

The Canadian Catholic Church and Clerical Sexual Abuse

-- FINAL Questionnaire (May 7) --

Today's survey asks people for their views on a number of different topics -- including life today, some social issues, and also about personal beliefs and spirituality. As always, there are no right or wrong answers, we want to know what people think and feel about these topics.

Religious ID/Set-up

Q1. Thinking back to your childhood, were you raised in a religious tradition (whether quite strictly or somewhat loosely), or was your family basically non-observant in terms of religion?

Yes, raised with religion, quite strictly

Yes, raised with religion, somewhat loosely

Family was basically non-observant

[If Yes, loose or strict:]

Q2. And which religion was it that you were raised in?

[This order]

Roman Catholic

United Church

Anglican

Lutheran

Presbyterian

Baptist

Pentecostal

Other evangelical Christian

Other Christian

Muslim

Hindu

Jewish

Sikh

Buddhist

Other (please specify:)

[Ask all:]

Q3. And today, which one of the following best describes your religion?

[This order]

Roman Catholic

United Church

Anglican

Lutheran

Presbyterian

Baptist

Pentecostal

Other evangelical Christian

Other Christian

Muslim

Hindu

Jewish

Sikh

Buddhist

Other (please specify:)

No religious identity (Atheist, Agnostic, None)

[Ask all naming some religion at Q3; Skip out "No religious identity"]

Q4a. About how often do you attend religious services (other than weddings or funerals)?

Once a week or more

2-3 times a month

About once a month

Every other month or so

A few times a year

Once a year

Less than that/Hardly ever

Never

[Ask Everyone:]

Q4b. How often do you pray to God or some higher power?

Everyday

A few times a week

A few times a month

A few times a year

Less than that/Hardly ever

Never

RC “segments” for analysis:

Practicing Catholic = Self-ID as RC at Q3 AND Attend “about once a month” or more often at Q4a.

Occasional Catholic = RC at Q3 and attend “every other month or so” or less than that (but not Never) at Q4a.

Cultural Catholic = RC at Q3 but Never attend at Q4a.

Former Catholic = RC at Q2 but NOT at Q3 (i.e. raised but no longer self-ID as RC)

**** Split sample: Half asked as Q5 here, and half asked at the end as Q25****

[Ask all naming some religion at Q3. “No religious identity” skip this question]

Q5/25. In recent years, would you say your own personal commitment to your religion has been increasing, decreasing or has stayed about the same?

Increasing

Decreasing

Stayed about the same

[Ask Q6a/b of “Former Roman Catholics”:]

Q6a. You indicated you were raised Roman Catholic but did not choose that when asked to describe your own religion today. When would you say you stopped personally identifying as a Roman Catholic?

As a teenager/young adult

More recently

Just evolved over time

Q6b. And was there anything in particular that encouraged you to stop considering yourself Roman Catholic? And if so, what was that?

[Multi-choice] [This order]

No, nothing in particular/just evolved [Exclusive]

Yes: (Select all that may apply)

Beliefs changed

Personal circumstances (married non-RC, etc.)

Church views on women (ordination/birth control/choice)

Church views on homosexuality/same-sex marriage

Church views on divorce and re-marriage

Clerical sex abuse – priests abusing

Church covered-up sex abuse

Other (specify:)

Don't know/Can't say

Views of Religion/Church/Overall trackers [Ask everyone:]

Q7. How positive, neutral, or negative do you tend to feel toward the following groups?

[Randomize]

Roman Catholics

Protestants

Muslims

Hindus

Sikhs

Jews

Buddhists

Evangelical Christians

Atheists

Very Positive

Somewhat Positive

Neutral

Somewhat Negative

Very Negative

Q8a. Is your overall view of Pope Francis

Very favourable

Somewhat favourable

Somewhat unfavourable

Very unfavourable

Don't know/Can't say

Q8b. And do you have a favourable or unfavourable view of each of the following:

[Everyone:] The Roman Catholic Church

[All Roman Catholics] The Catholic Church leadership in your province

[Practicing/Occasional Roman Catholics] Your own parish priest

Very favourable

Somewhat favourable

Somewhat unfavourable

Very unfavourable

Don't know/Can't say

Q9. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements.

[Randomize]

I have a high level of confidence in religious leaders

I think Pope Francis is having a positive impact on the world

I think that religion's overall impact on the world is positive

Religion is important to me in my day to day life

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Other Issues re the Church – clericalism/role of laity

[Practicing and Occasional Catholics only. All others skip this section]

Q10a. Focusing on your own local Catholic community or parish for a moment.....Are you personally involved in any parish activities (other than attending Mass)? This could be things like social activities; Church maintenance; parish boards/committee's; fundraising activities; etc.

Yes, involved

Just a bit/the odd thing

No, not involved

Q10b. Let's think for a moment about the involvement of lay people in the Catholic Church. By "lay people", we're simply referring to ordinary Catholics who are not priests/clergy or vowed to any religious orders. Based on your own experiences as well as your impressions, would you say there is adequate room for lay people to be involved in meaningful ways, or there should be more:

[ROWS]

In your own local parish

In the Catholic Church as a whole

[COLUMNS]

Adequate room for lay involvement

Should be more

Should be way more

Can't say/Don't know

Q10c. Looking at this from the other direction, thinking about Catholic priests, would you say they generally have too much power and control over things, or the appropriate amount:

[ROWS]

In your own local parish

In the Catholic Church as a whole

[COLUMNS]

Way too much power

Too much

Appropriate amount

Can't say/Don't know

Clerical sex abuse – the issue/perceived scope [Asked of Everyone]

Next we want to talk to you about the sensitive issue of sexual abuse of children and teenagers – and specifically, sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests.

Q11. How closely have you yourself been following this issue of clerical sexual abuse in the Catholic Church:

[ROWS]

Here in Canada

In the US

In the Church as a whole/Globally

[COLUMNS]

Very closely

Fairly closely

Not very closely

Not at all

Q12. Compared to other religions, do you think the problem of sexual abuse of teenagers and children is a more common or less common problem in the Catholic Church, or is it just as common a problem in other religions?

More common in Catholic Church

Less common in Catholic Church

Just as common/the same

Q13a. More specifically....There are about 7,000 Roman Catholic priests in Canada today. If you had to make an estimate, roughly how many of these 7,000 priests do you think have committed sexual abuse involving children or teenagers? Would you estimate:

50 or fewer of these Canadian priests did this
 51 to 200
 201 to 500
 501 to 1000
 1001 to 1500
 1501 to 2500
 2501 – 3500
 Over 3500 – more than half of these Canadian priests
 No idea/Really can't say

[If “No idea/Can't say”:]

Q13b. We realize it's tough to estimate, but if you had to guess – how many of Canada's 7,000 Roman Catholic priests do you think have committed sexual abuse involving children or teenagers?

[Same response list as Q13a.]

Focus on the parish level [Practicing/Occasional Catholics only. All others skip this section.]

Q14. We've been talking about these issues in the Church overall and across Canada, but now let's focus for a moment at the level of your own local Catholic community.

In your own local Catholic community, as far as you are aware, has there been a problem with clerical sexual abuse over the last few decades (say, since the 1970's onwards)?

Yes, definitely a problem
 Probably
 Probably not
 No, definitely not a problem
 Don't know/Can't say

[Ask Q15 if Yes, definitely or probably a problem at Q14]

Q15a. As far as you are aware, was the problem of sexual abuse in your local Catholic community handled adequately by Church officials?

Yes, handled adequately
 No, not
 Don't know/Can't say

Q15b. As far as you know, what happened to the priest involved? (Select all that apply)

Was reported to police
 Was transferred away
 Nothing happened to him
 Other (specify:)
 Don't know/Can't say

Q15c. Have there been any problems of this nature in your local Catholic community in the past few years – say, since 2010?

No, over with
 Yes, still problems
 Not sure/Can't say

[All practicing/occasional Roman Catholics:]

Q16a. Whether or not clerical sexual abuse was a problem in your own local Catholic community, has your local Church taken active concrete steps and policies to stop and prevent this problem?

Yes, has
 No, has not
 Not aware of any

Q16b. Overall, and again whether or not it was a problem in your own local Catholic community, what kind of job would you say your local Catholic Church has done responding to this issue of clerical sexual abuse in the Church?

Very good job
 Good job
 Poor job
 Very poor job

Church's handling

[Everyone]

Q17. And, what kind of a job do you think each of the following has been doing in addressing this Catholic clerical sex abuse issue?

[Everyone] The Catholic Church as a whole

[Everyone] Pope Francis

[All Roman Catholics] The Catholic Church leadership in your province

Very good job

Good job

Poor job

Very poor job

Q18. And, based on whatever you've seen or heard and on your own impressions, how effective have the Church's efforts been to prevent clerical sexual abuse from happening in the future?

[ROWS]

Overall

Here in Canada

[COLUMNS]

Very effective – Major positive impact

Moderately effective

Not very effective

Not effective at all -- No impact

Really can't say/Don't know

Q19. The Catholic Church has been accused of trying to "cover-up" the problem of clerical sexual abuse when victims first started coming forward in large numbers back in the 1980s or so – by transferring accused priests to other places and not reporting to police, for example, and by not centralizing reports to reveal the full scope of the problem.

A few decades later now, based on whatever you've seen or heard about this and on your own general impressions, do you think the Catholic Church today is:

Still covering things up as much as they can

Being more open but still guarded

Now being as open and upfront as possible

_[Everyone]

Q20. What kind of an impact, if any, has this clerical sexual abuse issue and the Church's response to it had on:

[ROWS]

Your opinion of the Catholic Church overall

Your own personal faith and spirituality

[COLUMNS]

No real impact
 Strengthened by it
 Weakened by it
 Ruined by it

Q21. Turning to the future, how do you think the Catholic Church will emerge from this whole clerical sexual abuse issue – globally and here in Canada [Practising/Occasional Catholics: and in your own local Catholic community]? Will there be no real lasting impact, will the Church be strengthened, weakened or ruined?

[ROWS]

Catholic Church overall
 Catholic Church in Canada

[Practicing/Occasional Roman Catholics:]
 Your own local Catholic community

[COLUMNS]

No real lasting impact
 Strengthened
 Weakened
 Ruined

Q22. Finally, do you know anyone who was a victim of Catholic clerical sexual abuse as a child or teenager?

Yes
 No

Before we let you go, just a few more questions for our statistical analysis.

Q23. Some people say Canadians variously (1) embrace religion, (2) reject religion, or (3) are somewhere in between the two.

Where would you tend to locate yourself?

I am inclined to embrace religion
 I am inclined to reject religion
 I am somewhere in between

Q24. Do you see yourself as:

Spiritual but not religious
Religious and spiritual
Religious but not spiritual
Neither religious nor spiritual

** Split sample: Half asked Q5/24 here, the other half asked it in quest order, i.e. as Q5**
[Ask all naming some religion at Q3. "No religious identity" skip this question]
Q5/25. In recent years, would you say your own personal commitment to your religion has been increasing, decreasing or has stayed about the same?

Increasing
Decreasing
Stayed about the same