

Association of Catholics in Ireland_Church Teachings Survey

Introduction

This questionnaire was developed in order to allow Catholics in Ireland to participate actively in the preparation of the Extraordinary Synod on the Family to be held in October 2014. The purpose of the Synod is to proclaim the Gospel in the context of the pastoral challenges facing the family today.

This particular questionnaire is a combination of the original document released by the Vatican with some additional questions from the Church Reform movement in the United States of America. (The ACI would like to acknowledge the work done by the Church Reform Movement in generating the questionnaire on which this survey is based.) This approach was to enable ease of completion for those taking the survey, however, all original themes and questions from the Vatican's document are included.

By taking the time to complete the survey, you are getting an opportunity to have a voice in Church governance and policy. All individual responses will be kept confidential and results will be compiled in a report and sent to the Vatican. This report will also be available on our website.

The survey has several sections and could take up to 30 minutes to complete in full. You do not need to respond to each and every question, only those which you feel are pertinent to you. You can click forward and back through the pages, by using the buttons at the bottom, but once you submit your responses on the final page, you cannot re-open your questionnaire.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Demographic Information

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1. Please indicate the county in which you reside.

- Antrim
- Armagh
- Carlow
- Cavan
- Clare
- Cork
- Derry
- Donegal
- Down
- Dublin
- Fermanagh
- Galway
- Kerry
- Kildare
- Kilkenny
- Laois
- Leitrim
- Limerick
- Longford
- Louth
- Mayo
- Meath
- Monaghan
- Offaly
- Roscommon
- Sligo
- Tipperary
- Tyrone
- Waterford
- Westmeath
- Wexford
- Wicklow

Other (please specify)

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2. Please indicate which of the following best describes you.

- Lay Person
- Religious

Other (please specify)

3. Are you a member of the Association of Catholics in Ireland?

- Yes
- No

4. In what capacity are you answering this questionnaire? (Tick ALL that apply)

- Lay person
- Priest
- Parent
- Deacon
- Professed Religious
- Teacher in a Catholic school (primary, secondary, college or university)
- Lay Ecclesial Minister/Parish Director of Religious Education
- Seminarian
- Chaplain
- Member of a church reform organization
- Catechist
- Weekly Mass-goer

Other (please specify)

5. What is your relationship status?

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widow
- Engaged
- Civil Union
- Domestic Partnership
- Separated

Other (please specify)

6. Age Category:

The diffusion of the Teachings on the Family in Sacred Scripture and the Ch...

7. Please describe how well you think the Catholic Church's teachings on the value of the family is understood by Catholics today? (As contained in the BIBLE, GAUDIUM ET SPES (the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO (On the role of the Christian Family in the Modern World) and other post-Vatican II documents)

- Not understood
- Poorly understood
- Mostly understood
- Completely understood

Comments

8. What education do you think is given to Catholics on the Church's teaching on family life?

9. In cases where the Church's teaching on family life, is known, do you think it is accepted fully? Please tick the appropriate box.

- Church teaching not accepted
- Church teaching poorly accepted
- Church teaching mostly accepted
- Church teaching completely accepted

10. What difficulties, if any, do you think exist in putting this teaching into practice?

11. How widespread do you think the Church's teaching on the family is in pastoral programs at the national, diocesan and parish levels?

	Not widespread	Moderately widespread	Very widespread	Don't Know
National Level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diocesan Level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parish Level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

Marriage according to the Natural Law

12. What influence do you think "natural law," as defined by the Magisterium, has in the following areas of society?

	No Influence	Some Influence	Widespread Influence	Don't Know
In your parish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Among society at large	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In politics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

13. Do you think that the the idea of the union between a man and a woman, as contained in "natural law," is commonly accepted by Catholics?

- Not accepted
- Accepted sometimes
- Accepted completely

Comments

14. How is the theory and practice of "natural law" in the union between man and woman challenged in light of the formation of a family?

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15. How do you think priests and clergy deal with the request for the celebration of marriage from non-practicing Catholics?

- Refuse Request
- Grant Request
- Grant Request with Conditions

In cases where non-practicing Catholics or declared non-believers request the celebration of marriage, how is the challenge dealt with?

16. What experiences have emerged in recent decades regarding marriage preparation?

The Pastoral Care of the Family in Evangelization

17. What efforts are there to stimulate the task of evangelization (draw deeper into a life of faith) of the couple and of the family?

18. How do you think an awareness of the family as the "domestic Church" can be promoted?

19. How successful do you think the Church has been in proposing a manner of praying within the family which can withstand life's complexities and today's culture?

- Unsuccessful
- Partially successful
- Successful

Comments

20. How do you think Christian families have been able to fulfill their vocation of handing on the faith, in the current generational crisis?

- Unable to fulfill
- Partially able to fulfill
- Completely able to fulfill

Comments

21. In what way have the local Churches and movements on family spirituality been able to create ways of acting which are exemplary?

22. What specific contribution do you think couples and families can make to spreading a credible and holistic idea of the couple and the Christian family today?

23. What pastoral care do you think the Church has provided in supporting couples in formation?

24. What pastoral care do you think the Church has provided in supporting couples in crisis situations?

Pastoral Care in Certain Difficult Marital Situations

25. Do you think cohabitation ad experimentum (a way of trying out marriage before making the committment) is a pastoral reality in your particular Parish?

- Cohabitation is NOT a reality
- Cohabitation IS a reality

Comments

26. Could you estimate the percentage of people in cohabitation in your particular parish?

	Under 10%	10-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%	Don't Know
I estimate the percentage of cohabitation is...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

27. Are separated couples and those divorced and remarried a pastoral reality in your particular Parish?

- NO, this is not a pastoral reality
- YES, this is a pastoral reality

Comments

28. Could you estimate the percentage of separated people and those divorced and remarried in your particular Parish?

	Under 10%	10-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%	Don't Know
I estimate the percentage to be...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

29. How do Catholics in relationships not recognized by the Catholic Church feel in regards to the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation? Check ALL that apply.

- Catholics in same-sex unions do not believe their situation warrants denial of sacraments and still approach the Church for them.
- Catholics suffer from lack of sacraments
- Catholics feel marginalized
- Catholics believe they are worthy of the sacraments regardless of whether their relationship is recognized by the Catholic Church.
- Catholics are indifferent to views of others about their relationship
- Catholics are aware their relationship is not recognized by the Roman Catholic hierarchy

Comments

30. What questions do divorced and remarried people pose for the Church? Are sacraments available to them?

31. Could a simplification of the rules regulating the nullity of the marriage bond provide a positive contribution to solving the problem for those involved? If yes, what form would it take?

- Would NOT be a positive contribution
- Would be a positive contribution

If YES, what form would this take?

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32. Is there a ministry to the separated, divorced and remarried in your parish, diocese and national church?

	YES	NO	Don't Know
Parish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diocese	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

33. How do you think God's mercy is proclaimed to separated couples and those divorced and remarried?

On Unions of Persons of the Same Sex

34. Is there a law in your state recognizing marriage equality for same-sex couples?

- YES
- NO
- Don't Know

Comments

35. Please indicate what you think the attitude of the following are towards marriage equality?

	Hostile and condemning	Negative	Neutral	Somewhat supportive	Highly supportive	Don't Know
Attitude of my diocese toward marriage equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attitude of my parish toward marriage equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attitude of my local faith community toward marriage equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attitude of my diocese toward same-sex couples in a committed partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attitude of my parish toward same-sex couples in a committed partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attitude of my local faith community toward same-sex couples in a committed partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

36. What pastoral attention do you think can be given to people in same-sex relationships?

37. In the case of same-sex couples who have children, what can be done pastorally to aid handing on the faith?

38. How important is marriage equality to you?

- Extremely Important
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not at all Important
- I don't know / Prefer not to answer

Comments

39. Could you estimate the proportion of children and adolescents who are born and raised with parents in a same-sex partnership in Parish?

Under 10% 10-20% 21-30% 31-40% 41-50% 51-60% 61-70% 71-80% 81-90% 91-100% Don't Know

I estimate the percentage to be...

Comments

40. Do you think parents in marriages not recognized by the official Catholic Church (i.e. same-sex couples, divorced and remarried, etc.) approach the Church for: sacraments, catechesis, and/or general teaching of the church? Check ALL that apply.

- Yes, they approach the Church for sacraments
- Yes, they approach the Church for catechesis
- Yes, they approach the Church for general teaching of Church

Comments

41. How can the Church meet the needs of parents in marriages not recognized by the official Catholic Church?

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42. How can the Church help meet the needs of the children of those parents of marriages not recognized by the Catholic Church?

The Openness of the Married Couple to Life

43. Please indicate the level of knowledge and awareness of Catholics on the following: (Note: The Humanae Vitae re-affirms the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church regarding married love, responsible parenthood, and birth control.)

	No Knowledge/Awareness	Some Knowledge/Awareness	Very Knowledgeable/Aware
How knowledgeable are Catholics today of the teachings of Humanae Vitae on responsible parenthood?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How aware are Catholics of how morally to evaluate different methods of family planning?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>


44. What insights, if any, could be suggested in this regard pastorally?

45. Do you think that the moral teaching of Humanae Vitae is accepted?

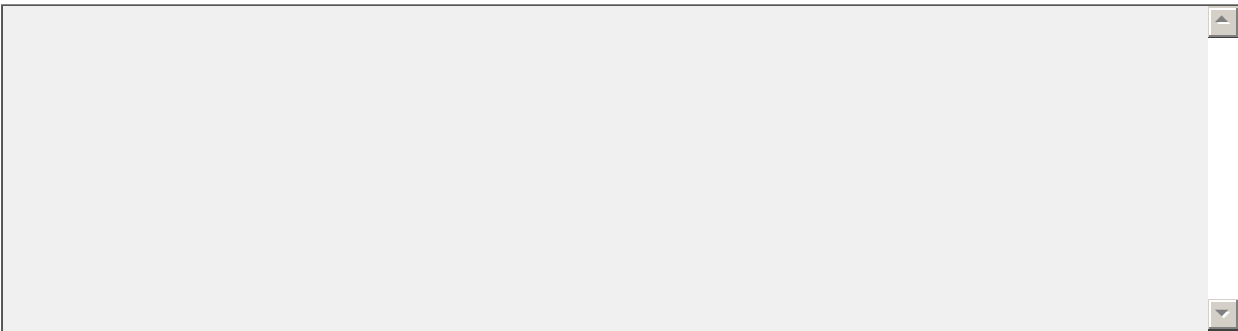
- Not at all accepted
- Accepted in part
- Completely accepted

Comments

46. Many couples do accept the moral teaching of Humanae Vitae, what aspects do you think pose the most difficulties for these couples?

A large, empty text input field with a vertical scrollbar on the right side, intended for the respondent to provide their answer to question 46.

47. What natural methods are promoted by the particular Churches to help spouses put into practice the teachings of Humanae Vitae?

A large, empty text input field with a vertical scrollbar on the right side, intended for the respondent to provide their answer to question 47.

48. How important is the availability of contraception to you and your community?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- I don't know / prefer not to answer

Comments

A text input field with a vertical scrollbar on the right side, intended for the respondent to provide additional comments.

49. What is your experience on this subject in the practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participation at the Eucharist? (Check ALL that apply)

- I participate fully in the Eucharist.
- My loved ones follow their consciences about family planning. They do not believe it to be morally wrong, requiring the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They participate fully in the Eucharist.
- I fully support the Church's teaching on family planning and use only methods approved by the Church.
- My loved ones fully support the Church's teaching on family planning and use only methods approved by the Church.

Comments

50. What differences are seen in this regard between the Church's teaching and individual practice? (Check ALL that apply)

- I fully accept the church's teaching in Humane Vitae.
- I do not accept the church's teaching in Humane Vitae.
- I support education about human sexuality and family planning in civic education
- I do not support education about human sexuality and family planning in civic education
- I support alternatives to Humane Vitae, including contraception.

Comments

51. How do you think that a more open attitude toward reproduction can be fostered in the Catholic Church?

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52. How do you think Catholic families in your community discuss birth, family planning, and reproductive health with their children?

53. What critical situations in the family today are neglected in Catholic pastoral care?

Other Challenges and Proposals

54. What other challenges or proposals related to the topics in the above questions do you consider urgent?

55. If you have any further comments to make about this questionnaire and this consultation please use the box below.

56. Name: (Optional)