

CORE Meeting

January 17, 2019

The Fourth Diocesan Synod

Fourth Diocesan Synod: Why?

"My main hope for our diocesan synod is that our clergy and laity together with me will make a heartfelt **commitment to stewardship and discipleship as a way of life**. We will need to overcome our doubts and fears in order to succeed in this endeavor. In the end, what makes this so important is that it is **all about our future as a church: whether we will diminish or grow** as a community of faith. I fervently pray that it will be the latter, showering our diocese with abundant blessings of unprecedented growth."

--Bishop Paprocki

Fourth Diocesan Synod: How?

Jan 22	Apr 2	Apr 11	May 20	Aug 12	Aug 19
Open of Preliminary Phase	1 st Deanery prayer & listening session	Official Opening	First Synod Session	Permanent Deacons Gathering	Consecrated Religious Consultation
Sep 24	Sep 9	Sep 18	Oct 11	Nov 18	Nov 26
2 nd Deanery Prayer & Listening Session	Second Synod Session	Priests Convocation	Priests Convocation	Priests Convocation	Priests Convocation

Fourth Diocesan Synod: What?

Declarations (1-6)

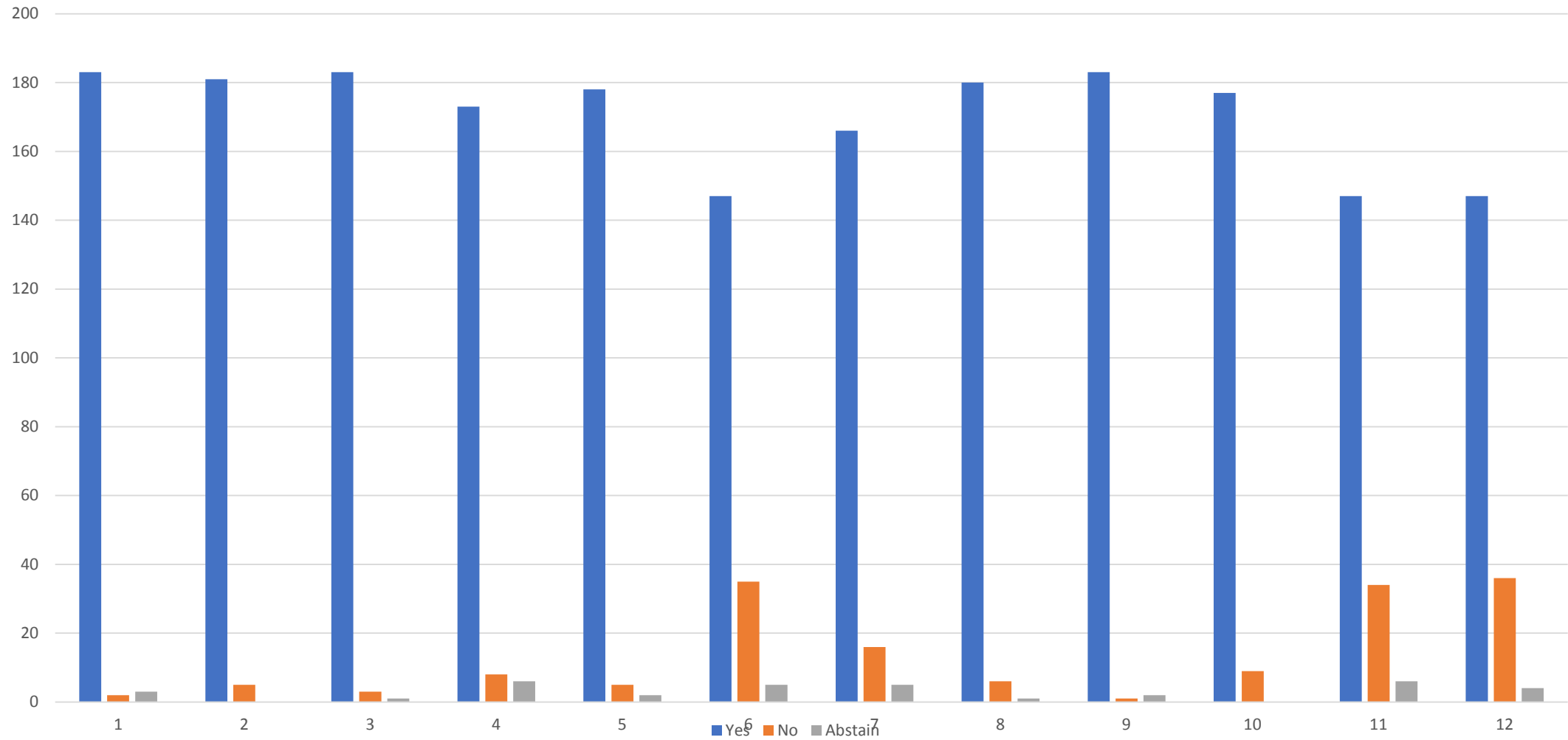
1. Mission to build a community of intentional disciples (Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, Service)
2. All pastoral initiatives set in relation to holiness
3. Growing in God's grace is essential to culture of growth
4. To be a disciple means to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
5. Primary focus of Catholic schools and catechesis is formation of intentional disciples
6. Proper sequence of sacraments of initiation, normal age of reason (third grade)

Fourth Diocesan Synod: What?

Declarations (7-12)

7. All faithful responsible to hand on faith; Catholic education should be available without cost
8. Celebration of liturgy principal duty of clergy
9. Eternal life with God is ultimate aim, which means growing in virtue through grace and dying to sin
10. Community of intentional disciples recognizes all we have as gift from God and generously stewards the gifts given to them
11. Tithing principle of 8% to parish, 2% to other charities
12. Parishes will tithe 10% as replacement for CT and ACSA

Record of Votes





Restored Order

The Evangelization
Opportunity of a Lifetime



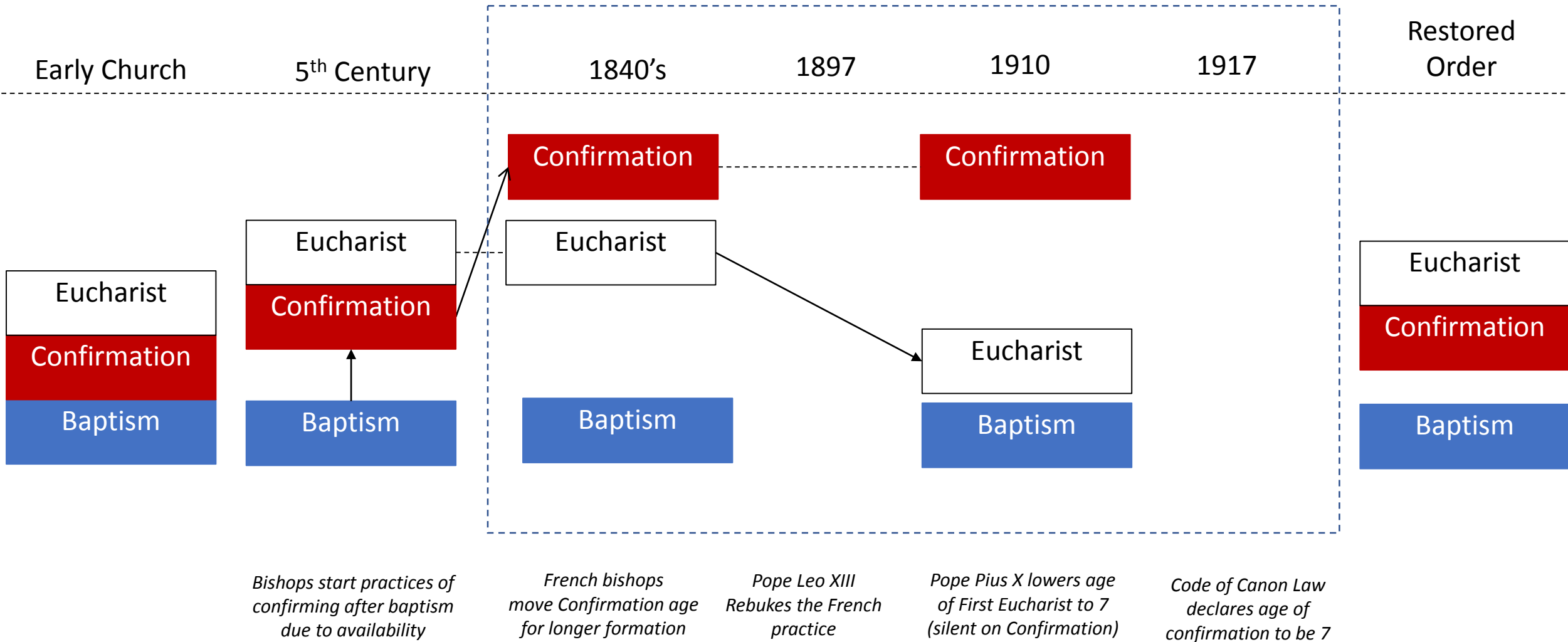


Part I: The Case for Change



*You can't
change how
we've always
done it!*

Actually, it's not how we've always done it





It's about the Eucharist

- CCC 1322:
The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. Those who have been raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood by Baptism and configured more deeply to Christ by Confirmation participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist.
- CCC 1324:
The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it.

What is Confirmation?

- CCC 1285: Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded...**the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.**



The Proper Sequence

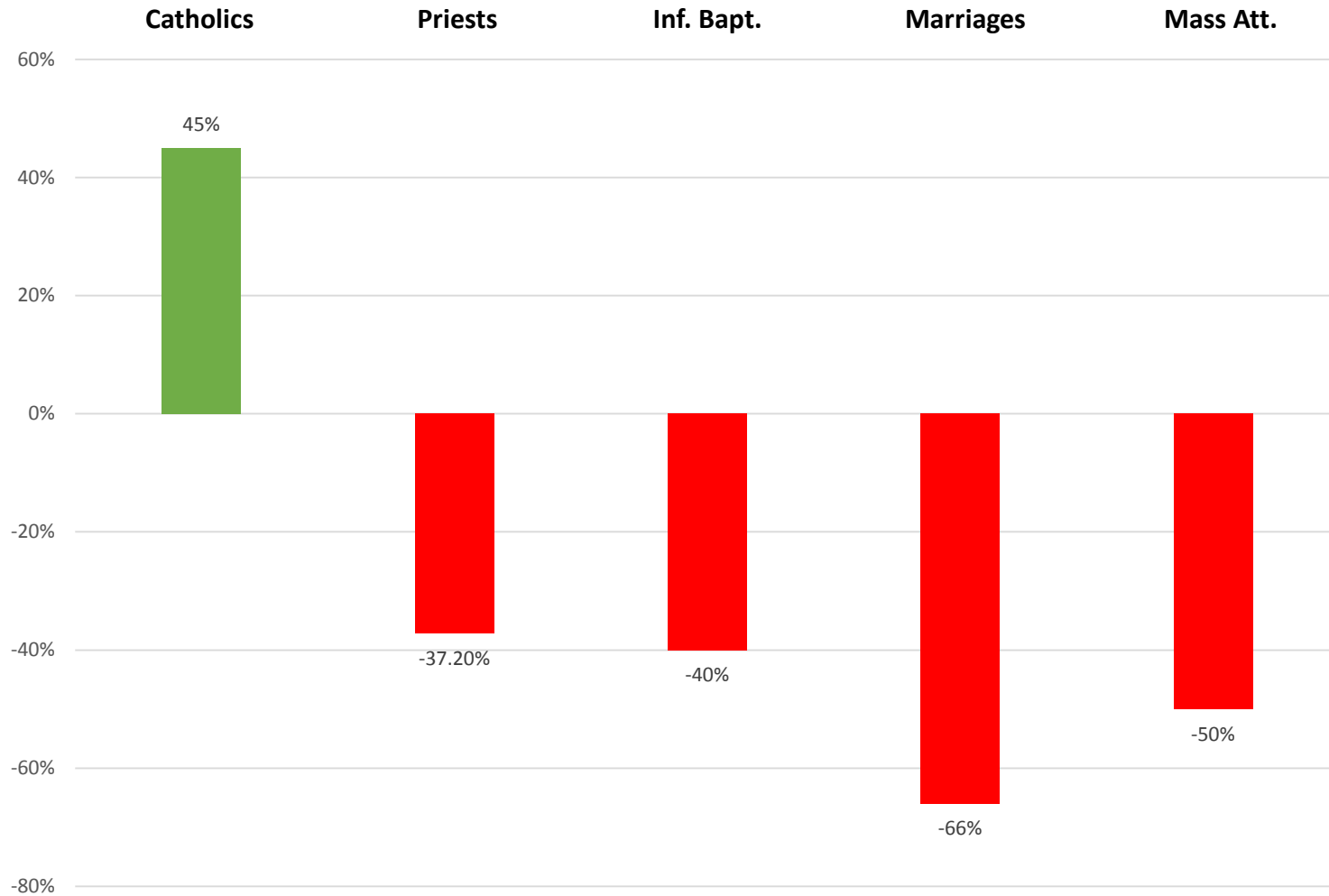
- Confirmation completes Baptism, not Eucharist
- Eucharist completes Christian Initiation
- Pattern of Natural Growth Birth/baptism -> Growth/Confirmation -> Spousehood/Eucharist
- RCIA pattern



*Ain't Broke,
don't Fix it!*

Grandma, it's Broke

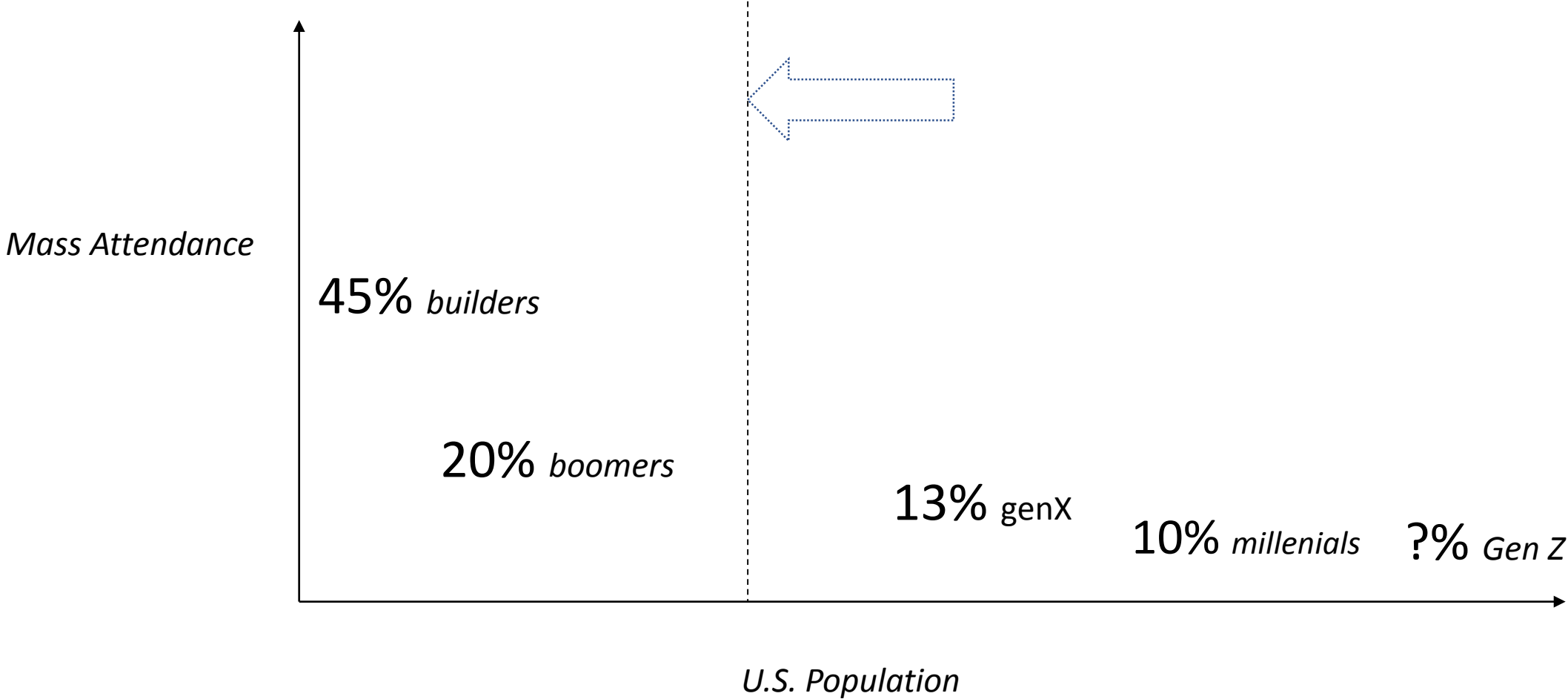
Relative Change in Catholic Life 1970-2017 (CARA 2017 Report)






Can we withstand the wind and waves?

(Mt 7:26-27)



*We'll lose all
our kids after
3rd grade!*





Cause or
Effect?

13 *average age of falling away*

62% *leave before age 18*

77% *never got confirmed*

Cyberbullying

47% cyberbullied

71% see it and are concerned about it

2x more common against girls

2x-9x suicide prevalence for victims

CBSIAP / December 2, 2016, 10:00 AM

Cyberbullying pushed Texas teen to commit suicide, family says



Brandy Vela is seen in a family photo provided to CBS Houston affiliate KHOU-TV.

Pornography

- 97% of boys have viewed
- 23% tried to stop but couldn't
- 13% watching "more and more extreme"



Deadly Effects of Pornography on Kids

- “Pornography consumption is associated with **decreased brain volume** in the right striatum, decreased left striatum activation, and lower functional connectivity to the prefrontal cortex.”
(Journal of the American Medical Association Psychiatry – 2014).
- “...teens and pre-teens with highly plastic brains are compulsively using high-speed Internet porn with their porn tastes becoming **out of sync with their real-life sexuality.**”
(Psychology Today – 2016)
- Exposure to pornography between 9 and 13 is linked to **high-risk behaviors**
(The Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry – 2001).
- Physical aggression in 88.2% of leading pornography scenes and verbal aggression in 48.7% with 94.4% of the aggression directed towards women and girls. (Violence Against Women)

Depression

- 20% have experienced
- 15% at any given time
- Less than a third seeking treatment
- 2x more likely in girls than boys





Suicide

- ↑ • 17% seriously considered
- ↑ • 13% made plans
- ↑ • 7% attempted
- ↑ • 32% persistent sadness, loneliness

Source: National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, 2007-2017

Effects of Confirmation

CCC 1303:

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace....

- it unites us more firmly to Christ
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect
- it gives us a **special strength** of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross



Obstacles to Grace

(according to St. Thomas, STL III 66-68)

- Lack of faith/insincerity
- Lack of repentance
- Presence of demons

*Who is more open to grace...
a 3rd grader or 8th grader?*



*What about
our service
projects!!!*



Bad Theology, Bad Practice

Earning grace
through service
projects

My
confirmation of
my faith

Graduation
from religion

Confirmation is not an award!

CCC 1308:

Although Confirmation is sometimes called the “sacrament of Christian maturity,” we must not confuse adult faith with the age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is grace of free, unmerited election and does not need “ratification” to become effective.



Summary:
The Case for Change

- Pastoral
- Historical
- Theological

