



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

TURNING THE TIDE: REFOCUSING ON MISSION

Missionary Discipleship workshop, Winona deanery

St. Joseph Church, Rushford

February 25, 2020



THE
BROAD
STATISTICS:
USA

Pew Research has informed us:

- The number of people practicing Christianity has sharply declined...
- Early 1970's - 89% to the late 2010's - 71%.
- Source - “In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at a Rapid Pace”)

The same survey:

- Those claiming no affiliation (aka “nones”) rises
- Early 1970's - 6% to the late 2010's – 22%
- Source (General Social Survey from the University of Chicago)

Catholic numbers largely follow mainline Protestant numbers in this decline:

- Very slightly slower decline, but not by much.
- Slower decline is usually accredited to Catholic immigration influx.

The urgency is the decline is speeding up:

- From 1970-2000, (a thirty-year period) - a gradual loss of Christian affiliation of 10%.
- From 2000-2019, (a twenty-year period) - another loss of 8%



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THE STATS,
DRILLING DOWN

TWO NOTABLE STATISTICS

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graph TD; A[TWO NOTABLE STATISTICS] --> B[First - The loss of youth and young adults.]; B --> C[Second - Increasingly, Hispanic Catholics are leaving as well.];
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First - The loss of youth and young adults.

Second - Increasingly, Hispanic Catholics are leaving as well.

THE STATS, DRILLING DOWN

First - The loss of youth and young adults.

Religious affiliation differences between our oldest and youngest generations are dramatic.

In 2018 / 2019:

Americans born between 1928-1945: 84% are Christian.

Americans born between 1981-1996: 49% are Christian.

And for the generation they are raising, it looks even worse.

What does this mean for parishes?

THE STATS,
DRILLING DOWN

Second - Increasingly, Hispanic Catholics are leaving as well

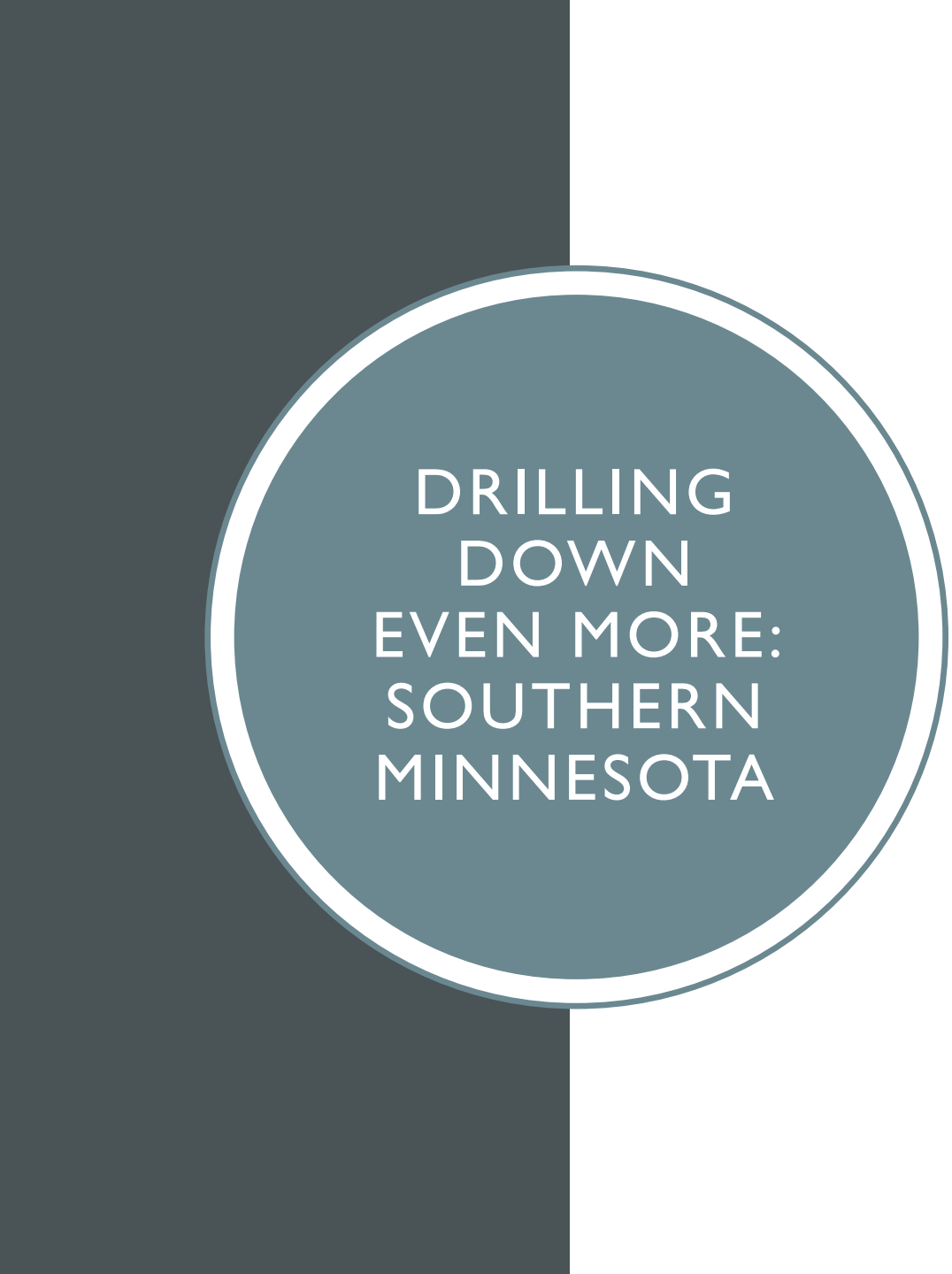
As of 2019, it is clear that the numbers of U.S. Hispanic Catholics are not boosting American affiliation numbers with Catholics...because:

A decade ago

57% of Latino Americans identified as Catholic.

In 2018 / 2019

47% of Latino Americans identified as Catholic.



DRILLING
DOWN
EVEN MORE:
SOUTHERN
MINNESOTA

Review of the the Handout on Mass Attendance

- Diocese of Winona-Rochester
- Deaneries
 - Winona
 - Austin-Albert Lea
 - Mankato
 - Worthington
 - Rochester

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN 2040?

Predicting the Number of U.S. Adults Identifying as Christian

- The vast majority of the silent generation will have died.
- *Presuming* identity numbers stay the same, and Gen Z is about the same as the Millennial generation, **60% of Americans will identify as Christian.** (As opposed to 69% now.)

Large generation gap in American religion

In 2018/2019, % of U.S. adults who identify as ...



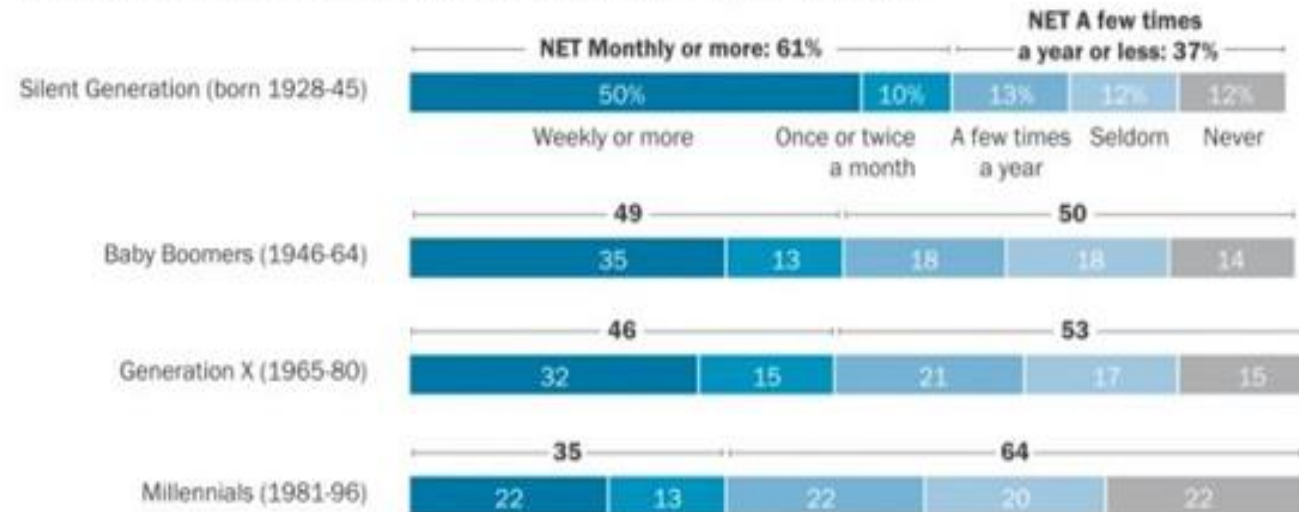
In 2018/2019, % of U.S. adults who say they attend religious services ...

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN 2040?

Religious Service Attendance

- American Christians attending at least once a month?
 - Currently 48%.
 - In 2040, presuming Gen Z mirrors Millennials, and no further drop off, **41% of Americans will attend a Christian church at least once a month.**
- But those are best case scenarios.
 - Gen Z is not attending
 - Numbers are sliding in each generation. The slide is speeding up.
 - The culture is not supportive and sometimes hostile.
 - 50% identifying as Christian in 2040 is not unreasonable to expect, as well as 30% attending once a month.**
 - WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO THINK THEY WILL COME TO US.**

In 2018/2019, % of U.S. adults who say they attend religious services ...



Note: Don't know/refused not shown.

Source: Aggregated Pew Research Center political surveys conducted January 2018-July 2019 on the telephone.

"In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

“In our present cultural reality, the only possible “maintenance mode” for parishes is mission. The secular culture in our world no longer supports religious practice. ... What many parishes and dioceses are awakening to is the fact that, in our current secularizing moment, the only way forward is to sell out for mission.

For parishes, this will require a complete cultural overhaul – an overhaul that is focused on turning our parishes into what they are supposed to be: missional hubs of the New Evangelization. How do we do that?

...[I]n order to renew the Church, we have to renew the parish. In order to renew the parish, we have to form disciples who can make disciples.”

– Glemkowski, *Made for Mission*, p. 45



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How has the environment in your parish/cluster
changed in the last 10 years?

(try not to diagnose...just describe at this point)

Acts *Evangelii Nuntiandi* “The New Evangelization”

Pope Francis: *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Joy of the Gospel

The USCCB Convocation on Evangelization (2018)

USCCB-- *Living as Missionary Disciples and V Encuentro*

Today...

WHY THIS DOCUMENT?

Diocese of Winona-Rochester--
Encountering Jesus: Living as Missionary Disciples

The future!

Listened to pastors on structural issues and discipleship challenges in this age

Listened to laity, those who love the Church and those who are frustrated

Examined regional parish population trends

Looked at regional cultural challenges and population realities

Listened to countless conversations (ILF, FIRE sessions, social justice initiatives, Catholic schools, more)

Prayed for the Holy Spirit's guidance