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**AMERICAN CATHOLICS SUPPORT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;  
CATHOLICS WANT NEW DIRECTION FROM NEXT POPE**

American voter support for same-sex marriage is inching up and now stands at 47 – 43 percent, including 54 – 38 percent among Catholic voters, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 48 – 46 percent statistical tie among all voters on same-sex marriage December 5 and reverses the 55 – 36 percent opposition in a July, 2008, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Among all adult Catholics, 52 percent say the Church is moving in the right direction, while 31 percent say it is going in the wrong direction.

Church leaders are out of touch with the views of Catholics in America today, all Catholics say 52 – 40 percent. Men say out of touch, 54 – 37 percent, while women agree by a smaller 49 – 43 percent margin.

The next pope should move the Church in new directions, 55 percent of Catholics say, while 38 percent say the pope should maintain the current direction.

“Catholic voters are leading American voters toward support for same-sex marriage,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “Among all voters, there is almost no gender gap, but a big age gap. Voters 18 to 34 years old support same sex marriage 62 – 30 percent; voters 35 to 54 years old are divided 48 – 45 percent and voters over 55 are opposed 50 – 39 percent.

“Voters in military households are divided with 43 percent in favor and 45 percent opposed.”

**-more-**

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“Looking at all adult Catholics, different from the wider survey of all registered voters, we see a conflicted group: a slim majority say the Church is moving in the right direction while slim majorities say Church leaders are out of touch with their views and the next pope should change directions,” Brown added.

American Catholics say 62 – 30 percent that the next pope should allow priests to marry and say 64 – 28 percent, including 68 – 24 percent among women, that he should relax the church ban on contraception.

Under the next pope, Catholics say 81 – 13 percent, the Church should do more to combat sexual abuse of young people by priests.

Catholics agree 59 – 35 percent that clergy should not be allowed to run for and serve in public office.

By a 51 – 41 percent margin, Catholics support Present Barack Obama’s position that religious-based institutions, such as hospitals and universities, must arrange for their insurance companies to provide birth control coverage for employees.

Among Catholics, 16 percent have a very favorable opinion of Pope Benedict XVI, with 58 percent favorable, 15 percent unfavorable and 3 percent very unfavorable.

Religion is very important in their life, 57 percent of Catholics say, while 33 percent say fairly important and 9 percent say not very important.

From February 27 – March 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 497 adults Catholics with a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percent. The same-sex marriage question was asked of 1,944 registered voters nationwide with a margin of error of +/- 2.2 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information or RSS feed, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

23. In general, do you support or oppose same-sex marriage?

|            | REGISTERED VOTERS..... |     |        |         |       |                 |       |           |       |
|------------|------------------------|-----|--------|---------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------|
|            | Tot                    | Rep | Dem    | Ind     | Men   | Wom             | Wht   | Blk       | Hsp   |
| Support    | 47%                    | 23% | 65%    | 50%     | 46%   | 48%             | 48%   | 32%       | 63%   |
| Oppose     | 43                     | 69  | 29     | 38      | 44    | 42              | 43    | 56        | 32    |
| DK/NA      | 10                     | 8   | 6      | 12      | 9     | 10              | 9     | 12        | 5     |
| WHITE..... |                        |     |        |         |       |                 |       |           |       |
|            | COLLEGE DEG            |     |        | Prot    | Cath  | Men             | Wom   | BornAgnEv |       |
|            | Cath                   | Yes | No     |         |       |                 |       | Yes       | No    |
| Support    | 54%                    | 59% | 42%    | 34%     | 50%   | 45%             | 50%   | 20%       | 55%   |
| Oppose     | 38                     | 32  | 48     | 55      | 41    | 46              | 40    | 72        | 34    |
| DK/NA      | 8                      | 9   | 9      | 10      | 9     | 9               | 9     | 7         | 11    |
|            | COLLEGE DEG            |     | ANNUAL | HS HOLD | INC   | AGE IN YRS..... |       | Mltry     |       |
|            | Yes                    | No  | <50K   | 50-100  | >100K | 18-34           | 35-54 | 55+       | HsHld |
| Support    | 58%                    | 42% | 43%    | 54%     | 58%   | 62%             | 48%   | 39%       | 43%   |
| Oppose     | 32                     | 48  | 47     | 37      | 37    | 30              | 45    | 50        | 45    |
| DK/NA      | 10                     | 9   | 9      | 9       | 6     | 7               | 7     | 11        | 12    |

TREND: In general, do you support or oppose same-sex marriage?

|         | REGISTERED VOTERS..... |        |        |
|---------|------------------------|--------|--------|
|         | Mar 08                 | Dec 05 | Jul 17 |
|         | 2013                   | 2012   | 2008   |
|         |                        |        |        |
| Support | 47                     | 48     | 36     |
| Oppose  | 43                     | 46     | 55     |
| DK/NA   | 10                     | 7      | 9      |

24. How important would you say religion is in your life; very important, fairly important, or not very important?

|                    | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |        |      |       |       |     |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|------|-------|-------|-----|
|                    | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly | Less | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Very important     | 57%                  | 53% | 61% | 93%    | 40%  | 45%   | 62%   | 68% |
| Fairly important   | 33                   | 33  | 32  | 7      | 44   | 41    | 29    | 25  |
| Not very important | 9                    | 11  | 8   | -      | 14   | 14    | 9     | 5   |
| DK/NA              | 1                    | 2   | -   | -      | 2    | -     | -     | 2   |

TREND: How important would you say religion is in your life very important, fairly important, or not very important?

|                    | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                    | Mar 08               | Apr 14 | Jun 12 | Jun 12 | Apr 11 |
|                    | 2013                 | 2005   | 2003   | 2002   | 2002   |
|                    |                      |        |        |        |        |
| Very important     | 57                   | 64     | 56     | 60     | 59     |
| Fairly important   | 33                   | 27     | 28     | 30     | 34     |
| Not very important | 9                    | 9      | 16     | 10     | 7      |
| DK/NA              | 1                    | -      | -      | -      | -      |

25. Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |        |          |       |       |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |        | AGE..... |       |       |     |
|                      | Tot | Men | Wom          | Weekly | Less     | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Every week           | 31% | 29% | 33%          | 100%   | -        | 20%   | 36%   | 42% |
| Almost every week    | 12  | 13  | 11           | -      | 17       | 11    | 12    | 13  |
| Once or twice a mnth | 18  | 17  | 18           | -      | 26       | 21    | 17    | 12  |
| A few times a year   | 28  | 28  | 28           | -      | 41       | 35    | 27    | 19  |
| Never                | 11  | 14  | 9            | -      | 16       | 12    | 8     | 13  |
| DK/NA                | -   | -   | -            | -      | -        | -     | -     | 1   |

TREND: Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | Mar 08 | Apr 14 | Jun 12 | Jun 12 | Apr 11 |
|                      | 2013   | 2005   | 2003   | 2002   | 2002   |
| Every week           | 31     | 30     | 30     | 30     | 34     |
| Almost every week    | 12     | 13     | 17     | 15     | 13     |
| Once or twice a mnth | 18     | 18     | 18     | 14     | 20     |
| A few times a year   | 28     | 30     | 26     | 30     | 24     |
| Never                | 11     | 7      | 8      | 10     | 8      |
| DK/NA                | -      | -      | 1      | 1      | -      |

26. In general do you think the Catholic Church of today is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |        |          |       |       |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |        | AGE..... |       |       |     |
|                      | Tot | Men | Wom          | Weekly | Less     | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Right direction      | 52% | 55% | 49%          | 71%    | 43%      | 56%   | 52%   | 48% |
| Wrong direction      | 31  | 29  | 33           | 18     | 37       | 27    | 34    | 33  |
| DK/NA                | 17  | 16  | 18           | 11     | 20       | 17    | 15    | 19  |

TREND: In general do you think the Catholic Church of today is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

| ADULT CATHOLICS |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
|                 | Mar 08 | Apr 14 |
|                 | 2013   | 2005   |
| Right direction | 52     | 66     |
| Wrong direction | 31     | 14     |
| DK/NA           | 17     | 20     |

27. In general, do you think that Catholic Church leaders are in touch with the views of Catholics in America today, or are they out of touch?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |        |          |       |       |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |        | AGE..... |       |       |     |
|                      | Tot | Men | Wom          | Weekly | Less     | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| In touch             | 40% | 37% | 43%          | 58%    | 32%      | 47%   | 39%   | 33% |
| Out of touch         | 52  | 54  | 49           | 34     | 59       | 46    | 53    | 54  |
| DK/NA                | 9   | 9   | 8            | 8      | 9        | 6     | 8     | 13  |

TREND: In general, do you think that Catholic Church leaders are in touch with the views of Catholics in America today, or are they out of touch?

| ADULT CATHOLICS |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
|                 | Mar 08 | Apr 14 |
|                 | 2013   | 2005   |
| In touch        | 40     | 54     |
| Out of touch    | 52     | 37     |
| DK/NA           | 9      | 8      |

28. Do you think that Catholic Church leaders in Rome exert too much control over the Catholic Church in the United States, too little control, or the right amount of control?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |        |          |       |       |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |        | AGE..... |       |       |     |
|                      | Tot | Men | Wom          | Weekly | Less     | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Too much             | 23% | 22% | 25%          | 14%    | 28%      | 20%   | 23%   | 30% |
| Too little           | 15  | 17  | 14           | 12     | 17       | 15    | 18    | 12  |
| Right amount         | 52  | 49  | 54           | 70     | 43       | 55    | 51    | 50  |
| DK/NA                | 10  | 12  | 7            | 4      | 12       | 10    | 9     | 8   |

TREND: Do you think that Catholic Church leaders in Rome exert too much control over the Catholic Church in the United States, too little control, or the right amount of control?

| ADULT CATHOLICS |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
|                 | Mar 08 | Apr 14 |
|                 | 2013   | 2005   |
| Too much        | 23     | 18     |
| Too little      | 15     | 17     |
| Right amount    | 52     | 57     |
| DK/NA           | 10     | 8      |

29. Is your opinion of Pope Benedict the Sixteenth very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |        |          |       |       |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |        | AGE..... |       |       |     |
|                      | Tot | Men | Wom          | Weekly | Less     | 18-40 | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Very favorable       | 16% | 12% | 20%          | 27%    | 11%      | 15%   | 16%   | 20% |
| Favorable            | 58  | 59  | 58           | 56     | 59       | 61    | 61    | 54  |
| Unfavorable          | 15  | 16  | 13           | 13     | 16       | 17    | 12    | 15  |
| Very unfavorable     | 3   | 3   | 2            | 2      | 3        | 2     | 3     | 3   |
| DK/NA                | 8   | 10  | 7            | 2      | 11       | 6     | 8     | 8   |

TREND: Is your opinion of Pope Benedict the Sixteenth very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

| ADULT CATHOLICS..... |              |              |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | BENEDICT XVI | JOHN PAUL II |
|                      | Mar 08       | Apr 11       |
|                      | 2013         | 2002         |
| Very favorable       | 16           | 39           |
| Favorable            | 58           | 47           |
| Unfavorable          | 15           | 5            |
| Very unfavorable     | 3            | 1            |
| DK/NA                | 8            | 8            |

30. Do you think the next pope should move the Church in new directions or should he maintain the traditional positions of the Church?

|                     | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |          |       |     |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|----------|-------|-----|
|                     |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      | AGE..... |       |     |
|                     | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| New directions      | 55%                  | 51% | 59% | 43%          | 61%  | 56%      | 55%   | 55% |
| Maintain traditions | 38                   | 41  | 34  | 51           | 32   | 41       | 36    | 36  |
| DK/NA               | 7                    | 8   | 7   | 6            | 7    | 3        | 8     | 9   |

31. (Split Sample A) Would you like the next pope of the Catholic Church to come from the United States or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|
|       |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      |
|       | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less |
| Yes   | 42%                  | 41% | 43% | 43%          | 41%  |
| No    | 27                   | 26  | 27  | 22           | 29   |
| DK/NA | 31                   | 33  | 30  | 35           | 29   |

TREND: Would you like the next pope of the Catholic Church to come from the United States or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS |                |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|
|       | Mar 08<br>2013  | Apr 14<br>2005 |
| Yes   | 42              | 29             |
| No    | 27              | 36             |
| DK/NA | 31              | 34             |

32. (Split Sample B) Would you like the next pope of the Catholic Church to come from a developing region, like South America or Asia, or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|
|       |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      |
|       | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less |
| Yes   | 29%                  | 32% | 26% | 31%          | 29%  |
| No    | 44                   | 38  | 49  | 39           | 45   |
| DK/NA | 27                   | 30  | 24  | 30           | 26   |

33. Should the next pope support or oppose allowing priests to marry?

|         | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |          |       |     |
|---------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|----------|-------|-----|
|         |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      | AGE..... |       |     |
|         | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Support | 62%                  | 63% | 61% | 45%          | 70%  | 59%      | 62%   | 66% |
| Oppose  | 30                   | 28  | 33  | 46           | 23   | 35       | 30    | 26  |
| DK/NA   | 8                    | 9   | 7   | 9            | 7    | 6        | 8     | 8   |

TREND: Should the next pope support or oppose allowing priests to marry?

|         | ADULT CATHOLICS |        |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
|         | Mar 08          | Apr 14 |
|         | 2013            | 2005   |
| Support | 62              | 53     |
| Oppose  | 30              | 34     |
| DK/NA   | 8               | 13     |

34. Should the next pope support or oppose allowing women to become priests?

|         | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |        |       |          |       |     |
|---------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|-------|----------|-------|-----|
|         |                      |     |     | ATTEND | SRVCS | AGE..... |       |     |
|         | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly | Less  | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Support | 62%                  | 62% | 62% | 38%    | 73%   | 66%      | 62%   | 57% |
| Oppose  | 27                   | 28  | 26  | 48     | 18    | 20       | 29    | 34  |
| DK/NA   | 11                   | 10  | 13  | 15     | 10    | 14       | 8     | 10  |

TREND: Should the next pope support or oppose allowing women to become priests?

|         | ADULT CATHOLICS |        |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
|         | Mar 08          | Apr 14 |
|         | 2013            | 2005   |
| Support | 62              | 52     |
| Oppose  | 27              | 35     |
| DK/NA   | 11              | 13     |

35. Should the next pope allow Catholic clergy members to run for and serve in public office or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |        |       |          |       |     |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|-------|----------|-------|-----|
|       |                      |     |     | ATTEND | SRVCS | AGE..... |       |     |
|       | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly | Less  | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Yes   | 35%                  | 36% | 33% | 32%    | 36%   | 40%      | 28%   | 33% |
| No    | 59                   | 58  | 60  | 64     | 57    | 55       | 64    | 61  |
| DK/NA | 6                    | 6   | 7   | 5      | 7     | 5        | 7     | 6   |

TREND: Should the next pope allow Catholic clergy members to run for and serve in public office or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS |        |
|-------|-----------------|--------|
|       | Mar 08          | Apr 14 |
|       | 2013            | 2005   |
| Yes   | 35              | 32     |
| No    | 59              | 64     |
| DK/NA | 6               | 5      |

36. Should the next pope relax the church ban on contraception or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |        |       |          |       |     |
|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|-------|----------|-------|-----|
|       |                      |     |     | ATTEND | SRVCS | AGE..... |       |     |
|       | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly | Less  | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Yes   | 64%                  | 60% | 68% | 51%    | 69%   | 68%      | 69%   | 53% |
| No    | 28                   | 32  | 24  | 39     | 23    | 25       | 26    | 33  |
| DK/NA | 8                    | 8   | 8   | 9      | 8     | 6        | 5     | 14  |

TREND: Should the next pope relax the church ban on contraception or not?

|       | ADULT CATHOLICS |        |
|-------|-----------------|--------|
|       | Mar 08          | Apr 14 |
|       | 2013            | 2005   |
| Yes   | 64              | 55     |
| No    | 28              | 33     |
| DK/NA | 8               | 13     |

37. Under the next pope, should the Catholic church do more to combat sexual abuse of young people by priests or is the church's current position about right?

|                | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |          |       |     |
|----------------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|----------|-------|-----|
|                |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      | AGE..... |       |     |
|                | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Should do more | 81%                  | 81% | 80% | 74%          | 84%  | 80%      | 83%   | 79% |
| About right    | 13                   | 14  | 12  | 22           | 10   | 17       | 11    | 13  |
| DK/NA          | 6                    | 4   | 7   | 5            | 6    | 3        | 6     | 7   |

TREND: Under the next pope, should the Catholic church do more to combat sexual abuse of young people by priests or is the church's current position about right?

|                | ADULT CATHOLICS |        |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
|                | Mar 08          | Apr 14 |
|                | 2013            | 2005   |
| Should do more | 81              | 86     |
| About right    | 13              | 11     |
| DK/NA          | 6               | 4      |

38. As you may know, in 2012 President Obama announced a new policy on health insurance and birth control. Under the rule, if a religious-based institution, such as a Catholic hospital or university, objects to providing birth control coverage to its workers, its insurance company must pay for the coverage instead. Do you support or oppose this requirement?

|         | ADULT CATHOLICS..... |     |     |              |      |          |       |     |
|---------|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------|----------|-------|-----|
|         |                      |     |     | ATTEND SRVCS |      | AGE..... |       |     |
|         | Tot                  | Men | Wom | Weekly       | Less | 18-40    | 41-59 | 60+ |
| Support | 51%                  | 50% | 52% | 47%          | 53%  | 58%      | 50%   | 43% |
| Oppose  | 41                   | 43  | 39  | 42           | 40   | 34       | 43    | 50  |
| DK/NA   | 8                    | 8   | 8   | 11           | 7    | 8        | 7     | 7   |