

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

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RELEASE INFORMATION

A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in Sunday's *Star-Ledger*. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll*."

NEW JERSEYANS VIEWS ON POPE JOHN PAUL II

CATHOLIC RESIDENTS REJECT POPE'S POSITION ON THE DEATH PENALTY, WOMEN PRIESTS, AND MARRIED PRIESTS

As a moral and religious leader, Pope John Paul II is influential in the lives of 3-in-4 Catholics, but only about 1-in-5 New Jerseyans of other faiths view the Pope as being important to them. While 6-in-10 New Jerseyans give the Pope positive job performance ratings as the leader of the Catholic church, Catholics are more positive in their assessment of Pope John II than non-Catholics.

With the exception of half of the state's residents who agree that abortion is the taking of life, 7-in-10 of New Jerseyans disagree with Pope John Paul II's position that the death penalty is wrong (68%), women should not be Catholic priests (67%), and the Catholic Church should not permit married priests (71%).

Pope John Paul II's visit to New Jersey is attracting attention. Six-in-ten New Jerseyans have some information about the Pontiff's arrival this coming week. While 2-in-3

New Jerseyans say that they know the Pope's name, more Catholics than non-Catholics report they have this information.

The *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted between September 6 and 13, 1995 when a random sample of 804 New Jerseyans 18 years and older was interviewed by telephone.

POPE JOHN II'S INFLUENCE ON NEW JERSEYANS

As might be expected, the Pope's influence is strongest on Catholic New Jerseyans compared to those of other faiths. However, Catholics as well as other New Jersey residents do not necessarily agree with all of the Pope's edicts.

As a religious and moral leader, 43 percent of New Jersey residents say that Pope John Paul II is very (16%) or somewhat (27%) important in their lives compared to 55 percent who say he is not too (20%) or not at all important (35%).

The Pope's importance as a religious and moral leader is most meaningful to Catholic residents. Seventy-five percent of New Jerseyans who are Catholic say that Pope John Paul II is very (31%) or somewhat (44%) important in their lives as a religious and moral leader while 25 percent report he is not too (19%) or not at all (6%) important. In comparison, about 1-in-5 Protestants (21%) and residents with other religious affiliations (16%) say that the Pope is very or somewhat important in their lives as a religious and moral leader.

While about half of the state's residents agree with the Pontiff that abortion is the taking of life, the majority disagree with Pope John Paul II's position on the death penalty, the role of women as Catholic priests, and the marital status of priests. Although Catholic residents are somewhat more likely than other state residents to agree with the Pope on these issues, the majority of Catholics are in disagreement with the Pope on the death penalty, the role of women as Catholic priests, and the marital status of priests.

_ Abortion

Overall, half of the state's residents agree strongly (35%) or mildly (16%) with Pope John II that abortion is the taking of life compared to 45 percent who mildly (16%) or strongly (29%) who disagree.

- *more* -

Catholics (59%) are more likely than Protestants (45%) or New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations (44%) to agree that abortion is the taking of life. Catholics who are weekly church goers (74%) are more likely than those who attend church monthly (54%) or rarely (46%) to agree with the Pope's position on abortion. Men (54%) are more likely than women (48%) to agree that abortion is the taking of life.

_ Death Penalty

Close to 7-in-10 New Jerseyans disagree with the Pope's position that the death penalty is wrong. While 68 percent of the state's residents disagree strongly (50%) or mildly (18%) that the death penalty is wrong, 26 percent strongly (19%) or mildly (7%) agree.

Catholics (72%) are just as likely as Protestants (72%) to disagree with Pope John Paul II's position that the death penalty is wrong. New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations (62%) are less likely to disagree with this statement. Catholics who attend church weekly (64%) are just as likely as occasional church goers (69%) to disagree with the Pope on the death penalty. In addition, 8-in-10 Catholics who rarely attend church disagree with the Pope. Residents who are white (73%) are more likely than non-whites (55%) to disagree that the death penalty is wrong.

_ Women As Priests

Allowing women to become priests is another policy where New Jerseyans differ with Pope John Paul II. Overall, 67 percent of the state's residents disagree strongly (47%) or mildly (20%) with the position that women can not become priests compared to 26 percent who agree with this position.

A majority of Catholics (60%) disagree with the Pope on the issue of women priests, but more Protestants (71%) and New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations (74%) disagree with his position. Catholics who are weekly church goers (49%) are less likely to disagree with the Pope than those who attend occasionally (72%) or rarely (65%). Women

(72%) are more likely than men (62%) to disagree that women can not become priests.

Younger New Jerseyans are more likely to disagree with the Pope on allowing women priests than residents who are over 50 years old.

Married Priests

Seven-in-ten New Jerseyans also disagree strongly (48%) or mildly (23%) with the current policy of not letting married priests continue to practice, compared to 22 percent who strongly (14%) or mildly (8%) agree.

Catholics (64%) are less likely to disagree with the Pope John Paul II on the issue of married priests than Protestants (80%) and New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations (76%). Catholics who attend church regularly (48%) are less likely than those who are occasional church goers (77%) or do not attend church (72%) to disagree with the Pope. Women (75%) are more likely than men (68%) to disagree that priests can not be married.

RATING THE POPE

More than half of the state's residents (56%) say that Pope John Paul II is doing and excellent (21%) or good (35%) job as the leader of the Catholic Church compared to 24 percent who rate his leadership as only fair (19%) or poor (5%). However, a sizeable 20 percent say they do not know how to rate Pope John II.

Catholic New Jerseyans (75%) are more likely to rate the Pope positively than Protestants (50%) or those with other religious affiliations (33%). Residents who are Protestants (27%) or have other religious affiliations (33%) are much more likely than Catholics (5%) to say they don't know how to evaluate the Pope's job as leader of the Catholic Church.

New Jerseyans who are 65 years old or older (70%) are more likely than those in other age groups to give the Pope excellent or good ratings.

AWARENESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

New Jerseyans are aware of Pope John Paul II and his plans to visit New Jersey in October. Six-in-ten have read or heard a lot or some about his visit to New Jersey and about 2-in-3 say they know the name of the Pope.

The Pope's visit has attracted the attention of New Jersey residents with 59 percent reporting that they have read or heard a lot (17%) or some (42%) about the Pope's visit compared to 40 percent who have not read or heard much (25%) or nothing at all (15%).

As would be expected, New Jerseyans who are Catholic (77%) are more likely than those who are Protestant (47%) or have other religious affiliations (43%) to have read or heard about the Pope's upcoming visit. Also, state residents who are 65 or older (77%) are more likely than those who are 50 to 64 years old (69%), 30 to 49 years old (57%) or 18 to 29 years old (41%) to be informed about the Pope's visit.

Overall, 67 percent of New Jerseyans say they know the Pope's name compared to 31 percent who say they do not know it. Among state residents who say that they are Catholic the percentage who say they know the name of the Pope increases to 77 percent compared to 64 percent of Protestants and 56 percent of New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations. State residents who are 65 or older (75%), 50 to 64 years old (71%), and 30 to 49 years old (68%) are more likely than those who are 18 to 29 years old (60%) to report they know the Pope's name.

Among those who say they know the Pope's name, 79 percent accurately refer to him as Pope John Paul II compared to 17 percent who give him an incorrect name.

More Catholics (82%) and Protestants (81%) than New Jerseyans with other religious affiliations (74%) who say they know the Pope's name correctly identify him as Pope John II.

PROFILE OF CATHOLICS IN NEW JERSEY

Overall, 45 percent of the state's residents identify themselves as Catholics compared to 21 percent who are Protestant and 32 percent who report some other type of religious identification. Among those who are Catholic, 40 percent are devout and attend church each week compared to 23 percent who attend at least monthly, 28 percent who attend less than once a month, and 9 percent of Catholics who never attend church.

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The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted between September 6 and September 13, 1995, when a random sample of 804 New Jerseyans, 18 years and older, was interviewed by telephone. Figures based on this sample size are subject to a sampling error of about ± 3.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from that population. Sampling error does not take into account other possible sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The questions and figures referred to in this release are presented below. The location of each question on the actual questionnaire is in brackets.

BACKGROUND MEMO — RELEASE SL/EP54-3 (EP104-3), SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1995

"How much have you read or heard about the Pope's visit to New Jersey in October - a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?" [Q.27]

	<u>A Lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Nothing At All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	17%	42%	25%	15%	1%	100%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	18	32	27	22	1	100	(139)
--Moderate	16	44	23	16	1	100	(418)
--Conservative	21	43	26	10	1	101	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	11	30	24	33	2	100	(117)
--30 to 49	14	43	31	12	--	100	(377)
--50 to 64	24	45	20	9	1	99	(170)
--65 and over	25	52	17	5	1	100	(120)
<u>Religion</u>							
--Catholic	27	50	16	7	--	100	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	39	48	8	4	--	99	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	19	58	16	6	--	99	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	18	47	24	12	--	101	(122)
--Protestant	8	39	36	16	1	100	(183)
--Other (269)		11	32	29	26	2	100

"Do you happen to know the Pope's name?" [Q. 28A]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	67%	31%	2%	100%	(804)
<u>Age</u>					
--18 to 29	60	39	1	100	(117)
--30 to 49	68	31	1	100	(377)
--50 to 64	71	28	1	100	(170)
--65 and over	75	22	4	101	(120)
<u>Religion</u>					
--Catholic	77	21	1	99	(352)
--Protestant	64	33	3	100	(183)
--Other (269)		56	42	2	100

"What is his name?" [Q.28B]

	<u>John Paul II</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	79%	17%	3%	99%	(579)

Age

--18 to 29	89	11	--	100	(76)
--30 to 49	84	12	4	100	(275)
--50 to 64	70	29	2	101	(126)
--65 and over	69	24	7	100	(92)

Religion

--Catholic	82	17	2	101	(286)
--Protestant	81	13	6	100	(121)
--Other		74	21	5	100
	(172)				

"How would you rate the job Pope John Paul II is doing as leader of the Catholic church -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?" [Q.29]

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	21%	35%	19%	5%	20%	100%	(804)

Ideology

--Liberal	18	21	25	14	22	100	(139)
--Moderate	21	37	20	4	17	99	(418)
--Conservative	22	40	16	3	19	100	(208)

Age

--18 to 29	14	38	15	8	25	100	(117)
--30 to 49	16	36	24	6	18	100	(377)
--50 to 64	27	31	18	4	19	99	(170)
--65 and over	31	39	16	1	13	100	(120)

Religion

--Catholic	32	43	17	2	5	99	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	45	39	15	--	1	100	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	31	39	26	2	2	100	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	20	49	14	5	12	100	(122)
--Protestant	15	35	19	3	27	99	(183)
--Other		8	25	23	11	33	100
	(269)						

"As a religious and moral leader, how important a person is the Pope in your life -- very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?" [Q.30]

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Too Important</u>	<u>Not At All Important</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	16%	27%	20%	35%	1%	99%	(804)

Ideology

--Liberal	11	19	18	51	1	100	(139)
--Moderate	19	29	19	33	1	101	(418)
--Conservative	15	31	23	28	3	100	(208)

Age

--18 to 29	9	25	23	41	2	100	(117)
--30 to 49	12	30	23	34	1	100	(377)
--50 to 64	22	25	17	36	--	100	(170)
--65 and over	29	29	13	26	3	100	(120)

Religion

--Catholic	31	44	19	6	--	100	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	48	40	11	1	--	100	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	32	41	24	4	--	101	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	12	50	25	13	--	100	(122)
--Protestant	6	15	24	52	2	99	(183)
--Other		3	13	18	62	3	99

(269)

"I'm going to read you a list of statement made by the Pope. Do you agree or disagree with the Pope's position that [read item]? **PROBE:** Do you strongly or mildly (agree/disagree)?" [Q.31]

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Mildly <u>Agree</u>	Mildy <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<i>Abortion is the taking of life</i>							
September, 1995	35%	16%	16%	29%	5%	101%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	23	11	12	51	2	99	(139)
--Moderate	35	19	15	26	5	100	(418)
--Conservative	44	11	18	23	5	101	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	35	20	14	27	4	100	(117)
--30 to 49	34	18	19	26	4	101	(377)
--50 to 64	42	14	10	30	4	100	(170)
--65 and over	29	9	17	36	9	100	(120)
<u>Religion</u>							
--Catholic	41	18	15	25	2	101	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	60	14	12	14	--	100	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	30	24	13	28	4	99	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	28	18	18	35	1	100	(122)
--Protestant	28	17	19	30	7	101	(183)
--Other		32	12	15	33	8	100
(269)							
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male		39	15	15	24	7	100
(403)							
--Female	31	17	16	33	3	100	(401)

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Mildly <u>Agree</u>	Mildy <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<i>The death penalty is wrong</i>							
September, 1995	19%	7%	18%	50%	5%	99%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	30	12	12	43	2	99	(139)
--Moderate	19	7	20	50	4	100	(418)
--Conservative	14	4	19	58	5	100	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	19	11	16	49	5	100	(117)
--30 to 49	19	7	20	50	4	100	(377)
--50 to 64	17	7	18	55	3	100	(170)
--65 and over	22	5	18	48	7	100	(120)
<u>Religion</u>							
--Catholic	16	9	18	54	3	100	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	20	12	26	38	4	100	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	21	6	16	53	3	99	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	7	7	11	72	3	100	(122)
--Protestant	15	5	20	52	8	100	(183)
--Other (269)		26	7	18	44	5	100
<u>Race</u>							
--White	15	7	19	54	4	99	(637)
--Non-white	30	8	17	38	6	99	(156)
<i>Women can not become priests</i>							
September, 1995	18%	8%	20%	47%	7%	100%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	9	4	17	66	4	100	(139)
--Moderate	18	8	21	47	7	101	(418)
--Conservative	23	9	21	37	10	100	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	14	6	22	51	6	99	(117)
--30 to 49	14	10	22	50	4	100	(377)
--50 to 64	20	9	19	45	7	100	(170)
--65 and over	30	2	13	41	13	99	(120)
<u>Religion</u>							
--Catholic	27	10	22	38	2	99	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	38	11	21	28	3	101	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	18	8	21	51	1	99	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	21	11	23	42	4	101	(122)
--Protestant	13	6	21	50	10	100	(183)
--Other (269)		9	5	17	57	12	100
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male (403)		22	7	22	40	10	101
--Female	14	8	17	55	5	99	(401)

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Mildly <u>Agree</u>	Mildy <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<i>Priests can not marry and continue to be priests</i>							
September, 1995	14%	8%	23%	48%	6%	99%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	8	5	19	65	3	100	(139)
--Moderate	16	10	24	46	4	100	(418)
--Conservative	16	5	26	44	8	99	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	15	14	24	40	7	100	(117)
--30 to 49	12	5	28	50	5	100	(377)
--50 to 64	13	5	20	59	3	100	(170)
--65 and over	20	9	14	48	8	99	(120)
<u>Religion</u>							
--Catholic	26	10	27	37	1	101	(352)
<i>Weekly church goers</i>	38	11	22	26	2	99	(144)
<i>Occasional church goers</i>	12	11	30	47	--	100	(86)
<i>Rare/Never church goers</i>	21	7	31	41	--	100	(122)
--Protestant	5	6	17	63	9	100	(183)
--Other		5	7	22	54	1	100
							(269)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male		17	8	25	43	7	100
							(403)
--Female	12	8	22	53	5	100	(401)

"Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or something else?"
[Q.D15]

	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Protestant</u>	<u>Jewish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None/ Refused</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September, 1995	45%	21%	6%	24%	4%	100%	(804)
<u>Ideology</u>							
--Liberal	31	19	10	31	10	101	(139)
--Moderate	47	18	5	28	1	99	(418)
--Conservative	51	30	5	10	4	100	(208)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 to 29	45	6	5	39	5	100	(117)
--30 to 49	44	23	4	25	4	100	(377)
--50 to 64	43	26	7	22	1	99	(170)
--65 and over	51	31	9	5	4	100	(120)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male		44	18	5	28	6	101
							(403)
--Female	46	24	6	21	3	100	(401)
<u>Region of State</u>							
--North	48	20	6	21	4	99	(388)
--Central	45	22	6	23	4	100	(203)
--South	39	23	4	30	4	100	(213)
<u>Type of Residence</u>							
-- Major urban center	30	11	2	51	6	100	(63)
-- Urban center and surrounding areas		55	14	4	24	2	99
							(121)
-- Older town and suburb	49	23	7	19	2	100	(194)
-- Newer suburb	47	21	8	19	5	100	(279)
-- Rural	36	32	3	23	6	100	(134)

"How often do you usually attend religious services -- once a week, 2 or 3 times a month, once a month, less than once a month or do you never attend religious services?" [Q.XD15A]

	Once A Week	2-3 Times A Month	Once A Month	Less Than Once A Month	Never	Don't Know	Total	(n)
September, 1995	33%	12%	14%	28%	12%	--	99%	(775)
<u>Ideology</u>								
--Liberal	26	11	12	28	24	--	101	(126)
--Moderate	35	13	15	29	8	--	100	(412)
--Conservative	35	13	13	28	11	1	101	(202)
<u>Age</u>								
--18 to 29	25	13	16	33	13	--	100	(112)
--30 to 49	28	12	15	30	14	--	99	(364)
--50 to 64	37	13	15	25	9	1	100	(167)
--65 and over	46	11	9	25	8	--	99	(117)
<u>Gender</u>								
--Male (384)		30	13	17	29	12	--	101
--Female	36	12	12	28	12	--	100	(391)
<u>Religion</u>								
--Catholic	40	9	14	28	9	--	100	(352)
--Protestant	32	16	14	28	8	1	99	(183)
--Jewish	6	12	18	53	10	--	99	(62)
--Other (178)		27	15	14	23	20	--	99

EAGLETON POLL REGIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Region of State: Region is classified according to county boundaries:

North -- Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren

Central -- Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset

South -- Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem

Type of Town/Community: All municipalities in the state have been classified into one of five groups or "types," based on location, settlement patterns, population density and growth.

Major Urban Centers-- New Jersey's largest cities: Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth, Trenton, and Camden.

Other Urban Centers & Surrounding Areas -- This category is generally based on the cities of the state over 25,000, but also includes densely populated suburbs of urban areas which also have similar socio-economic characteristics. For example, all of Hudson county (outside of Jersey City), and much of Union, eastern Essex and southern Bergen counties are included in this category.

Older Suburbs & Towns -- This category includes two types of municipalities: urban suburbs which are not as densely populated and/or have significantly higher socio-economic characteristics than the nearby urban center; and densely populated towns which are not near urban centers, and have not experienced major development in the past decade.

Newer Suburbs -- These are primarily suburban areas which are "outside central

city" proportions of the Census Bureau's Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and have continued to experience growth in the past 20 years. These municipalities are usually within a short distance of urban centers.

Rural -- This includes municipalities not in any of the categories above. These are small communities with scattered populations and somewhat denser small towns which are surrounded by rural areas.

Catholic Church goer. Church attendance among Catholics was defined as follows:

Weekly church goer -- Those who identify themselves as attending religious services once a week.

Occasional church goer -- Those who attend services 2-3 times a month or once a month.

Rare/Never church goer -- Those who attend services less than once a month or never.