Archdiocesan Leadership Institute 2020

Going, Going,
Gone …
Now What!

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Objectives:

Assess the current ministry territory

Identify engagement as a ministerial lens

Consider implications for pastoral leadership

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Going, Going, Gone
The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics

Principal Researchers

Dr. Richard Morehouse, Ph.d.   Bob McCarty, D.Min.
Qualitative Research Analysis Designer   Project Coordinator

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University
Principal Quantitative Researchers and Interviewers

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Religiosity and Practice

High   Low

Abiders   Adapters   Assenters   Avoiders   Atheists
(20%)   (20%)   (31%)   (24%)   (5%)

A Faith of their Own, Pearce and Lundquist Denton

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Saint Mary's Press Research

Quantitative (Surveyed Data 2015)

Followed by

Qualitative (Storied Data 2017)

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Disaffiliation is a **PROCESS**

that **BEGINS AT A YOUNG AGE**

and happens **OVER TIME**

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Beatriz' Story

**When you listen to understand,
what do you hear?**

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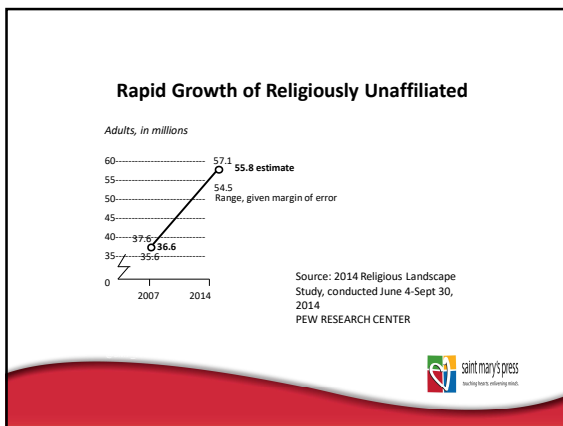
Office2

Existing Research
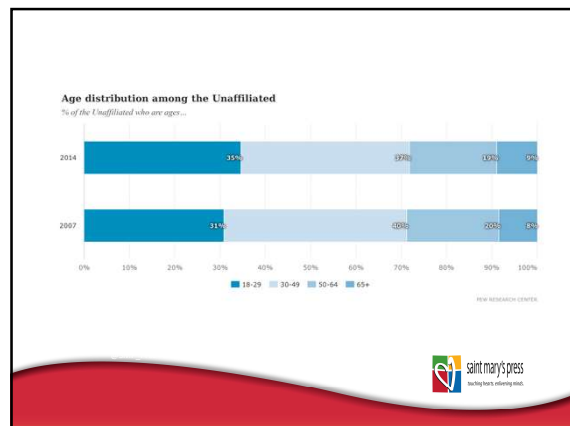
- A majority leave *before* age 21. About ½ become unaffiliated "Nones" and the other ½ begin to identify with another denomination.

- 35% of millennials (18-33) are religiously unaffiliated. 22.8% of the general population is unaffiliated – about 56 million people (Pew Study).

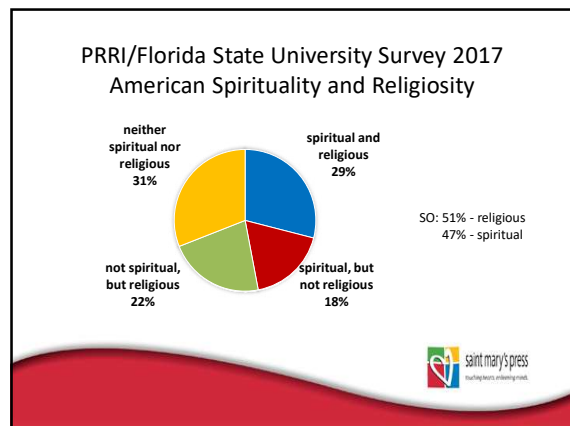- There are an estimated 20 million former Catholics, 5.4 million between 15-25 years old. (CARA)

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Rapid Growth of Religiously Unaffiliated

Adults, in millions

60 — 57.1 **55.8 estimate**
55 — 54.5
       Range, given margin of error
50 —
45 —
40 — 37.6
35 — **36.6**
       35.6
0 —
   2007   2014

Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept 30, 2014
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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Age distribution among the Unaffiliated
% of the Unaffiliated who are ages...

2014   35%   37%   19%   9%
2007   31%   40%   20%   8%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

18-29   30-49   50-64   65+

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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They are leaving....

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PRRI/Florida State University Survey 2017
American Spirituality and Religiosity

neither spiritual nor religious
31%

spiritual and religious
29%

SO: 51% - religious
47% - spiritual

not spiritual, but religious
22%

spiritual, but not religious
18%

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Office2	Bob, I think you could drop this. It doesn't seem necessary or add value.
	Microsoft Office User, 12/4/2018

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Catholic Youth Disaffiliation

Between the age of 15 – 25 … once self-identified as being Catholic and now no longer self-identifies as being Catholic.
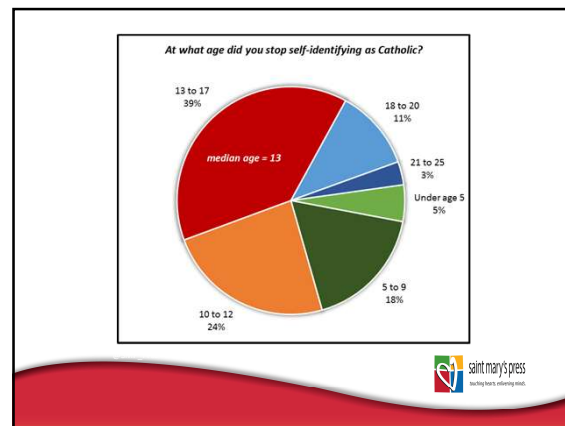
Slide 14

Slide 15
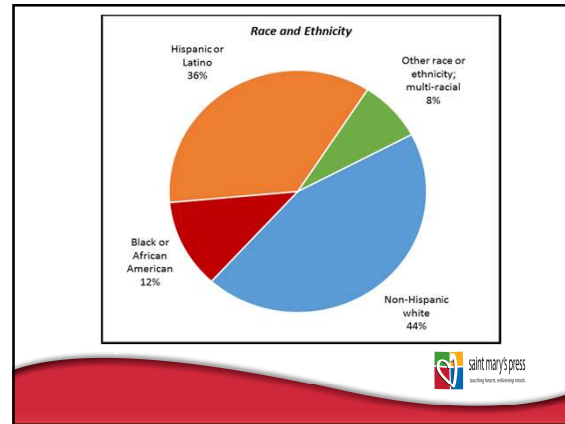
At what age did disaffiliated youth report that they stopped identifying as Catholic?
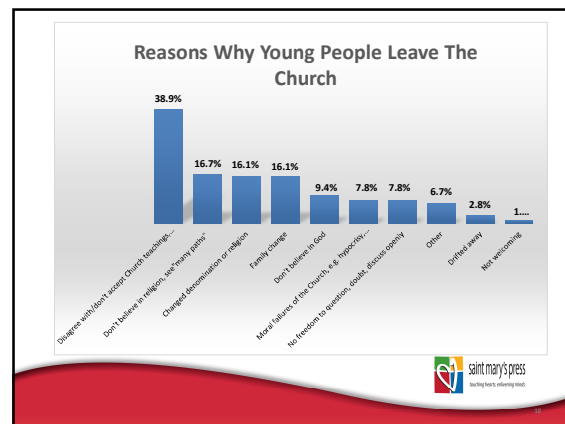
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Slide 17

Reasons Why They Left the Church
(Responses to open-ended question)

- Disagree with/don't believe in Church's teachings, nonsensical
- Don't believe in religion altogether, see "many paths"
- Changed denomination or religion
- Family change in affiliation or practice
- Don't believe in God
- Moral failures of Church or leadership, e.g., hypocrisy, misconduct, etc.
- No freedom to question, doubt, discuss openly
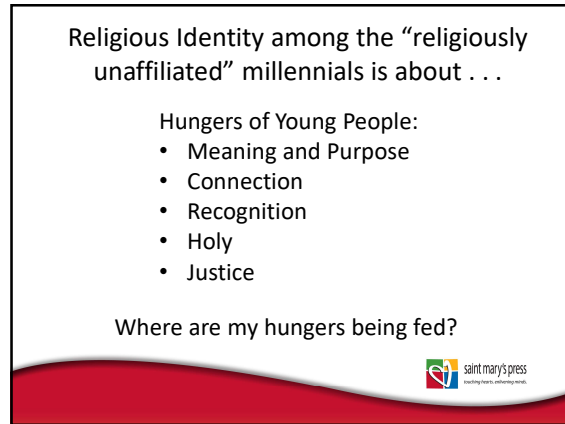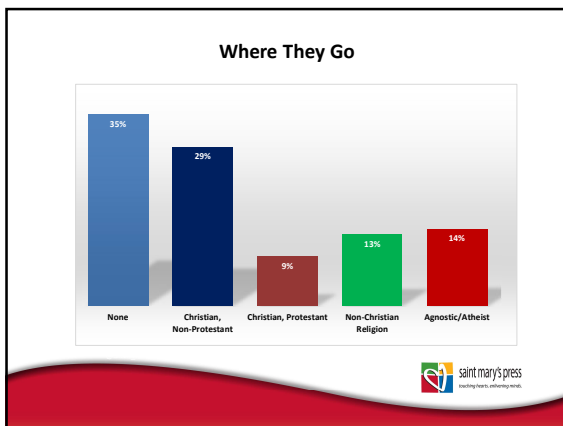- Drifted away
- Church not welcoming
- Other

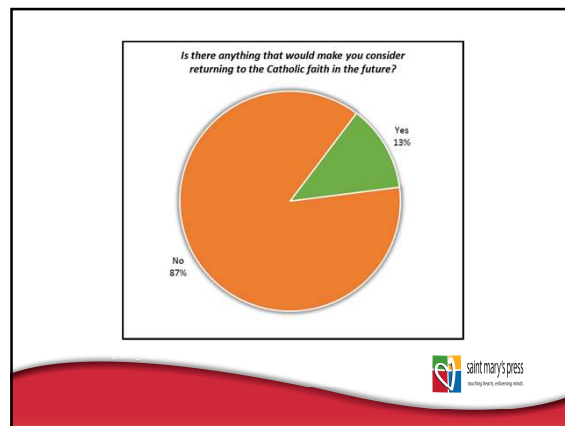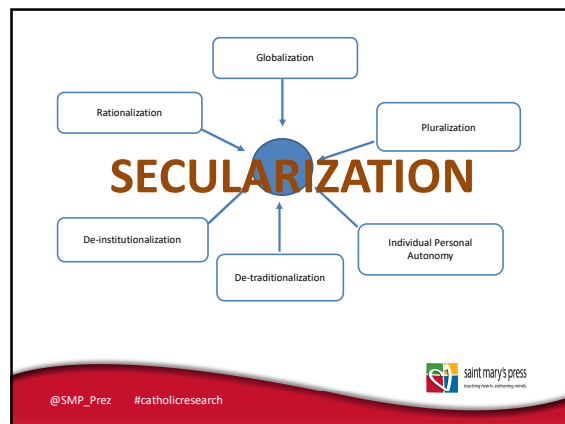## Slide 18

Slide 19:

No single reason …
No single solution …

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Slide 20:

Religious Identity among the "religiously unaffiliated" millennials is about . . .

Hungers of Young People:
- Meaning and Purpose
- Connection
- Recognition
- Holy
- Justice

Where are my hungers being fed?

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Slide 21:

Where They Go

- None: 35%
- Christian, Non-Protestant: 29%
- Christian, Protestant: 9%
- Non-Christian Religion: 13%
- Agnostic/Atheist: 14%

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Slide 22:

Is there anything that would make you consider returning to the Catholic faith in the future?

Yes 13%
No 87%

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Slide 23:

The Bigger Thing

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Slide 24:

SECULARIZATION

- Globalization
- Rationalization
- Pluralization
- De-institutionalization
- De-traditionalization
- Individual Personal Autonomy

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Trust in Institutions

Institution	1970s	Today
Big Business	26%	18%
The Medical System	80%	39%
The Presidency	52%	36%
Television News	46%	21%
Congress	42%	9%
Newspapers	39%	20%
Public Schools	58%	30%
Banks	60%	27%
Organized Religion	65%	41%

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Trust of Leadership

Which sector is most trusted for its leadership?

No confidence at all — 0.00 — 5.00 — 10.00 — Complete confidence

Value	Sector
5.53	Nonprofit Organizations
4.72	Business
4.7	Education
4.62	International Organizations
4.53	Healthcare
3.94	News Media
3.83	Government
3.57	Religious Organizations

(Source: Survey on the Global Agenda 2014 World Economic Forum)

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Trust of Church Leadership

Pew Survey July 2019

- 28% of all Catholics have scaled back both Mass attendance and donations

- 15% of Catholic weekly Mass goers have scaled back attendance and 20% have scaled back donations

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Trust of Church Leadership

The challenge in an era of diminishing resources:

- Institutional preservation ⬌ organizational mission

- Maintenance ministry ⬌ missionary ministry

- Sustainability must emphasize mission and vision

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"teachers of the faith can no longer rely on a pervasive Catholic culture to form their students. That culture no longer exists…"

--Patrick Manning PhD,
Seton Hall Seminary

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Catholic Markers	Past 17 Yrs
Infant Baptism	34%
Adult Baptism	52%
RCIA	24%
First Communion	19%
Confirmation	8%
Marriages	44%
Annulments	59%
Funerals	17%
Secondary School	14%
Elementary School	40%
Parish R.E.	30%

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Slide 31

"fewer and fewer Catholics recognize the relevance of the sacraments for their lives.
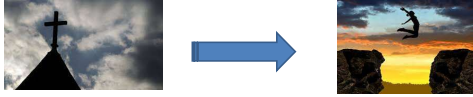
. . .

Yet none of this is to say that spirituality and religion are on the way out."

--Patrick Manning, PhD

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Slide 32

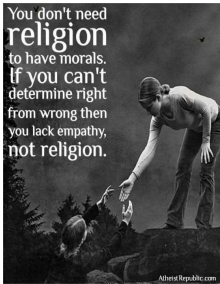# Shift of the Normative

Religious identity is increasingly . . .

Personally Constructed
and
Piecemealed

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Slide 33

You don't need **religion** to have morals. If you can't determine right from wrong then you lack empathy, **not religion.**
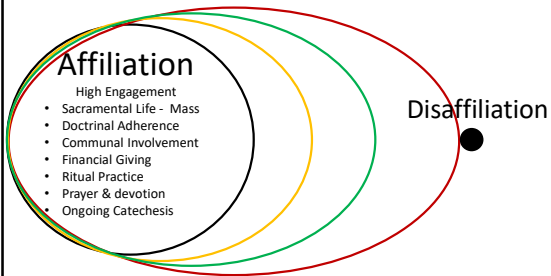
They see themselves as moral and committed to living a moral life, but reflect Peter Berger's observation about secularism – "I can be ethical without religion."
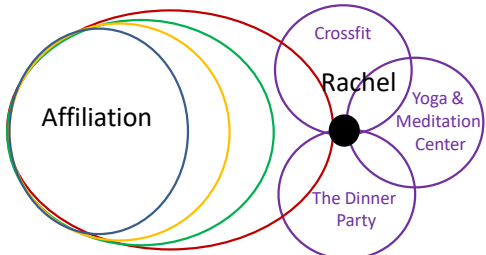
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Slide 34

Affiliation

High Engagement
- Sacramental Life - Mass
- Doctrinal Adherence
- Communal Involvement
- Financial Giving
- Ritual Practice
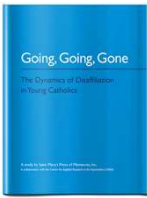- Prayer & devotion
- Ongoing Catechesis

Disaffiliation

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Slide 35

Affiliation

Crossfit

Rachel

Yoga & Meditation Center

The Dinner Party

Where are their hungers being fed?

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Join The Conversation
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