
Diocese of Rapid City Liturgy Commission Mass Experience Survey

Introduction

The “What is your experience of the Mass?” survey was administered from September 1, 2017 to October 6, 2017. The survey was administered on-line and paper format to all Catholics in the Diocese of Rapid City. Anyone 12 years or older were encouraged to complete the survey. This report summarizes the results by age groups and parishes that had 30 or more respondents.

Since the respondents were self-selected, the inference of the results should not be extended to the population. The respondents represent only those who volunteered to complete the survey and did not comprise of a scientifically selected random sample. If the sample had been randomly selected, the margin of error for the findings would be $\pm 2.2\%$.

Demographics

There were 1,214 (65.6%) female respondents with an average age of 53.2 years (sd = 21.2), 613 (33.1%) male respondents with an average age of 48.5 years (sd = 24.8), and 24 (1.3%) unknown respondents with an average age of 54.3 years (sd 25.6) to the ***What Is Your Experience of the Mass Survey***. Age group distribution for the respondents is presented in Table 1). The age group, 46 to 65, had the largest number of respondents (n = 672), while the age group, 18 to 25, had the smallest number of respondents (n = 38).

Table 1
Distribution of Age Groups

	<i>Age Group</i>						
	12-14	15-17	18-25	25-35	36-45	46-65	66+
Number of Respondents	202	122	38	106	163	672	542
Percent	10.95%	6.61%	2.06%	5.75%	8.83%	36.42%	29.38%

The race or ethnic distribution of the respondents was 89.3% (n = 1,652) White, 3.3% (n = 61) Native American, 2.4% (n = 44) Hispanic, 1.84% (n =34) Mixed Race, 1.78% (n = 33) Unknown, 0.81% (n = 15) Black, and 0.65% (n = 12) Asian.

Table 2
Distribution of Race or Ethnicity by Age Groups

<i>Race</i> <i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
White	140	92	35	99	148	633	502	3	1,652	89.25%
Native American	11	6	1	4	4	18	17	0	61	3.30%
Hispanic	16	7	1	1	4	6	9	0	44	2.38%
Black	8	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	0.81%
Asian	7	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	12	0.65%
Mixed	15	4	0	1	3	5	6	0	34	1.84%
Unknown	5	6	0	1	2	9	7	3	33	1.78%
Total	202	122	38	106	163	672	542	6	1,851	100%

Table 3 shows the distribution of marital status by age groups. The majority of the respondents were married at a rate of 60.2%. The average number of years of marriage reported by the female respondents was 30.9 years (sd = 15.7) with a range from 0.5 years to 67.5 years. The average number of years of marriage reported by the male respondents was 33.3 years (sd = 16.0) with a range from 1 year to 69 years.

Table 3
Distribution of Marital Status by Age Groups

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Married			6	74	127	552	351	1	1,111	60.12%
Single	202	122	31	24	24	46	35	1	485	26.24%
Cohabiting			1	5	3	4	2		15	0.81%
Divorced				1	8	46	29		84	4.55%
Widow						16	117		133	7.20%
Unknown						1	1	4	6	0.32%
Clergy/Sisters				2	1	5	6		14	0.76%
Total	202	122	38	106	163	670	541	6	1,848	100%

There were responses from 70 churches or parishes. There were 54 respondents who did not indicate being a member of a parish. Sixteen parishes had only one respondent. Twelve parishes had 30 or more respondents. These included:

- ◆ Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral (Rapid City) = 393 (22.1%)
- ◆ Blessed Sacrament (Rapid City) = 370 (20.8%)
- ◆ St. Joseph (Spearfish) = 120 (6.75%)
- ◆ St. Therese of the Little Flower (Rapid City) = 71 (3.99%)
- ◆ St. Anthony of Padua (Hot Springs) = 62 (3.49%)
- ◆ Our Lady of the Black Hills (Piedmont) = 61 (3.43%)
- ◆ Sacred Heart (Philip) = 60 (3.37%)
- ◆ St. John the Baptist (Custer) = 52 (2.92%)
- ◆ St. Patrick (Wall) = 43 (2.42%)
- ◆ St. Joseph (Gregory) = 36 (2.02%)
- ◆ St. Patrick (Lead) = 30 (1.62%)
- ◆ Holy Cross (Timber Lake) = 30 (1.62%)

Table 4 shows the distribution of gender by age group. Females exceed the number of males who completed the survey in all age groups except the 12-14 year old group. About two-thirds of the respondents were female (65.7%).

Table 4
Distribution of Gender by Age Groups

Gender	Age Group								Total	
	12-14	15-17	18-25	25-35	36-45	46-65	66+	Unk		
Male	102	59	13	31	31	201	175	1	613	33.19%
Female	97	62	25	74	131	466	359	0	1,214	65.73%
Unknown	3	1	0	1	1	1	8	5	20	1.08%
Total	202	122	38	106	163	668	542	6	1,847	100%

Sacraments Received

The respondents were asked which sacraments that they have received. Almost all of the respondents had been baptized (96.2%) and had received First Holy Communion (93.0%). Ninety percent (90.3%) of the responses have received the sacrament of Penance and 88.1% have been confirmed. Two-thirds of the respondents (66.2%) received the sacrament of Matrimony. Table 5 shows the number of respondents who have received the sacraments within a specific age group.

Table 5
Distribution of Sacraments Received by Age Groups

Sacrament	Age Group								Total	
	12-14	15-17	18-25	25-35	36-45	46-65	66+	Unk		
Baptism	179	116	38	103	159	658	524	4	1,781	96.22%
First Holy Communion	160	104	38	102	158	643	512	4	1,721	92.98%
Confirmation	89	97	38	98	153	641	510	4	1,630	88.06%
Penance	132	98	37	99	151	638	513	4	1,672	90.33%
Anointing of the Sick	5	9	5	17	19	189	217	2	463	25.01%
Matrimony	0	0	5	68	127	558	466	2	1,226	66.23%
Holy Orders	0	0	0	2	2	14	15	0	33	1.78%

Mass Attendance

Over half of the respondents (54.1%) reported going Mass every weekend. Over one fourth of the respondents (29.2%) reported going to mass more than once a week. Nine percent of the respondents (9.2%) reported going to mass 2 or 3 times per month, 1.8% of the respondents reported going to Mass one or less times during the month (Table 6).

Table 6
Distribution of Mass Attendance by Age Groups

<i>When</i>	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Every Day	1	0	0	4	2	21	41	0	69	3.77%
More than once a week	84	60	15	18	24	175	157	0	533	29.16%
Every Weekend	74	28	17	62	102	390	316	0	989	54.10%
3 Times a Month	14	15	2	15	22	51	11	0	130	7.11%
2 Times a Month	6	5	0	3	5	15	4	0	38	2.08%
Once a Month	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	12	0.66%
Less than Once a Month	2	4	1	1	4	8	2	0	22	1.20%
Seldom	4	3	2	1	3	5	1	0	19	1.04%
Christmas Easter	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.22%
Never	9	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	0.66%
Total	198	120	38	106	163	668	535	0	1,828	100%

Table 7
Distribution of Reason For Not Attending Mass by Age Groups

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Do not always want to attend	13	22	2	6	8	22	7	0	80	19.95%
Work schedule conflict	17	14	1	9	13	38	4	0	96	23.94%
Pressure from family member	4	4	0	2	8	6	1	0	25	6.23%
Conflict with sports	30	24	2	8	13	19	5	0	101	25.19%
Do not have transportation	17	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	23	5.74%
Homebound	3	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	9	2.24%
Too much work with kids	1	0	0	5	8	1	0	0	15	3.74%
Can't receive communion	1	1	2	1	2	5	1	0	13	3.24%
Only day to sleep	9	9	0	4	2	2	0	0	26	6.48%
Children are a distraction	0	0	0	2	6	4	1	0	13	3.24%
Total	95	78	8	38	60	100	22	0	401	100%

Table 7 lists some of the reasons for not attending Mass. The major reason for not attending Mass was the scheduling and participation in sports or other recreational activities (25.2%) followed by work scheduling conflicts at 23.9%. Being homebound (2.2%), not being able to receive Communion (3.2%), and the distraction of children (3.2%) were some of the smallest percentages for not attending Mass.

The top three major reasons for attending Mass included receiving the Eucharist (84.1%), offering praise and thanksgiving to God (83.5%), and to hear the Word of God (80.6%). The three least reasons for attending Mass included pleasing their love ones (10.2%), fulfilling a ministry obligation (23.9%), and to be with others (35.7%) (Table 8).

Table 8
Distribution of Why It Is Important To Attend Mass by Age Groups

<i>Importance</i> <i>Topic</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Christ calls me	98	46	23	64	94	419	300	3	1,047	56.6%
To encounter Christ	163	78	31	92	123	564	407	4	1,462	79.0%
To receive the Eucharist	128	79	33	93	136	598	485	5	1,557	84.1%
To get to heaven	127	75	27	58	79	312	263	3	944	51.0%
To offer praise and thanks to God	138	80	34	86	138	601	465	4	1,546	83.5%
To fulfill my ministry	36	17	13	31	36	188	120	1	442	23.9%
To be with others	65	30	18	48	64	240	195	1	661	35.7%
To hear the Word of God	139	73	30	90	127	572	456	4	1,491	80.6%
To inspired by preaching	71	41	25	54	97	437	313	4	1,042	56.3%
To please my loved ones	47	36	9	19	16	29	32	0	188	10.2%
It is a commandment	81	57	25	55	77	289	243	1	828	44.7%
To share God's love with others	111	41	20	50	86	337	302	1	948	51.2%
It is an obligation	55	53	19	49	72	261	254	1	764	41.3%

Table 9 shows that the majority of the respondents most often attend the Sunday morning services (55.3%). The least attended time was Sunday afternoon (2.3%) followed by Sunday evening (4.5%). About one tenth of the respondents attended Mass varies days and time (11.3%).

Table 9
Distribution When Mass Is Often Attended by Age Groups

<i>Attendance</i> <i>Day & Time</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Saturday Evening	20	15	6	16	32	138	146	2	375	20.5%
Sunday Morning	87	55	12	70	98	379	308	3	1,012	55.3%
Sunday Afternoon	7	14	2	1	2	11	5	0	42	2.3%
Sunday Evening	13	16	10	1	11	46	16	0	113	6.2%
When it fits my schedule	22	22	3	7	6	15	6	1	82	4.5%
Various Days & Times	43	0	5	11	14	76	57	0	206	11.3%
Total	192	122	38	106	163	665	538	6	1,830	100%

Table 10 shows the number and percentage of respondents involved in one or more liturgical ministries. The highest involvement in any ministry was serving as Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister (21.1%) followed by being a Lector or Reader (16.7%).

Table 10
Distribution Involvement in Liturgical Ministry by Age Groups

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Priest	0	0	0	2	1	7	3	0	13	0.7%
Deacon	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	11	0.6%
Lector/Reader	14	10	7	18	15	135	110	0	309	16.7%
Music Ministry	10	6	5	10	16	80	65	0	192	10.4%
Sacristan	0	1	1	5	7	54	47	0	115	6.2%
Altar Server	74	33	8	3	2	22	28	0	170	9.2%
Hospitality	17	14	2	7	24	115	77	0	256	13.8%
Extraordinary Minister	0	2	8	16	28	193	143	0	390	21.1%

Learning and Preparing For The Mass Liturgy

In this section of the survey respondents were asked about their learning needs and their preparation for Mass approaches. About half of the respondents (48.1%) reported that they needed to read and study about faith and the liturgy on regular basis. There was a willingness by 42.2% of respondents to be engaged in this learning process. One third of the respondents (36.3%) were currently active in some faith formation activities, but it was not clear if the topics included faith and liturgy (Table 11).

Table 11
Distribution of Learning About Faith & Liturgy by Age Groups

<i>Learning</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Read and study about these subjects regularly	82	62	17	44	58	338	286	3	890	48.1%
Attended adult formation classes	5	4	9	44	72	340	196	2	672	36.3%
Have not received formal instruction since Confirmation	14	16	10	22	26	112	83	0	283	15.3%
Do not read about these subjects	27	14	1	5	5	21	16	0	89	4.8%
Willing to learn more about Faith and liturgy	80	42	23	64	82	320	168	3	782	42.2%
Attended RCIA classes	0	0	7	32	57	222	108	2	428	23.1%
Attended Lay Ministry Formation	0	0	2	3	6	89	75	1	176	9.5%
Attended Veritatis Splendor Institute	0	0	1	7	13	55	7	0	83	4.5%

Table 12 shows that two-thirds of the respondents (64.7%) prepare for Mass by quietly praying before the Mass with 47.3% considering the intentions for the prayers. Part of the preparation for Mass involves coming early to Mass in order to pray and prepare for the celebration (42.4%). One-third of the respondents (36.6%) prepared for Mass by reading Scripture. Another one-third of the respondents (33.9%) indicated that greeting people to Mass as part of the preparation process.

Table 12
Distribution of Mass Preparation by Age Groups

<i>Mass Preparation</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Reading the Scriptures	15	11	16	37	34	300	261	4	678	36.6%
Quietly praying	109	55	23	73	89	465	379	4	1,197	64.7%
Coming early	50	32	22	37	53	311	278	2	785	42.4%
Reading the Mass prayers	16	9	8	15	24	143	185	2	402	21.7%
Greeting other members of the congregation	28	14	11	36	46	253	238	2	628	33.9%
Considering who or what is prayed for	82	44	19	55	82	325	264	5	876	47.3%
None of the above	35	34	6	8	18	27	12	0	140	7.6%

Table 13
Distribution of “Jesus Presence At Mass” by Age Groups

<i>Presence of Jesus</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
In the people gathered	83	39	22	54	87	404	308	2	999	54.0%
In the priest	65	39	20	66	100	438	338	2	1,068	57.7%
In Holy Scripture	100	54	23	84	116	551	423	3	1,354	73.2%
In Holy Communion	135	90	32	98	149	628	510	5	1,647	89.0%

Table 13 shows where the respondents saw the presence of Jesus during Mass. The majority of the respondents (89.0%) believed that Jesus was truly present in Holy Communion, the bread and wine (Body and Blood). Respondents also reported seeing Jesus through the music, singing, the people at attendance in Mass with them especially the children, the tabernacle, and during meditative times.

Table 14
Distribution of “Praying At Mass” by Age Groups

<i>Praying at Mass</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
When singing the songs	99	58	27	73	117	533	423	5	1,335	72.1%
When speaking the prayers	115	70	29	85	131	588	458	6	1,482	80.1%
When listening attentively	82	44	20	68	109	479	393	4	1,199	64.8%
During the Eucharistic prayer	98	68	28	88	132	562	453	5	1,434	77.5%
During the moments of silence	145	89	30	94	143	593	436	5	1,535	82.9%

Table 14 asked about how the respondents pray during Mass. The majority of respondents prayed when saying prayers orally (80.1%) and during moments of silence during Mass (82.9%). Different forms of prayer were noted which included signing, listening to the prayers said by the priest, and during the Eucharistic Prayer. Other times of prayer that were noted included: before and after Mass, when walking up to Holy Communion, and consistently throughout the whole Mass.

Table 15
I Experience Community In Praying With Those I Prayed With

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	4	1	1	0	5	1	0	26	1.4%
Seldom	12	15	2	5	8	27	20	1	90	4.9%
Sometimes	62	57	10	41	42	164	94	1	471	25.4%
Frequently	73	29	14	40	69	260	223	0	708	38.3%
Always	34	16	10	19	44	207	192	5	527	28.5%

Tables 15 to 17 show how the respondents experienced prayer through the community, priest, and gestures. Over half of the respondents (56.8%) frequently or always experienced being part of a community in prayer when everyone prayed together. Over eighty percent of the respondents (83.8%) frequently and always joined in prayer with the priest prayed on behalf of the

community. The same percentage (83.8%) found that the various gesture performed during Mass (sign of the cross, standing, kneeling, sitting, bowing, etc.) contributed to prayer.

Table 16
When the Priest Prays on Behalf of the Community, I Join In That Prayer

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	8	5	1	1	1	8	1	0	25	1.4%
Seldom	7	8	2	1	1	10	9	0	38	2.1%
Sometimes	52	29	7	8	18	52	40	0	206	11.1%
Frequently	58	45	15	35	43	173	136	1	506	27.3%
Always	72	35	12	61	99	417	347	3	1,046	56.5%

Table 17
The Gestures in Mass help me to pray

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	12	5	1	0	1	1	6	0	26	1.4%
Seldom	10	12	1	3	2	19	9	0	56	3.0%
Sometimes	37	21	4	13	14	57	49	3	198	10.7%
Frequently	46	38	12	35	47	169	127	0	474	25.6%
Always	95	45	19	54	99	420	340	5	1,077	58.2%

Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites of the Mass includes the entrance song, sign of the cross, the greeting by the priest, penitential act, the Kyrie, the Gloria, and the Collect. Tables 18-21 show how the respondents acted or reacted to the various components of the Introductory Rites. Over eighty percent (81.5%) frequently or always found that the Introductory Rites helped them prepare for the Liturgy of the Word.

Table 18
The Introductory Rites help me to prepare to experience the Word of God.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	11	9	2	0	0	0	2	0	24	1.3%
Seldom	9	8	0	2	2	11	6	0	38	2.1%
Sometimes	65	34	3	15	22	67	42	1	249	13.5%
Frequently	69	40	16	37	60	215	169	1	607	32.8%
Always	43	29	16	51	79	370	311	2	901	48.7%

Table 19
Making the Sign of the Cross reminds me that I am a baptized son or daughter of God.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	26	11	1	2	2	7	9	0	58	3.1%
Seldom	15	12	3	7	7	13	10	0	67	3.6%
Sometimes	57	31	9	14	13	73	40	0	237	12.8%
Frequently	31	28	13	34	37	141	97	1	382	20.6%
Always	67	38	11	48	104	432	377	2	1,079	58.3%

Making the Sign of the Cross in the beginning of Mass reminded 79.1% of the respondents frequently or always that they were baptized as a son or a daughter of God. While 79.3% agreed that the greeting by the celebrant reminded them that the Lord is present with them for the Mass. Over 81.0% of the respondents indicated that they open themselves to receive God's mercy during the Penitential Act frequently and always. Almost the same percentage of respondents (79.7%)

frequently or always indicated that when they sing the Gloria that they join the angels and saints in praising God the Father and the Son.

Table 20
The Greeting reminds me that the Lord is present within us as we begin the Mass.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	17	11	1	1	1	11	7	0	49	2.6%
Seldom	16	14	2	6	3	9	13	0	63	3.4%
Sometimes	34	38	6	23	26	74	36	0	237	12.8%
Frequently	60	28	18	31	47	203	134	2	523	28.3%
Always	67	29	10	44	85	367	341	1	944	51.0%

Table 21
I open myself to receive God's mercy during the Penitential Act.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	9	8	1	0	1	0	1	0	20	1.1%
Seldom	16	11	0	3	3	12	4	0	49	2.6%
Sometimes	57	33	8	18	21	61	48	1	247	13.3%
Frequently	64	41	12	40	60	226	161	1	605	32.7%
Always	46	28	16	44	78	366	313	3	894	48.3%

Table 23
When I sing the Gloria I join the saints and angels in praising God the Father and the Son.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	13	8	1	0	3	8	11	0	44	2.4%
Seldom	19	16	0	3	2	18	13	0	71	3.8%
Sometimes	46	35	7	17	22	51	43	0	221	11.9%
Frequently	49	28	13	34	49	196	114	2	485	26.2%
Always	67	34	16	51	87	391	341	3	990	53.5%

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word includes the reading of a passage from the Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm, a reading of a passage from one of the Letters of an apostle, a reading of a passage from one of the four Gospels, the homily, the Nicene or Apostle's Creed, and the prayer of the faithful (Universal Prayer). Tables 24 to 29 show how the respondents participated in the Liturgy of the Word.

Table 24
There is sufficient time after each reading to reflect on what I have heard.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	7	7	1	0	0	3	1	0	19	1.0%
Seldom	19	15	0	10	3	28	25	0	100	5.4%
Sometimes	70	41	5	20	40	113	101	0	390	21.1%
Frequently	61	41	18	39	44	261	203	1	668	36.1%
Always	40	18	13	36	74	261	201	3	646	34.9%

Table 25
During the proclamation of the scriptures I believe I am hearing the Word of God.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	7	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	14	0.8%
Seldom	8	13	2	0	1	2	1	0	27	1.5%
Sometimes	33	25	3	6	9	25	18	1	120	6.5%
Frequently	66	39	7	27	39	113	124	1	416	22.5%
Always	83	42	24	72	112	525	388	3	1,249	67.5%

Seventy-one percentage (71.0%) of the respondents frequently or always stated that there is sufficient time after each reading to reflect upon what has been read. During the proclamation of the scriptures, 90.0% of the respondents always or frequently believe that they are hearing the Word of God. The Responsorial Psalm helps 55.7% of the respondents meditate on Old Testament reading and other readings frequently or always.

Table 26
The Responsorial Psalm helps me meditate on the other scripture readings.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	10	1	2	2	21	7	0	57	3.1%
Seldom	27	28	2	14	12	62	23	0	168	9.1%
Sometimes	57	48	14	40	53	198	137	2	549	29.7%
Frequently	61	21	9	23	47	220	205	0	586	31.7%
Always	38	15	11	26	48	162	144	1	445	24.0%

Table 27
The homily helps me connect the scriptures to my life.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	10	3	1	0	1	1	3	1	20	1.1%
Seldom	18	9	4	2	3	21	15	0	72	3.9%
Sometimes	39	26	7	28	33	125	88	0	346	18.7%
Frequently	67	49	15	52	79	322	232	2	818	44.2%
Always	60	34	11	23	45	197	186	1	557	30.1%

Table 28
I believe what I am professing in the Creed.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	10	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	19	1.0%
Seldom	16	5	0	0	2	0	1	0	24	1.3%
Sometimes	37	19	3	4	3	13	12	0	91	4.9%
Frequently	61	32	6	21	22	78	67	1	288	15.6%
Always	72	62	27	79	133	574	448	4	1,399	75.6%

Three-fourths of the respondents (74.3%) stated the homily helps them connect their life to the scripture readings. Over 91.2% of the respondents believe what they profess during the recitation of the Creed. While 75.5% stated that the Prayer of the Faithful expressed what they want to pray for, which included their own personal intentions.

Table 29
The Prayer of the Faithful expresses what I want to pray for.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	11	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	20	1.1%
Seldom	6	10	1	2	1	16	5	1	42	2.3%
Sometimes	44	31	9	25	38	104	86	0	337	18.2%
Frequently	82	49	15	52	79	318	224	2	821	44.4%
Always	49	27	10	25	42	217	205	1	576	31.1%

The Preparations of The Gifts

In the Preparation of the Gifts, the altar is prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. As part of the preparation, offerings (collection) are made; there is a procession of the offerings, wine, and bread to the altar; blessing prayers, and prayer over the offerings with an accompanying offertory song. Table 30 shows that 77.7% of the respondents frequently or always pay attention to the activity taking place at the altar. Table 31 shows that 75.4% of the respondents frequently or always have an understanding that giving money through the collection or e-tithing expresses their willingness to sacrifice for God and for the Church.

Table 30
During the Preparation of the Gifts, I am paying attention to the activity taking place at the altar.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	10	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	17	0.9%
Seldom	6	12	3	4	5	18	11	0	59	3.2%
Sometimes	42	36	8	32	39	91	52	1	301	16.3%
Frequently	70	42	15	38	70	323	194	0	752	40.6%
Always	63	27	10	31	49	232	270	4	686	37.1%

Table 31
Giving money in the collection or through e-tithing expresses my willingness to sacrifice for God and his Church.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	20	11	1	1	2	12	9	0	56	3.0%
Seldom	19	17	1	15	9	14	6	0	81	4.4%
Sometimes	39	41	16	23	27	67	45	1	259	14.0%
Frequently	52	29	9	31	62	239	135	0	557	30.1%
Always	58	19	10	35	63	325	325	3	838	45.3%

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer includes the introductory dialogue, preface, the Sanctus, the concentration of the bread and wine, the memorial acclamation (*anamnesis*), oblation, the intercessions, and concluding doxology. Over eighty percent of the respondents (82.1%) found the Eucharistic Prayer to be a prayerful experience for themselves frequently or always (Table 32).

Table 32
The Eucharistic Prayer is a prayerful experience for me.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	24	1.3%
Seldom	5	7	0	1	1	14	6	0	34	1.8%
Sometimes	49	41	8	19	28	58	44	0	247	13.3%
Frequently	72	35	15	44	66	261	168	1	662	35.8%
Always	55	29	14	41	67	331	317	3	857	46.3%

Tables 33-36 show how the respondents related to the different parts of the Eucharistic Prayer. During the Eucharistic Prayer 78.2% of the respondents frequently or always reflected on Jesus' great sacrifice for us. Therefore, 69.4% of the respondents frequently or always offered themselves to God in conjunction with Jesus. Two-thirds of the respondents (61.2%) experienced the Eucharistic Prayer as a dialogue between the community and the priest. There were 16.7% of the respondents who found it difficult to focus on the Eucharistic Prayer.

Table 33
During the Eucharistic Prayer I reflect on Jesus' great sacrifice for all of us.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	15	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	25	1.4%
Seldom	13	15	2	3	4	12	12	0	61	3.3%
Sometimes	43	32	8	18	27	96	67	0	291	15.7%
Frequently	62	39	15	49	67	262	192	2	688	37.2%
Always	61	28	12	34	63	296	262	2	758	41.0%

Table 34
During the Eucharistic Prayer I offer myself to God with Jesus.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	15	7	0	4	3	8	8	0	45	2.4%
Seldom	7	24	4	5	4	41	17	1	103	5.6%
Sometimes	49	27	14	29	42	139	79	1	380	20.5%
Frequently	69	36	9	32	62	246	186	0	640	34.6%
Always	54	28	10	34	51	226	239	2	644	34.8%

Table 35
**I experience the Eucharistic Prayer as a dialogue
between the community and the priest.**

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	20	12	3	5	3	37	16	0	96	5.2%
Seldom	18	16	3	10	9	61	28	1	146	7.9%
Sometimes	65	40	9	25	47	146	74	1	407	22.0%
Frequently	53	40	11	34	57	229	202	0	626	33.8%
Always	37	14	8	30	43	177	197	1	507	27.4%

Table 36
It is difficult for me to focus on the Eucharistic Prayer.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	21	10	1	3	20	93	96	0	244	13.2%
Seldom	41	21	9	35	53	265	167	2	593	32.0%
Sometimes	66	52	17	57	69	217	177	1	656	35.4%
Frequently	40	26	7	5	14	60	63	0	215	11.6%
Always	26	12	3	5	5	25	18	1	95	5.1%

The Communion Rite

The Communion Rite includes the Our Father, the Sign of Peace, the Lamb of God, invitation and receiving of Holy Communion, Communion song, and the prayers after Communion. Table 37 shows that during the Sign of Peace, 84.4% of the respondents were always or frequently conscious of offering God’s peace to those around themselves. Two-thirds of the respondents (65.3%) always or frequently reported that singing the Communion Song during the procession to the altar to receive Holy Communion was an experience of unity with the whole community (Table 38). Almost the same percentage of respondents (67.7%) frequently or always stated that the singing of the Communion Song helped express their personal joy in their heart (Table 39).

Table 37
During the Sign of Peace, I am conscious of offering God’s peace to those around me.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	5	0	2	1	9	2	0	33	1.8%
Seldom	10	9	3	2	2	11	7	0	44	2.4%
Sometimes	32	26	4	13	21	40	31	1	168	9.1%
Frequently	71	47	16	49	61	209	124	1	578	31.2%
Always	68	35	13	38	76	394	359	1	984	53.2%

Table 38
Singing the Communion song during the procession helps me experience unity with everyone.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	13	2	0	4	4	30	17	0	70	3.8%
Seldom	16	19	2	14	11	42	43	1	148	8.0%
Sometimes	46	33	7	21	36	128	102	0	373	20.2%
Frequently	66	37	15	36	57	239	169	1	620	33.5%
Always	53	31	13	29	52	222	187	1	588	31.8%

Table 39
Singing the Communion song helps me express the joy in my heart.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	15	8	0	1	2	25	13	0	64	3.5%
Seldom	15	17	3	10	7	40	34	0	126	6.8%
Sometimes	40	29	9	31	28	127	92	0	356	19.2%
Frequently	64	37	12	30	60	221	175	3	602	32.5%
Always	60	29	12	32	62	250	205	1	651	35.2%

Table 40
I believe I receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	6	0	1	0	3	2	0	26	1.4%
Seldom	4	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	13	0.7%
Sometimes	26	21	2	2	3	6	5	0	65	3.5%
Frequently	35	21	4	10	13	39	23	0	145	7.8%
Always	115	71	29	90	145	607	501	5	1,563	84.4%

There were 92.2% of the respondents who believed that they had received the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion (Table 40). Eighty-three percent of the respondents (83.2%) reported having sufficient time after communion to personally thank the Lord for His presence in them.

Table 41
I have sufficient time after Communion to personally thank the Lord for his presence in me.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	10	4	0	0	1	7	5	0	27	1.5%
Seldom	15	10	2	3	2	14	15	0	61	3.3%
Sometimes	43	26	5	10	16	57	38	0	195	10.5%
Frequently	56	34	11	38	46	180	151	0	516	27.9%
Always	70	48	18	55	97	408	323	5	1,024	55.3%

Concluding Rite

The Concluding Rite includes the announcements, the final blessing, a dismissal, and a final song. Over two-thirds of the respondents (68.1%) reported motivated by the dismissal to go into the world and be a disciple of Jesus to all they meet.

Table 42
The words of dismissal motivate me to go into the world and be a disciple of Jesus to all I meet.

<i>Oftenness</i>	<i>Age Group</i>								<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12-14</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>18-25</i>	<i>25-35</i>	<i>36-45</i>	<i>46-65</i>	<i>66+</i>	<i>Unk</i>		
Never	14	8	0	1	0	4	6	0	33	1.8%
Seldom	13	15	4	6	2	23	14	1	78	4.2%
Sometimes	43	38	10	27	39	151	141	0	449	24.3%
Frequently	69	37	12	43	78	314	221	1	775	41.9%
Always	53	24	11	28	43	176	148	2	485	26.2%

Table 43 shows how and what the respondents experience about Mass. About one-third of the respondents (36.2%) want to know how to encounter Christ more fully at Mass and the same percentage (36.0%) wanted to know how to deal with distractions during Mass. About one-fourth of the respondents (24.2%) wanted to know how to prepare better for Mass.

Additional Feedback

Table 43
In your experience of Mass, is there anything that you find confusing?
What would you like to know more about?

<i>Learn More About</i>	<i>Age Group</i>														<i>Total</i>	
	<i>12 - 14</i>	<i>15 - 17</i>	<i>18 - 25</i>	<i>25 - 35</i>	<i>36 - 45</i>	<i>46 - 65</i>	<i>66+</i>									
Understanding the readings	62	31%	31	25%	8	21%	18	17%	24	15%	85	13%	96	18%	324	17.5%
My role in the Mass	54	27%	27	22%	6	16%	13	12%	18	11%	50	7%	35	6%	203	11.0%
Gestures and movements during the Mass	28	14%	10	8%	11	29%	14	13%	21	13%	76	11%	59	11%	219	11.8%
The importance of music at Mass	44	22%	17	14%	9	24%	9	8%	7	4%	38	6%	44	8%	168	9.1%
How to better prepare myself	63	31%	38	31%	16	42%	30	28%	43	26%	156	23%	121	22%	467	25.2%
How to encounter Christ more fully at Mass	92	46%	55	45%	17	45%	44	42%	62	38%	228	34%	172	32%	670	36.2%
The Eucharistic Prayer	39	19%	22	18%	10	26%	15	14%	12	7%	51	8%	36	7%	185	10.0%
What the Church teaches about receiving Communion	22	11%	10	8%	10	26%	15	14%	14	9%	59	9%	58	11%	188	10.2%
How to deal with distractions during Mass	87	43%	59	48%	19	50%	39	37%	56	34%	228	34%	179	33%	667	36.0%
Liturgical seasons	32	16%	14	11%	7	18%	17	16%	25	15%	65	10%	55	10%	215	11.6%