

COVER STORY: SURVEY OF U.S. CATHOLICS

Lay Catholics firmly committed to parish life

Attitudes about parish life

Percentage agreeing with each statement

Table 8

| | Registered parishioners | Nonregistered parishioner |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| On the whole, parish priests do a good job | 95 | 86 |
| Most priests don't expect laity to lead, just follow | 45 | 71 |
| Church leaders are out of touch with the laity | 58 | 76 |
| Catholic parishes are too big and impersonal | 36 | 48 |

Changing behaviors and attitudes about attending Mass

Figure 3

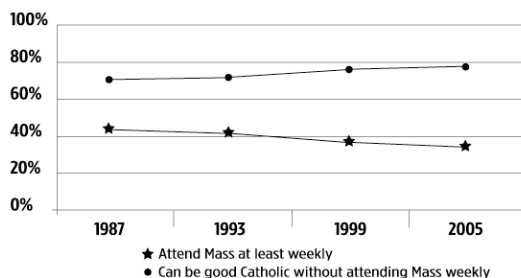


Table 9

Would you be willing to accept in your parish ...

| | Acceptable | | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|
| | Very | Somewhat | Not at all |
| Bringing in a priest from another country to lead the parish | 43% | 46% | 11% |
| Sharing a priest with one or more other parishes | 39% | 53% | 8% |
| Merging two or more nearby parishes into one parish | 36% | 52% | 12% |
| Having a Communion service instead of Mass sometimes | 12% | 49% | 39% |
| Not having a resident priest in the parish, but only a lay parish administrator and visiting priests | 10% | 45% | 45% |
| Reducing the number of Masses to fewer than once a week | 8% | 32% | 60% |
| Closing the parish | 4% | 26% | 70% |

There is some indication that lay Catholics are becoming restless with the 'pay, pray and obey' stereotype.