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MORE AMERICANS SAY CHURCH IS GOING THEIR WAY, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS

Americans like Pope Francis as 18 percent have a “very favorable” opinion of him and 48 percent have a “favorable” opinion, with 10 percent “unfavorable” and 4 percent “very unfavorable,” according to a Quinnipiac University National poll released today.

A total of 69 percent of women, 63 percent of men, 61 percent of Protestants, 87 percent of Catholics and 63 percent with no religion have a “very favorable” or “favorable” opinion, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

The Catholic Church of today is moving in the right direction, Americans say 43 – 21 percent. Catholics say “right direction” 70 – 16 percent, compared to 36 – 24 percent among Protestants and 44 – 22 percent among those with no religion.

The gender gap widens as Catholics say 52 – 38 percent that Catholic Church leaders are in touch with the views of Catholics in America today. Women say 57 – 34 percent that Church leaders are in touch. Men are divided 47 – 44 percent.

“Pope Francis is sparking a resurgent confidence in the Catholic Church as more Catholics, Protestants and those with no religion believe the Vatican is steering The Church in the right direction,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

From August 20 – 25, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,829 American adults with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percentage points. The survey includes 424 Catholics with a margin of error of +/- 4.8 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, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on Twitter @QuinnipiacPoll.

99. (Adults) Is your opinion of Pope Francis very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	ADULTS.....									
	Tot	Men	Wom	RELIGION.....			AGE IN YRS.....			
Prot				Cath	None	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Very favorable	18%	15%	21%	14%	33%	17%	11%	19%	21%	22%
Favorable	48	48	48	47	54	46	50	50	46	48
Unfavorable	10	12	7	13	5	9	8	10	11	12
Very unfavorable	4	6	3	5	2	2	5	4	5	4
DK/NA	20	18	21	20	6	25	26	18	17	14

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....				
	Tot	Men	Wom	ATTEND SRVCS	
Weekly				Less	
Very favorable	33%	28%	37%	50%	26%
Favorable	54	55	52	41	59
Unfavorable	5	8	3	5	5
Very unfavorable	2	3	1	1	2
DK/NA	6	6	6	3	7

100. (Adults) In general, do you think the Catholic Church of today is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	ADULTS.....									
	Tot	Men	Wom	RELIGION.....			AGE IN YRS.....			
Prot				Cath	None	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Right direction	43%	42%	44%	36%	70%	44%	44%	43%	47%	42%
Wrong direction	21	25	18	24	16	22	19	25	22	20
DK/NA	35	33	38	39	14	34	37	32	31	38

	ADULT CATHOLICS.....				
	Tot	Men	Wom	ATTEND SRVCS	
Weekly				Less	
Right direction	70%	62%	76%	80%	66%
Wrong direction	16	24	11	8	19
DK/NA	14	14	13	11	14

101. (Adult Catholics) 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.....				
	Tot	Men	Wom	ATTEND SRVCS	
Weekly				Less	
In touch	52%	47%	57%	68%	47%
Out of touch	38	44	34	22	44
DK/NA	9	9	10	9	9