

Maurice Carroll, Director,
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 582-5334

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026



FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 4, 2013

**U.S. CATHOLICS BACK POPE ON CHANGING CHURCH FOCUS,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;
CATHOLICS SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE, WOMEN PRIESTS 2-1**

American Catholics agree 68 – 23 percent, with little difference between more observant and less observant Catholics, with Pope Francis’ recent observation that the Church has become too focused on issues such as homosexuality, abortion and contraceptives, according to a Quinnipiac University national poll released today.

Support for the Pope’s observation is strong among men, women and all age groups, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

American Catholics support same-sex marriage 60 – 31 percent, compared to the 56 – 36 percent support among all U.S. adults.

More devout Catholics, who attend religious services about once a week, support same-sex marriage 53 – 40 percent, while less observant Catholics support it 65 – 26 percent.

Catholic women support same-sex marriage 72 – 22 percent, while Catholic men support it 49 – 40 percent. Support ranges from 46 – 37 percent among Catholics over 65 years old to 64 – 27 percent among Catholics 18 to 49 years old.

Catholics like their new Pope: 36 percent have a “very favorable” opinion of him and 53 percent have a “favorable” opinion, with 4 percent “unfavorable.”

“American Catholics liked what they heard when Pope Francis said the Church should stop talking so much about issues like gay marriage, abortion and contraception,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“Maybe they were just waiting for a Jesuit. Overwhelmingly, across the demographic board, Catholics – men and women, regular or not-so-regular church-goers, young and old – have a favorable opinion of Pope Francis.”

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/October 4, 2013 – page 2

American Catholics support 60 – 30 percent the ordination of women priests. Those who attend religious services about once a week support women priests 52 – 38 percent, compared to 66 – 25 percent among those who attend services less frequently.

There is almost no gender gap.

Support for women priests grows with age, from 57 – 32 percent among Catholics 18 to 49 years old to 68 – 28 percent among those over 65 years old.

Catholic opinion on abortion is similar of the opinions of all American adults:

- 16 percent of Catholics say abortion should be legal in all cases, compared to 19 percent of all Americans;
- 36 percent of Catholics say abortion should be legal in most cases, compared to 34 percent of all Americans;
- 21 percent of Catholics say abortion should be illegal in most cases, compared to 23 percent of all Americans;
- 21 percent of Catholics say abortion should be illegal in all cases, compared to 16 percent of all Americans.

“On the two issues that have prompted some pulpit thundering, same-sex marriage and abortion, Catholics are right in line, or even a little ahead, of their non-Catholic neighbors,” Carroll said.

“There’s one big issue where Catholics split with current church practice: by 2-1 they’d like to have women priests. Women and men feel about the same on this issue.”

From September 23 – 29, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,776 American adults with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percentage points. The survey includes 392 Catholics with a margin of error of +/- 5 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Colorado, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

49. (All adults) Would you support or oppose a law in your state that would allow same-sex couples to get married?

ALL ADULTS.....								
				ATTEND	SRVCS	AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Support	56%	52%	60%	34%	68%	63%	54%	39%
Oppose	36	40	33	58	25	29	40	52
DK/NA	8	9	7	8	8	8	6	9

ADULT CATHOLICS.....								
				ATTEND	SRVCS	AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Support	60%	49%	72%	53%	65%	64%	62%	46%
Oppose	31	40	22	40	26	27	34	37
DK/NA	9	11	6	8	9	9	4	17

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	Rep	Dem	Ind
Support	57%	54%	60%	36%	70%	59%
Oppose	36	39	34	58	26	34
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	4	7

50. (All adults) Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

ALL ADULTS.....								
				ATTEND	SRVCS	AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Legal all cases	19%	17%	22%	11%	24%	22%	19%	14%
Legal most cases	34	36	32	22	41	35	35	31
Illegal most cases	23	24	22	33	18	22	24	26
Illegal all cases	16	14	18	26	11	17	13	17
DK/NA	7	8	6	8	6	4	9	11

ADULT CATHOLICS.....								
				ATTEND	SRVCS	AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Legal all cases	16%	15%	17%	12%	19%	16%	18%	6%
Legal most cases	36	36	35	20	45	35	39	37
Illegal most cases	21	22	20	29	16	21	18	29
Illegal all cases	21	19	23	32	13	26	16	14
DK/NA	7	8	5	7	6	3	10	14

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Men	Wom	Rep	Dem	Ind
Legal all cases	20%	17%	23%	8%	31%	19%
Legal most cases	36	39	33	23	42	40
Illegal most cases	23	25	22	39	14	20
Illegal all cases	14	11	16	24	6	13
DK/NA	7	8	6	5	7	8

55. (If Catholic) Is your opinion of Pope Francis very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....							
				ATTEND SRVCS		AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Very favorable	36%	34%	38%	46%	29%	37%	30%	43%
Favorable	53	55	51	47	56	51	59	47
Unfavorable	4	3	5	2	5	4	5	2
Very unfavorable	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
DK/NA	7	8	6	5	8	7	6	9

TREND: Is your opinion of Pope Francis very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....							
	FRANCIS			BENEDICT XVI		JOHN PAUL II		
	Oct 02			Mar 08		Apr 11		
	2013			2013		2002		
Very favorable	36		16			39		
Favorable	53		58			47		
Unfavorable	4		15			5		
Very unfavorable	-		3			1		
DK/NA	7		8			8		

56. (If Catholic) As you may know, Pope Francis recently remarked that the church has become too focused on issues like homosexuality, abortion and contraceptives. Do you agree or disagree?

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....							
				ATTEND SRVCS		AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Agree	68%	66%	71%	65%	70%	67%	72%	67%
Disagree	23	23	24	27	21	23	22	24
DK/NA	8	11	6	8	8	10	6	9

57. (If Catholic) Do you favor or oppose allowing women to be ordained as Catholic priests?

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....							
				ATTEND SRVCS		AGE.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Weekly	Less	18-49	50-64	65+
Favor	60%	58%	62%	52%	66%	57%	64%	68%
Oppose	30	30	29	38	25	32	26	28
DK/NA	10	12	9	11	9	11	10	4

TREND: Do you favor or oppose allowing women to be ordained as Catholic priests?

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....		
	Oct 02	Jun 12	Apr 11
	2013	2002	2002
Favor	60	63	65
Oppose	30	26	26
DK/NA	10	10	9