to you. They're not afraid to share things with you and since [wife] was that kind of a buffer she always shared everything with me and then she'd get my opinions. You know where we should go with it.*
- *One of the things we always did was we would say the Rosary. On occasion we would say at Easter we'd say the Divine Mercy. Between Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. We always did that kind of stuff with them where they knew the prayers.*
- *That is a really good question. I don't think I have the answers.*

## Responses to Post-Interview Questions

This section provides results from the 22 interview subjects who completed post-interview inventory.<sup>21</sup> Interview participants were asked to answer questions online. This was based on three existing scales

The first of these is: Worthington, E. Jr., Wade, N., Hight, T., Ripley, J., McCullough, M., Berry, J., Schmitt, M., Berry, J., Bursley, K., and O’Conner, L. (2012) . The Religious Commitment Inventory-10 (RCI-10) . Measurement. Instrument Database for the Social Science. Retrieved from [www.midss.ie](http://www.midss.ie)

Responding participants show high levels of commitment. The average response score is 4.34 out of 5. Eighty-six percent say it is totally true of them that they enjoy spending time with others of their religious affiliation. Seventy six percent say it is totally true of them that religious beliefs lie behind their whole approach to life and that religion is especially important to them because it answers many questions about the meaning of life.

<i>Select the response that best describes how true each statement is for you.</i>					
	<b>Not at all true of me</b>	<b>Somewhat true of me</b>	<b>Moderately true of me</b>	<b>Mostly true of me</b>	<b>Totally true of me</b>
I often read books and magazines about my faith	5%	10%	19%	14%	52%
I make financial contributions to my religious organization	0%	5%	0%	33%	62%
I spend time trying to grow in understanding of my faith	0%	5%	10%	19%	67%
Religion is especially important to me because it answers many questions about the meaning of life	0%	0%	5%	19%	76%
My religious beliefs lie behind my whole approach to life	0%	0%	5%	19%	76%
I enjoy spending time with others of my religious affiliation	0%	0%	5%	10%	86%
Religious beliefs influence all my dealings in life	0%	0%	0%	48%	52%
It is important to me to spend periods of time in private religious thought and reflection	0%	5%	15%	35%	45%
I enjoy working in the activities of my religious affiliation	0%	19%	14%	24%	43%
I keep well informed about my local religious group and have some influence in its decisions	10%	15%	20%	20%	35%

<sup>21</sup> Some interview participants chose not to complete the online post-interview survey.

Respondents were more conflicted when responding to the statement I keep well informed about my local religious group and have some influence in its decisions (mean response of 3.55).

The scoring for the Intrapersonal Religious Commitment subscale sums items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. The Interpersonal Religious Commitment sums items 2, 6, 9, and 10. Responding participants scored, on average, 26.6 on Intrapersonal Religious Commitment and 16.9 on Interpersonal Religious Commitment. The average overall RCI score was 43.4 (s.d. = 5.3). This is higher than all but one of 15 samples cited in Worthington (2012). Only therapists in Christian agencies score higher, on average, at 45.9.

The next instrument is: Collins, N., and S. Read. (1990). The Adult Attachment Scale (AAS). Retrieved from <https://www.statisticssolutions.com/free-resources/directory-of-survey-instruments/adult-attachment-scale-aas/>

This instrument measures adult attachment styles identified as “Secure”, “Anxious” and “Avoidant” that are defined as:

- Secure = high scores on Close and Depend subscales, low score on Anxiety subscale
- Anxious = high score on Anxiety subscale, moderate scores on Close and Depend subscales
- Avoidant = low scores on Close, Depend, and Anxiety subscales

The average score for the secure items among participants is 3.34 out of 5. The average score for the anxious items is 1.60 out of 5 and for the avoidant items this is 2.00 out of 5. Thus, generally speaking respondents say the secure items are more than moderately true of them. They indicated the anxious items are between not at all true to somewhat true of them. The avoidant items were somewhat true of respondents, on average). The average total score for secure items was 20.1 (s.d. = 4.2). The average total scores for anxious items were 9.7 (s.d. = 2.8) and for avoidant items 12.0 (s.d. = 4.5).

<i>Using the scale to the right, select the response that best describes how true each statement is for you.</i>					
	<b>Not at all true of me</b>	<b>Somewhat true of me</b>	<b>Moderately true of me</b>	<b>Mostly true of me</b>	<b>Totally true of me</b>
I find it difficult to allow myself to depend on others (Av)	10%	43%	33%	10%	5%
People are never there when you need them (Av)	57%	24%	19%	0%	0%
I am comfortable depending on others (S)	10%	14%	33%	38%	5%
I know that others will be there when I need them (S)	0%	10%	19%	67%	5%
I find it difficult to trust others completely (Av)	29%	38%	14%	19%	0%
I am not sure that I can always depend on others to be there when I need them (Ax)	33%	43%	19%	5%	0%
I do not often worry about being abandoned (S)	19%	14%	10%	38%	19%

**Using the scale to the right, select the response that best describes how true each statement is for you.**

	<b>Not at all true of me</b>	<b>Somewhat true of me</b>	<b>Moderately true of me</b>	<b>Mostly true of me</b>	<b>Totally true of me</b>
I often worry that my partner does not really love me (Ax)	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%
I find others are reluctant to get as close as I would like (Ax)	57%	33%	10%	0%	0%
I often worry my partner will not want to stay with me (Ax)	86%	9%	5%	0%	0%
I want to merge completely with another person (Ax)	45%	20%	15%	10%	10%
My desire to merge sometimes scares people away (Ax)	60%	20%	20%	0%	0%
I find it relatively easy to get close to others (S)	5%	33%	29%	33%	0%
I do not often worry about someone getting close to me (S)	10%	0%	29%	52%	10%
I am somewhat uncomfortable being close to others (Av)	52%	29%	10%	10%	0%
I am nervous when anyone gets too close (Av)	48%	24%	14%	10%	5%
I am comfortable having others depend on me (S)	10%	5%	19%	52%	14%
Often, love partners want me to be more intimate than I feel comfortable being (Av)	60%	20%	5%	10%	5%

The final scale is: Beck, R. and A. McDonald. (2004). Attachment to God: the attachment to God inventory, tests of working model correspondence, and an exploration of faith group differences. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 32(2), 92-103. This inventory seeks to measure if people can describe their relationship to God within an attachment framework.

This utilizes a seven-point response scale and is scored as:

- Avoidance of intimacy = sum of even numbered items
- Anxiety about abandonment = sum of odd numbered items
- Items 4, 8, 13, 18, 22, 26, and 28 are reverse scored

After adjusting for reverse coding, on the avoidance items, responding participants had a 2.39 mean response placing them on the disagreement end of the scale. On the anxiety items, responding participants had a 2.47 mean response placing them on the disagreement end of the scale.

Respondents were most likely to disagree strongly to the following statements:

- I am jealous at how God seems to care more for others than for me (76%).

- I just don't feel a deep need to be close to God (71%).
- I fear God does not accept me when I do wrong (71%).

Respondents were most likely to agree strongly to the following statements (both reverse coded):

- Without God I couldn't function at all (47%).
- I am totally dependent upon God for everything in my life (43%).

The average total avoidance of intimacy score for participants was 40.6 (s.d. = 13.8) and the average anxiety about abandonment score was 34.2 (s.d. = 13.2). This is a total AGI of 74.8.

***The following statements concern how you feel about your relationship with God. We are interested in how you generally experience your relationship with God, not just in what is happening in that relationship currently. Respond to each statement by indicating how much you agree or disagree with it. Write the number in the space provided, using the following rating scale:***

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
1. I worry a lot about my relationship with God.	33%	14%	19%	0%	19%	5%	9%
2. I just don't feel a deep need to be close to God.	71%	19%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%
3. If I can't see God working in my life, I get upset or angry.	52%	33%	0%	10%	5%	0%	0%
4. I am totally dependent upon God for everything in my life. (R)	0%	9%	0%	5%	24%	19%	43%
5. I am jealous at how God seems to care more for others than for me.	76%	14%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%
6. It is uncommon for me to cry when sharing with God.	14%	14%	5%	24%	9%	14%	19%
7. Sometimes I feel that God loves others more than me.	67%	24%	0%	5%	5%	0%	0%
8. My experiences with God are very intimate and emotional. (R)	0%	5%	9%	29%	19%	19%	19%
9. I am jealous at how close some people are to God.	33%	19%	9%	10%	9%	14%	5%
10. I prefer not to depend too much on God.	67%	19%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
11. I often worry about whether God is pleased with me.	19%	14%	14%	10%	24%	9%	9%
12. I am uncomfortable being emotional in my communication with God.	67%	5%	14%	14%	0%	0%	0%
13. Even if I fail, I never question that God is pleased with me. (R)	0%	0%	14%	9%	29%	19%	29%

**The following statements concern how you feel about your relationship with God. We are interested in how you generally experience your relationship with God, not just in what is happening in that relationship currently. Respond to each statement by indicating how much you agree or disagree with it. Write the number in the space provided, using the following rating scale:**

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
14. My prayers to God are often matter-of-fact and not very personal.	33%	14%	9%	19%	19%	5%	0%
15. Almost daily I feel that my relationship with God goes back and forth from "hot" to "cold."	43%	19%	14%	10%	5%	9%	0%
16. I am uncomfortable with emotional displays of affection to God.	38%	5%	19%	29%	5%	5%	0%
17. I fear God does not accept me when I do wrong.	71%	14%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
18. Without God I couldn't function at all. (R)	0%	5%	10%	14%	10%	14%	47%
19. I often feel angry with God for not responding to me when I want.	52%	33%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%
20. I believe people should not depend on God for things they should do for themselves.	29%	19%	5%	19%	29%	0%	0%
21. I crave reassurance from God that God loves me.	14%	19%	14%	29%	5%	5%	14%
22. Daily I discuss all of my problems and concerns with God. (R)	14%	5%	14%	5%	29%	10%	24%
23. I am jealous when others feel God's presence when I cannot.	40%	15%	20%	10%	10%	5%	0%
24. I am uncomfortable allowing God to control every aspect of my life.	38%	14%	5%	14%	14%	9%	5%
25. I worry a lot about damaging my relationship with God.	14%	0%	24%	19%	29%	5%	9%
26. My prayers to God are very emotional. (R)	19%	24%	5%	38%	0%	0%	14%
27. I get upset when I feel God helps others, but forgets about me.	62%	29%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%
28. I let God make most of the decisions in my life. (R)	5%	19%	9%	33%	9%	24%	0%

A low score on the attachment to God means the respondent has low levels of anxiety about abandonment and low levels of avoidance of intimacy in terms of their relationship to God. This scale seeks to place attachment to God in the broader literature on human attachment to others. Thus, higher

scores mean the person has a more difficult relationship to God. A summary score may be calculated by dividing each score by 14.<sup>22</sup> A "low" score is below 4 (4 is the average) and a high score is above 4. On avoidance to intimacy the participants in this study would score 2.9 and on anxiety about abandonment 2.4. According to this scoring method the participants in this study are people who "feel comfortable relying on God, trusting God, and seeking intimacy with God. They also tend to exhibit an overall adequate capacity for emotional tolerance." They have a "secure attachment to God."

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<sup>22</sup> See: <https://silo.tips/download/assessment-scoring-and-interpretation-pack>e

## GSS Questions

The following General Social Survey (GSS) questions were used. Note, the researchers of this report have no influence on question wording or construction. This is an omnibus survey designed for academics and others to utilize for research regarding the adult population of the United States. Surveys have been conducted since 1972 and identical or similar questions wording is preferred over time to provide cross-time comparisons.

What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. none
5. other
6. Buddhism
7. Hinduism
8. other Eastern Religions
9. Muslim/Islam
10. Orthodox-Christian
11. Christian
12. Native American
13. Inter-nondenominational
14. don't know
15. no answer

In what religion were you raised?

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. none
5. other
6. Buddhism
7. Hinduism
8. other Eastern Religions
9. Muslim/Islam
10. Orthodox-Christian
11. Christian
12. Native American
13. Inter-nondenominational
14. don't know
15. no answer

How often do you attend religious services?

1. never
2. less than once a year
3. about once or twice a year
4. several times a year
5. about once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. nearly every week
8. every week
9. several times a week
10. don't know
11. iap
12. no answer

[Interviewer] Code respondent's sex

1. male
2. female
3. don't know
4. iap
5. no answer

Are you currently -- married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

1. married
2. widowed
3. divorced
4. separated
5. never married
6. don't know
7. no answer

Were you born in this country?

1. yes
2. no
3. don't know
4. iap
5. no answer

Were both your parents born in this country?

1. both born in the u.s.
2. mother yes, father no
3. mother no, father yes
4. mother yes, father don't know
5. mother no, father don't know
6. mother don't know, father yes
7. mother don't know, father no
8. mother don't know, father don't know
9. neither born in the u.s.
10. iap
11. no answer

Were all of your four grandparents born in this country? How many were born outside the United States?

1. none
2. one
3. two
4. three
5. four
6. don't know
7. iap
8. no answer

Were you living with both your own mother and father around the time you were 16? IF NO: With whom were you living around that time?

1. both own mother and father
2. father and stepmother
3. mother and stepfather
4. father only
5. mother only
6. some other male relative (no female head)
7. some other female relative (no male head)
8. other arrangement with relatives (e.g., aunt and uncle, grandparents)
9. don't know
10. iap
11. no answer

If not living with both own mother and father: What happened?

1. one or both parents died
2. parents divorced or separated
3. father absent in armed forces
4. one or both parents in institution
5. other
6. don't know
7. iap
8. no answer

Did she [R's mother] work for as long as a year around the time you were 16?

1. yes
2. no
3. don't know
4. iap
5. no answer

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?

1. strong democrat
2. not very strong democrat
3. independent, close to democrat
4. independent (neither, no response)
5. independent, close to republican
6. not very strong republican
7. strong republican
8. other party
9. don't know
10. no answer

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. I'm going to show you a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal - point 1 - to extremely conservative - point 7. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

1. extremely liberal
2. liberal
3. slightly liberal
4. moderate, middle of the road
5. slightly conservative
6. conservative
7. extremely conservative
8. don't know
9. iap
10. no answer

Taken all together, how would you say things are these days - would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

1. very happy
2. pretty happy
3. not too happy
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

Taking all things together, how would you describe your marriage?

1. very happy
2. pretty happy
3. not too happy
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful, or that they are mostly just looking out for themselves?

1. try to be helpful
2. looking out for themselves
3. depends
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

Do you think most people would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance, or would they try to be fair?

1. would take advantage of you
2. would try to be fair
3. depends
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in life?

1. can trust
2. can't be too careful
3. depends
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

a. Organized religion

1. a great deal
2. only some
3. hardly any
4. don't know
5. iap
6. no answer

b. Education

c. Major companies

d. Congress

If you had to choose, which thing on this list would you pick as the most important for a child to learn to prepare him or her for life?

- a. To obey
  - 1. first
  - 2. second
  - 3. third
  - 4. fourth
  - 5. fifth
- b. To be well liked or popular
- c. To think for one's self
- d. To work hard
- e. To help others

Would you use this card and tell me which answer comes closest to how often you do the following things:

- a. Spend a social evening with relatives?
  - 1. almost daily
  - 2. once or twice a week
  - 3. several times a month
  - 4. about once a month
  - 5. several times a year
  - 6. about once a year
  - 7. never
  - 8. don't know
  - 9. iap
  - 10. no answer
- b. Spend a social evening with someone who lives in your neighborhood
- c. Spend a social evening with friends who live outside the neighborhood
- d. Go to a bar or tavern

What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?

- 1. 0
- 2. 1
- 3. 2
- 4. 3
- 5. 4
- 6. 5
- 7. 6
- 8. 7 or more
- 9. 8 as many as you want
- 10. don't know
- 11. iap

Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if:

a. The woman wants it for any reason?

1. yes
2. no
3. don't know
4. iap
5. no answer

b. The woman's own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy

What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex?

1. always wrong
2. almost always wrong
3. wrong only sometimes
4. not wrong at all
5. other
6. don't know
7. iap
8. no answer

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that it is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard, spanking?

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. disagree
4. strongly disagree
5. don't know
6. iap
7. no answer

On the average day, about how many hours do you personally watch television? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree or disagree:

a. A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. disagree
4. strongly disagree
5. don't know
6. iap
7. no answer

b. A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.

In general, do your family members put pressure on you about the way you live or organize your personal life?

1. no, never
2. yes, but rarely
3. yes, sometimes
4. yes, often
5. yes, very often
6. don't know
7. iap
8. no answer

During the last 12 months, have you read or listened to the reading of any holy scripture such as the Bible, Buddhist sutra, Koran, Sruti, Torah, or other religious scripture, not counting any reading that happened during a worship service?

1. yes
2. no
3. can't choose
4. iap
5. no answer

What is your spouse's religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. none
5. other
6. Buddhism
7. Hinduism
8. other Eastern Religions
9. Muslim/Islam
10. Orthodox-Christian
11. Christian
12. Native American
13. Inter-nondenominational
14. don't know
15. no answer

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a. Having children increases people's social standing in society.

1. strongly agree
2. agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. disagree
5. strongly disagree
6. don't know
7. iap
8. no answer

b. Having children restricts the employment and career chances of one or both parents.

c. Children are a financial burden on their parents.

## CARA-NORC Questions

What is your religion? Are you...

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Evangelical or "born again" Christian or Protestant
- 3 Mainline Christian or Protestant
- 4 Eastern Orthodox Christian
- 5 Other Christian affiliation
- 6 Jewish
- 7 Muslim
- 8 Some other religious affiliation
- 9 I have no religious affiliation

Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?

- 1 Rarely or never
- 2 A few times a year
- 3 Once or twice a month
- 4 Almost every week
- 5 Every week
- 6 More than once a week
- 7 Homebound, shut-in, sick, unable to get out
- 8 Currently, watching Mass online or television due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Are you a parent?

- 1 Yes
- 1 No

Are any of your children now adults?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Do any of your adult children self-identify as Catholic and still attend Mass regularly (i.e., weekly attendance)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

When did you become Catholic? As an...

- 1 Infant (under age 1)
- 2 Child (ages 1-12)
- 3 Teenager (ages 13-17)
- 4 Adult (ages 18 or older)

Which of the following Catholic sacraments have you celebrated? Confirmation

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Have you ever participated in any of these Church-related programs, groups, or activities growing up?  
Please select all that apply.

- 1 A parish-based Catholic religious education program for youth (e.g., CCD)
- 2 Scouting groups
- 3 Parish youth group
- 4 Catholic campus ministry on a college or university campus
- 5 Other, please specify: [TEXTBOX]
- 6 None of these

Have you ever attended a...?

- A Catholic elementary, middle, or junior high school?
  - 1 Yes
  - 2 No
- B Catholic high school?
- C Catholic college or university?

Are you registered at a Catholic parish?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Besides attending Mass, how involved are you in parish activities or ministries?

- 1 Very involved
- 2 Somewhat involved
- 3 Involved a little
- 4 Not involved at all

How often, if ever, do you participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession?

- 1 Rarely or never
- 2 Less than once a year
- 3 Once a year
- 4 Several times a year
- 5 Once a month or more

Note: NORC's AmeriSpeak Probability-Based Panel has already collected information about respondents' race and ethnicity, education, marital status, region, household income, and age (converted by CARA into birth year and generation).