A Call for a New Evangelization:

The Catholic “Man-Crisis”, its Causes and How to Launch a New Evangelization

June 2016
Matthew James Christoff
Overview

Background of the New Emangelization Project

The Catholic “Man-crisis”

Why the Catholic “Man-crisis” Matters

Causes of the Catholic “Man-crisis”

7 New Emangelization Principles

Conclusion
Background

New Emangelization Project
• Led by Matthew James Christoff (please see attached bio).

• Launched in 2013 and builds off 5 years of men’s evangelization efforts through CatholicManNight.

• Purpose is to confront the Catholic “man-crisis” and to develop new ardor, methods and expressions to draw millions of Catholic men to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church.

• Key insight: “If we wish to have a New Evangelization, there must be a New Emangelization, creating generations of Catholic men who are on fire for Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church.”

Key Actions to Date
• Assembled research statistics to quantify the Catholic “Man-crisis” (see attached appendix for Catholic “Man-Crisis” Factsheet).

• Interviewed dozens of leaders in the New Evangelization who have a perspective on men; all interviews available at NewEmangelization.com.

• Published the Helping Priests Become More Effective in Evangelization Men Survey (August 2015).

• Collaborating to incorporate findings through regional efforts including The Catholic Watchmen/Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, The Holy League and Into the Breach/Diocese of Phoenix.

• Launching effort to present findings to leaders in the Catholic Church.
The New Evangelization Project Interviews

Clergy/Ordained
Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Bishop Lee Piché - Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis
Bishop Andrew Cozzens – Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis
Monsignor Charles Pope – Pastor and Leading Catholic Blogger
Father Mitch Pacwa – EWTN Host and Author
Father Larry Richards – Men’s Evangelist
Father Rocky Hoffman – Relevant Radio
Father C. John McCloskey – Faith and Reason Institute/EWTN Host/Author
Father Bill Baer – Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis Men’s Chaplain

Laymen
Danny Abramowicz – Crossing the Goal
Peter Andrastek – EvangelicalCatholic.org
Dale Ahlquist – Founder of the American Chesterton Society, EWTN Host
Doug Barry – Founder of Radix and BattleReadyStrong; EWTN Host
Matt Birk – NFL Superbowl Winner, NFL Man of the Year
John Bradford – Wilderness Outreach
Karlo Broussard – Magis Center
Dan Burke – Executive Director – National Catholic Register
Jeff Cavins - International Catholic Evangelist, Writer and Speaker
Rich Chapman – Catholic Men’s Evangelist/Author – All Pro Wisdom
Dr. Phillip Chavez – Men’s Spirituality International/Masculine Genius Institute
Rich Cleveland – Author of The Catholic Topical Memory System
Jason Craig – Director of Training and Development – Fraternus
John Dejak – Headmaster – Holy Spirit Academy
Gordy DeMarais – Founder of St. Paul’s Outreach
Dr. G.C. Dilsaver – Author of The Three Marks of Manhood
Tim Drake – Author and Evangelist
Dr. Todd Flanders – Headmaster – Providence Academy
Sam Guzman – CatholicGentleman.net
Randy Hain – Author/Speaker – IntegratedCatholicLife.org
Mark Hartfied – National Director – That Man Is You
Peter Herbeck – VP of Renewal Ministries/Crossing the Goal
Mark Houck – President of The King’s Men
Dr. Allen Hunt – Vice-president of Strategy and Content – Dynamic Catholic
Genevieve Kineke – The Authentic Catholic Woman

Father Michael Becker – Rector – St. John Vianney Seminary/St. Paul
Father Doug Grandon – Married Catholic Priest, Professor and Evangelist
Father Michael Schmitz – Youth and Young Adult Evangelist
Father Michael Van Sloun – Chaplain – Minnesota Vikings
Father Brian Doerr – Vice Rector Mount St. Mary Seminary/Those Catholic Men
Father Michael Pratt – Parish Priest
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers – Catholic Deacon, Writer and Speaker
Deacon Ralph Poyo – New Evangelization Ministries

Kevin Knight – NewAdvent.org
Bob Kroll – With All Your Heart – Men’s Evangelist
Rick Lentz – Brother to Brother Ministries
Dr. Phillip Mango - St. Michael Institute for the Psychological Sciences
Joe McClane – Evangelist/Speaker/Writer – The Catholic Hack
Andy McNutt – Evangelist/Speaker
Kevin O’Brien – Founder of Men of Christ
Dr. David Pence – Author of Religion, Sex and Politics: for Men Only
Tom Peterson – Founder and President of Catholics Come Home
Dr. Leon Podles – Author of The Church Impotent
Jesse Romero – Catholic Evangelist and Author
Tizoc Rosales – Men on a Mission Breakfast Series
Dr. Kevin Ryan – Men of St. Joseph
Dr. Deborah Savage – The Masculine Genius
Devin Schadt – Founder of Fathers of St. Joseph
Dr. Bob Schuchts – Founder of Saint John Paul II Healing Center
Jason Slattery – Headmaster – Ave Maria Academy
Tim Staples – Catholic Answers
Emily Stimpson – Author and Writer
Dr. Paul Thigpen – Editor of TAN Books
Robert Tummire – Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men
Michael Voris – President of St. Michael’s Media/The Church Militant
Dan Wegner – Catholic Street Evangelist
Brian Williams – The Liturgy Guy
Ken Wuchterl – Argument of the Month Club
Jared Zimmerer – Evangelist/Writer/Author – Strength for the Kingdom

The Catholic “Man-Crisis”

Knowledge of the faith

- Understanding of Spiritual Battle and the unique saving power of Catholic faith
- Prayer
- Sin and need for Reconciliation
- The Eucharist and the Mass
- Charity
- Teachings on sexuality and marriage
- Catholic Manhood
- Father’s role in passing on the faith
- Apologetics
- Devotions

Practice of the faith

- Reconciliation
- Mass
- Prayer
- Parish Membership
- Evangelization of children
- Fraternity
- Proud to be Catholic
- Evangelization
- Parish involvement

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<tr>
<th>Knowledge of the faith</th>
<th>Practice of the faith</th>
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<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confession</strong> Very Important</td>
<td><strong>Weekly Mass</strong> Very Important</td>
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| **Daily Prayer is Very Important** | **Certain about personal God** | **Helping needy Very Important** |
| 37% | 43% | 43% |

| **Get Something from Mass** | **Sacraments are essential** | **Can explain faith to others** |
| 45% | 51% | 51% |

- **“Casual Catholic Man”** Makes up 50-60% of Catholic Men
- **“Catholic Quitters”** 1 in 3 baptized Catholic men

- **“Practicing Catholic Man”** 30-40% of Catholic men
- **“Committed Catholic Man”** 10%
The Catholic “Man-Crisis” Matters

Findings

• Men are essential to passing along the faith to children and men are failing.
  • Only 47% of men strongly agree that it is important for their children to be Catholic.
  • Only 17% of young adults are certain they will stay Catholic; compares to 40% 25 years ago.
  • Catholic young adults are not returning to the faith as they mature.
• Men are essential for healthy, growing parishes.
• Parishes have become feminized.
  • 70-90% of parish lay roles filled by women.
  • Men are only 1/3 of weekly Mass attenders.
  • 75% agree that the Church has become feminized (Crux Poll – January 2015).
• 88% of Catholic men think their diocese “needs to do more to evangelize and catechize men.”
• Hispanics are leaving the Catholic faith in growing numbers.
• Pre-Vatican II Catholics are beginning to pass away.
• Church is continuing to exhort the need for embracing the feminine genius and to uphold the dignity of women.

Implications

• Growing numbers of souls will be lost.
• U.S. Church faces dramatically falling numbers and weakening parishes in coming decades as Pre-Vatican II members die and young people fail to continue in the Church.
• Accelerating losses of men due to feminization of parishes, the lack of male mentorship and because the majority of men feel neglected by bishops and priests.
• Church aspirations to uphold the dignity women will not be possible without new generations of highly evangelized and catechized Catholic men.
• Traditional efforts to evangelize (both “Old” and “New” Evangelization) will be greatly hampered without large numbers of evangelized Catholic men; especially in hyper-masculine cultures.
• Vocations crisis will continue as pool of men raised in solid Catholic families falls.
• Western society will continue to decay if the Church fails to grow well-catechized men who will fight for families and the culture.

Source: The Catholic “Man-Crisis” Factsheet-New Emangelization Project: NewEmangelization.com; Dr. Vern Begntson – Families and Faith; Dr. Christian Smith – Young Catholic America; Notre Dame Study of Parish Life, Gallup Polls; Helping Priests Become More Effective in Evangelizing Men Survey.
Causes of the Catholic “Man-crisis”

Failure to actively evangelize Men
- Avoidance of Sin/Confession
- De-sacralization of the Mass
- Feminization of Mass/Parishes
- Catechetical failure
- Loss of Catholic fraternity
- Homosexual Priest Scandals
- Lack of research on state of men

Satan and his Demons

7 New Evangelization Principles

1. **Make Men’s Evangelization Essential**

2. **Establish Men’s Councils to Build Leadership**

3. **Evangelize Priests on the Mass, Reconciliation and Men**

4. **Challenge Men to be Committed Catholic Men**

5. **Catechize Men on Jesus, Sacraments and Prayer**

6. **Launch Diocesan Men’s Evangelization Campaigns**

7. **Grow Fraternity in Acts 2:42 Parishes**
1. Make Men’s Evangelization Essential

Examples of High Impact Actions

- Pope vigorously calls for a new emphasis on evangelizing men and releases an Encyclical on the Dignity of Men (*Viri Dignitatem*).
- Establish a Men’s Committee in the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, the Council for the Family and Council for Culture.
- Celebrate a “Year of St. Joseph/fathers/men”.
- Engage a Religious Order with a special charism for the evangelization of men.
- Establish Men’s initiatives within the Committees for Evangelization and Catechesis, Family and Culture.
- Promote the proper role of Catholic men in the American family and parish.
- Establish effort to evangelize priests on the Catholic “man-crisis”.
- Field research and implement diocesan reporting on men.
- Bishop commits to personally and actively evangelize men; establishes an ongoing men’s evangelization initiative and infrastructure.
- Bishop offers clear challenge and ongoing guidance to priests and men to evangelize men in parishes.
- Bishop mobilizes Knights of Columbus to support bishop and priest’s efforts to prioritize Evangelization and Catechesis of men in parishes.
- 100% of parishes commit to establish permanent men’s evangelization efforts.

2. Establish Men’s Vanguards to Build Leadership

- Bishop exhorts and leads the Men’s Movement.
- The Diocesan Men’s Chaplain is charged with leading and implementing Men’s Evangelization Initiatives.
- Bishop’s Vanguard advises Bishop and leads implementation.
- Bishop’s staff supports implementation.
- Seminary and Catechetical Institute is a center for formation and training of men; the Rector, staff and seminarians participate. Catholic Schools, particularly High Schools, should be active participants.
- Priests are gathered by Bishop to build will and skill to evangelize men, including that men are essential, Sin and Reconciliation and re-sacralization of the Mass.
- KOCs and other diocesan Men’s Groups are actively called by Bishop to support Men’s Evangelization.

- Each parish has a Parish Vanguard (12 Laymen) led by the Priest (and Deacons).
- Parish Vanguard prays, advises and leads the effort to evangelize every man/boy in the parish.

Source: The New Evangelization Project Interviews: NewEvangelization.com
3. Evangelize Priests on the Mass, Reconciliation and Men

Findings
- The Mass has been desacralized in many places.
  - Liturgical abuses include sloppy, irreverent offering of the Mass by priests, sappy music poorly performed and an over-representation of women in the Sanctuary, and parish cultures that lack reverence/awe of Christ.
  - 75% of people agree that the Church has become feminized (Crux Poll – January 2015).
  - Desacralized Masses have a disproportionately negative impact on men, causing men to opt out.
- Priests have deemphasized Sin, Spiritual Combat and the need for Confession.
  - Only 25% of men go to Confession even once a year; only 1 in 50 go to Confession monthly.
  - Scheduled Reconciliation hours (e.g. 1 hour on Saturday) in most parishes allows for only 5% of parishioners to go to Confession monthly.
- Many priests neglect the men in their parishes:
  - Only about 1 in 5 priests actively evangelize and catechize men.
  - Only 1 in 10 speak to men in homilies.
- Highly Effective Priest “Emangelizers” lead men to more frequently attend Mass and Confession, to pray more, and to have stronger fraternity.

Evangelize Priests to be Leaders of Men
- Priests evangelized by Bishops to understand:
  - the “man-crisis” and the need for men a “man-specific” evangelization and catechetical approach.
  - the strong positive impact that a priest can have on men if the priest will simply take action.
  - the need to return to a more reverent presentation of the Mass and how to do it.
  - the importance of preaching about Sin and the abundant offering of Confession times.
  - the imperative for priests to dramatically increase the amount of time spent with his men.
  - the need for Parish Men's Vanguards.

Source: The New Evangelization Project Interviews; Helping Priests Become More Effective in Evangelizing Men Survey; Catholic “Man-Crisis” Factsheet.
Key Findings from the Helping Priests Be More Effective in Evangelizing Men Survey

12 Practices of Highly Effective “Emangelizers”

1. Offers the Mass in highly reverent way and helps men to understand the Mass.
2. Teaches men how to know and draw closer to Jesus Christ.
3. Challenges and teaches men about Catholic Manhood.
5. Teaches about Sin and promotes Reconciliation.
6. Teaches men apologetics.
7. Personally and regularly gathers, teaches and mentors men and boys.
8. Has a “man-plan”.
9. Regularly speaks to the needs of men in homilies.
10. Encourages and builds Catholic Fraternity in the parish.
12. Actively supports the KOC.

Impact of Highly Effective Emangelizers on Men

• More likely to pray, attend weekly Mass and monthly Confession.
• 20% more likely to be daily mass-attenders.
• 25% more likely to be a Knight of Columbus.
• 25% more likely to volunteer in the parish.
• 26% more likely to read Scripture weekly.
• 30% more likely to come to a bible study.
• 40% more likely to participate in men’s events.
• 70% more likely to attend weekly men’s events.
• 70% more likely to have close friendships with other men in their parishes.
• 75% more likely to have other Catholic Men to encourage them in their faith lives.
• 111% more likely to feel a bond of brotherhood in the parish.

4. **Challenge Men to be Committed Catholic Men**

**Priest, Prophet and King in the Spirit of St. Joseph**

- Challenge men to be warriors in Christ’s Kingdom in the Spiritual Combat against Satan, preparing them to be counter-cultural and for martyrdom.
- Describe and defend the vision of Noble Patriarchy in which men uphold the dignity of women/wives and are self-sacrificing protectors, providers and leaders in their family’s spiritual lives.
- Confirm and teach men about their essential role in the evangelization and catechesis of their children.

**Committed Catholic Men**

- Know and have a conversion in Jesus Christ.
- Lead their families as priest, prophet and king in the self-sacrificial model of St. Joseph.
- Have a daily practice of Prayer/the Rosary and Scripture reading.
- Experience the life-changing power of the Mass every week and keep the Sabbath.
- Battle Sin and go to Reconciliation monthly (at least).
- Have strong bonds of fraternity with other men in their parish.
- Regularly perform acts of Charity.

5. Catechize Men on Jesus, Sacraments and Prayer

Meeting and Knowing Jesus Christ

- Catechize men to know the authentic Almighty King Jesus Christ.
- Exhort men to be able to give witness on what awes them about Christ.
- Draw men into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Eucharist

- Catechize men to understand the powerfully manly sacrifice of the Mass and the non-negotiable attendance of weekly Mass.
- Offer early morning Mass times for working men during the week.
- Expand the opportunity for Men’s Holy Hours for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession (at minimum, monthly).

Confession

- Catechize men on Sin and the urgent need for all men to go to Confession each month.
- Strong repetitive emphasis on scourge of pornography as a mortal sin.
- Dramatically expand the opportunities for men to attend Confession.

Prayer

- Catechize men on the practice of prayer, Our Lady/the Rosary, St. Joseph and other traditional Catholic devotions.
- Gather men together to pray.
- Teach men to lead prayer in their families.
- Teach men to pray and to read Scripture.

6. Launch Diocesan Men’s Evangelization Campaigns

**High**

- **Bishop Conference and Seminar Series**
  - Bishop hosted **Diocesan-wide** events on key topics with top speakers. Held at Cathedral and selected parishes.
  - Target: 15-30% of Men
  - Offered: Multiple times a year

- **“Committed Catholic Man”**
  - 10%

- **Parish Men’s Small Groups**
  - Focus on building brotherhood, growth in holiness through bible and book studies.
  - Target: 2-5% of Men
  - Offered: Ongoing/Weekly

**Low**

- **Men’s Teaching Masses**
  - **Diocesan-wide** 24 month campaign of Teaching Masses for priests, men, fathers and sons emphasizing how a man can engage in the Mass. Held at Cathedral and selected parishes.
  - Target: 100% of Men
  - Offered: 24 Months RSVP

- **“Practicing Catholic Man”**
  - 30-40% of Catholic men

- **“Casual Catholic Man”**
  - Makes up 50-60% of Catholic Men

- **Monthly Parish Men’s Gatherings**
  - Led by the priest with Parish Men’s Council with focus on building friendship and basic knowledge of the Catholic faith.
  - Target: 40-60% of Men
  - Offered: Monthly

- **Bishop CatholicManNights**
  - Rotating parishes host monthly diocesan gathering by Bishop of priests and men to meet Jesus in Adoration, Confession and Fellowship.
  - Target: 15-20% of Men
  - Offered: Monthly

**Low**

**Commitment to the faith**

**High**

**Knowledge of the faith**

Source: The New Evangelization Project Interviews: NewEmangelization.com; CatholicManNight.com
7. Grow Fraternity in Acts 2:42 Parishes

- Significant issue of male isolation in parishes.
  - 55% of men lack bonds of brotherhood in parishes.
  - 31% do not have a close friendship with another man in parish; 30% only have only 1-2 friends.
- When men have close bonds of brotherhood they are much more likely to go to Mass and Confession, to pray, read Scripture and get engaged in the parish.
- Acts 2:42 offers a proven model for how priests and parishes can grow thriving parishes:
  “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
- The Priest (with deacons) calls and leads the Parish Men’s Council, supported by KOCs, other men’s groups and by parish staff.
- Monthly parish Men’s meetings of all priests, deacons, men and boys of the parish.
- Meetings should include Acts 2:42 elements: teachings of the apostles, fellowship, Sacraments and prayer.
- Particular emphasis on helping men meet Jesus Christ.
- Many are moving forward with men/boys Holy Hours, Confession, catechesis and fellowship (e.g. Holy League, CatholicManNights, Catholic Watchmen).
- Additional small group and weekly approaches recommended (e.g. TMIY, Men of St. Joseph, Crossing the Goal, Fraternus, Kings Men, Fathers of St. Joseph, etc.).
- Specific content/format up to the priest and the Parish Men’s Vanguard based on what’s most needed in the parish.

Parish Men’s Council

Priest (and Deacon)  Staff
12 Laymen
Befriend Evangelize Catechize Mentor

Every single Man and Boy in the Parish

Source: The New Evangelization Project Interviews; Helping Priests Become More Effective in Evangelizing Men Survey; Catholic “Man-Crisis” Factsheet.
Conclusion

Men of the Church must respond to the Catholic “Man-crisis”

• Launched in 2013, The New Evangelization Project has assembled analytical data and input from dozens of men who are working to evangelize Catholic men.
• Since Vatican II, there has been a growing Catholic “Man-crisis”. Large numbers of Catholic men have left the Church and the majority of those who remain “Catholic’ lack a passion for Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church.
• The Catholic “Man-crisis” matters, for the future health of the Church depends on large numbers of faithful Catholic men passing along their faith to their children. Men’s souls matter, the souls of wives and children matter. If a father is not engaged in the faith, children are much less likely to remain in the faith. Without a dramatic new intervention of the Holy Spirit and strong men with evangelical zeal, the U.S. Catholic Church will see significant declines in the coming decades.
• The causes of the Catholic “Man-crisis” are numerous and complex, but include massive societal changes from outside the Church and many problems within the Church.
• As men of faith who believe in the promises of Christ, it is right to never lose hope: Jesus Christ has won the battle. At the same time, faith, hope and charity compel strong Catholic men to rise up and begin to take the evangelization and catechesis of all men as a life-and-death situation and to respond with new ardor, methods and expressions. It is critical for Bishops to rise up to personally lead and direct priests and laymen to confront the “Man-crisis”; a great untapped desire and energy in Catholic men is waiting to be awakened and led. Men will respond if bishops and priests challenge and lead them.
• There can be no New Evangelization unless there is a New Evangelization, creating generations of Catholic men who are on fire for Jesus Christ and Holy Mother Church.

Moving Forward with a New Evangelization

• A set of preliminary “principles” for guiding a New Evangelization has been developed and discussed in this document. What’s needed is not dramatic new programs but a return to the basic ways that the Church Fathers grew the Church; a fervent commitment to evangelize men and the embrace of Acts 2:42 as a model for rebuilding a robust Catholic fraternity.
• This document is meant to be a set of guiding principles for a New Evangelization. While specific tactics and approaches were presented based on what’s needed and working, each diocese may need to modify tactics to fit specific regional/parish needs.
Appendix
Matthew James Christoff Background

Matthew James Christoff is a convert and was accepted into the Catholic Church in 2006. Prior to his conversion, he was a pluralist, believing that all religions had truth but no single religion had the “Truth.” In the midst of a life-threatening battle with cancer, Matthew had a series of encounters with Jesus Christ that eventually led him to the Catholic Church.

Since entering the Church, Matthew has been thinking and writing about how people can better meet, know and love Jesus Christ. In 2013, Matthew launched The New Emangelization Project (NewEmangelization.com) to help the Church confront the Catholic “man-crisis” and to develop new ardor, methods and expressions for the evangelization of Catholic men. The project goals are to: 1) build a fact base that clarifies the attitudes and behaviors of Catholic men, 2) engage top Catholic thinkers including bishops, priests, deacons and lay men to determine the causes of the Catholic “man-crisis” and, 3) propose a set of principles to guide a New Emangelization.

The New Emangelization Project urgency is driven by this idea: There can be no New Evangelization without a New Emangelization, creating generations of Catholic men who are on fire for Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church.

Matthew has conducted dozens of in-depth interviews with leading Catholic thinkers and evangelists on the topic of the Catholic “man-crisis” and how to address the crisis. Matthew’s work has been featured in Catholic World Report, Lifesite News, the Catholic Herald Our Sunday Visitor, The Wanderer, Aleteia, Catholic Exchange, Catholic Stand, Catholic Gentleman, Those Catholic Men and other Catholic publications and websites. He has appeared on EWTN, BBC Radio, EWTN Radio, National Catholic Register Radio, Relevant Radio, ChurchMilitantTV and other media outlets. The New Emangelization Project has covered in numerous articles in major media sources including the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Drudge Report, Huffington Post, US News and World Report, Slate, Salon and many others.

Matthew is also one of the co-founders of CatholicManNight.com, a parish-based Catholic men’s evangelization effort that is focused on meeting and knowing Jesus Christ in Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, table fellowship and discussion. Matthew is one of the co-founders of The Catholic Watchmen, an effort that seeks to put the New Evangelization findings into practice in dioceses.

Matthew’s professional experience includes working and serving Fortune 500 companies in the areas of marketing, strategy and organizational consulting. He has worked as a brand manager at Procter and Gamble, a consultant at McKinsey and Company and a partner at Spencer Stuart Associates.

Matthew holds a Masters in Theology with a concentration in evangelization and catechesis from the Augustine Institute, a Masters in Industrial Administration degree and a Civil Engineering degree from Purdue University.

He is a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and a 3rd degree Knight of Columbus.

Matthew and his wife live in Minnesota and have 7 adult children (including 3 wonderful “in-law” children through marriages) and four grandchildren.

Matthew James Christoff can be reached at mjchristoff@gmail.com or 763 442 0020.
Unchecked, the exodus of Catholic men from the faith is likely to continue as men become increasingly casual about Catholicism.

• About 11 million adult men in the U.S. were raised Catholic but left the faith and men are under-represented in the Church versus their share of the total population (46% of parishioners are male versus 49% of the population).


[6] Ibid., 100.


[10] Ibid., 103.


29% of men agree that “Mass is boring” and 55% agree that they “don’t get anything out of the Mass.”

• Only 29% of men believe that weekly mass attendance is “very important.”

• Only 28% of Catholic men believe that Confession is “very important.”

• Only 31% of men strongly agree that it is “very important” to attend Mass on Holy Days.

• Only 39% of men strongly agree that the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is “very important.”

• Only 43% of Catholic men believe that it is “very important to help those in need.”

• Only 30% of Catholic men believe it is “very important to have a Devotion to Mary” and only 23% believe it is “very important to have a devotion to the Saints.”

• Only 37% of Catholic men strongly agree that “daily prayer is important” and only 33% of Catholic men pray on a daily basis.

• 49% of Catholic men feel that they “cannot explain their faith to others.”

• During the last 20 years, men have become less certain about being Catholic: in 1987, 50.1% men said they would “never leave the Church”; in 2005 the number had fallen to 42.3%. This means that almost 60% of Catholic men would consider leaving the Church; these men have become “Casual Catholics”, Catholics who are casual about the faith.

Catholic men’s ambivalence about Catholicism results in low involvement.

Almost half of Catholic men do not engage in a routine of prayer, praying only “occasionally or sometimes” of seldom or never.

• 75% of Catholics go to Confession “less than once a year” (30%) or “never” (45%) of “seldom or never.”

A large portion (42%) of Catholic men attend Mass “a few times per year” or “seldom or never.”

Only about 1/3 of Catholic men (33%) pray on a daily basis.

• Only about 1/3 of Catholic men (33%) say they attend Mass on a weekly basis.

• Only about 1/3 of Catholic men (33%) are not formally members of a parish.

• Approximately 60% of Catholic men belong to a religious order.

Casual Catholics: Catholics who are casual about the faith.

Some 60% of Catholic men would consider leaving the Church. These men have become “Casual Catholics” who are casual about the faith. Almost half of Catholic men do not engage in a routine of prayer, praying only “occasionally or sometimes” of seldom or never.

• Only 30% of Catholic men strongly agree that “daily prayer is important” and only 33% of Catholic men pray on a daily basis.

• Only 37% of Catholic men strongly agree that “daily prayer is important” and only 33% of Catholic men pray on a daily basis.

• Only 30% of Catholic men believe that they “are very important to devotion to Mary” and only 34% of Catholic men believe that they “are very important to devotion to Mary.”

• Only 39% of Catholic men believe that they “are very important to devotion to Mary” and only 34% of Catholic men believe that they “are very important to devotion to Mary.”

• Only 31% of men strongly agree that it is “very important to attend Mass on Holy Days.”

• Only 28% of Catholic men believe that “Mass is boring” and 55% agree that they “don’t get anything out of the Mass.”


• 83% of Catholic men rarely or never participate in a parish activity outside of the Mass.

For comparison, Catholic men are less passionate about faith than other Christian men.

• Less than half of Catholic men (48%) pray outside of worship services, which compares to 69% of Evangelical men.

• Catholic men are doing a poor job at passing along the faith to their children, especially daughters.

In truth, since younger people are becoming increasingly vulnerable to leaving the Catholic Church, 15% of the U.S. population have left religion.

• Indeed, less than 50% of men (47.5%) strongly agree that it is important for their children to be Catholic.

The prevalence of so many Casual Catholic men makes, for it will further weaken the Church in future.

For comparison, Catholic men are less passionate about faith than other Christian men.

Males are particularly vulnerable to leaving the Church: 15% of the U.S. population have left religion.

• 42% of emerging adults have "very or somewhat different" religious beliefs as their Catholic fathers.

Catholic parents are doing a poor job at passing along the faith to their children to be Catholic.

Indeed, less than 50% of men (47.5%) strongly agree that it is important for their children to be Catholic.

• 42% of emerging adults have "very or somewhat different" religious beliefs as their Catholic fathers.

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For comparison, Catholic men are less passionate about faith than other Christian men.

• Less than half of Catholic men (48%) pray outside of worship services, which compares to 69% of Evangelical men.

• Only about 4 in 10 Catholic men (43%) have an absolutely certain belief in a personal God; this compares to 74% of Evangelical men.

• Less than half of Catholic men (48%) feel their religion is very important in their lives; this compares to 74% of Evangelical men.

Catholic parents are doing a poor job at passing along the faith to their children to be Catholic.

For comparison, Catholic men are less passionate about faith than other Christian men.

• Less than half of Catholic men (48%) pray outside of worship services, which compares to 69% of Evangelical men.

• Only about 4 in 10 Catholic men (43%) have an absolutely certain belief in a personal God; this compares to 74% of Evangelical men.

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The loss of Catholic men and the growing numbers of Casual Catholic men have other negative effects on parishes and the Church.

- Fewer men reduce the pool for priestly and religious male vocations.
- Lower levels of active adult men also influence young men to become disengaged from the Church.
- The "face" of the Church is feminine; men are underrepresented in the pews (only 37% of regular mass attendees are men).
- Further, a Notre Dame study shows that 70-90% of catechesis, service, and bible study activities are led by women, causing the authors to suggest that "young males…assume that serious religious studies are a women’s business," resulting in greater numbers of younger men being disengaged.
- Men are needed for healthy and growing parishes; research shows that congregations with greater portions of men are more likely to be growing.
- Men are needed for healthy and growing parishes; research shows that conversion of their families has a greater influence when a man converts to Christianity, compared to when a woman converts.
- Men are more influential in the conversion of their families than women. Research shows that when a woman converts, 17% of the time the whole family converts. When a man converts, 93% of the time the whole family converts.

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42 Gallup 2005, Question 75.
45 Attributed to evangelist, Sid Woodruff: www.e-man%27s-influence.htm.