

*LAY ECCLESIAL
MINISTERS IN THE
UNITED STATES*

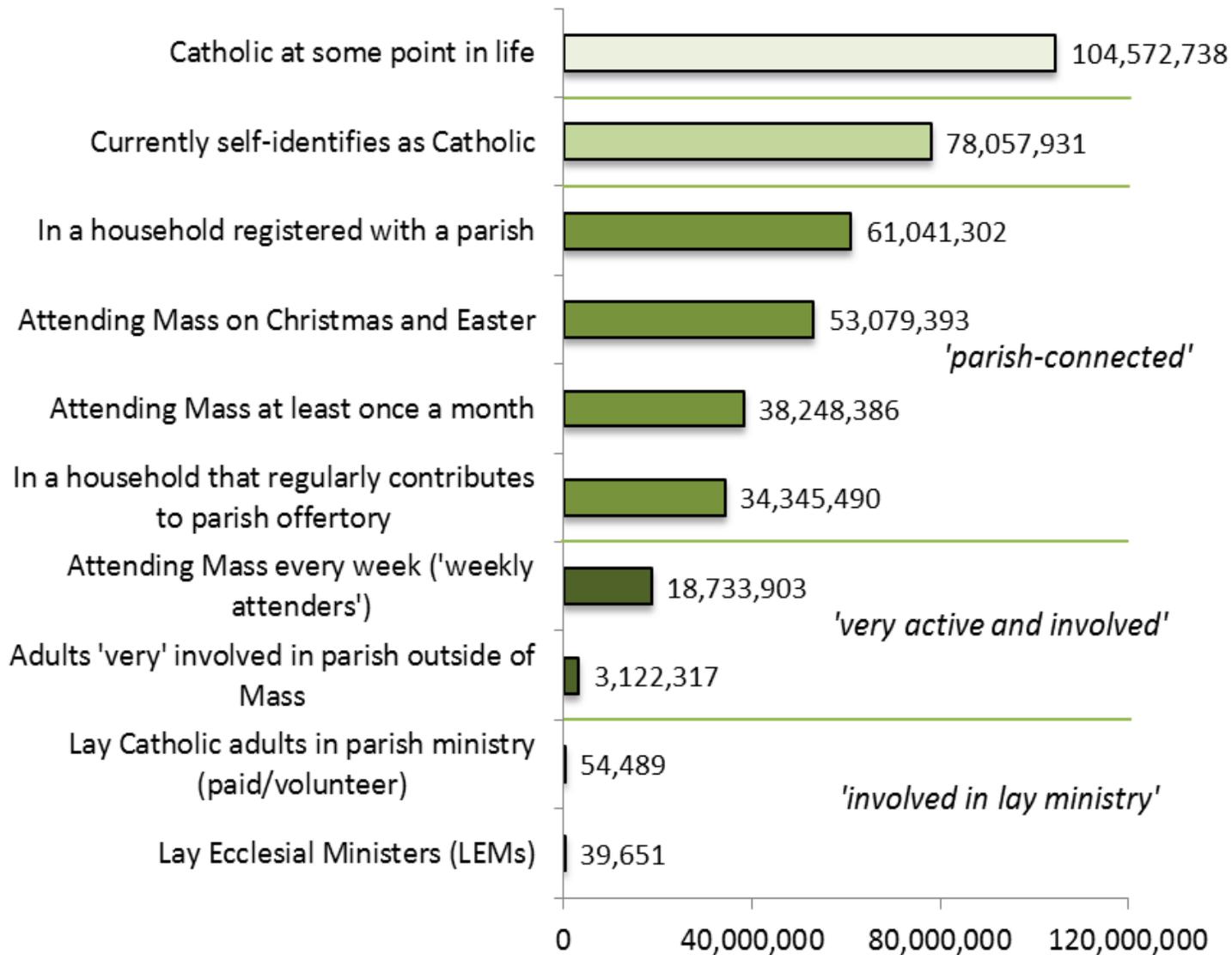
JUNE 2015





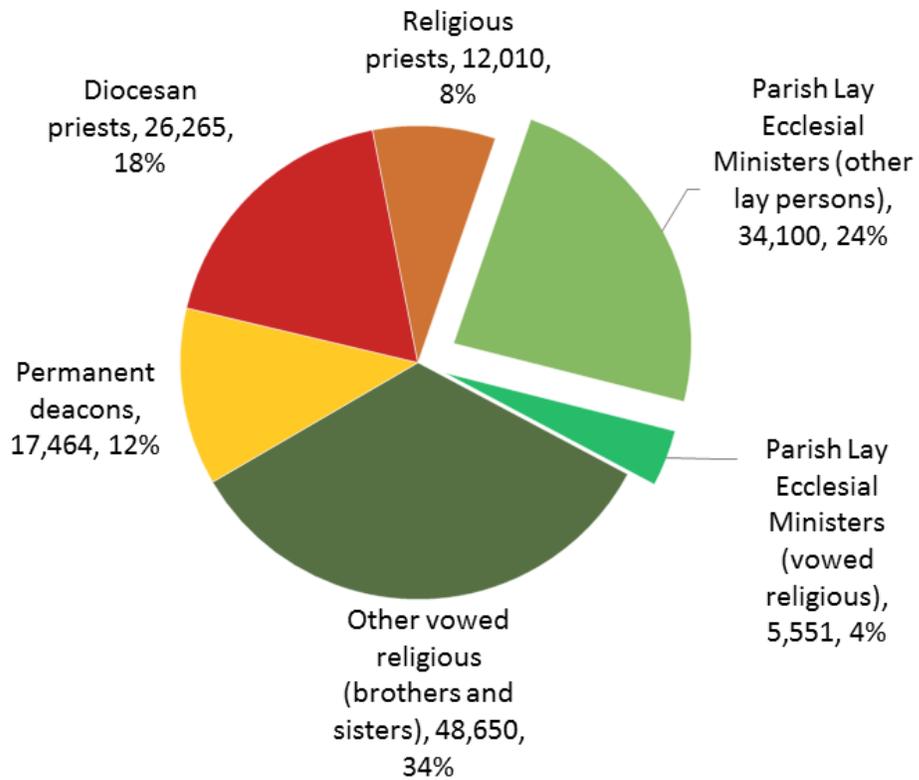
U.S. Catholic Populations and Parish Life, 2014

Generally, each group is a subset of those above it

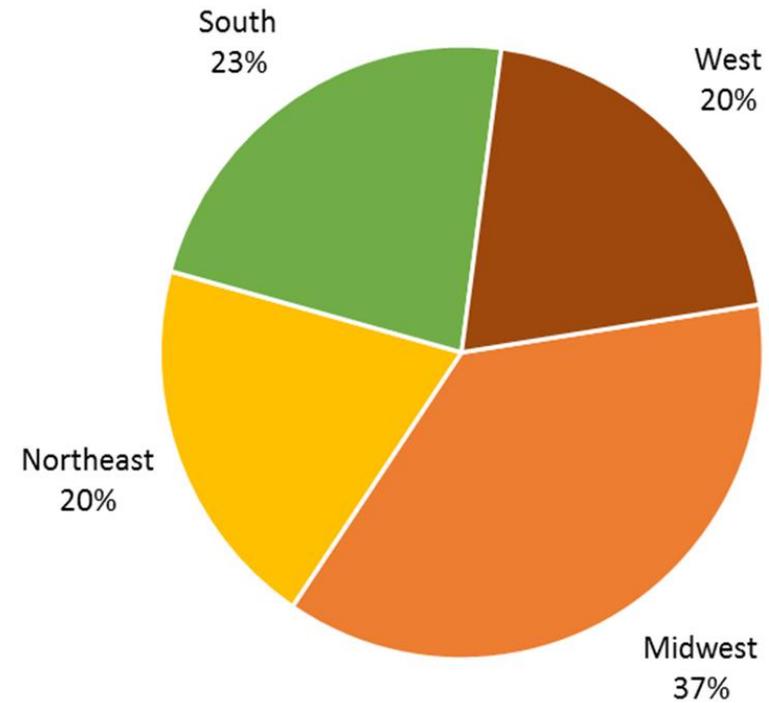


The Ministerial Landscape

Professional Workforce of the Catholic Church in the United States, 2014



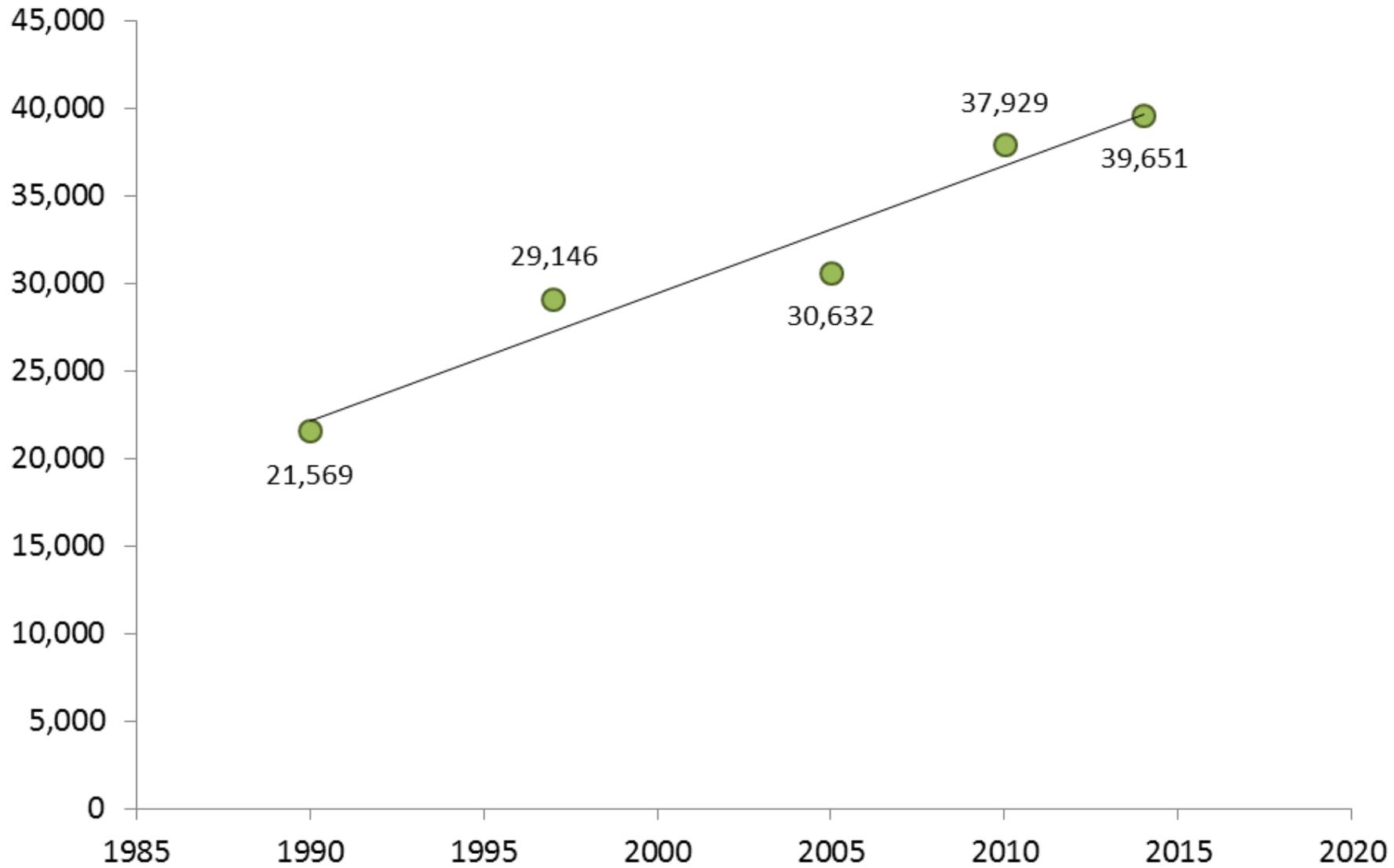
LEMs by Census Region



Sources: The Official Catholic Directory, *Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership*



Estimated Number of Lay Ecclesial Ministers (LEM) in the United States





Ages of Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Under 30	5%
30 to 39	10
40 to 49	23
50 to 59	33
60 to 69	23
70 or older	6

Source: CARA/Emerging Models (2010)

- 48% are under 50
- 52% are 50 and older
- 5% are under 30 and 29% are 60 or older



The Changing Profile of Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the U.S. Catholic Church

	2012	2005	1997	1990
Number of LEMs	37,929	30,632	29,146	21,569
Gender				
Male	20%	20%	15%	18%
Female	80%	80%	85%	82%
Race/Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic white	88%	89%	94%	--
Hispanic/Latino(a)	9%	8%	4%	--
African American	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	--
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7%	1.7%	0.6%	--
Native American	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	--
Median age	55	64	61	58
Ecclesial Status				
Vowed religious	14%	16%	28%	41%
Other lay person	86%	84%	72%	59%
Graduate or professional degree	46%	48%	42%	53%

Sources: CARA/Emerging Models (2010, 2012), DeLambo (2005), Murnion and DeLambo (1997), Murnion (1992)

- 8 in 10 are female
- Diversity is increasing
- Numbers of vowed religious serving are in decline



Race and Ethnicity of Groups within the Catholic Church in the United States

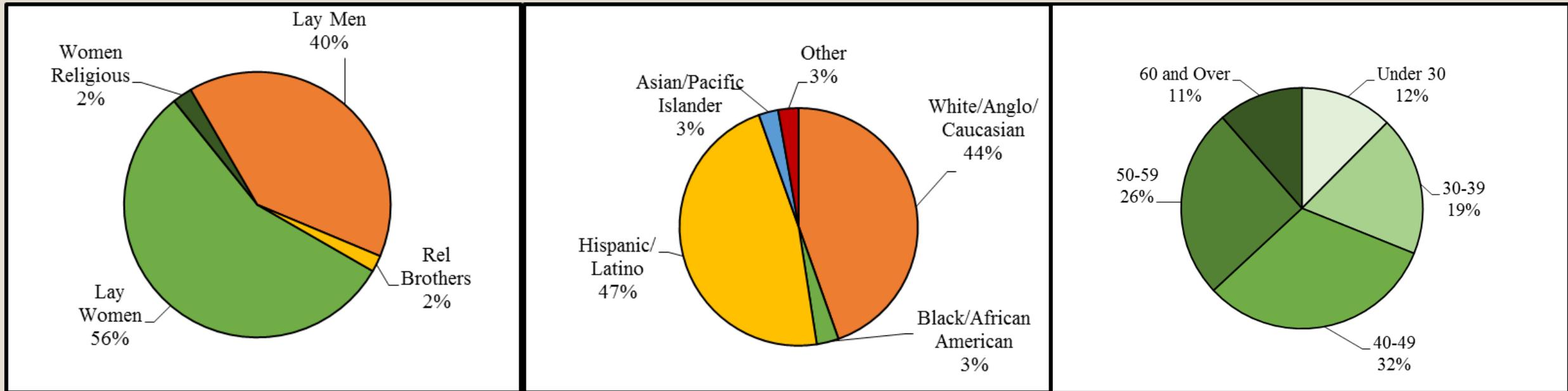
	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other
Clergy					
Catholic priests	92%	3%	2%	3%	<1%
Catholic priests born after 1960	75	15	2	8	<1
Permanent deacons (active)	76	16	4	3	1
Ordinands (2012)	71	15	3	9	1
Men & Women Religious					
Men and women in perpetual vows	94%	3%	1%	2%	<1%
Women professing perpetual vows (2011)	66	10	4	17	3
Men professing perpetual vows (2011)*	50	0	12	38	0
Lay Persons					
Lay ecclesial ministers	88%	9%	2%	1%	<1%
Adult Mass-attending Catholics (in-pew)	62	26	2	5	5
All adult Catholics	58	35	3	3	1

*Estimates for new religious brothers are based on a small sample. Sources: The CARA Catholic Poll (CCP), CARA Pastoral Assistance Surveys and Services (PASS) In-Pew Cumulative Statistics, The Changing Face of U.S. Catholic Parishes (2011), New Sisters and Brothers in Perpetual Vows (2011), Recent Vocations to Religious Life (2009), The Class of 2012: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood (2012), Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II (2012), A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate (2012).

Race and ethnicity of those serving the Church in the U.S. strongly reflects the diversity within older generations

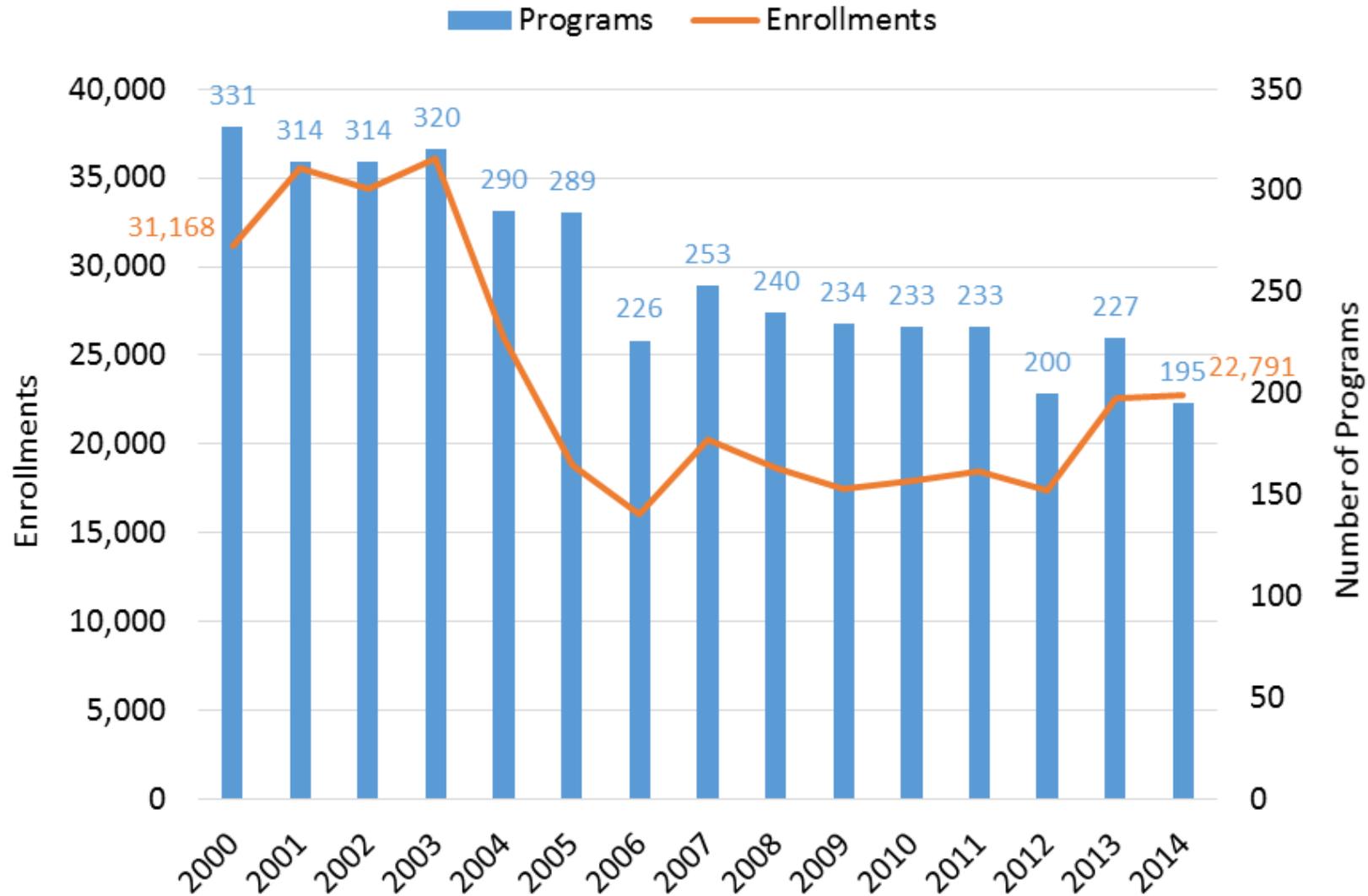
Those preparing for a role in LEM are more racially and ethnically diverse than those serving now

Demographics of Those in Lay Ecclesial Formation Programs

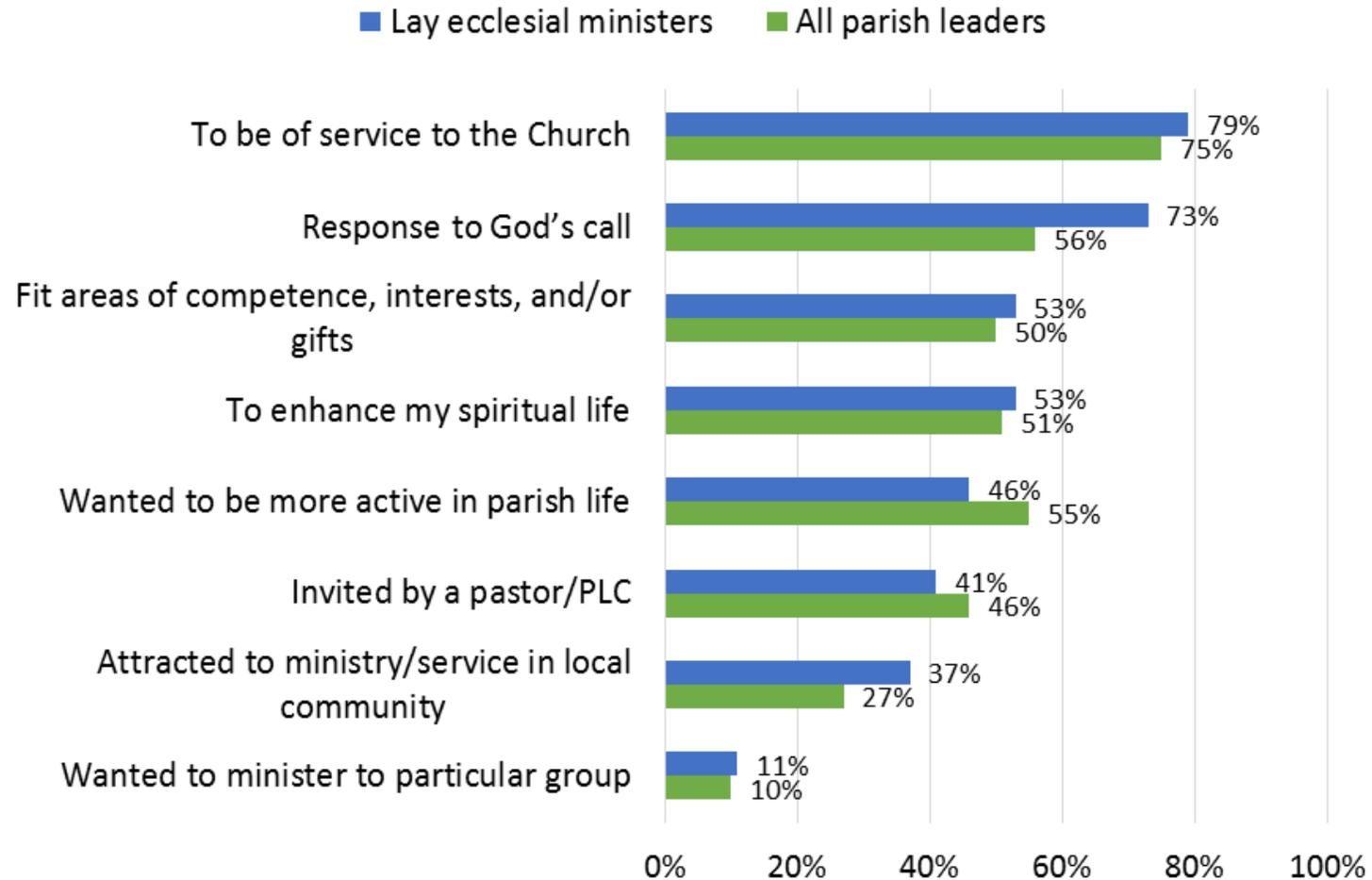




U.S. Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Programs, 2000-2014



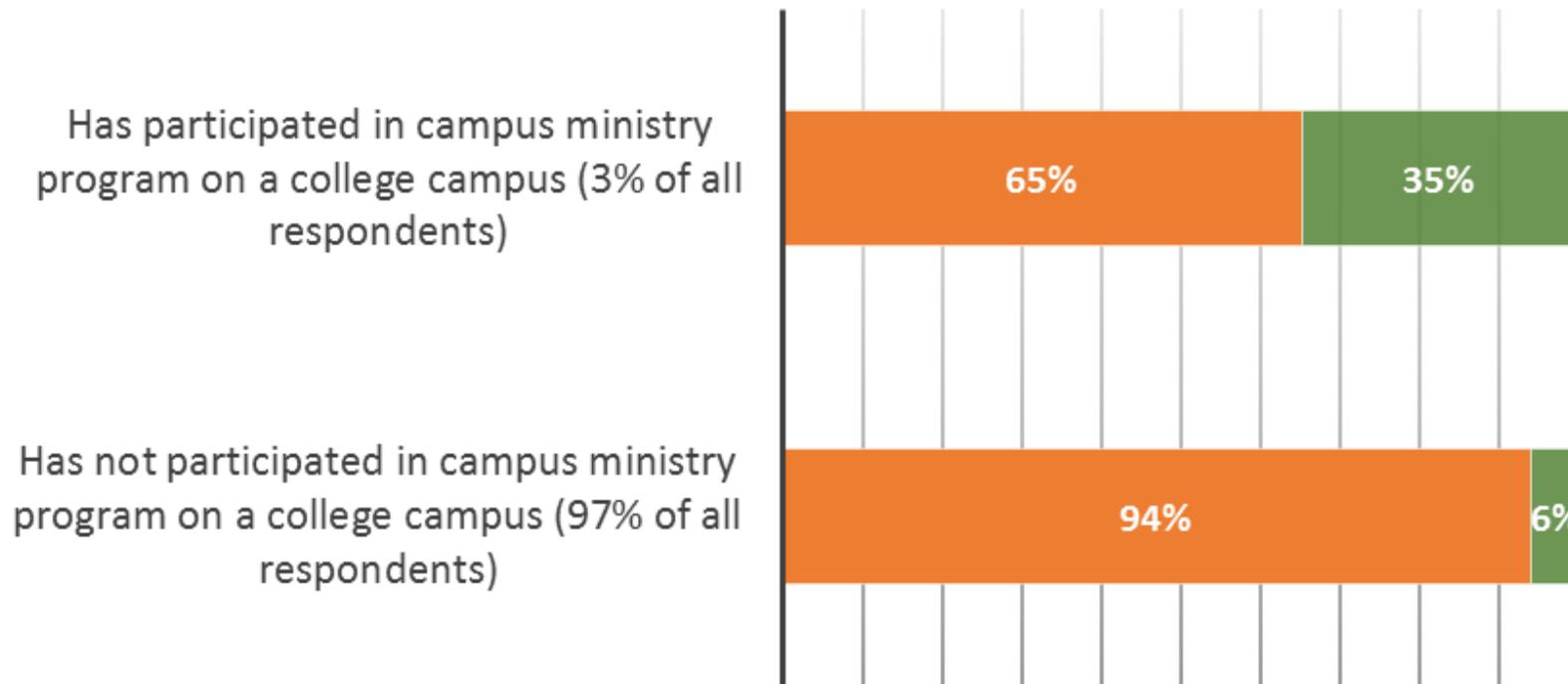
Which of the following first led you to enter Church ministry and/or service in any setting (e.g., parish, school, hospital)?



Service and
"the Call"

Consideration of a Lay Ecclesial Ministry Vocation among Never-married Catholics ages 14 and Older

■ *Has not considered* ■ *Has considered*

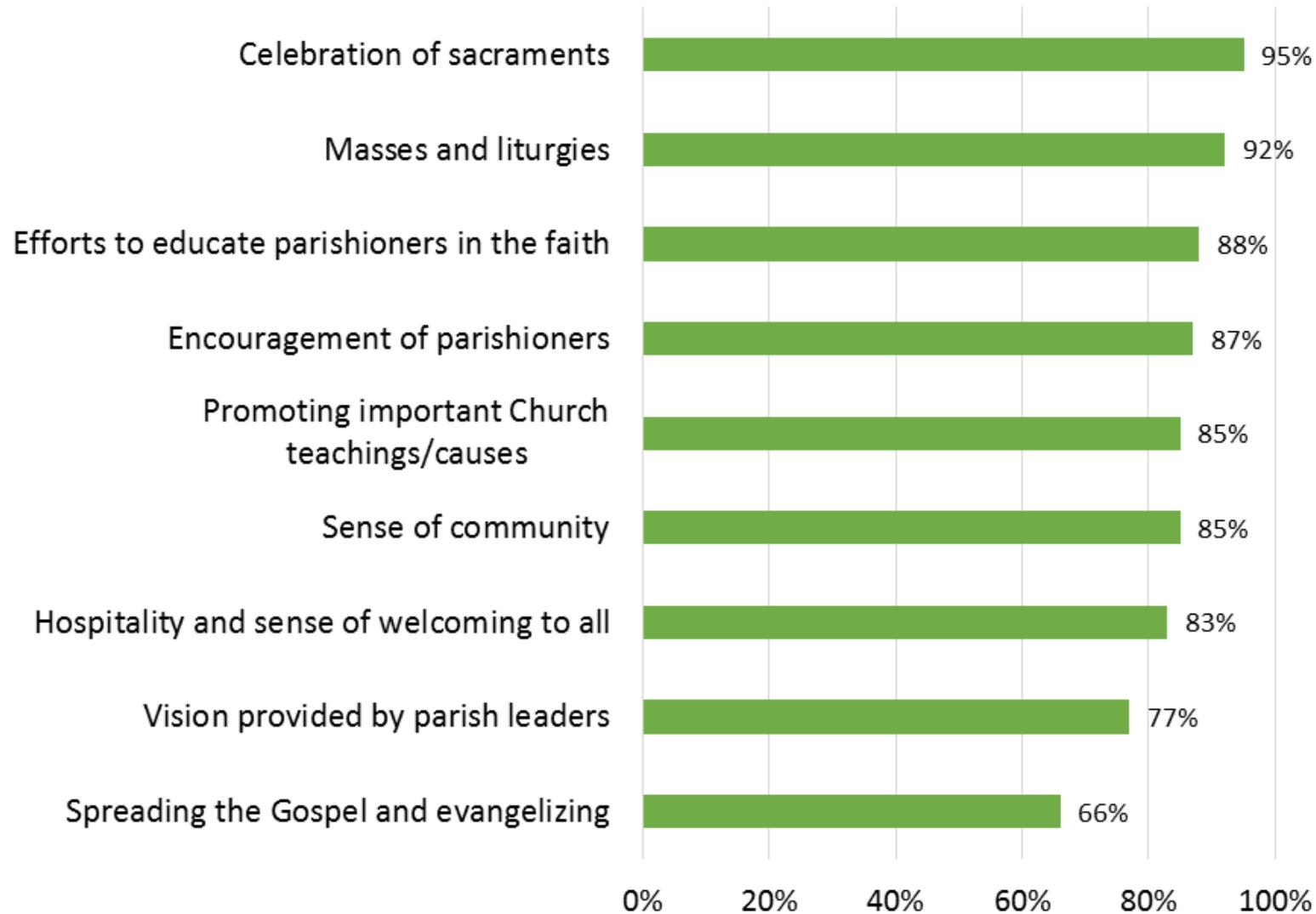




- **Faith** is among the most important or the most important part of life (3.2 times more likely to consider than those not responding as such)
 - Reads or prays with the **Bible** or Scripture at least once a week (2.9 times more likely to consider than those who do not)
 - Has volunteered in a **service** project in their local community to help people in need (2.6 times more likely to consider than those who did not)
 - Belongs to a group or organization that encourages **devotion to Mary** (2.4 times more likely to consider than those who do not)
 - Self-identifies as **Hispanic or Latino/a** (2.3 times more likely to consider than those self-identifying as Non-Hispanic white)
 - Being **involved in their parish** is “very important” to their sense of what it means to be Catholic (2.2 times more likely to consider than those not responding as such)
 - **Attended Mass** at least once a week during high school (2.1 times more likely to consider than those who did not)
 - **Attends Mass** at least once a week now (2.1 times more likely to consider than those who do not)
 - Has a household income of **less than \$40,000** per year (2.0 times more likely to consider than those with higher incomes)
 - Participates in multiple **Church-related groups, programs, and activities** (1.6 times more likely to consider than those who do not)
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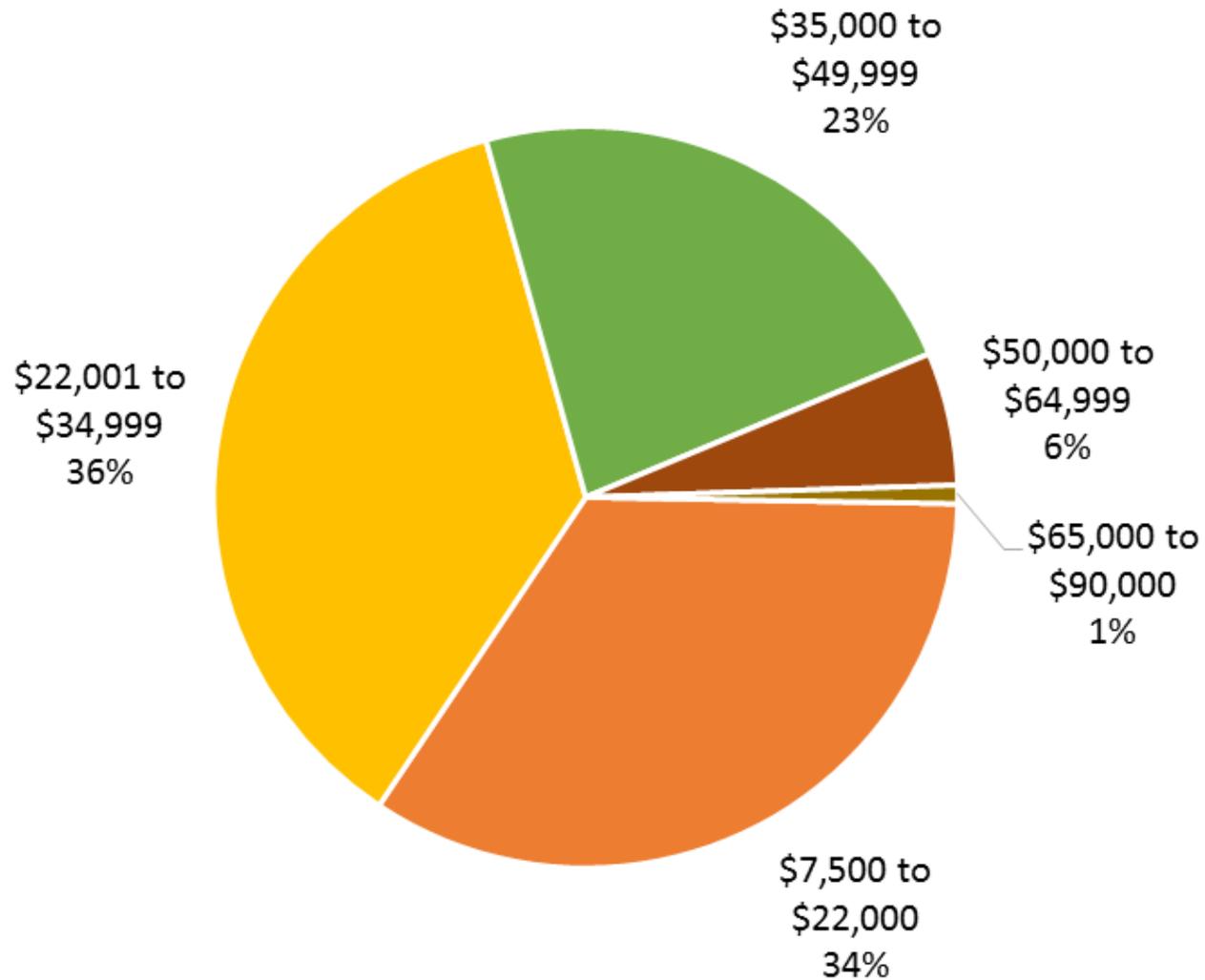


Please evaluate these aspects of parish life in this parish:
LEMs responding "good" or "excellent" for their parish:





Annual Pay for Lay Ecclesial Ministers, 2010



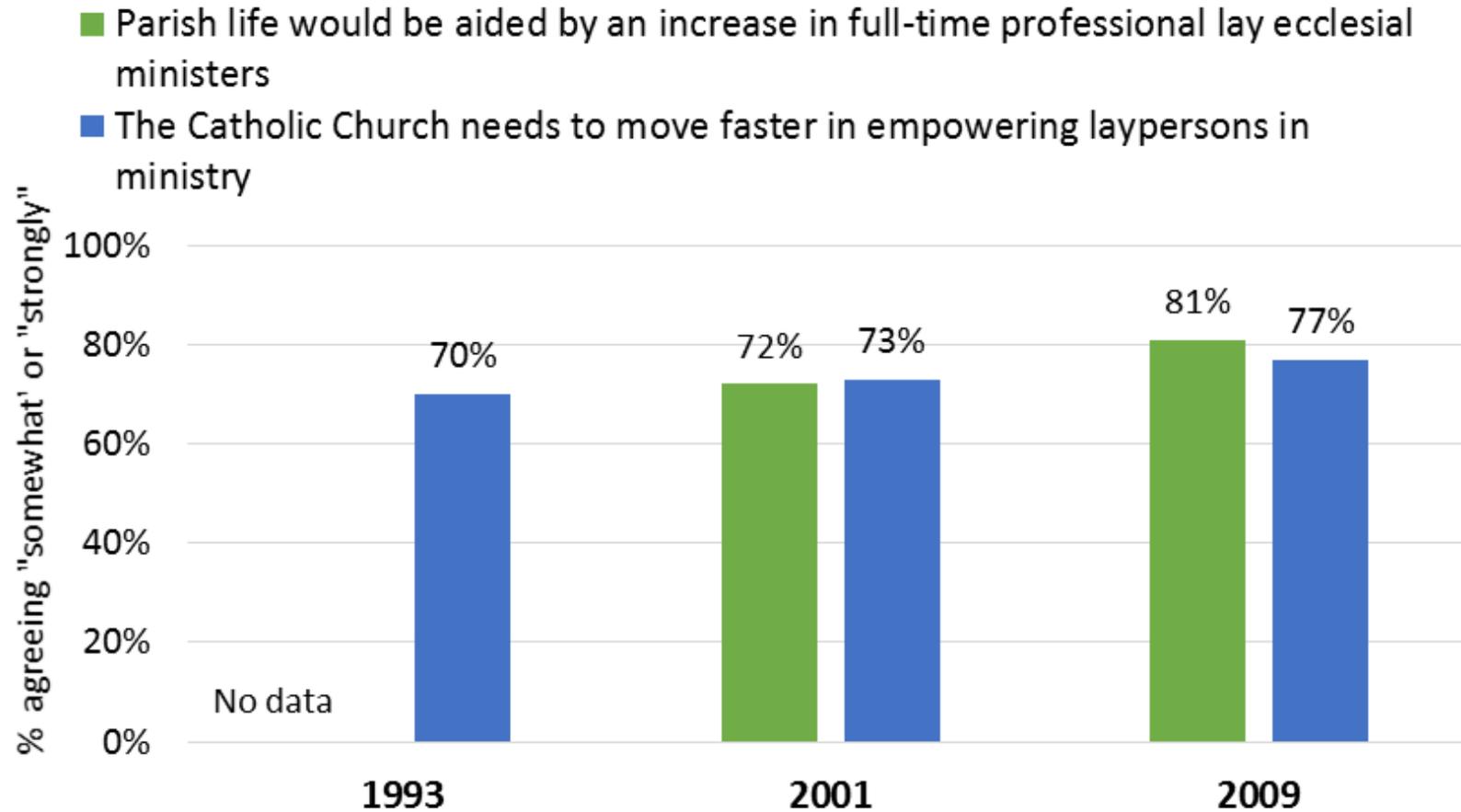
The median annual pay for LEMs, as reported to CARA by pastors and parish life coordinators in 2010 was \$27,590



For each type of compensation or benefit for your ministry listed below, how satisfied are you?

	Very much	Somewhat	A little	Not at all	Don't have benefit
Retirement or pension	33%	27%	15%	12%	13%
Life insurance	29	23	7	7	34
Health insurance	40	23	3	5	29
Dental insurance	28	23	9	6	33
Paid sick days	63	17	3	1	16
Paid vacation days	61	16	5	2	16
Tuition assistance	25	14	9	15	37

U.S. Catholic priest's attitudes about collaboration between priests and lay ministers





Does the parish provide or offer the following ministries, programs, or services?

Percentage of pastors or PLCs responding "Yes":

	Has at least one LEM on staff	No LEMs on staff
Sacramental preparation	99%	87%
Religious education, faith formation, or catechesis for children	98	88
RCIA	93	76
Marriage preparation	91	77
Religious education, faith formation, or catechesis for adolescents	90	75
Ministries to the infirm or homebound	89	75
Adult faith formation	87	71
Ministry to elderly or seniors	66	55
Social services to meet individual needs	66	47
Ministry to the bereaved	58	45
Evangelization	42	32
Social action to educate or effect change	39	25
Youth ministry	33	27
Ministry to persons with disabilities	28	22
Ministry to the divorced or separated	18	13



Center for Applied Research in the *Apostolate*

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