Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Catholics' Attitudes about
Immigration, Migrants, and Refugees

June 2024

Mark M. Gray, Ph.D.
Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ, Ph.D.

Methods and Notes

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) surveyed 1,342 self-identified Catholics from December 13th to the 28th. The survey was taken online and was available in English and Spanish. CARA programmed and hosted the survey online. The sample was provided by Qualtrics from actively managed, double-opt-in survey research panels. Self-identified Catholics were sampled randomly from these panels. Quotas and weighting for age and ethnicity are used to ensure representativeness of the sample to the adult Catholic population relative to the most recent estimates in the General Social Survey (GSS). The religion of selected respondents was verified with the first survey question. Respondents received incentives for their participation. Responses were screened and quality checked for those who did not complete the survey or who responded too quickly without considering questions. Because the survey did not use probability-based sampling a traditional margin of error cannot be calculated. When opt-in panels are used a credibility interval is used. For this survey this is 2.8 percentage points. Where chart titles are shown in italics, the question wording is being shown. Tables also include the survey response categories. Thus, the report reflects the structure of the questionnaire.

Respondent Demographics and Background

All respondents self-identified their religion as Catholic. When asked how strongly they identify as Catholic, 43% said "very much" and 28% said "mostly." Seventeen percent indicated "somewhat" and 8% "a little." Three percent said "not much at all."

How strongly do you identify as Catholic?	
Very much	43%
Mostly	28%
Somewhat	17%
A little	8%
Not much at all	3%

Fifty-five percent of respondents are female and 45% and male.

Are you?	
Male	45%
Female	55%

Twenty-seven percent of respondents are ages 18 to 34. Fifty-one percent are between the ages of 35 and 64. Twenty-two percent are ages 65 and older.

In what age group are you?	
18 to 24	12%
25 to 34	15%
35 to 44	12%
45 to 54	19%
55 to 64	20%
65 and older	22%

Fifty-five percent of respondents are non-Hispanic white and 37% are Hispanic or Latino. Three percent are Asian or Pacific Islander. Four percent are black or African American. Fewer than 1% are American Indian or Native Alaskan.

What is your race? Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino ethnicity?	
Non-Hispanic white	55%
Hispanic or Latino	37%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3%
Black or African American	4%
American Indian or Native Alaskan	<1%
Other	<1%

Forty-eight percent of respondents reside in a suburban area and 37% in a city or urban area. Fifteen percent reside in a rural area.

What best describes the community you live in?	
City or urban area	37%
Suburban area	48%
Rural area	15%

Thirty-two percent reside in the South and 28% in the Northeast. Twenty-one percent reside in the West and 19% in the Midwest.

What region of the United States do you live in?	
Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)	28%
Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)	19%
South (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN TX, VA, WV)	32%
West (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, AK, HI)	21%

Forty-one percent of adult Catholics are Democrats and 30% are Republicans. Twenty-nine percent are independents or affiliate with a "third" party.

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what? Do you think of yourself closer to the Republican or Democratic Party? Would you call yourself a strong or not very strong Republican? Would you call yourself a strong or not very strong Democrat?		
Strong Republican	18%	30%
Not very strong Republican	12%	
Independent, leans Republican	8%	
Independent/Other	14%	29%
Independent, leans Democrat	7%	
Not very strong Democrat	17%	41%
Strong Democrat	24%	

At the time of the survey, 19% of adult Catholics attended Mass weekly or more often. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 20% of respondents said they attended Mass this frequently. Fifty-six percent attends Mass a few times a year or less often compared to 51% reporting this frequency of attendance prior to the pandemic.

Aside from weddings and funerals, about how often do you attend Mass?		
	Currently	**Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic**
More than once a week	3%	4%
Every week	16%	16%
Almost every week	9%	12%
Once or twice a month	11%	12%
A few times a year	28%	23%
Rarely or never	28%	28%
Watch Mass online or television	3%	4%
Homebound, shut-in, sick, unable to get out	2%	1%

Twenty-three percent of adult Catholics spend time daily in private religious practice, such as prayer, rosary, and/or Lectio Divina. A third rarely or never do this.

How often do you spend time in private religious activities, such as prayer, rosary, Lectio Divina?	
More than once a day	4%
Daily	19%
Two or more times a week	10%
Once a week	12%
A few times a month	22%
Rarely or never	33%

Nine percent are very involved with parish activities and ministries outside of attending Mass. Forty-seven percent are not involve with these at all.

Besides attending Mass, how involved are you in parish activities or ministries?	
Very involved	9%
Somewhat involved	21%
Involved a little	23%
Not involved at all	47%

Seventy-two percent of Catholic adults say it is true for them ("definitely" or "tends to") that they experience religious feelings. Sixty-four percent similarly say it's true that their religious beliefs lie behind their approach to life. Sixty-two percent say it's true that they try hard to carry their religion over into all other dealings in their life.

Please respond to the following statements:					
	Definitely true of me	Tends to be true	Unsure	Tends not to be true	Definitely not true
In my life, I experience religious feelings (such as the presence of God)	36%	36%	15%	8%	4%
My religious beliefs are what really lie behind my whole approach to life	25%	39%	17%	12%	7%
I try hard to carry my religion over into all other dealings in life	22%	40%	15%	14%	9%

In the remainder of this report, we explore sub-group differences in response to questions about immigration and refugees by: age, parti identification, frequency of Mass attendance, race and ethnicity, and gender.

Questions about Immigrants and Refugees

Respondents were asked to evaluate how important specific Church teachings on issues are to them. Teachings regarding marriage and care for the environment are the most important to adult Catholics followed by abortion. Fifty-five percent say the Church's teachings about migration, refugees, and immigrants are "very much" or "somewhat" important to them. Following these are the Church's teachings about the death penalty, birth control, and euthanasia.

How important to you are the Catholic Church teachings on the following issues?				
	Very much	**Somewhat**	**A little**	**Not at all**
Marriage	48%	26%	14%	12%
Care for the environment	35%	30%	20%	15%
Abortion	29%	25%	15%	32%
Migration, refugees, immigrants	**23%**	**32%**	**24%**	**20%**
Death penalty	23%	29%	22%	26%
Birth control	23%	25%	18%	33%
Euthanasia	20%	27%	24%	28%

Democrats are more likely than Republicans and independents to say the Church's teachings on migration, refugees, and immigrants is "very much" important to them (27% compared to 21% and 19%, respectively). Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic white respondents to say the Church's teachings on migration, refugees, and immigrants is "very much" important to them (28% compared to 20%). Among the most likely to consider the Church's teachings on migration, refugees, and immigrants is "very much" important are weekly Mass attenders (44%).

At the time of polling, adult Catholics felt that the most important problems facing the country were the high cost of living/inflation, the economy in general, guns/gun control, and immigration.

		Percentage saying problem is most important (1)	Average rank of problem (1 to 16)
1	High cost of living/Inflation	18.3%	5.5
2	Economy in general	12.4%	6.8
3	Guns/Gun control	8.9%	8.2
4	**Immigration**	**7.9%**	**8.2**
5	Crime/Violence	7.4%	6.9
6	Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness	6.7%	7.5
7	National security	6.6%	8.6
8	Healthcare	6.3%	7.3
9	Environment/Pollution/Climate change	5.2%	9.4
10	Drugs	4.0%	8.5
11	Race relations/Racism	3.3%	9.3
12	Gap between rich and poor	3.0%	9.6
13	Federal budget deficit/Federal debt	3.0%	9.3
14	Fuel/Oil prices	2.0%	9.2
15	Taxes	2.0%	8.9
16	Other	3.2%	13.1

What do you think are the most important problem facing the country today? Rank your order of items from 1 most important to 16 least important:

Among those most likely to consider immigration to be the "most important" problem facing the country are Republicans (15%), those ages 55 and older (12%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (10%).

Forty-three percent of Catholics believe that immigration should be decreased compared to 34% who would like to see this increase and 23% who would like to see current levels of immigration remain the same in the future.

Thinking now about immigrants, that is, people who come over from other countries to live here in the United States, in your view, should immigration be…?	
Kept at its present level	34%
Increased	23%
Decreased	43%

Among those most likely to think immigration should be increased are those ages 18 to 34 (36%), Hispanics (30%) and, those attending Mass less than weekly, but at least once a month (27%). Among those most likely to say this should be decreased are Republicans (62%), those ages 55 and older (57%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (52%).

Fifty-seven percent of Catholics believe immigration is a mixture of good and bad things. One in five (20%) believe it is a good thing and the same share believe it is a bad thing. Three percent have no opinion.

On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for the country today?	
Good	20%
Mixture of good and bad	57%
Bad	20%
No opinion	3%

Among those most likely to believe immigration is a good thing for the country are Democrats (28%) and those ages 18 to 34 (27%). Those most likely to believe immigration is a bad thing for the country are Republicans (34%).

Respondents were asked about whether immigrants were making things better, worse, or not having much of an effect. Catholics are most likely to think immigrants make food, music, and the arts better (39%). They are most likely to think immigrants are making the crime situation worse (56%). Forty percent see immigrants as not having much effect on job opportunities for themselves and their family.

	Better	Worse	Not much effect	No opinion
For each of the following areas, please say whether immigrants to the United States are making the situation in the country better or worse, or not having much effect. How about…				
Food, music, and the arts	39%	16%	34%	11%
The economy in general	24%	48%	19%	10%
Social and moral values	21%	38%	30%	11%
Job opportunities for you/your family	16%	35%	40%	10%
Taxes	15%	50%	25%	11%
The crime situation	7%	56%	27%	10%

Among those most likely to believe immigration is making crime worse are Republicans (73%), non-Hispanic white respondents (63%), and those 55 or older (62%). Republicans and non-Hispanic white respondents are among the most likely to believe immigration makes job opportunities worse (48% and 40%, respectively). Those most likely to believe immigration makes the economy in general worse are: Republicans (66%), those ages 55 and older (55%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (54%). Those most likely to believe immigration makes taxes worse are: Republicans (68%), those ages 55 and older (52%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (56%). Among those most likely to believe immigration makes social and moral values worse are Republicans (54%) and those ages 55 and older (47%). Those most likely to believe immigration makes social and moral values better are those ages 18 to 34 (33%) and Democrats (29%). Among most likely to believe immigration makes food, music, and the arts better are those ages 18 to 34 (55%), Democrats (49%), and those who attend Mass less than weekly, but at least once a month (47%%).

Thirty-four percent of Catholics personally believe the situation at the U.S. border with Mexico to be a crisis. Forty percent believe this is a major problem and 20% a minor problem. Six percent believe the situation is not a problem.

Do you, personally, consider the situation at the U.S. border with Mexico to be a…?	
Crisis	34%
Major problem	40%
Minor problem	20%
Not a problem	6%

Those ages 55 and older are more likely than those ages 18 to 34 to believe the border situation with Mexico is a crisis (46% compared to 19%). Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe the border is a crisis (48% compared to 23%).

Fifty-eight percent of Catholics are sympathetic toward undocumented immigrants (21% "very" and 37% "somewhat"). Thirty-six percent are unsympathetic (20% "very" and 16% "somewhat"). Seven percent have no opinion.

How sympathetic would you say you are toward undocumented immigrants in the United States?	
Very sympathetic	21%
Somewhat sympathetic	37%
Somewhat unsympathetic	16%
Very unsympathetic	20%
No opinion	7%

The groups most likely to be "very sympathetic" to undocumented immigrants are: Democrats (31%), Hispanics (30%), those ages 18 to 34 (29%), and those attending Mass weekly or more often (28%). The groups most likely to be "very unsympathetic" to undocumented immigrants are: Republicans (37%) and non-Hispanic white respondents (28%).

Sixteen percent of Catholics approve "strongly" of allowing Central American refugees to come to this country and 27% agree "somewhat" with this. Twenty-six percent "neither approve nor disapprove" of this. Sixteen percent disapprove of this "strongly" and 15% disapprove "somewhat."

As you may know, thousands of refugees have left Central American countries to escape the situation there. Would you approve or disapprove of allowing refugees to come into this country?	
Approve strongly	16%
Approve somewhat	27%
Neither approve nor disapprove	26%
Disapprove somewhat	15%
Disapprove strongly	16%

The groups most likely to "approve strongly" of refugees from Central America coming to this country are: Democrats (24%), those ages 18 to 34 (26%), Hispanics (20%), those attending Mass weekly or more often (20%). The groups most likely "disapprove strongly" of refugees from Central America coming to this country are: Republicans (29%) those ages 55 and older (24%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (21%).

Half of Catholics favor expanding the construction of walls along the U.S.-Mexico border (32% "strongly" and 18% "somewhat"). Twenty-three percent "neither favor nor oppose" this. Twenty-seven percent oppose this (15% "strongly" and 12% "somewhat").

Do you strongly favor or oppose significantly expanding the construction of walls along the U.S.-Mexico border?	
Favor strongly	32%
Favor somewhat	18%
Neither favor nor oppose	23%
Oppose somewhat	12%
Oppose strongly	15%

The groups most likely to "favor strongly" of expanding walls along the U.S.-Mexico border are: Republicans (56%) those ages 55 and older (44%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (41%). The group most likely "oppose strongly" of expanding walls along the U.S.-Mexico border are Democrats (23%).

Respondents were presented with excerpts of Church documents regarding immigration and refugees and asked how well respondents believed these were reflective of Church "teachings." Here we use teachings not in the formal doctrinal sense but in every day terms as things that the Church may teach or promote to Catholics. This is important because some of these are from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and are somewhat specific to the U.S. context and others are more global.

Two-thirds of Catholics (66%) correctly identify that the following is "very" or "somewhat" reflective of Catholic Church teachings: "Catholics are called to welcome immigrants seeking work by ensuring they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation."[1] Twenty percent think this statement is only "a little reflective" and 14% "not at all reflective."

In your opinion how much does the following reflect teachings of the Catholic Church? Catholics are called to welcome immigrants seeking work by ensuring they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation.	
Very reflective	28%
Somewhat reflective	38%
A little reflective	20%
Not at all reflective	14%

Those most likely to correctly believe the text above is "very reflective" of Church teachings are: weekly Mass attenders (38%), Democrats (37%), and those ages 18 to 34 (31%). Those most likely to believe the text above is "not at all reflective" are: those who attend Mass rarely or never (21%) and those ages 55 or older (21%).

---

[1] This question wording is inspired by the USCCB's *Faithful Citizenship* document: "Solidarity also includes the scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us—including immigrants seeking work—by ensuring that they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation." Accessed from: https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf

Sixty-seven percent of Catholics correctly identify that the following is "very" or "somewhat" reflective of Catholic Church teachings: "Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern."[2] Twenty-one percent think this statement is only "a little reflective" and 12% "not at all reflective."

In your opinion how much does the following reflect teachings of the Catholic Church? Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern.	
Very reflective	31%
Somewhat reflective	36%
A little reflective	21%
Not at all reflective	12%

Those most likely to correctly believe the text above is "very reflective" of Church teachings are: weekly Mass attenders (38%) and Democrats (36%). Those most likely to believe the text above is "not at all reflective" are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (20%) and Republicans (17%).

---

[2] This question wording is inspired by the USCCB's *Faithful Citizenship* document: "those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern." Accessed from: https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf

Sixty-three percent of Catholics correctly identify that the following is "very" or "somewhat" reflective of Catholic Church teachings: "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free."[3] Twenty-four percent think this statement is only "a little reflective" and 13% "not at all reflective."

In your opinion how much does the following reflect teachings of the Catholic Church? The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free.	
Very reflective	28%
Somewhat reflective	35%
A little reflective	24%
Not at all reflective	13%

Those most likely to correctly believe the text above is "very reflective" of Church teachings are: Weekly Mass attenders (39%) and Democrats (34%). Those most likely to believe the text above is "not at all reflective" are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (19%) and those ages 55 and older (17%).

---

[3] This question wording is inspired by Pope Francis' message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2023: "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free" Accessed from: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html

Sixty-one percent of Catholics correctly identify that the following is "very" or "somewhat" reflective of Catholic Church teachings: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various judicial conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders."[4] Twenty-two percent think this statement is only "a little reflective" and 17% "not at all reflective."

In your opinion how much does the following reflect teachings of the Catholic Church? Political authorities, for the sake of the common good, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various judicial conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders.

Very reflective	23%
Somewhat reflective	38%
A little reflective	22%
Not at all reflective	17%

Those most likely to correctly believe the text above is "very reflective" of Church teachings are: those who attend Mass weekly or more often (33%) and those ages 18 to 34 (30%). Those most likely to believe the text above is "not at all reflective" are: those ages 55 and older (25%) and those who rarely or never attend Mass (22%).

---

[4] This question wording is inspired by the USCCB's Catholic Ministries Serving Migrants and Refugees: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders." Accessed from: https://www.usccb.org/migrationministries

Following the questions gauging awareness of Church teachings, respondents were asked about their personal beliefs about these teachings.

Sixty-five percent of Catholics personally believe the following "somewhat" or "very much": "Catholics are called to welcome immigrants seeking work by ensuring they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation."

How much do you personally believe in the following statements? Catholics are called to welcome immigrants seeking work by ensuring they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation.	
Very much	30%
Somewhat	35%
A little	20%
Not at all	15%

Those most likely to personally believe "very much" the text are: weekly Mass attenders (47%) and Democrats (41%). Those most likely to personally "not at all" believe the text above are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (23%), those ages 55 or older (22%), and Republicans (21%).

Sixty-eight percent of Catholics personally believe the following "somewhat" or "very much": "Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern."

How much do you personally believe in the following statements? Those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern.	
Very much	32%
Somewhat	36%
A little	21%
Not at all	12%

Those most likely to personally believe "very much" the text are: Democrats (40%) and weekly Mass attenders (39%). Those most likely to personally "not at all" believe the text above are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (19%) and Republicans (18%).

Sixty-four percent of Catholics personally believe the following "somewhat" or "very much": "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free."

How much do you personally believe in the following statements? The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free.	
Very much	28%
Somewhat	36%
A little	23%
Not at all	13%

Those most likely to personally believe "very much" the text are: weekly Mass attenders (37%) and Democrats (34%). Those most likely to personally "not at all" believe the text above are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (19%), those ages 55 and older (18%), and Republicans (18%).

Sixty-two percent of Catholics personally believe the following "somewhat" or "very much": "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various judicial conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders."

How much do you personally believe in the following statements? Political authorities, for the sake of the common good, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various judicial conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders.	
Very much	26%
Somewhat	36%
A little	23%
Not at all	15%

Those most likely to personally believe "very much" the text are those who attend Mass weekly or more often (38%). Those most likely to personally "not at all" believe the text above are: Those who rarely or never attend Mass (20%), Republicans (20%), those ages 55 and older (20%), and non-Hispanic white respondents (19%).

Respondents were asked about their agreement with the governors of Texas and Florida having sent migrants from their states to California, New York, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Forty-four percent agree "somewhat" or "strongly" with this. Thirty-four percent disagree "somewhat" or "strongly."

The governors of Texas and Florida have sent migrants from their states to California, New York, Illinois, and Pennsylvania in recent months. Do you agree or disagree with this practice?	
Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	22%

Those most likely to "strongly agree" with the policies of sending migrants elsewhere used by the governors of Texas and Florida are: Republicans (38%), weekly Mass attenders (36%), male respondents (29%), and those 55 and older (28%). Those most likely to "strongly disagree" are Democrats (31%).

Respondents were asked about their agreement with the Mayor of New York City limiting the time migrant families can stay in city shelters to 60 days. Forty-five percent agree "somewhat" or "strongly" with this. Twenty-six percent disagree "somewhat" or "strongly."

The mayor of New York City has limited the time migrant families can stay in city shelters to 60 days. Do you agree or disagree with this practice?	
Strongly agree	20%
Somewhat agree	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	29%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	12%

Those most likely to "strongly agree" with the policies removing migrant families from shelters used by the mayor of New York City are Republicans (30%). Those most likely to "strongly disagree" are Democrats (16%).

Respondents were asked the degree to which their Catholic faith informs their opinions about immigrants and refugees. Nineteen percent say it does "very much." The largest group, 35% says their faith "somewhat" informs their opinions on this. Nineteen percent day "only a little" and 27% say "very much."

To what degree does your Catholic faith inform your opinions about immigrants and refugees?	
Very much	19%
Somewhat	35%
A little	19%
Not very much	27%

Those most likely to sat their Catholic faith "very much" informs their opinions about immigrants and refugees are: those who attend Mass weekly or more often (28%), Democrats (25%), and those ages 18 to 34 (25%). Those who say their faith "not very much" informs their opinions about immigrants and refugees are: those who rarely or never attend Mass (46%), those ages 55 or older (38%), non-Hispanic white respondents (34%), and Republicans (29%).

Identifying Catholic Groups Regarding Immigration:
Factor and Cluster Analysis

Responses to 34 questions about immigration, political affiliation, religious behavior, age and ethnicity were used in a factor analysis. This process identifies underlying factors evident from the similarities between responses to different questions. It reduces the information from many items into fewer, in this case seven factors:

1. Awareness and belief in Church teachings about immigration and refugees
2. Party identification and presidential candidate favorability
3. Beliefs about the impact of immigration on the country
4. General immigration stance and age
5. Religious practice and reporting that their faith informs immigration positions
6. Attitudes about specific current immigration policies
7. Hispanic ethnicity and place of birth

These seven factors were utilized in a "cluster" or "segmentation" analysis. This type of analysis divides respondents into distinct types (or "segments") based on whether they have similar sets of characteristics on measures selected by the researcher. One goal in this case is to identify relevant subgroups of Catholics. The analysis proceeded by a trial-and-error process in which various numbers of segments were identified. Results were evaluated by the intuitive sense they made. The final segmentation consists of four segments. Each has been given a descriptive label and are summarized below and then described in greater detail. We extrapolate to the size of the Catholic population. This is based on the average Catholic adult percentage estimated by the most recent Gallup and the General Social Survey studies. The adult population on July 1, 2023 is estimated to be 262.3 million. An estimated 22.4% of these adults self-identify their religion as Catholic, which represents a total adult Catholic population of 58,741,393 at the time of the survey.

The **Conservatives** make up 33% of adult Catholics, which is equivalent to a population of 19.3 million. Seventy-six percent say they mostly or very much identify as being Catholic. This is the largest of the four groups identified in the cluster analysis. While generally aware of what the Church teaches about immigration, only 14% of the Conservatives say these teachings are very important to them personally. Seventeen percent believe immigration is the most important problem facing the country today. Eighty-nine percent believe immigration to the United States should be decreased. Half believe immigration is a bad thing for the country and 47% believes it is a combination of good and bad. Ninety-two percent believe immigration makes crime worse. Eighty-seven percent believes immigration makes the economy worse. Eighty-one percent believes immigration makes the tax situation worse and 75% believe it makes social and moral values worse. Fifty-one percent of Conservatives say they are very unsympathetic toward undocumented immigrants. Seventy-one percent favors expanding the construction of a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Seventy-five percent disapproves of allowing refugees from Central America to come to the United States. Fifty-six percent agrees with the governors of Texas and Florida relocating migrants to other states. Fifty-nine percent agrees with the New York City Mayor's policy of limiting the time migrants can stay in city shelters to 60 days. Forty-three percent say their faith does *not* inform their opinions on immigrants and refugees very much and 24% says their faith matters only a little. Fifty-three percent are Republicans and 29% are independents. Sixty-five percent have a favorable view of Donald Trump and 67% have a very unfavorable view of Joe Biden.

The **Young Active Catholics** make up 22% of adult Catholics, which is equivalent to a population of 12.9 million. Eighty-seven percent say they mostly or very much identify as being Catholic. This group is aware of the Church's teachings on immigration and 35% say these are very important to them and 40% somewhat important to them. Eight percent of this group think immigration is the most important problem facing the country. Most believe immigration should be increased (44%) or kept about the same level (45%). More see immigration bringing a mixture of good and bad (54%) than good only (37%) but few see immigration as bad (8%). This group sees immigration having more of a positive than negative impact on job opportunities for themselves and family (45% better compared to 32% worse), food, music, and the arts (66% better compared to 16% worse), the economy (50% better compared to 35% worse), and social and moral values (50% better compared to 30% worse). They do see things being worse more so than better for crime (26% better compared to 47% worse) and taxes (38% better compared to 46% worse). Seventy-four percent are somewhat or very sympathetic to undocumented immigrants. Seventy-two percent approve somewhat or strongly of refugees from Central America to come to the United States. Fifty-seven percent somewhat or strongly favor the expansion of a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Majorities support the governors of Texas and Florida sending migrants to other cities (76%) and the mayor of New York City's policies to remove migrant families from city shelters after 60 days (70%). Nine in ten of this group say their Catholic faith informs their opinions about immigrants and refugees.
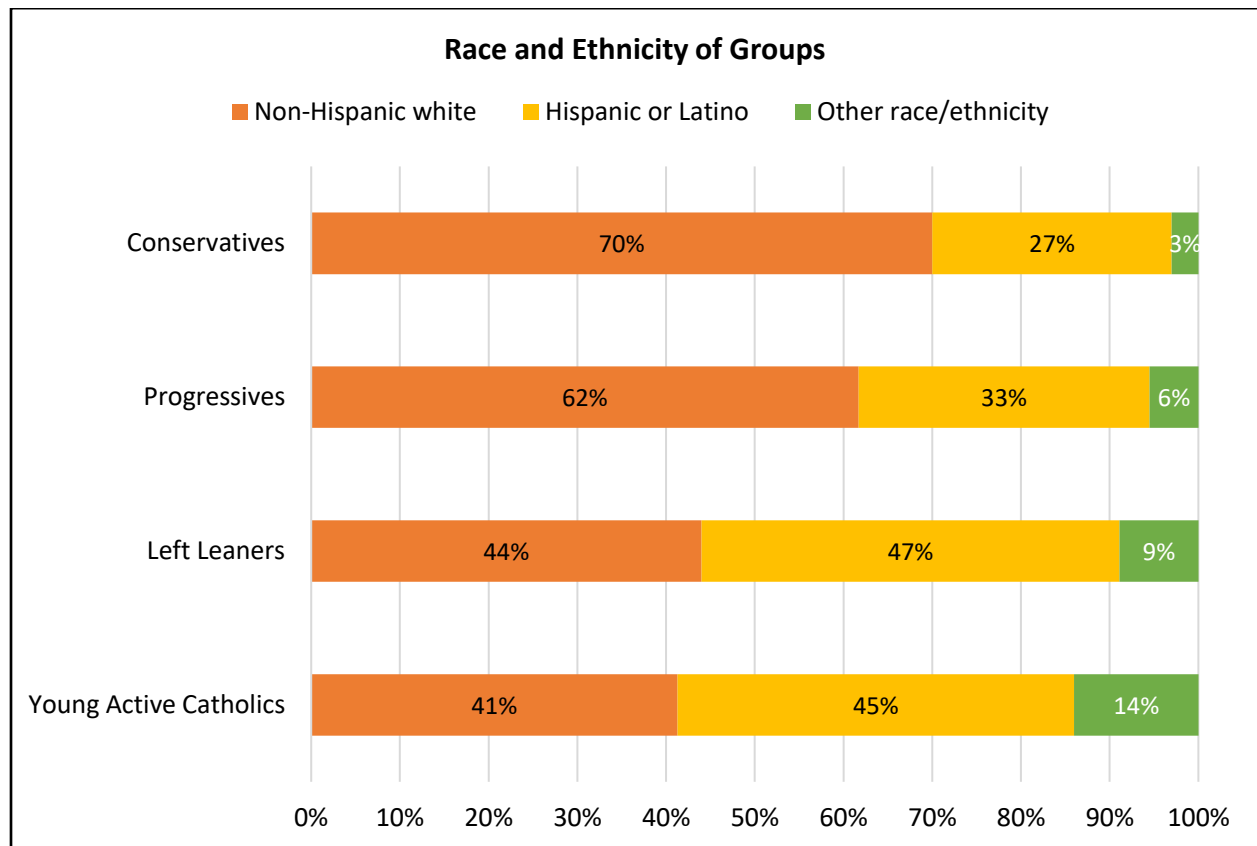
The **Progressives** make up 21% of adult Catholics, which is equivalent to a population of 12.3 million. Thirty-nine percent say they mostly or very much identify as being Catholic. A majority of this group generally understands most of what the Church teaches regarding migrants and refugees. Yet, a minority of Progressives, 42%, says these teachings are somewhat or very important to them. Nearly half of this group wants to keep immigration levels as they are now (48%). Twenty-nine percent want to see this increased and 23% decreased. A majority see immigration as bringing a mixture of good and bad (58%) with an additional 39% seeing it bringing only good. A plurality of this group sees immigration having not much effect on crime (45%) and their job opportunities (55%). Pluralities believe it make the following better: food, music, and the arts (74%), the economy (52%), and social and moral values. A plurality see immigration making taxes worse (38%). Forty-eight percent see the U.S. border situation as a major problem and 19% see this as a crisis. Eighty-five percent are somewhat or very sympathetic toward undocumented immigrants in the United States. Eighty-five percent approve (somewhat or strongly) that refugees from Central America can come to the United States. Fifty-nine percent oppose (somewhat or strongly) the expansion of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. Sixty-six percent disagree (somewhat or strongly) with the governors of Texas and Florida sending migrants to other cities and 45 percent, a plurality, disagree (somewhat or strongly) with the mayor of New York City's policies to remove migrant families from city shelters after 60 days (33% neither agree nor disagree). Sixty-three percent of Progressives say they agree somewhat or very much that their faith informs their opinions on immigrants and refugees.

The **Left Leaners** make up 24% of adult Catholics, which is equivalent to a population of 14.3 million. Seventy-nine percent say they mostly or very much identify as being Catholic. A majority want immigration levels to kept as they are (55%) and 20% prefer these levels were increased and 25% decreased. Seventy-four percent see immigration bringing a mixture of good and bad. Majorities understand what the Church teaches about immigration and refugees and 63% of this group says those teachings are somewhat or very much important to them. Teachings on care for the environment (68%) and marriage (74%) are more important to them. Four percent see immigration as the most important problem facing the country. Fifty-five percent of this group wants to keep immigration levels as they are
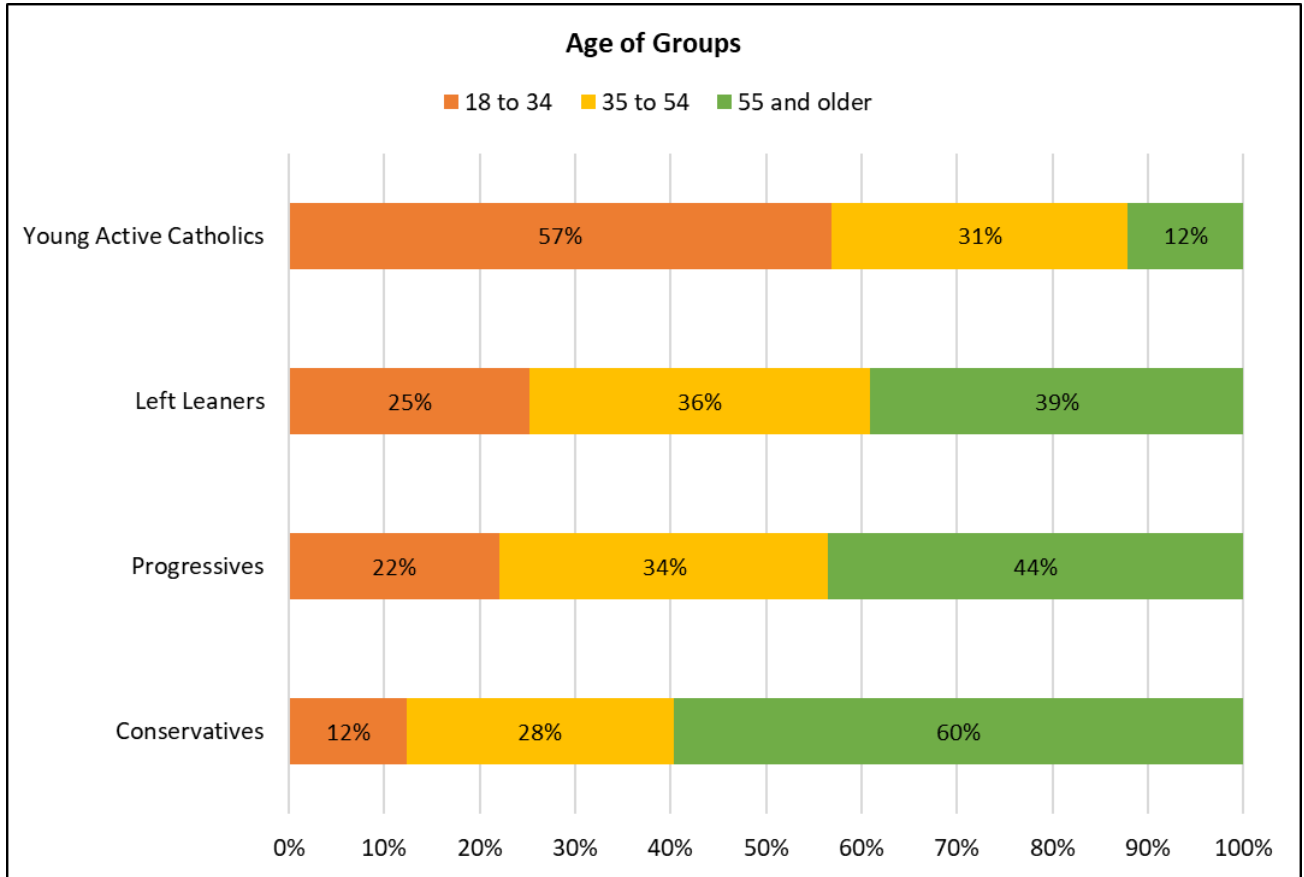
now. Twenty percent want to see this increased and 23% decreased. Seventy-four percent see immigration bringing a mixture of good and bad. Majorities or pluralities see immigration as not having much of an effect on job opportunities (58%), social and moral values (54%), food, music, and the arts (49%), crime (45%), taxes (46%), and the economy (40%). A plurality sees the U.S. border situation as a major problem (44%). Sixty-seven percent are somewhat or very sympathetic to undocumented immigrants. Pluralities neither approve nor disapprove of allowing refugees from Central America to come to the United States (40%) or the expansion of a U.S. border wall with Mexico (42%). Pluralities neither agree nor disagree with the governors of Florida and Texas sending migrants to other states (33%) or the mayor of New York City limiting the time migrants can be in city shelters to 60 days (37%). Eight in ten say their Catholic faith informs their views about immigrants and refugees.
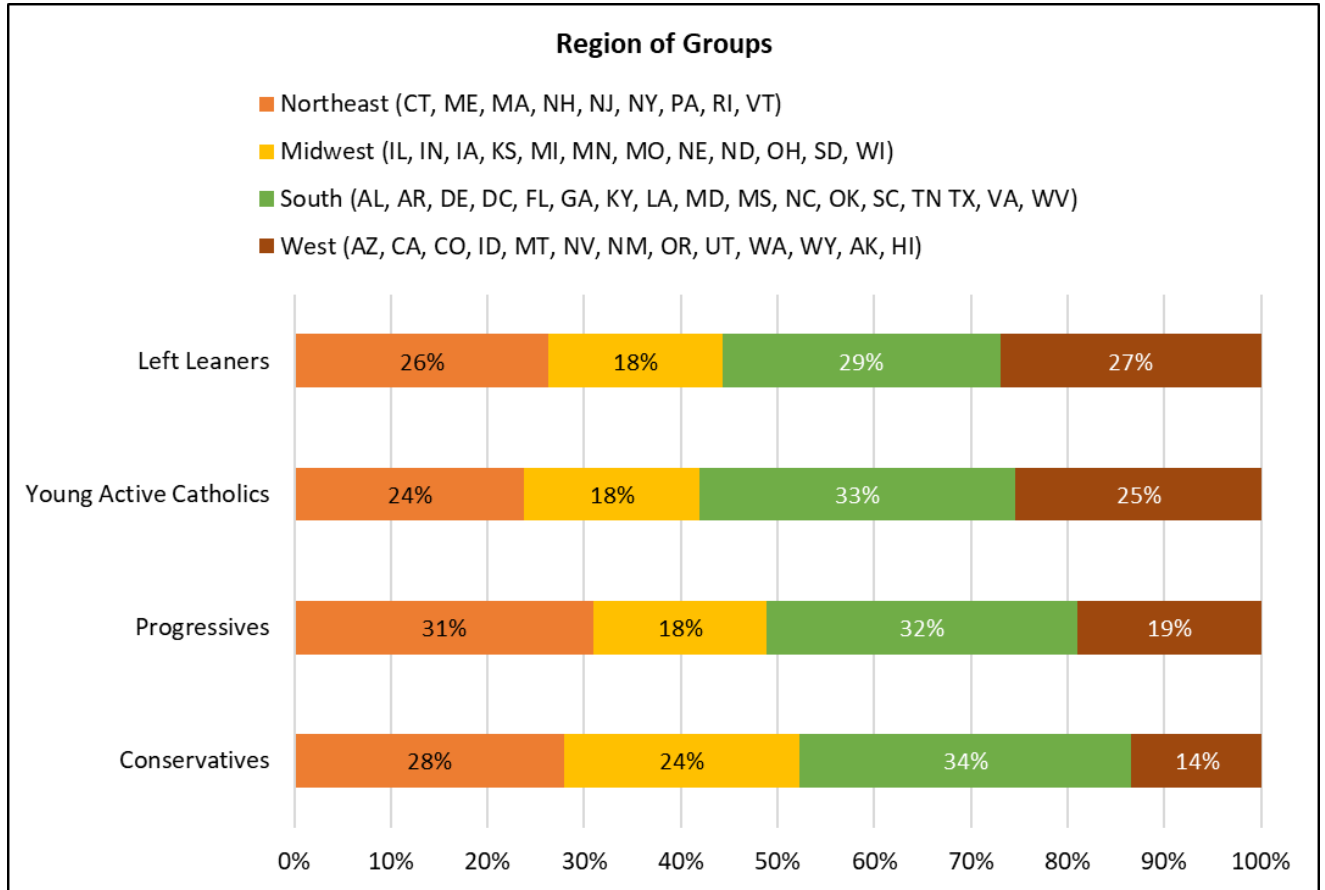
Key Sub-group Demographic Differences

Majorities of the Conservatives and Progressives are non-Hispanic white (70% and 62%, respectively). A plurality of Left Leaners and Young Active Catholics are Hispanic or Latino (47% and 45%, respectively).

Race and Ethnicity of Groups

Legend: ■ Non-Hispanic white ■ Hispanic or Latino ■ Other race/ethnicity

Group	Non-Hispanic white	Hispanic or Latino	Other race/ethnicity
Conservatives	70%	27%	3%
Progressives	62%	33%	6%
Left Leaners	44%	47%	9%
Young Active Catholics	41%	45%	14%

As named, Young Active Catholics, are disproportionately under the age of 35 (57%) compared to a quarter or fewer of the three other groups. The Conservatives are the oldest (60% ages 55 and older).

Age of Groups

Legend: ■ 18 to 34 ■ 35 to 54 ■ 55 and older

Group	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Young Active Catholics	57%	31%	12%
Left Leaners	25%	36%	39%
Progressives	22%	34%	44%
Conservatives	12%	28%	60%

Left Leaners (27%) and Young Active Catholics (25%) are more likely than the Progressives (19%) and Conservatives (14%) to reside in the West.

Region of Groups

- Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)
- Midwest (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)
- South (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN TX, VA, WV)
- West (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, AK, HI)

Group	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Left Leaners	26%	18%	29%	27%
Young Active Catholics	24%	18%	33%	25%
Progressives	31%	18%	32%	19%
Conservatives	28%	24%	34%	14%

Hypothetical Members of the Four Types

This section describes non-existent individuals who have been created to be "average" composites of each segmented group. In other words, their characteristics are those that tend to typify their respective segments.

Robert Righty is a member of the **Conservatives**. He is a 65-year-old non-Hispanic white man residing in Dallas, Texas. He is a Republican and has a favorable view of Donald Trump. He also has a *very* unfavorable view of Joe Biden. He has a self-described strong Catholic identity. He aims to attend Mass weekly but more often is at Mass at least once a month. He is not very active at his parish outside of attending Mass. He is more likely than members of other groups to frequently practice privately at home in prayer, saying the rosary, and/or reading Scripture. He does not believe the Church calls upon him or other Catholics to welcome immigrants. But he does believe his faith calls on him and other Catholics to be altruistic. He has a low degree of social trust in others. Of many of the core Catholic social teachings, those related to migration, refugees, and immigrants is the least important to him personally. He is most likely to agree with Church guidance on immigration when it states "a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders." Teachings about marriage and abortion are much more personally important to him than immigration. He has some concerns about climate change and believes he has a moral responsibility to combat this. He believes immigration levels need to be decreased. This is likely related to his feeling that immigration is bad for the country in many ways. These include: crime, the economy, taxes, job opportunities, and social and moral values. He dos see a mixture of good and bad coming from immigration in regards to culture (e.g., food, music, and the arts). He believes the U.S.-Mexico border is in crisis and he is personally unsympathetic to undocumented immigrants. He disapproves of Central American migrants coming to the U.S. and prefers an extension of existing border walls. He agrees with the policies about migrants enacted by the governors of Florida and Texas (i.e., sending migrants to other states) as well as the New York City Mayor (limiting time migrants can stay in city shelters). His believes the top five most important problems facing the country are: the high cost of living/inflation, the economy in general, immigration, crime and violence, and national security.

Diego Dedicated is a member of the **Young Active Catholics**. He is a 28-year-old Hispanic man residing in a suburb of Los Angeles, California. He is a Democrat with a *very* favorable view of Joe Biden and an unfavorable view of Donald Trump. He knows others, like him in most ways, who are independents or Republicans who have different opinions about the 2024 presidential candidates. His Catholic identity is among the strongest it could be. He attends Mass weekly and is very involved in parish ministries and activities. He does practice his faith privately at home but his focus is on being Catholic in a parish context. He believes the Church calls upon him or other Catholics to welcome immigrants and that his faith calls on him and other Catholics to be altruistic. He has a high degree of social trust in others. All Church teachings are personally important to him with those about marriage and care for the environment being especially important. He has many concerns about climate change and believes he has a moral responsibility to combat this. He believes levels of immigration should be increased and others like him in the Young Active Catholics are most likely to believe this. He thinks immigration brings more good things to the country than bad. They are among the most likely to believe immigration makes the following better: crime, job opportunities, taxes, and social and moral values. He believes the U.S.-Mexico border is a problem and he is very sympathetic toward undocumented immigrants in the United States. He approves refugees from Central America coming to the United States. He also favors somewhat the expansion of a border wall. He similarly somewhat agrees with the policies about migrants enacted by the governors of Florida and Texas (i.e., sending migrants to other states) as well as the New York City Mayor (limiting time migrants can stay in city shelters). He believes the top five most

important problems facing the country are: the high cost of living/inflation, crime and violence, healthcare, poverty and homelessness, and the economy in general.

Laura Lefty is a member of the **Progressives**. She is a 58-year-old non-Hispanic white woman residing in a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts. She is a Democrat with a favorable view of Joe Biden and an unfavorable view of Donald Trump. She does not have a strong Catholic identity yet she attends Mass at Christmas and Easter annually. She does not frequently participate in other parish activities or ministries nor does she frequently practice her faith privately at home. She believes the Church calls on Catholics to welcome immigrants and to be generally altruistic. She has some social trust for others but also feels you need to be careful. She is aware of Church teachings on migrants and refugees. Perhaps given her lack of connection or activity with Catholicism, she also does not find any of the Church teachings she was asked about, including immigration, as being very important to her. Rather these tend to be somewhat or a little personally important. She strongly believes Catholics are called by the Church to personally do what they can to combat climate change. She believes immigration levels should remain as they are now but is open to these being higher in the future. She recognizes that immigration brings good and bad to the country. She tends to think immigration makes crime and taxes worse. She believes immigration brings more good than bad for: job opportunities, culture (e.g., food, music, the arts), the economy in general, and social and moral values. She believes the border is a major problem rather than a crisis and is sympathetic to undocumented immigrants in the United States. She opposes the expansion of a border wall and disagrees with the governors of Florida and Texas (i.e., sending migrants to other states) as well as the New York City Mayor (limiting time migrants can stay in city shelters) regarding migrant policies. She believes the top five most important problems facing the country are: the high cost of living/inflation, poverty and homelessness, healthcare, guns and gun control, and crime and violence.

Mary Moderate is a member of the **Left Leaners**. She is a 36-year-old multi-racial/ethnic woman residing in a suburb of Nashville, Tennessee. She is a Democrat with a favorable view of Joe Biden and an unfavorable view of Donald Trump. She has a strong Catholic identity tries to attend Mass every few weeks but sometimes goes less than monthly. She would never miss Mass at Christmas and Easter. From time to time she will attend a parish event or ministry outside of Mass. She typically prays multiple times a week at home. She believes the Church calls upon him or other Catholics to welcome immigrants and that her faith calls on him and other Catholics to be altruistic. She has moderate levels of social trust in others. All Church teachings are personally important to her including those about immigrations. She has many concerns about climate change and believes she has a moral responsibility to combat this. She believes immigration levels should be kept at current levels. More than any of those in other groups she believes immigration brings a mixture of good and bad to the country. Yet, she really only sees immigration bringing more good than bad when it comes to crime. She sees immigration as not having much of an effect on: job opportunities, culture (e.g., food, music, the arts), the economy in general, taxes, and social and moral values. She believes the U.S.-Mexico border is a problem and she is very sympathetic toward undocumented immigrants in the United States. She is uncertain about her opinions regarding refugees from Central America coming to the United States and about possibly expanding the U.S. border wall with Mexico. She also is uncertain of how she feels about policies adopted by the governors of Florida and Texas (i.e., sending migrants to other states) as well as the New York City Mayor (limiting time migrants can stay in city shelters) regarding migrants. She believes the top five most important problems facing the country are: the high cost of living/inflation, the economy in general, healthcare, poverty and homelessness, and crime and violence.