

PRRI/RNS August 2015 Survey
Total = 1,331 (660 Landline, 671 Cell phone)
August 5 – August 11, 2015

Q.1 How much, if anything, have you heard about Pope Francis' upcoming visit to the U.S.?

13	A lot
34	A little
52	Nothing at all
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 We would like your views on some leaders and groups. Please say whether your overall opinion of each of the following is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable. First... **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

a. Pope Francis

27	Very favorable
40	Mostly favorable
10	Mostly unfavorable
5	Very unfavorable
6	Have not heard of (VOL.)
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. The Catholic Church

16	Very favorable
40	Mostly favorable
24	Mostly unfavorable
8	Very unfavorable
1	Have not heard of (VOL.)
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Barack Obama

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Mostly favorable</u>	<u>Mostly unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	Have not heard of (VOL.)	DK/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	20	32	17	26	*	5=100
Sept. 2014	19	28	19	30	*	4=100
Oct. 2012	29	27	16	26	*	2=100
Sept. 2012	23	32	17	24	-	3=100
May 2012	19	37	21	21	-	2=100
Nov. 2011	22	31	19	25	-	2=100
Oct. 2010	26	32	18	22	-	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=657]:

d. The Republican Party

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Mostly favorable</u>	<u>Mostly unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	Have not heard of (VOL.)	DK/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	9	27	34	21	1	9=100
Sept. 2014	11	33	29	19	*	7=100
Oct. 2013	7	28	27	28	5	4=100
Oct. 2012	14	30	25	25	*	5=100
Sept. 2012	11	33	26	23	-	7=100

e. The Democratic Party

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Mostly favorable</u>	<u>Mostly unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	Have not heard of (VOL.)	DK/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	17	32	26	18	*	7=100
Sept. 2014	16	34	26	18	*	6=100
Oct. 2013	13	31	25	22	5	4=100
Oct. 2012	19	34	22	21	*	5=100
Sept. 2012	17	34	23	20	-	6=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=674]:

f. The Mormon Church

5	Very favorable
26	Mostly favorable
29	Mostly unfavorable
17	Very unfavorable
6	Have not heard of (VOL.)
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

g. Evangelical Christian churches

14	Very favorable
36	Mostly favorable
21	Mostly unfavorable
10	Very unfavorable
5	Have not heard of (VOL.)
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=617]:

Q.3a What is the first word or phrase that comes to mind when you think about the Catholic Church?

7	Dogmatic/Strict/Judgmental
8	Hypocritical/False/Corrupt
4	Greedy/Power/Status
7	Sex scandal/Sexuality issues
7	Traditional/Hierarchical/Old fashioned
23	Catholic/Religious beliefs and practices
8	Religious leaders (pope, priests, nuns)
5	Comforting/Charitable/Family
4	General positive
6	General negative
6	Other
6	Not sure/No opinion
<u>9</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=714]:

Q.3b What is the first word or phrase that comes to mind when you think about Pope Francis?

1	Sex scandal/Sexuality issues
25	Catholic/Religious person
12	Progressive/Liberal/Open to change
11	Compassionate/Caring/Good person
4	Humble/Genuine/Peaceful
12	General positive
4	General negative
9	Other
10	Not sure/No opinion
<u>12</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

NO QUESTION 4**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 To the best of your knowledge, do you think Pope Francis supports or opposes allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

32	Supports
40	Opposes
5	Has not stated opinion on the issue (VOL.)
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.6 In the last couple of years, would you say your feelings toward the Catholic Church have changed a lot, changed a little or not changed at all?

13	Changed a lot
25	Changed a little
59	Not changed at all
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CHANGED A LITTLE OR A LOT (Q6=1,2), ASK [N=515]:

Q.7 And generally speaking, would you say that your feelings toward the Catholic Church have become more favorable or more unfavorable?

54	Favorable
41	Unfavorable
2	Neither (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.” BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: And would you say that’s atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

31	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
21	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
1	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
*	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
1	Hindu
4	Atheist (do not believe in God)
3	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
2	Something else [SPECIFY]
17	Nothing in particular
14	Christian (VOL.)
*	Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN OR EVANGELICAL (RELIG=5, 15, 22), ASK [N=361]:

DENOM As far as your present religion goes, what denomination or church, if any, do you identify with most closely? Just stop me when I get to the right one. Are you...? **[DO NOT READ WORDS IN PARENTEHSES; DO NOT ROTATE]**

20	Baptist
10	Methodist
7	Lutheran
3	Presbyterian
8	Pentecostal (Assemblies of God, Four-Square Gospel)
3	Episcopalian or Anglican
9	Church of Christ, or Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)
3	Congregational or United Church of Christ (UCC)
0	Holiness (Nazarenes, Wesleyan Church, Salvation Army)
1	Reformed (Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed)
1	Church of God
24	Non-denominational or Independent Church
1	Seventh Day Adventist (VOL.)
4	Some other denomination (SPECIFY)
3	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF IDENTIFY WITH ANY PROTESTANT DENOMINATION, PROTESTANT OR JUST CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,), ASK [N=555]:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

56	Yes
41	No
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK (RELIG= 90, 95,96,98), ASK [N=282]:

JEWID Do you consider yourself to be Jewish for any reason?

4	Yes
94	No
0	Half or part (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF IDENTIFY AS JEWISH BY RELIGION OR FOR ANY REASON (RELIG=7 OR JEWID=1,3), ASK [N=36]:

JDENOM Thinking about Jewish religious denominations, do you consider yourself to be...? [READ LIST; DO NOT ROTATE]

36	Reformed
23	Conservative
4	Orthodox
2	Reconstructionist
9	Just Jewish
10	Something else (VOL.)
3	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>13</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR (RELIG=90), ASK [N=200]:

SECULAR In general would you describe yourself more as a religious person or as a secular person, that is, someone who is NOT religious?

21	Religious
73	Secular, not religious
5	Spiritual, not religious (VOL.)
0	Other (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
*	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.8 And thinking about when you were a child, were you raised Catholic, or not?

35	Yes
65	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? **[READ IN ORDER]**

12	More than once a week
20	Once a week
13	Once or twice a month
18	A few times a year
19	Seldom
18	Never
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CATHOLIC OR RAISED CATHOLIC (RELIG=2 OR Q8=1), ASK [N=622]:

Q.9 Since Pope Francis became head of the Catholic Church, have you felt closer to the Church, less close to the Church or have your feelings toward the Church not changed?

21	Felt closer
3	Felt more distant
74	Feelings not changed
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ROTATE Q10 and Q11

Q.10 How well do you think Pope Francis understands the needs and views of American Catholics? Would you say... **[READ IN ORDER]**

30	Very well
41	Somewhat well
11	Not too well
4	Not at all well
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

And...

Q.11 How well do you think most Bishops in the U.S. understand the needs and views of American Catholics? Would you say... **[READ IN ORDER]**

12	Very well
38	Somewhat well
24	Not too well
14	Not at all well
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thinking about recent statements made by Pope Francis...

Q.12 All in all, would you say you agree or disagree with Pope Francis on **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? What about on... **[INSERT NEXT]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: All in all, would you say you agree or disagree with Pope Francis on this issue?

a. The issue of abortion

31	Agree
38	Disagree
20	Not familiar with position of the pope (VOL.)
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. The issue of same-sex marriage

40	Agree
28	Disagree
20	Not familiar with position of the pope (VOL.)
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. The issue of climate change

43	Agree
23	Disagree
22	Not familiar with position of the pope (VOL.)
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. The role of government in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor

51	Agree
24	Disagree
13	Not familiar with position of the pope (VOL.)
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. The issue of immigration

39	Agree
18	Disagree
29	Not familiar with position of the pope (VOL.)
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.13 Do you think Pope Francis will attract more Catholics back to the Church or don't you think so?

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>Jan.</u> <u>2014</u> ¹	
60	57	Yes
24	22	No
<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.14 As I read a pair of statements, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2012</u>	
60	62	In its statements about public policy, the Catholic Church should focus more on social justice and the obligation to help the poor, even if it means focusing less on issues like abortion and the right to life
30	29	In its statements about public policy, the Catholic Church should focus more on issues like abortion and the right to life, even if it means focusing less on social justice and the obligation to help the poor
3	2	Neither (VOL.)
3	2	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

¹ Quinnipiac University Poll, January 2014.

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Now, as I read some statements on a few different topics, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. First... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. Next... **[INSERT]**?

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. Gay marriage goes against my religious beliefs

Aug. <u>2015</u>	Feb. <u>2014</u>	
26	34	Completely agree
15	17	Mostly agree
21	16	Mostly disagree
32	29	Completely disagree
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

b. The government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and poor

Aug. <u>2015</u>	Sept. <u>2014</u>	July <u>2013</u>	Nov. <u>2011</u>	
39	35	29	40	Completely agree
32	31	34	27	Mostly agree
13	18	19	15	Mostly disagree
12	14	16	16	Completely disagree
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

c. The U.S. government needs to do more to address the issue of climate change

Aug. <u>2015</u>	Nov. <u>2014</u>	Dec. <u>2012</u>	
33	34	34	Completely agree
33	35	33	Mostly agree
15	15	15	Mostly disagree
14	14	16	Completely disagree
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

On a different subject...

Q.16 Do you think abortion should be **[READ IN ORDER]**
**[PROGRAMMER: FORM 1: LIST CATEGORIES IN ORDER 1-4 / FORM 2:
 LIST CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER 4-1]**

	<u>Legal in all cases</u>	<u>Legal in most cases</u>	<u>Illegal in most cases</u>	<u>Illegal in all cases</u>	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	20	33	26	17	4=100
Dec. 2014	23	33	25	15	3=100
Nov. 2014	24	33	25	14	4=100
Oct. 2014	23	34	25	15	4=100
Late Sept. 2014	20	33	24	17	6=100
Early Sept. 2014	19	33	28	16	4=100
Aug. 2014	23	33	23	18	3=100
July 2014	20	31	27	17	6=100
June 2014	21	32	28	16	3=100
May 2014	20	32	26	17	5=100
April 2014	19	30	26	19	7=100
Feb. 2014	20	32	27	14	6=100
July 2013	19	35	28	14	4=100
March 2013	23	33	24	14	5=100
Oct. 2012	22	34	24	15	5=100
Sept. 2012	20	34	27	14	4=100
Nov. 2011	21	32	29	14	3=100
Aug. 2011	18	34	29	15	4=100
June 2011	19	37	26	14	4=100
Oct. 2010	18	37	27	15	3=100

ROTATE Q17 & Q18

Turning to the issue of immigration...

Q.17 Would you say that, in general, the growing number of newcomers from other countries... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?

[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF UNSURE, PROMPT ONCE: "WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR OWN VIEWS, EVEN IF NEITHER IS EXACTLY RIGHT?"]

	Threatens traditional American customs and <u>values</u>	Strengthens American <u>society</u>	Neither/ Both <u>equally (Vol.)</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused (VOL.)</u>
Aug. 2015	36	48	10	6=100
July 2015	35	50	9	8=100
Late June 2015	33	54	7	7=100
Early June 2015	34	51	6	9=100
May 2015	29	50	10	10=100
Dec. 2014	45	48	5	3=100
April 2013	36	55	5	4=100
March 2013	40	54	3	3=100
Sept. 2011	42	53	2	3=100

Q.18 Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally? The immigration system should... **[FORM 1 READ IN ORDER (1-3), FORM 2 READ REVERSE ORDER (3-1)]**

	Allow them a way to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements	Allow them to become permanent legal residents but not citizens	Identify and deport them	None of these (VOL.)	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	63	16	19	1	2=100
July 2015	64	14	17	2	3=100
Late June 2015	64	15	16	1	4=100
Early June 2015	61	17	18	2	3=100
May 2015	60	14	21	1	3=100
Feb. 2015	59	19	18	1	3=100
Late Dec. 2014	65	18	15	1	1=100
Early Dec. 2014	58	19	20	1	2=100
Nov. 2014	59	16	22	1	3=100
Oct. 2014	60	17	20	1	2=100
Sept. 2014	57	17	23	1	2=100
Aug. 2014	57	19	21	1	2=100
Late July 2014	58	17	22	1	2=100
Early July 2014	58	18	19	2	4=100
June 2014	61	16	20	1	2=100
May 2014	64	16	17	1	2=100
April 2014	61	16	20	1	2=100
Nov. 2013	63	14	18	1	4=100
Aug. 2013	63	12	19	1	4=100
March 2013	63	14	21	1	1=100

Q.19 Now, we would like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in the country today. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose **[INSERT FIRST]**? What about **[INSERT NEXT; RANDOMIZE]**? **[READ AS NECESSARY: Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose this?]**

a. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	26	29	15	20	9=100
July 2015	24	28	16	24	8=100
June 2015	27	28	18	19	9=100
May 2015	26	27	20	19	9=100
Dec. 2014	25	32	18	18	7=100
Nov. 2014	25	29	20	19	7=100
Oct. 2014	24	32	18	17	9=100
Late Sept. 2014	24	25	20	22	9=100
Early Sept. 2014	22	33	18	19	8=100
August 2014	28	28	17	20	7=100
July 2014	24	29	18	20	10=100
June 2014	25	28	14	26	7=100
May 2014	26	24	19	21	10=100
April 2014	27	27	18	22	5=100
Feb. 2014	22	31	21	20	5=100
Oct. 2013	25	27	19	25	4=100
July 2013	22	30	21	20	7=100
May 2013	24	28	22	21	5=100
Late March 2013	23	27	18	21	10=100
Early March 2013	25	27	19	23	7=100
Oct. 2012	24	25	18	27	7=100
Sept. 2012	24	25	17	28	6=100
June 2012	25	24	18	26	7=100
March 2012	22	30	19	25	5=100
Nov. 2011	24	24	20	26	6=100
Sept. 2011	19	29	21	25	6=100
Aug. 2011	18	29	21	26	6=100

b. Laws that would protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	37	33	15	9	6=100
July 2015	34	34	14	11	6=100
June 2015	40	29	13	12	6=100
May 2015	35	36	15	9	5=100

c. Allowing a small business owner in your state to refuse to provide products or services to gay or lesbian people, if doing so violates their religious beliefs

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Aug. 2015	14	21	29	28	8=100
July 2015	17	19	27	28	7=100
June 2015	16	18	28	32	5=100
May 2015	14	18	30	32	5=100

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute in partnership with Religion News Service. The survey was made possible by a generous grant from The Henry Luce Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between August 5, 2015, and August 11, 2015, by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,331 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (671 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The selection of respondents within households was accomplished by randomly requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently living in the household. The survey included an oversample of Catholic and former Catholic respondents, who were prescreened for religious affiliation in SSRS's weekly RDD omnibus survey. A total of 312 Catholic and former Catholic respondents were identified as part of the oversample and included in the study.

Data collection is based on stratified, single-stage, random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers. The sample is designed to represent the total U.S. adult population and includes respondents from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. The landline and cell phone samples are provided by Marketing Systems.

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.² In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the January-September 2014 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's May 2015 Current Population Survey.

The sample weighting is accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.5. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

² Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone, or both types.

Appendix

Table 1. Demographic, Political, and Religious Subgroup Sample Sizes <i>(All figures are unweighted)</i>	
	General <u>Public</u>
Total Sample	1,331
Male	648
Female	683
Republican	330
Independent	527
Democrat	405
White, non-Hispanic	922
Black, non-Hispanic	129
Hispanic	173
18-29	217
30-49	292
50-64	374
65+	444
White evangelical Protestant	208
White mainline Protestant	187
Non-white Protestant	157
Catholic	384
<i>White Catholic</i>	268
<i>Non-white Catholic</i>	112
Religiously unaffiliated	268
Raised Catholic	584
<i>Raised Catholic, but no longer Catholic</i>	238
Democratic Catholic	124
Republican Catholic	107