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Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S.

By a two-to-one margin, American Catholics now give Francis negative marks for his handling of the sex abuse scandal

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Gregory A. Smith, Associate Director of Research
Elizabeth Podrebarac Sciupac, Research Associate
Anna Schiller, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

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This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals. Find related reports online at pewresearch.org/religion.

Research Team

Elizabeth Podrebarac Sciupac, *Research Associate*

Gregory A. Smith, *Associate Director of Research*

Alan Cooperman, *Director of Religion Research*

Besheer Mohamed, *Senior Researcher*

Becka A. Alper, *Research Associate*

Kiana Cox, *Research Associate*

Claire Gecewicz, *Research Analyst*

Jocelyn Kiley, *Associate Director of Research*

Hannah Hartig, *Research Analyst*

Editorial and Graphic Design

Michael Lipka, *Editorial Manager*

Aleksandra Sandstrom, *Copy Editor*

Bill Webster, *Information Graphics Designer*

Communications and Web Publishing

Stacy Rosenberg, *Associate Director, Digital*

Travis Mitchell, *Digital Producer*

Anna Schiller, *Communications Manager*

Jessica Pumphrey, *Communications Associate*

Claudia Deane, vice president of research, also gave valuable feedback on this report.

Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S.

By a two-to-one margin, American Catholics now give Francis negative marks for his handling of the sex abuse scandal

As [allegations](#) and [investigations](#) of sex abuse in the Catholic Church become more widespread, a new Pew Research Center survey finds that confidence in the way Pope Francis is handling the crisis has plummeted among U.S. Catholics.

Just three-in-ten Catholic adults say Francis is doing an “excellent” or a “good” job addressing the issue, which is down 24 points since 2015 and 14 points from when Pew Research Center last asked the question in January of this year.

While seven-in-ten American Catholics say their overall opinion of Pope Francis is favorable, six-in-ten now say he is doing an “only fair” or “poor” job handling the sex abuse scandal, including 36% who say his efforts on this front have been poor. This is nearly double the share who said he was doing a poor job at the beginning of this year, and triple the share who said this in 2015.

U.S. Catholics increasingly critical of the way Pope Francis has handled sex abuse scandal

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing an _____ job addressing the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church

	Feb. 2014	June 2015	Jan. 2018	Sept. 2018
<i>Rating of pope's job addressing abuse scandal</i>	%	%	%	%
NET Excellent/good	54	55	45	31
Excellent	18	19	13	13
Good	36	36	33	18
NET Only fair/poor	39	34	46	62
Only fair	24	22	27	27
Poor	15	12	19	36
Don't know/undesigned	8	11	8	6
	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. “Undesignated” includes a very small number of respondents in the January and September 2018 surveys who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive any of the questions intended only for Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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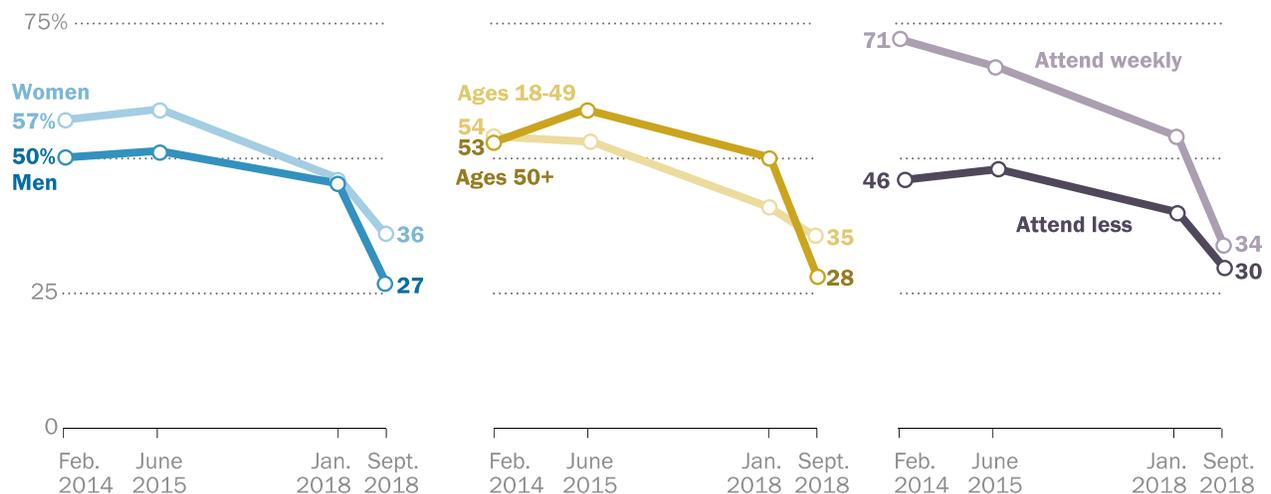
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The declining confidence in Francis' handling of the sex abuse crisis is broad-based, occurring across a wide variety of subgroups of U.S. Catholics. Since 2015, for instance, the share who give the pope "excellent" or "good" ratings for his handling of the issue declined by 24 points among Catholic men and 23 points among Catholic women. Similarly, both younger and older Catholics have grown increasingly critical of the pontiff's handling of the situation.

Even among Catholics who say they attend Mass weekly, the share who give Francis positive marks for his handling of the sex abuse crisis has been cut in half since 2015; 34% in this group now give Francis "excellent" or "good" ratings for his handling of the issue, whereas 67% gave him a positive evaluation in 2015.

Even among regular Mass-goers, declining share give positive ratings to pope on addressing sex abuse

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing an excellent or a good job addressing the sex abuse scandal



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.
 "Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

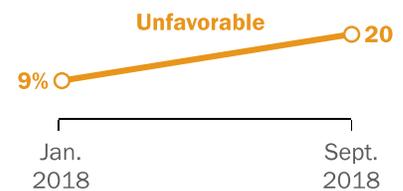
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When asked about their overall opinion of Pope Francis, roughly seven-in-ten U.S. Catholics now say they have a favorable opinion of the pontiff, down 12 points since the beginning of the year. The decline is especially evident in the share of American Catholics who say they have a *very* favorable opinion of the pope, which now stands at 30%. By comparison, previous Pew Research Center surveys have generally found that four-in-ten or more Catholics (and as many as 62% in October 2015) hold Francis in the highest regard.

These are among the key findings of a new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 18 to 24 among 1,754 adults, including 336 Catholics. Among the U.S. public as a whole (including both Catholics and non-Catholics), roughly half say they have a favorable view of Pope Francis, which is the lowest rating he has received in nine Pew Research Center surveys that have asked about Pope Francis since the beginning of his pontificate in 2013.

Shrinking majority of U.S. Catholics express favorable view of Pope Francis

% of U.S. Catholics who have a ____ opinion of Pope Francis



Note: Don't know/can't rate responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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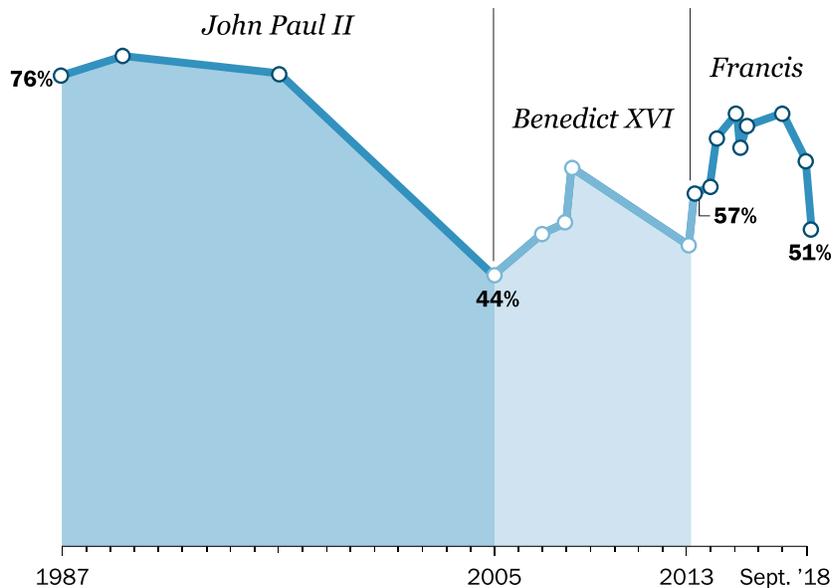
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Until now, Francis has generally earned higher favorability ratings from the U.S. public than did Pope Benedict XVI. In the new survey, however, Francis' favorability rating is on par with the ratings typically earned by his predecessor, and significantly below the rating Benedict garnered immediately following his visit to the U.S. in April 2008 (61%).

In surveys conducted between 1987 and 1996, John Paul II was viewed positively by a larger share of Americans than have ever viewed either Benedict XVI or Francis positively. However, Pew Research Center polling did not include questions about John Paul II after news of sex abuse in the church made national headlines in 2002.

Among all U.S. adults, half rate Pope Francis favorably

% of U.S. adults who say they have a favorable opinion of the pope



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.
 "Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

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In addition to asking about the pope's handling of the sex abuse scandal, the survey also asked Catholics to rate the way Pope Francis is handling his job in three other areas: appointing new bishops and cardinals, spreading the Catholic faith, and standing up for traditional moral values. On all three issues, evaluations of the pope have grown sharply more negative this year.

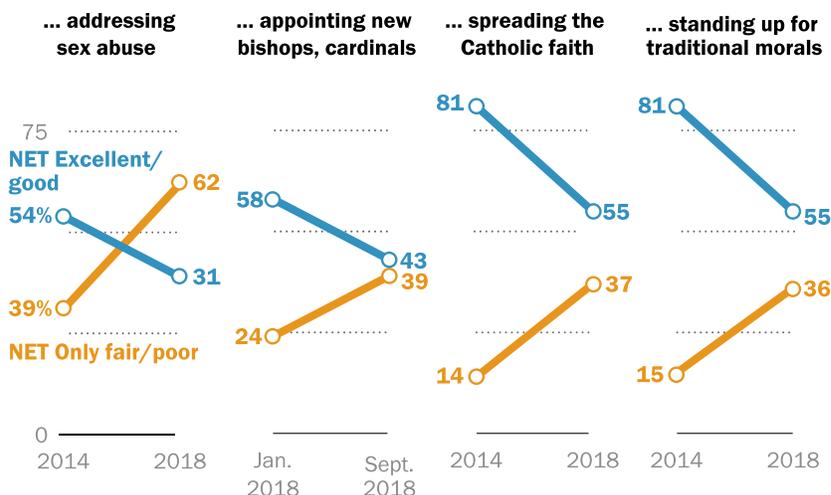
For instance, U.S. Catholics are now evenly divided between those who give Francis positive ratings for the job he has done appointing new bishops and cardinals and those who give him negative marks in this area. In January, by contrast, the balance of opinion on this question tilted heavily in the pope's favor.

And while the pontiff is still rated more positively than negatively for the job he has done spreading the Catholic faith and standing up for traditional moral values, the share of Catholics who say Francis is doing an excellent or a good job on these fronts also has declined sharply in recent months.

It is possible that respondents could link any of these areas to the sex abuse scandal. For example, Francis recently admitted that rather than spreading the Catholic faith, the scandal is [driving Catholics away from the faith](#). In addition, the church has been criticized for elevating bishops and cardinals [despite warnings that they were alleged abusers](#).

U.S. Catholics give Francis declining marks in several aspects of his job

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a _____ job ...



Note: Don't know/refused responses not shown.

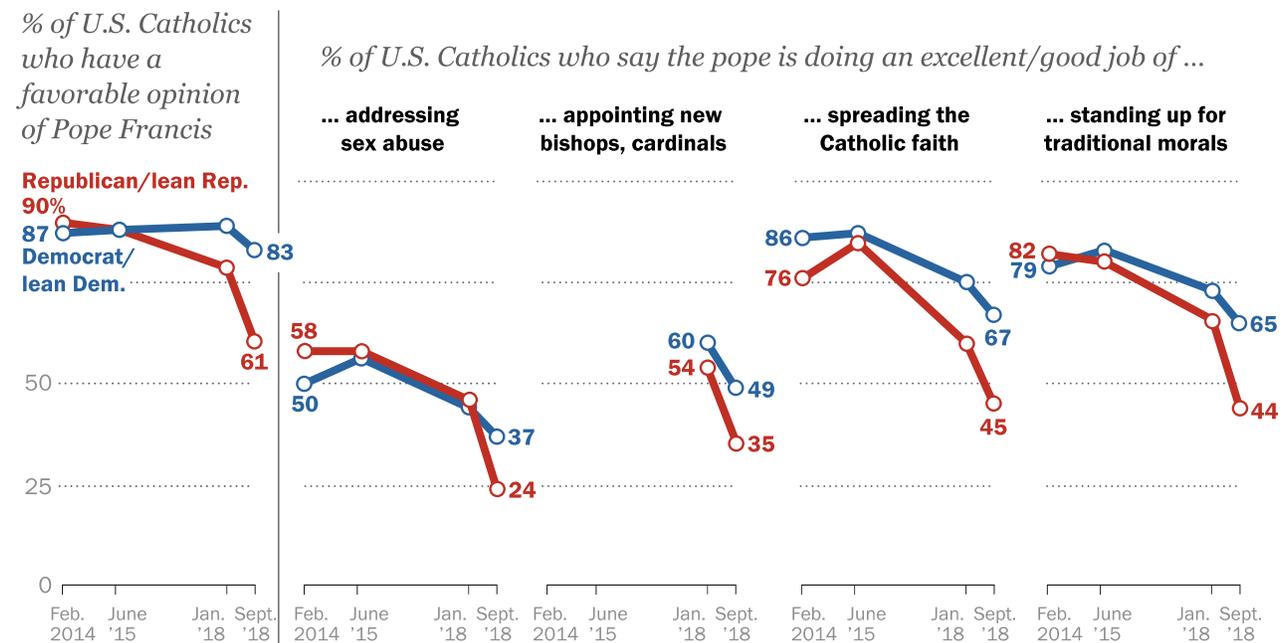
Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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The new study also shows that U.S. Catholics' views of Pope Francis are increasingly polarized along political lines. For instance, in 2014, there was virtually no difference in views of Pope Francis between Catholic Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party (87% of whom expressed a favorable view of the Pope) and Catholic Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP (90% favorable). By January 2018, however, favorable views of Pope Francis were 10 points higher among Catholic Democrats than among Catholic Republicans (89% vs. 79%). And today, the share of Catholics who have a favorable view of the pontiff is 22 points higher among Democrats than among Republicans (83% vs. 61%).

Increasing political polarization in U.S. Catholics' views toward Pope Francis



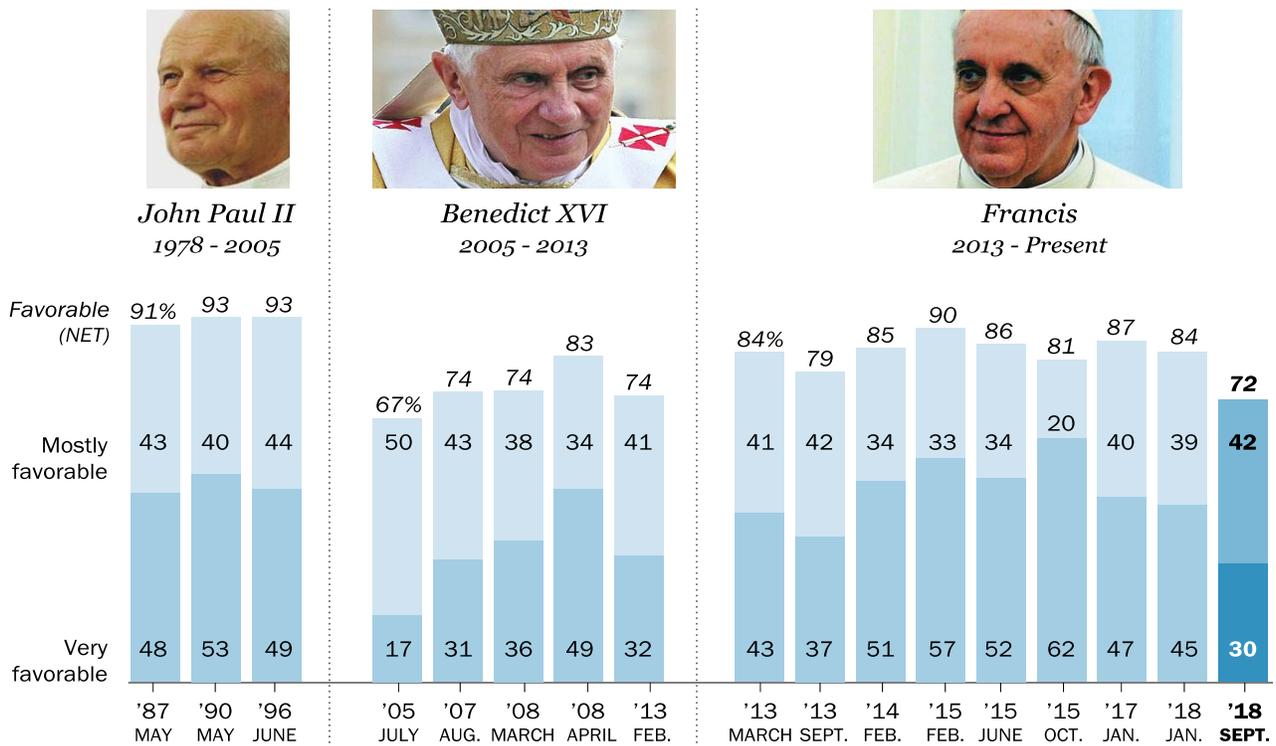
Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.
"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

And while Catholic Democrats and Republicans have both expressed growing doubts in recent years about Francis' handling of the sex abuse scandal, Catholic Democrats are now 13 points more likely than Catholic Republicans to give him excellent or good ratings in this area (37% vs. 24%).

Declining shares of Catholics and non-Catholics view Francis in a positive light

While most Catholics (and majorities within every Catholic subgroup analyzed in the survey) rate Pope Francis at least “mostly” favorably, the share who hold him in the highest esteem is shrinking. Just three-in-ten U.S. Catholics now say they have a “very favorable” opinion of Francis, which is down from 45% who said the same earlier this year and merely half as large as the share who had a “very favorable” view of the pope in the immediate wake of his visit to the U.S. in October 2015 (62%).

Just three-in-ten U.S. Catholics now have ‘very favorable’ view of Pope Francis



Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Based on U.S. Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018. Wikimedia Commons (images).

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These cooler feelings toward Francis are evident across many Catholic subgroups. Among Catholic men, for example, the share who say they have a “very” favorable view of Pope Francis has dropped 20 points in the past nine months. Even among Catholics who attend Mass at least once a week, just a third (34%) now say they have a very favorable opinion of the pontiff, down from 56% in January. And Catholic Democrats, who still broadly see Francis favorably, also are less likely now to say their opinion is “very” favorable than they were earlier this year (34% vs. 49% in January 2018).

Francis still widely popular among U.S. Catholics, but evidence of decline

% of U.S. Catholics with a _____ view of Francis

	January 2018					September 2018				
	NET Favorable	Very	Mostly	NET Unfavorable	DK/ can't rate	NET Favorable	Very	Mostly	NET Unfavorable	DK/ can't rate
All U.S. Catholics	84	45	39	9	7=100	72	30	42	20	8=100
Men	82	42	40	12	6	66	22	44	24	10
Women	85	48	37	7	7	77	37	40	17	7
Ages 18-49	80	38	42	9	11	71	32	38	21	8
50+	88	51	37	10	2	73	28	45	19	8
<i>Attend Mass ...</i>										
Weekly or more	89	56	33	7	4	76	34	42	20	4
Less often	81	40	41	11	8	70	28	42	20	10
Republican/lean Rep.	79	37	41	18	4	61	25	36	28	11
Democrat/lean Dem.	89	49	40	4	7	83	34	48	15	2

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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The survey also shows that American Catholics are not alone in their shifting opinion of Pope Francis. Just a third (32%) of white evangelical Protestants hold a positive view of the pope, down from 52% who said the same in January. And there has been a similar decline in Francis' popularity among white mainline Protestants: 67% viewed him favorably in January, compared with 48% today. Among religiously unaffiliated adults, roughly half view Francis favorably, relatively unchanged from earlier this year – but down 18 points since January 2017.

Ratings for Pope Francis also on the decline among white mainline, evangelical Protestants in U.S.

	White evangelical Protestant			White mainline Protestant			Unaffiliated		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	DK/can't rate	Favorable	Unfavorable	DK/can't rate	Favorable	Unfavorable	DK/can't rate
Pope Francis	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2018	32	34	34=100	48	22	30=100	53	25	23=100
Jan. 2018	52	28	20	67	17	17	58	16	26
Jan. 2017	53	31	16	72	14	14	71	19	10
Oct. 2015	64	19	17	67	11	23	61	12	27
June 2015	51	15	35	69	6	25	58	10	33
Feb. 2015	60	22	18	74	7	19	68	16	16
Feb. 2014	56	14	30	66	9	26	64	11	25
Sept. 2013	47	17	36	60	8	32	54	15	32
March 2013	59	9	32	65	7	28	39	27	34

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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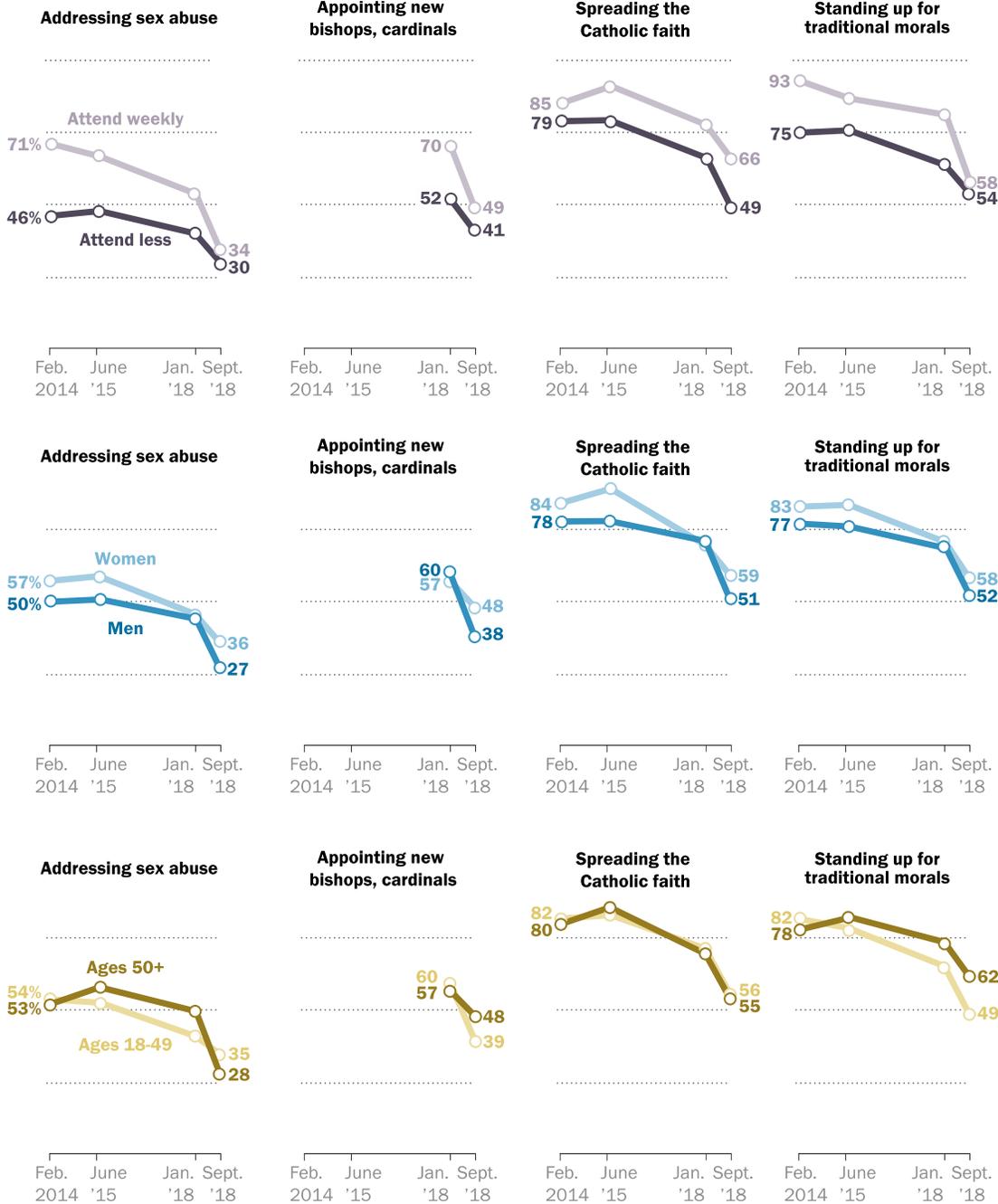
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Broad-based declines in U.S. Catholics' views of how Pope Francis is handling sex abuse scandal, other issues

Generally, Catholics who attend Mass regularly have been more supportive of the pontiff than have those who do not attend Mass regularly. But ratings of Pope Francis have declined across the board. And today, weekly Mass-attending Catholics are no more likely than Catholics who attend less often to say that Francis is doing an adequate job handling the sex abuse crisis or standing up for traditional moral values. Similarly, declines in U.S. Catholics' ratings of Pope Francis when it comes to appointing bishops and cardinals or spreading the Catholic faith have occurred across a variety of Catholic subgroups.

Broad based declines in views of way Pope Francis is handling various issues

% of U.S. Catholics in each group who say Pope Francis is doing an excellent or a good job...



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.
 "Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Sept. 18 to 24, 2018, among a national sample of 1,754 adults (including 336 Catholics), 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (439 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,315 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 829 who had no landline telephone).¹ The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of Abt Associates. A combination of landline and cellphone random-digit-dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>.

The combined landline and cellphone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2016 Census Bureau's American Community Survey one-year estimates and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cellphone only, or both landline and cellphone), based on extrapolations from the 2016 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cellphones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

¹ Due to a programming error, 37 respondents who were interviewed on a landline phone were not asked about the presence of a cellphone in their household. To account for this error, these cases were imputed as having both a landline and a cellphone, which is the most common status for landline respondents.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,754	2.7 percentage points
Catholic	336	6.2 percentage points
<i>Among Catholics ...</i>		
Men	185	8.4 percentage points
Women	151	9.3 percentage points
Ages 18-49	126	10.2 percentage points
50+	205	8.0 percentage points
<i>Attend Mass ...</i>		
Weekly or more	125	10.2 percentage points
Less often	207	7.9 percentage points
Republican/lean Rep.	156	9.2 percentage points
Democrat/lean Dem.	160	9.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SEPTEMBER 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2018
N=1,754**

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 9-10, 14-27, 29-32, 34-43, 47-49, 52-57, 60-63, 67-72, 80-82, 85-92, 94-95

ASK ALL:

Q.84 Is your overall opinion of Pope Francis very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Sep 18-24, 2018	51	13	38	27	11	15	3	19
Jan 10-15, 2018	62	26	37	18	7	11	3	16
Jan 4-9, 2017	70	30	40	19	7	13	2	9
Oct 1-4, 2015	68	35	33	12	5	7	5	15
May 5-Jun 7, 2015	64	29	35	10	4	5	8	19
Feb 18-22, 2015	70	29	40	15	5	10	5	11
Feb 14-23, 2014	66	30	36	11	4	7	7	16
Sep 4-8, 2013	58	21	37	12	4	7	10	20
Mar 28-31, 2013	57	22	35	14	6	9	6	22
Feb 14-17, 2013 (Benedict XVI)	49	14	34	27	12	16	4	20
April, 2008 (Benedict XVI)	61	22	39	17	8	9	4	18
March, 2008 (Benedict XVI)	52	18	34	18	6	12	7	23
August, 2007 (Benedict XVI)	50	14	36	18	6	12	8	24
July, 2005 (Benedict XVI)	44	10	34	11	4	7	4	41
June, 1996 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	13	4	9	1	10
May, 1990 (John Paul II)	79	31	48	11	4	7	1	9
May, 1987 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	14	4	10	1	9

ASK IF CATHOLIC (RELIG=2) [N=336]:

Q.100 How would you rate the job the pope is doing in **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? Is he doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Is the pope doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job [REPEAT ITEM]?**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref¹</u>
a. Spreading the Catholic faith					
Sep 18-24, 2018	21	34	29	8	8
Jan 10-15, 2018	31	39	20	5	4
May 5-Jun 7, 2015	41	43	8	2	6
Feb 14-23, 2014	34	47	12	2	5
b. Addressing the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church					
Sep 18-24, 2018	13	18	27	36	6
Jan 10-15, 2018	13	33	27	19	8
May 5-Jun 7, 2015	19	36	22	12	11
Feb 14-23, 2014	18	36	24	15	8
c. Standing up for traditional moral values					
Sep 18-24, 2018	20	35	27	9	9
Jan 10-15, 2018	27	43	21	5	4
May 5-Jun 7, 2015	33	47	10	2	7
Feb 14-23, 2014	29	51	14	2	4
d. Appointing new bishops and cardinals					
Sep 18-24, 2018	9	34	32	7	17
Jan 10-15, 2018	18	41	20	4	17

¹ For the September 2018 and January 2018 surveys the “don’t know/refused” category includes some respondents who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive the questions intended only for Catholics.

Views of Pope Francis among U.S. Catholics

% of U.S. Catholics who have a _____ opinion of Pope Francis

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>September 2018</i>									
NET Favorable	72	66	77	71	73	76	70	61	83
Very favorable	30	22	37	32	28	34	28	25	34
Mostly favorable	42	44	40	38	45	42	42	36	48
NET Unfavorable	20	24	17	21	19	20	20	28	15
Very unfavorable	7	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	8
Mostly unfavorable	13	18	9	15	12	14	13	21	7
Can't rate/DK/ref.	8	10	7	8	8	4	10	11	2
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	336	185	151	126	205	125	207	156	160
<i>January 2018</i>									
NET Favorable	84	82	85	80	88	89	81	79	89
Very favorable	45	42	48	38	51	56	40	37	49
Mostly favorable	39	40	37	42	37	33	41	41	40
NET Unfavorable	9	12	7	9	10	7	11	18	4
Very unfavorable	2	3	2	1	4	1	3	4	2
Mostly unfavorable	7	9	5	8	6	6	8	13	3
Can't rate/DK/ref.	7	6	7	11	2	4	8	4	7
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	316	177	139	117	193	124	189	140	142

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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Views of Pope Francis among U.S. Catholics, continued

% of U.S. Catholics who have a _____ opinion of Pope Francis

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>June 2015</i>									
NET Favorable	86	82	90	85	87	92	83	88	88
Very favorable	52	46	57	48	56	63	45	49	56
Mostly favorable	34	36	33	38	31	29	38	39	32
NET Unfavorable	4	6	3	3	5	3	5	5	2
Very unfavorable	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1
Mostly unfavorable	2	4	2	1	4	2	3	3	1
Can't rate/DK/ref.	10	13	7	12	8	6	12	7	9
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	1,016	489	527	398	604	431	584	403	460
<i>February 2014</i>									
NET Favorable	85	82	89	82	89	89	84	90	87
Very favorable	51	50	53	46	58	61	47	54	53
Mostly favorable	34	32	36	36	31	28	37	36	34
NET Unfavorable	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	4	4
Very unfavorable	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	1
Mostly unfavorable	3	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	3
Can't rate/DK/ref.	11	13	8	13	8	7	12	5	9
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	351	181	170	180	168	123	225	143	174

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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Catholic views on the pope's performance in spreading the Catholic faith

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ____ job spreading the Catholic faith

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>September 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	55	51	59	56	55	66	49	45	67
Excellent	21	20	22	23	19	31	16	17	26
Good	34	31	37	33	36	34	34	27	41
NET Only fair/poor	37	40	34	35	38	28	42	43	28
Only fair	29	31	26	28	28	22	33	30	23
Poor	8	9	8	7	9	6	10	13	4
DK/ref./undesignated	8	9	7	9	8	7	9	12	5
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	336	185	151	126	205	125	207	156	160
<i>January 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	70	71	70	72	70	78	66	60	75
Excellent	31	33	30	29	34	39	27	20	42
Good	39	37	40	42	36	39	39	40	33
NET Only fair/poor	25	25	25	25	25	18	29	34	22
Only fair	20	21	20	20	20	16	23	25	19
Poor	5	5	5	5	5	2	7	10	2
DK/ref./undesignated	4	4	5	3	5	4	5	6	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	316	177	139	117	193	124	189	140	142

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Undesignated" includes respondents who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive any of the questions intended only for Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in spreading the Catholic faith, continued

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ___ job spreading the Catholic faith

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>June 2015</i>									
NET Excellent/good	84	78	89	83	85	91	79	85	87
Excellent	41	33	48	41	41	53	34	37	45
Good	43	45	41	42	43	38	46	48	42
NET Only fair/poor	10	13	7	9	11	7	12	12	8
Only fair	8	11	6	8	9	6	10	8	7
Poor	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	1
DK/ref.	6	9	4	8	4	2	8	4	5
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	1,016	489	527	398	604	431	584	403	460
<i>February 2014</i>									
NET Excellent/good	81	78	84	82	80	85	79	76	86
Excellent	34	32	37	31	39	44	30	38	33
Good	47	46	47	51	41	41	49	37	53
NET Only fair/poor	14	15	13	16	11	10	16	17	11
Only fair	12	14	11	13	11	10	14	15	10
Poor	2	1	3	3	<1	1	2	2	2
DK/ref.	5	7	3	1	9	4	5	7	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	351	181	170	180	168	123	225	143	174

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in standing up for traditional values

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ___ job standing up for traditional moral values

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>September 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	55	52	58	49	62	58	54	44	65
Excellent	20	17	23	23	18	22	19	15	26
Good	35	35	35	27	44	36	34	29	38
NET Only fair/poor	36	39	33	40	31	33	37	47	30
Only fair	27	29	26	33	22	27	28	31	27
Poor	9	11	7	7	9	6	9	16	3
DK/ref./undesignated	9	9	9	11	7	9	9	9	5
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	336	185	151	126	205	125	207	156	160
<i>January 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	70	69	71	65	73	81	64	66	73
Excellent	27	26	28	23	31	36	22	24	33
Good	43	43	43	42	43	44	43	42	40
NET Only fair/poor	26	29	24	30	23	18	30	31	23
Only fair	21	24	18	25	18	14	24	19	23
Poor	5	4	6	5	5	3	6	12	1
DK/ref./undesignated	4	2	6	5	3	2	5	3	4
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	316	177	139	117	193	124	189	140	142

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Undesignated" includes respondents who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive any of the questions intended only for Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in standing up for traditional values, continued

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ____ job standing up for traditional moral values

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>June 2015</i>									
NET Excellent/good	80	76	84	78	82	87	76	80	83
Excellent	33	27	38	31	36	42	28	32	37
Good	47	48	46	47	46	45	48	49	46
NET Only fair/poor	13	17	9	13	12	9	15	15	9
Only fair	10	13	8	11	10	7	12	11	9
Poor	2	4	1	2	3	1	3	4	<1
DK/ref.	7	7	7	9	6	4	9	5	7
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	1,016	489	527	398	604	431	584	403	460
<i>February 2014</i>									
NET Excellent/good	81	77	83	82	78	93	75	82	79
Excellent	29	26	32	27	33	39	25	33	28
Good	51	51	51	55	46	54	51	49	51
NET Only fair/poor	15	19	12	17	14	5	21	13	18
Only fair	14	18	11	16	12	2	20	12	16
Poor	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	2
DK/ref.	4	4	4	1	8	3	4	5	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	351	181	170	180	168	123	225	143	174

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in appointing new bishops and cardinals

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ____ job appointing new bishops and cardinals

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages		Attend Mass	Attend Mass	Rep./	Dem./
	%	%	%	18-49	50+	weekly or more	less often	lean Rep.	lean Dem.
				%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>September 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	43	38	48	39	48	49	41	35	49
Excellent	9	7	12	9	10	13	8	8	11
Good	34	31	36	30	38	35	33	28	37
NET Only fair/poor	39	44	35	45	33	38	40	43	39
Only fair	32	37	27	36	28	32	33	37	32
Poor	7	6	8	9	5	6	7	7	7
DK/ref./undesignated	17	18	17	16	19	14	19	21	13
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	336	185	151	126	205	125	207	156	160
<i>January 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	58	60	57	60	57	70	52	54	60
Excellent	18	17	18	14	22	24	14	12	25
Good	41	43	39	46	35	46	39	42	35
NET Only fair/poor	24	27	22	27	22	20	26	28	23
Only fair	20	23	18	22	19	16	21	23	18
Poor	4	4	4	6	3	3	5	5	5
DK/ref./undesignated	17	13	21	13	21	10	22	18	17
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	316	177	139	117	193	124	189	140	142

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Undesignated" includes respondents who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive any of the questions intended only for Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in addressing the sex abuse scandal

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ___ job addressing the sex abuse scandal

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>September 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	31	27	36	35	28	34	30	24	37
Excellent	13	7	19	18	8	15	13	11	15
Good	18	20	16	17	20	19	18	13	22
NET Only fair/poor	62	65	60	58	66	59	64	68	59
Only fair	27	27	27	24	30	30	25	19	37
Poor	36	39	33	34	37	29	39	49	23
DK/ref./undesignated	6	8	5	7	5	7	6	8	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	336	185	151	126	205	125	207	156	160
<i>January 2018</i>									
NET Excellent/good	45	45	46	41	50	54	40	45	44
Excellent	13	13	12	13	13	19	9	13	12
Good	33	31	34	28	38	35	31	32	32
NET Only fair/poor	46	48	45	52	41	41	50	48	46
Only fair	27	27	28	30	24	22	31	30	26
Poor	19	21	17	22	17	19	19	17	21
DK/ref./undesignated	8	8	9	7	9	4	10	7	10
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	316	177	139	117	193	124	189	140	142

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding. "Undesignated" includes respondents who were backcoded into the Catholic category during data cleaning, and therefore did not receive any of the questions intended only for Catholics.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Catholic views on the pope's performance in addressing the sex abuse scandal, continued

% of U.S. Catholics who say Pope Francis is doing a ___ job addressing the sex abuse scandal

	All U.S. Catholics	Men	Women	Ages 18-49	50+	Attend Mass weekly or more	Attend Mass less often	Rep./ lean Rep.	Dem./ lean Dem.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>June 2015</i>									
NET Excellent/good	55	51	59	53	58	67	48	57	56
Excellent	19	16	22	17	21	26	14	17	18
Good	36	35	37	36	36	41	34	40	38
NET Only fair/poor	34	38	31	34	35	24	40	35	33
Only fair	22	25	19	22	22	16	26	24	23
Poor	12	13	11	12	13	8	15	12	10
DK/ref.	11	11	10	14	7	9	12	8	11
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	1,016	489	527	398	604	431	584	403	460
<i>February 2014</i>									
NET Excellent/good	54	50	57	54	53	71	46	58	50
Excellent	18	20	16	17	18	25	14	23	13
Good	36	30	42	37	36	45	32	35	37
NET Only fair/poor	39	41	37	41	36	24	45	33	44
Only fair	24	23	25	25	24	13	28	22	28
Poor	15	18	12	17	13	10	17	11	16
DK/ref.	8	9	6	5	10	6	9	9	6
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	351	181	170	180	168	123	225	143	174

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

"Confidence in Pope Francis Down Sharply in U.S."

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