



# Formed in the Dorm:

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## Patterns of Mass Attendance, Parish Life, and Financial Giving of Attendees of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Prepared with data analysis from The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)  
For questions regarding these data, contact: [research@accunet.org](mailto:research@accunet.org)





## Grounded in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

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“...Catholic students can, in fulfillment of their baptism, *be prepared for active participation in the life of the Church...*”

Pope John Paul II  
Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities  
*Ex corde Ecclesiae*



# Methodology

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- Data collected by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) from several different surveys between 2000 and 2007 were reanalyzed.
- Using whether the respondent attended a Catholic college or university or not, comparisons of several variables were examined.
- When the question is asked across polls, an average of the findings is presented. For less frequently asked questions, the most recent results are used.



# Mass Attendance

- Those who have attended a Catholic college are more likely to report that they attend Mass every week.\*

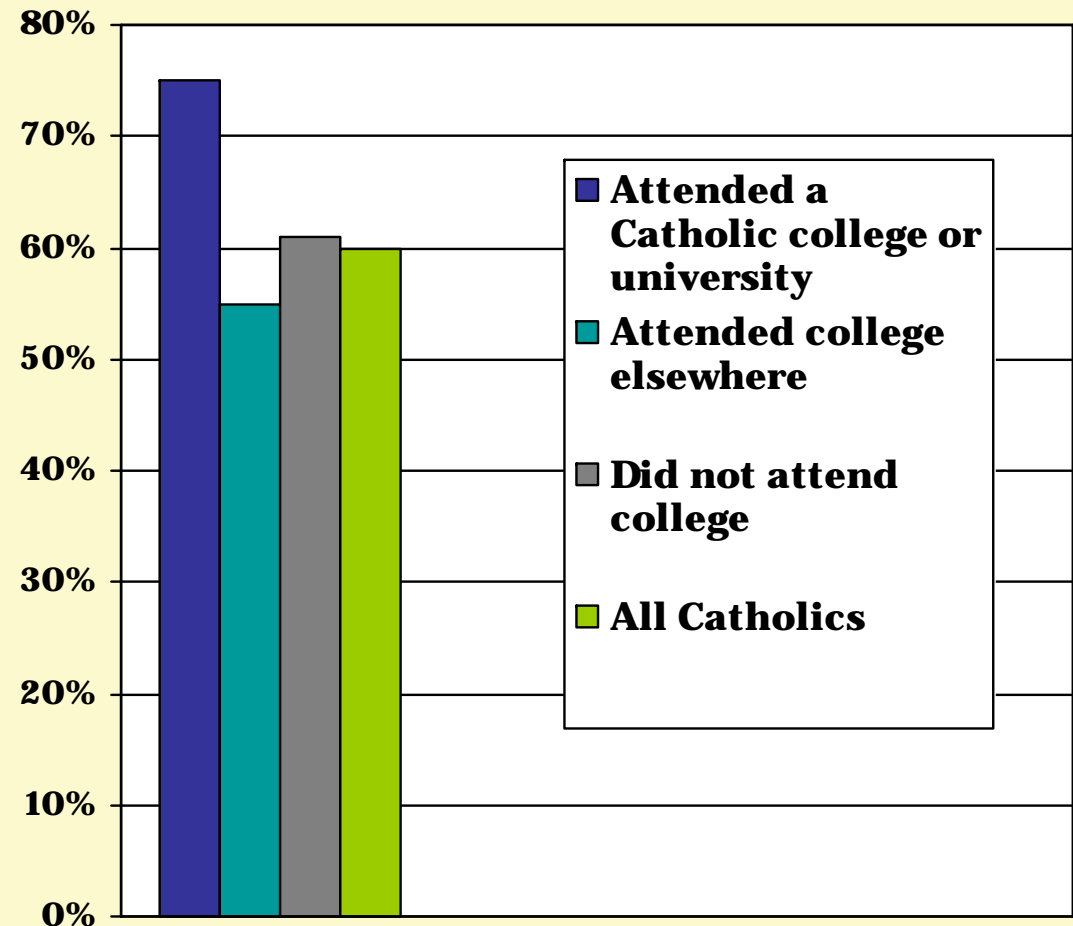
Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?				
	Attended a Catholic college or university	Attended college elsewhere	Did not attend college	All Catholics
Rarely or never	19%	27%	39%	32%
A few times a year	30%	31%	21%	26%
Once or twice a month	9%	12%	7%	10%
Almost every week	8%	12%	11%	11%
Every week	26%	16%	18%	17%
More than once a week	8%	3%	3%	4%
Weekly or more often	34%	19%	21%	21%

\*Question wording: “Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass? Rarely or never, a few times a year, once or twice a month, almost every week, every week, or more than once a week. Results from a 2007 CARA Poll.



# Parish Registration

- Those who have attended a Catholic college or university are more likely to report being registered at a parish.\*



\*Results from a 2005 CARA Poll.



# Importance of Catholic faith to daily life

- Catholic college or university attendees are more likely to say that their Catholic faith is “the most important part” or “among the most important parts” of their daily lives.\*

How important is your Catholic faith in your daily life? Is it...				
	Attended a Catholic college or university	Attended college elsewhere	Did not attend college	All Catholics
The most important part of your life?	17%	8%	12%	10%
Among the most important parts of your life?	29%	26%	29%	27%
Important, but so are many other areas of your life?	45%	46%	41%	43%
Not too important in your life?	4%	17%	14%	14%
Not important at all in your life?	4%	4%	5%	4%
<b>The most important part or among the most important parts</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>37%</b>

\*Results from a 2007 CARA Poll.



# Attachment to the Church

- Those who have attended a Catholic college or university are more likely to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that “I could never imagine myself leaving the Catholic Church.”\*

I could never imagine myself leaving the Catholic Church.				
	Attended a Catholic college or university	Attended college elsewhere	Did not attend college	All Catholics
Strongly agree	49%	35%	37%	37%
Somewhat agree	14%	21%	16%	18%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	25%	36%	30%
Somewhat disagree	7%	13%	7%	9%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	4%	5%
Strongly or somewhat agree	63%	56%	53%	55%

\*Results from a 2006 CARA Poll.



# Catholic Social Teachings

- Catholic university and college attendees consistently agree with Catholic social teachings more than those who attended college elsewhere.

Catholic Social Teachings**			
	Attended a Catholic college or university	Attended college elsewhere	All Catholics
An equitable society can be achieved only if special attention is given to the poor.	25%	13%	19%
People in rich countries have an obligation to help those around the globe, not just people in their own communities.	36%	19%	21%
All human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. For this reason, the taking of life – whether through abortion, the death penalty, or assisted suicide – is wrong.	25%	15%	19%
Catholics have a duty to try to end racism	45%	27%	25%
The US has a responsibility to take the lead in global peacebuilding (i.e., non-violent solutions to conflict)	30%	24%	24%
It is important to me to do what I can to help the poor or needy people in countries outside the US.	21%	11%	10%
Catholics have a duty to try to close the gap between the rich and the poor.	22%	14%	13%

\*Results from a 2006 CARA Poll. \*\*Percentage responding “Strongly Agree”.



# Financial Support of the Church

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- Those Catholics who have attended a Catholic college or university are equally likely to report that they regularly contribute to the collection at their parish in the 12 months prior to being surveyed as those Catholics who attended a non-Catholic college or university.
- On average, 40% of those who attended a Catholic college or university have given to a diocesan appeal in the year prior to being surveyed, compared to 24% of those Catholics who attended a non-Catholic college.