

# THE FRANCIS EFFECT:

## Catholic Fad or Religious Revival?

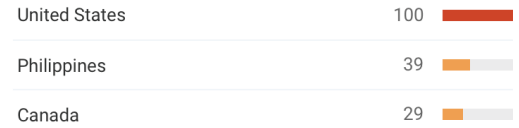
By George Goss

Pope Francis is credited by many with bringing about a new, more dynamic era of the Catholic Church. Both progressives and conservatives acknowledge that the pontiff's emphasis is on encountering the person—as he or she is—rather than keeping score in an abstract, religious versus secular culture war. In so doing, Pope Francis is confounding those on both ends of the ideological spectrum as they try to determine the direction of the Catholic Church.

The purpose of this study is to “take a pulse” of the Catholic Church in America. It is too soon to determine what effect Pope Francis will have on the relationship of everyday American Catholics to their faith, but this survey is meant as a starting point in understanding where the Church—particularly in the United States—is going.

## A GOOGLE SEARCH OF POPE FRANCIS REVEALS

### Regional Interest

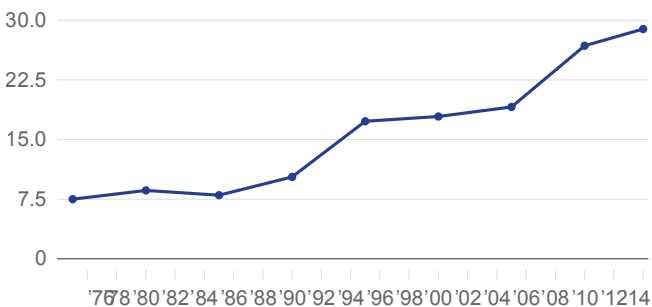


### Searches Over Time



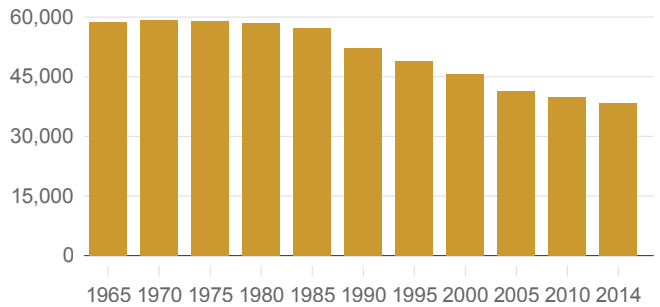
## OVERALL TRENDS IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH

### Former Catholics (Estimate in Millions)



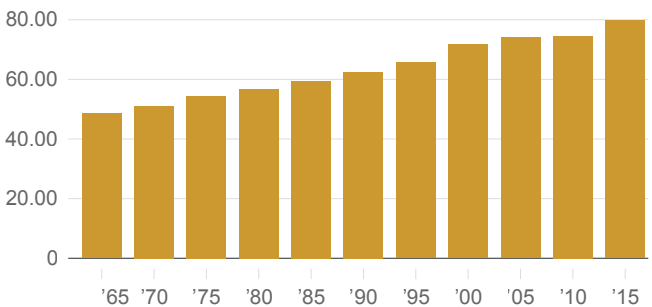
Made with Chartbuilder Data: <http://cara.georgetown.edu/caraservices/requestedchurchstats.html>

### Roman Catholic Priests in U.S.



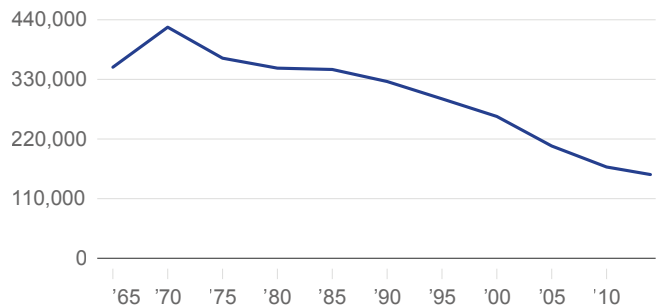
Made with Chartbuilder Data: <http://cara.georgetown.edu/caraservices/requestedchurchstats.html>

### U.S. Catholic Population (Estimate in Millions)



Made with Chartbuilder Data: <http://cara.georgetown.edu/caraservices/requestedchurchstats.html>

### Number of Marriages in Catholic Church



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