

COVER STORY: SURVEY OF U.S. CATHOLICS

Attitudes of Catholics highly committed to the church

Attitudes on which Catholics highly committed to the church are distinctive	Level of commitment			
	All	High	Medium	Low
<i>Percent</i>				
Catholic parishes are too big and impersonal. (Strongly or somewhat agree)	39	26	41	52
Catholic church leaders are out of touch with reality. (Strongly or somewhat agree)	63	41	66	85
On the whole, parish priests do a good job. (Strongly or somewhat agree)	91	99	93	74
Support: women as deacons	81	68	83	89
Support: women as priests	62	40	66	81
<i>If due to a shortage of priests, would you be able to accept: (Very or somewhat acceptable)</i>				
Reducing the number of Masses to fewer than once a week	40	27	42	51
Not having a resident priest but only a lay parish administrator and visiting priests	55	42	57	61
<i>Possible restructuring or closing of parishes — would you be able to accept: (Very or somewhat acceptable)</i>				
Having a Communion service instead of a Mass some of the time	60	44	63	73
Merging two or more nearby parishes into one parish	88	79	91	89
Closing the parish	30	22	29	46

Table 2

High-commitment Catholics express fewer criticisms of the church or of church leadership.