



**ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
A STUDY OF YOUNG LISTENERS' CONNECTION WITH CATHOLIC SUNDAY PREACHING**

First, please give some basic information about yourself.

1. School _____ City _____
2. What is your faith tradition? (Catholic, Baptist, Hindu, etc.) _____
3. What is the name of your home parish or church (if none, put none)? _____
4. Were you born in this country? (please circle) [Yes] [No] 4a. Were your parents born in this country? [Yes] [No]
5. How would you describe your race? _____
6. Your birth date: month _____ year _____ 6a. Your grade (please circle) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
7. Your gender (please circle) [M] [F]

Thanks! Now we are ready to get going. There are two different sets of questions in this survey. Please follow the directions carefully. Circle the answer below that best fits you.

8. Are you a baptized Catholic? [Yes] [No]
9. Do you regularly attend a religious service (other than at school) at least once a month? [Yes] [No]

IF you circled [No] to EITHER of those two questions, please turn to the survey on page 12 and continue there. ➡

IF you circled [Yes] to BOTH of those questions, please continue to the survey on page 2. ↓

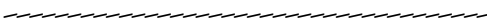


You are on this page because you answered [Yes] to **BOTH** of questions 8 and 9. This means that you are both a baptized Catholic and you go to Mass at least once per month.

Is that right? [Yes] [No] (9a. In this past month, about how many times have you been to Mass? _____)

If this is correct, please continue. ↓

If not, please find page 12 and continue there. You will have a different set of questions. ⇨



As we begin, think back to this past Sunday or when you last went to Mass at your parish. Who was it that gave the homily after the gospel? **That** is the person about whom we are asking you to respond.

If you have only one priest in your parish, that's easy – that is who it is. If you have many priests and deacons in your parish, **picture the one that you last heard preach.** (If it was a visiting preacher, please go back another week to your local one.)

When this survey talks about "this preacher" think about that person. (Some parishes call him a homilist.)

Stay consistent with that same person.

This is very important: your answers to each part must deal with the same preacher throughout.

(If you would like to talk about another preacher in your parish and/or have plenty more to say about this topic, please sign up for an in-person interview on the sign-up sheet at the front of the room.)

10. What is the first initial of this preacher? _____ Is he a deacon, a priest, or a bishop? _____

11. About how many priests *and* deacons are there in your parish? (Give the number or your best guess.) _____

12. How old is this preacher? (Please circle the number (1-5). If you don't know, take your best guess.)	Young 25-35 (1)	Sorta young 36-45 (2)	Middle-aged 46-60 (3)	Pretty old 61-79 (4)	Really old 80+ (5)
---	-----------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------

As we do this study, we seek to understand how you connect with the person of the preacher.

Studies have found that it's not just *what is said* in preaching but *who says it* that makes a difference.

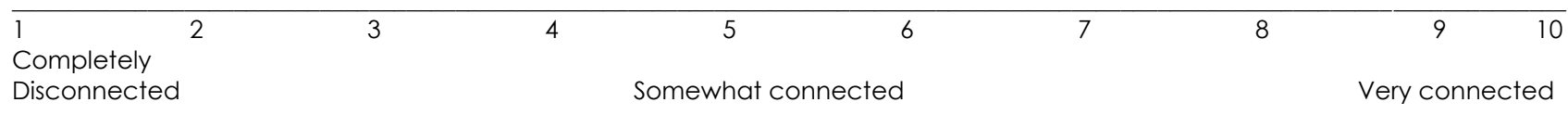
This first section asks about the preacher that you last heard preach...

THE PERSON OF THE PREACHER					
Please circle the number that gives your most accurate response.	Strongly Agree (1)	Somewhat Agree (2)	Neither Agree or Disagree (3)	Somewhat Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)
13. This preacher is friendly to me.	1	2	3	4	5
14. This preacher treats me with respect.	1	2	3	4	5
15. This preacher calls me by name.	1	2	3	4	5
16. This preacher interacts with young people regularly.	1	2	3	4	5
17. This preacher is approachable, easy to talk to.	1	2	3	4	5
18. This preacher exudes a love for Jesus.	1	2	3	4	5
19. This preacher looks at me when he is preaching.	1	2	3	4	5
20. This preacher uses personal examples in his preaching.	1	2	3	4	5
21. This preacher is a positive role model for me.	1	2	3	4	5
22. This preacher is real, in touch with the world.	1	2	3	4	5

23. The concept of "connection" is important to this study. Think of an adult (teacher, youth group leader, friend, neighbor, etc.,) who connects well with you. How would you describe what happens when that person connects with you - are there specific things that he or she does or says, or a way of acting, that strengthens that bond, makes that connection work? (Some kids are not "word" people. If it would help you to describe it better, draw a picture or a cartoon of what "good connection" looks like.)

24. The concept of "connection" between the preacher and a young person is important to this study. Please describe what it means for a preacher to "connect" with you.

25. From your point of view, how well does this particular preacher connect with you? Put an (X) on the line:



Thanks for your thoughts. On to section two...

The **SECOND SECTION ASKS ABOUT THE LAST HOMILY** that you heard this same preacher preach.

THE SUNDAY HOMILY					
Please circle the number that gives your most accurate response.	Strongly Agree (1)	Somewhat Agree (2)	Neither Agree or Disagree (3)	Somewhat Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)
26. This Sunday homily made me feel full of life.	1	2	3	4	5
27. This homily had a central idea that I can still remember.	1	2	3	4	5
28. This homily used words, examples, and images that I know.	1	2	3	4	5
29. This homily talked about following God and Jesus.	1	2	3	4	5
30. This homily helped me in the struggles of my daily life.	1	2	3	4	5
31. This homily was full of conviction.	1	2	3	4	5
32. This homily was sincere and personal.	1	2	3	4	5
33. This homily helped me to understand the Scriptures better.	1	2	3	4	5
34. This homily opened me up to receive the Eucharist better.	1	2	3	4	5
35. This homily inspired discussion among my family and friend(s).	1	2	3	4	5

36. If I had a video or a written copy of this homily, or a link to it on the web, I would recommend it or give it to a friend.	Yes	No	Don't know		
37. What is the chief reason that you went to Mass this particular day?	To worship God	To be entertained	I was required to	To be with my friends and/or family	Other _____

38. On a scale of 1 to 10, ten being the very best, how would you rate how well *this* particular homily connected with you and your spiritual needs? Put an (X) on the spot that best represents your perspective:



39. On a scale of 1 to 10, ten being the very best, how would you rate how well this particular homily motivated you to deepen your commitment to God? Put an (X) on the spot that best represents your perspective:



40. As a grade of A to F, how would you rate the quality of that particular homily in relation to other public speaking that you have heard in the non-religious (e.g. education, sports, political, TV, or entertainment) world? Put an (X) on the spot that best represents your perspective. The homily was:



Thanks for your input. On to section three...

The **THIRD SECTION** gives you a chance to describe *your own religious life*. Please be as real as you can.

YOUR WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD					
Please circle the number that gives your most accurate response.	Strongly Agree (1)	Somewhat Agree (2)	Neither Agree or Disagree (3)	Somewhat Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)
41. I believe in God.	1	2	3	4	5
42. I consider myself to be a religious and/or spiritual person. ⁱ	1	2	3	4	5
43. Going to Mass matters a lot to me.	1	2	3	4	5
44. I am involved in my faith more than by just attending Mass. (Youth group, retreat team, service projects etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
45. I am happy with the way my life is going.	1	2	3	4	5
46. My friends are generally strong in their faith.	1	2	3	4	5
47. Following Jesus is an important value in my family.	1	2	3	4	5
48. My parish helps me to grow spiritually.	1	2	3	4	5
49. I talk to others about my faith.	1	2	3	4	5

THE PERSON OF THE LISTENER					
How important are these things to your life? (Note that the categories have changed from "agree" to "important".)	Really Important (1)	Important (2)	Somewhat Important (3)	Not Important (4)	Not at all Important (5)
50. Growing closer to God.	1	2	3	4	5
51. Trying to be a good person.	1	2	3	4	5
52. Praying.	1	2	3	4	5
53. Getting along with my parent(s).	1	2	3	4	5
54. Excelling in extracurriculars –sports, debate, music, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
55. Making God first in my life.	1	2	3	4	5
56. Getting good grades in school.	1	2	3	4	5
57. Having an active social life.	1	2	3	4	5
58. Having adults who understand me.	1	2	3	4	5



Thanks for your honesty. On to section four, the last bank of questions...

In the first part of the questionnaire, all of the questions were about one specific preacher. Now, in this FOURTH SECTION, think about all of the Sunday preaching that you have heard in the last year. (Do not include special events that you have attended outside of your parish.)

59. Think of all of the **Sunday homilies** that you have heard *in the last year*. Put an (X) in the space next to the word(s) that best describes your overall impression of the Catholic preaching that you have listened to (you may mark as many as you like):

<input type="checkbox"/> Comforting	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat, Boring Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Helpful to my life	<input type="checkbox"/> Talked down to me
<input type="checkbox"/> Helped me grow in my faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Uplifting, made me be a better person	<input type="checkbox"/> Harsh, judgmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Frustrating
<input type="checkbox"/> Rambling, pointless	<input type="checkbox"/> Interesting, mentally stimulating	<input type="checkbox"/> Confusing	<input type="checkbox"/> Didn't seem to matter that I was there
<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to follow	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspired me to commit myself to following Jesus	<input type="checkbox"/> Helped me to forgive someone	<input type="checkbox"/> Made me feel good

60 a.) If you marked the box above "helped me grow in my faith" or "uplifting, made me a better person," what was that experience like? Please describe that as clearly as you can. (If you didn't mark either of those two, go on to the next question.)

60 b.) If you didn't mark that you've had an experience in the last year where preaching helped you to "grow in your faith" or "uplifted you and made you a better person," what does it feel like to come to Mass each week and not be helped in your faith? Please describe that as clearly as you can.

61. In the last year, out of a possible 52 weeks, how many times would you estimate that the Catholic preaching that you have heard inspired, motivated, or uplifted you? Put an (X) on that spot:

0	13	26	39	52
Never		Sometimes		Every single week

62. In the last year, out of a possible 52 weeks, how many times have you given a preacher constructive feedback or input about his homily (other than... "Nice homily, Father... or Deacon...)? Put an (X) on that spot:

0	13	26	39	52
Never		Sometimes		Every single week

63. If you could tell the preachers in your parish *anything* about their preaching and how to make it more effective in connecting with you and other people of your age, what would you tell them?

Recommendation: As we look at preachers who connect well with young people, we would like to observe those whom you feel have really help you grow in faith. Would you be willing to recommend someone as a really fine example of what preaching to young people *should* be like?

Name of Preacher_____

Name of Parish _____

City_____State_____



Thanks! You are all done with your survey. Please take it to the front of the room and place it upside down on the stack of surveys. Nicely done!

(If you have more that you would like to say about Catholic preaching, please sign up on the interview sheet.)

**ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
A STUDY OF YOUNG LISTENERS' CONNECTION WITH CATHOLIC SUNDAY PREACHING
Survey B**

You have come to this page from page one because you answered [no] to either of the following two questions.

8. Are you a baptized Catholic? [Yes] [No]
 9. Do you regularly attend a religious service (outside of school) at least once a month? [Yes] [No] →

This means that either you are not a Catholic or one who is not regularly attending Mass. Is this true? [Yes] [No]

If this is correct, please continue. If not, please go back to page two and continue there.

Thanks! You are now in the right place. Your answers are just as valuable to this study as the first bank of questions. This FIRST SECTION gives you a chance to describe your own life. Please be as honest and real as you can.

YOUR WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD					
Please circle the number of that most accurately reflects your response.	Strongly Agree (1)	Somewhat Agree (2)	Neither Agree or Disagree (3)	Somewhat Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)
64. I believe in God.	1	2	3	4	5
65. I am a religious and/or spiritual person.	1	2	3	4	5
66. I am happy with the way my life is going	1	2	3	4	5
67. I go to religious services in my own faith tradition regularly.	1	2	3	4	5
68. My friends are generally strong in their faith.	1	2	3	4	5
69. I have a church or faith community that helps me to grow.	1	2	3	4	5

THE PERSON OF THE LISTENER					
Please evaluate how important these things are to your life.	Really Important (1)	Important (2)	Somewhat Important (3)	Not Important (4)	Not at all Important (5)
70. Growing closer to God.	1	2	3	4	5
71. Trying to be a good person.	1	2	3	4	5
72. Praying.	1	2	3	4	5
73. Getting along with my parent(s).	1	2	3	4	5
74. Excelling in extracurriculars –sports, debate, music, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
75. Making God first in my life.	1	2	3	4	5
76. Getting good grades in school.	1	2	3	4	5
77. Having an active social life.	1	2	3	4	5
78. Having adults who understand me.	1	2	3	4	5

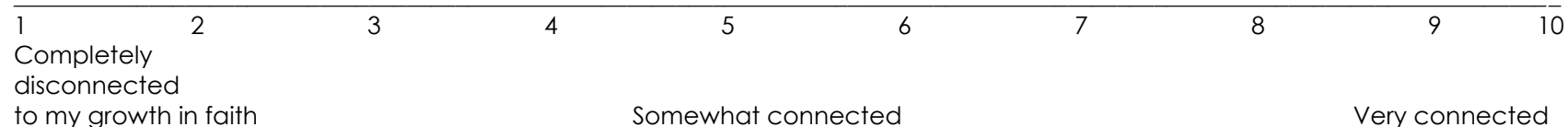
79. Think of all of the **Catholic school homilies (or sermons)** that you have heard at Mass this year at school. Put an (X) in the space next to the word(s) that best describes your impression of that preaching. (Please mark as many as apply to your experience.):

<input type="checkbox"/> Comforting	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat, boring delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Helpful to my life	<input type="checkbox"/> Talked down to me
<input type="checkbox"/> Helped me grow in my faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Uplifting, made me be a better person	<input type="checkbox"/> Harsh, judgmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Frustrating
<input type="checkbox"/> Rambling, pointless	<input type="checkbox"/> Interesting, mentally stimulating	<input type="checkbox"/> Confusing	<input type="checkbox"/> Didn't seem to matter that I was there
<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to follow	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspired me to commit myself to following Jesus.	<input type="checkbox"/> Helped me to forgive someone	<input type="checkbox"/> Made me feel good

80. On a scale of 1 to 10, ten being the very best, how would you rate that **Catholic preaching in terms of connecting with you and your spiritual needs?** Put an (X) on the spot that best represents your perspective. It is:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Completely disconnected to my growth in faith			Somewhat connected				Very connected		

81. If you regularly attend a religious service of another Christian faith tradition or another religion, please rate the **effectiveness of your own preacher (or speaker) in terms of connecting with you and your spiritual needs?** Put an (X) on the spot that best represents your perspective. He or she is: (I don't go often enough to say _____)



82. The concept of "connection" between a preacher and a young person is important to this study. Please describe what it means for a preacher to "connect" with you. If none do, describe what that is like for you for no preacher to connect with you.

83. Is there an adult who connects well with you? (Think of teachers, parents, youth leaders, etc.) How would you describe what happens when that person connects with you? Are there certain things that he or she does or says, specific symptoms or signs of real connection? (Some kids are just not "word" people. If it would help you to describe it better, draw a picture or a cartoon of what "good connection" looks like.)

84. If you do not regularly attend a religious service, describe why not. What is your (and/or your parents) experience of church?

85. Describe what it is like for you to attend a Catholic school as a non-Catholic or a non-religion-practicing person.

86. If you could tell the people in charge of the Catholic Church anything about their effectiveness in connecting with young people, what would you say?

Recommendation: As we look at preachers who connect well with young people, we would like to observe those whom you feel have really help you grow in faith. Would you be willing to recommend someone as a really fine example of what preaching to young people *should* be like?

Name of Preacher_____

Name of Church/Synagogue/Mosque/Temple _____

City_____State_____



Thanks! You are all done with your survey. Please take it to the front of the room and place it upside down on the stack of surveys. Nicely done!