

Harris 1967 Survey on Catholics' View of their Church

Q10A) There have been a number of changes to simplify or modernize Church services over the past few years, such as conducting the services in English, dropping rosary devotions, and other changes. All in all, as far as you are personally concerned, do you think these changes have been for the better, for the worse, or don't make much difference one way of the other?

1) For the better	655	66.7
2) For the worse	133	13.5
3) Not much difference	132	13.4
4) Not sure	62	6.3

Q10B) Why do you feel this way? Any other reason? (OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE)

Mass in English is easier to understand/makes it clearer/easier to follow the Mass now/simplifies the service	48.8%
People can participate more now/more meaningful/you are more a part of it	23.6%
It is better for the children/most interesting for children/more meaningful for kids/young people	8.4%
Brought people closer to God	0.9%
More unity of congregation/we use to pray by ourselves now we pray together/brings us closer together	2.5%
English has improved attendance/brings back lax Catholics	3.5%
Singing in English by the people is better/more activity by singing now	2.6%
Easier and better for converts and non-Catholics	4.3%
Better feeling between denominations/promotes understanding by other churchmen/better relations with other religions	4.5%
Brings the church closer to the people/to the people's level	2.8%
Service more interesting/keeps the mind from wandering/keeps you awake	3.3%
Everything else is changing/a change is good in everything/trying to keep up with the needs of the modern world	8.0%
More is up to the individual/must do the rosary on one's own	4.5%
Like the fasting rules relaxed	2.8%
We should have rosary devotions/rosary is a large part of the service	9.0%
The Latin mass meant more to me/Latin was more peaceful and tranquil	5.7%
Should have devotions to the Saints and Mary	1.4%
Uniqueness and tradition are gone/lost its originality/now it is ordinary like Protestants	2.3%
Confuses everybody, you learned one thing now it's all different/don't know what to believe anymore/hard to change	4.2%
Much of the worship has been taken out/you can't pray alone anymore/there is no time for meditation	2.0%
People don't follow relaxed rules/rules should be stiffer	1.6%
I don't like the changes	4.2%
I'll do as I was taught before/I still follow my early religious training	0.6%
Services should be the same everywhere	0.4%
They have done too much too fast	1.0%
No difference	5.5%
Just so the teaching stays the same	0.2%

Q11A) About how often do you go to church?

1) Occasionally on Sundays and/or holidays	210	21.6%
2) Regularly on Sundays and holidays	538	55.3%
3) Besides Sundays and holidays, 1 to 3 times a month when not obliged to	124	12.7%
4) Besides Sundays and holidays, 2 to 3 times a week when not obliged to	42	4.3%
5) Besides Sundays and holidays, 4 or more times a week when not obliged	33	3.4%
6) Not sure	26	2.7%

Q11B) What does going to Mass do for you? How does it make you feel? (OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE)

I feel closer to God/restores my faith in him/feeling of confidence in God	26.7%
Uplifted/renewed/it lifts my spirits/inspired/recharged/picks me up/fulfilled/cleansed	18.2%
It makes me feel good/I feel great/wonderful	26.8%
I feel better/spiritually better/a lot better/it gives me a certain satisfaction	14.6%
Gives me peace of mind/relaxed/at peace/calm	12.1%
Have done my duty/fulfilled an obligation	13.9%
Thankful to God/I thank him for my life/count my blessings/a chance to pray	4.7%
Like I started the day off right/gives me a start/helps me through the day/the week	7.9%
It makes life worth living/gives it meaning/I'm better able to cope with life	3.7%
Relieves my worries/eases my troubles/my tensions	5.5%
Feel stronger as a person/feel an inner strength	3.1%
Don't feel so alone/I feel empty without it	1.0%
Feel I offered a little of myself/giving an hour to God is the least I can do	2.6%
Doesn't feel like Sunday without it/something missing	5.5%
Feel as if I belong to something/togetherness	2.3%
Keeps you from going wrong/keeps you safe/helps a lot	1.3%
Feel I have accomplished something worthwhile	2.2%
Nothing	3.9%
With all the changes I just don't know	0.6%

Q16A) All in all, with the changes taking place in the Catholic Church today, do you find yourself feeling good and comfortable about them or do you find they are watering down the distinctiveness of the Catholic Church, that always set it apart from other religions?

1) Good about them	545	55.0%
2) Watering down the distinctiveness	307	31.0%
3) Not going far enough	17	1.7%
4) Not sure	122	12.3%

Q16B) Why do you feel that way? Any other reason? (OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE) – selected items

Easier to understand	2.7%
Like changes/not hurting church any/best thing for church/bringing church up to modern times	13.1%
Like mass in English/can participate/know what we are saying/makes you feel you belong	15.6%
Mass was the same all over the world/now it isn't/English instead of Latin	0.9%

Q20A) As you understand it, what are the most important things to come out of the Ecumenical Council (Vatican Council II)?

(OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE) – top seven responses plus top two negative items

Better understanding with other religions	24.9%
Don't know	23.2%
Masses and the singing are in English	19.9%
Catholics are allowed to eat meat on Fridays	9.7%
Trying to unite all churches	8.0%
Changes in the Mass	7.1%
Participation of the congregation	7.0%
Nothing/just a big meeting/nothing come out of it yet	1.8%
Destroying Church with changes/nothing good came out of it	0.7%