

## Washington Post-ABC News Poll April 2005

*This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone April 21-24, 2005 among 1,007 randomly selected adults nationwide.*

*Questions were also asked of an oversample of 75 additional Catholics. The 'Catholics only' results in this section are thus based on a total of 284 interviews.*

*Margin of sampling error for overall results is plus or minus three percentage points, and plus or minus 6 percentage points for Catholics. Fieldwork by TNS of Horsham, Pa.*

\*= less than 0.5 percent

Overall would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Catholic Church?

		Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
4/24/05	All	56	36	8
	Cath.	81	17	1
2/22/04	All	54	33	13
	Cath.	87	10	3
10/13/03	All	48	44	8
	Cath.	80	17	3
12/15/02	All	40	52	8
	Cath.	69	30	2
6/17/02	All	45	47	9
	Cath.	69	28	3
6/9/02	All	47	45	7
	Cath.	70	28	2
3/28/02	All	55	34	11
	Cath.	73	24	3
2/20/02	All	63	27	11
	Cath.	88	9	4
8/30/99*	All	68	19	13

\*Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard, asked "very/somewhat" follow

Do you approve or disapprove of the selection of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now known as Pope Benedict the 16<sup>th</sup>, as the next pope?

		Approve	Disapprove	No opin.
4/24/05	All	60	19	21
4/24/05	Cath.	81	13	6

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) How would you describe your feelings about the selection of Ratzinger as pope: very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	No op.
4/24/05	73	27	46	24	15	9	3

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) Do you think Pope Benedict should (maintain the traditional policies of the Church), or should he (change Church policies to reflect the attitudes and lifestyles of Catholics today)?

Maintain policies	Change policies	No opinion
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4/24/05	50	48	1
3/13/05*	41	57	1
10/13/03	33	64	3
*3/13/05 and prior: "the next pope"			

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) What do you think Pope Benedict WILL do - (maintain the traditional policies of the Church), or (change Church policies to reflect the attitudes and lifestyles of Catholics today)?

	Maintain policies	Change policies	No opinion
4/24/05	80	14	7

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) For each item I name, please tell me how high a priority it should be for Pope Benedict - the highest priority, a high priority but not the highest, or a lower priority than that.

4/24/05 - Summary Table

	Highest	High, not highest	Lower	None (vol.)	No op.
a. Preserving the church's traditions	41	44	14	1	1
b. Responding to the concerns of women in the church	22	54	19	4	1
c. Responding to the concerns of young Catholics	43	52	5	0	*
d. Making it attractive for people to serve as priests	30	41	23	3	3
e. Improving the Catholic Church's relations with other religions	31	54	12	2	1
f. Encouraging human rights	61	34	4	0	*
g. Addressing the issue of sexual abuse by priests	71	24	4	*	*

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) In general, do you think the Roman Catholic Church is in touch with the views of Catholics in America today, or is it out of touch?

		In touch	Out of touch	No opinion
4/24/05	Cath.	44	52	4
10/13/03	Cath.	34	62	3
10/1/95	All	25	58	17
	Cath.	38	58	5
	Non-Cath.	21	56	23

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) Would you want your son to become a priest, or not? (IF NO SON) If you had one.

	Yes	No	No opin.
4/24/05	53	41	6

(ASKED OF CATHOLICS) Would you support or oppose the Catholic church denying communion to Catholic politicians who are in favor of legal abortion?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
4/24/05 Cath.	27	70	4
5/23/04 All	22	68	11
5/23/04 Cath.	22	72	6



