

## Eucharistic Education Program

### Solving a Crisis of Education

Only about one in eight (12%) young adults today identify as Catholic<sup>1</sup>—even though Catholics comprise about 22% of all U.S. adults.<sup>2</sup> That’s a drastic and tragic decline.

And no wonder! Most young Catholics don’t believe in the Eucharist, “source and summit of the Christian life.” A poll in 2021 found that 18-21 year olds who were raised Catholic couldn’t agree with the statement, “I believe the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ” (see chart at right). And a 2019 survey found that only 26% of Catholics age 18-40 believe “bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.”<sup>3</sup>

While this may seem a crisis of dissent, it is more a crisis of education. About two-thirds (64%) of the unbelieving young adults admitted to being unsure or unaware of the Church’s teaching on the Real Presence. And 62% thought the Church teaches that Communion wine and bread are just symbols.

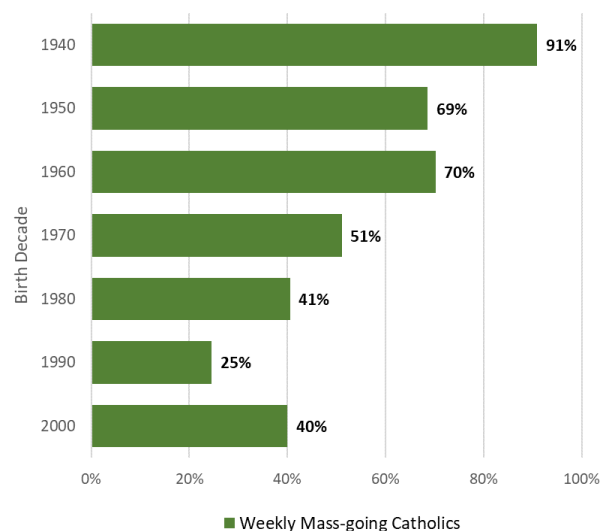
### Renewal of Eucharistic Education

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ three-year Eucharistic Revival has urged Catholic educators to help the bishops renew understanding and love of the Eucharist. The Cardinal Newman Society is taking up this charge by collaborating with faithful Catholic educators on three special projects to advance the following objectives:

- **a revival of Eucharistic literacy**, by teaching young people the truth of the Real Presence in the Eucharist;
- **a revival of Eucharistic liturgy**, by improving music, prayer, and reverence in school and college liturgies;
- **a revival of Eucharistic devotion**, by increasing prayer and adoration among young people; and
- **a revival of Eucharistic living**, by helping students live according to the reality of Christ within them.



"I believe the Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ"




**THE  
PILLAR**

Survey conducted among US adults  
 Sept 28 to Oct 25, 2021  
 PillarCatholic.com

<sup>1</sup> Brendan Hodge, “Special Report: The Pillar Survey – By the Numbers and Under the Hood,” The Pillar (Nov. 29, 2021) at <https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/special-report-the-pillar-survey?s=r>. “Young adult” here is defined as respondents who were born in 2000-2003, or about 18-21 years old when the survey was conducted.

<sup>2</sup> “The 2020 Census of American Religion,” Public Religion Research Institute (July 8, 2021) at <https://www.prri.org/research/2020-census-of-american-religion/>.

<sup>3</sup> Gregory A. Smith, “Just One-Third of U.S. Catholics Agree with Their Church that Eucharist Is Body, Blood of Christ” (August 5, 2019) at Pew Research Center, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>.

## Task Force for Eucharistic Education

The Cardinal Newman Society will identify, solicit, and promote inspiring efforts by Catholic schools, colleges, education programs, and individual educators and students that advance a revival of Eucharistic literacy, Eucharistic liturgy, Eucharistic devotion, and Eucharistic living among young people.

By use of an online application, we will invite institutions and individuals to sign a statement of fidelity and provide detailed descriptions of projects that clearly and faithfully fulfill the objectives. Participants and their projects will be promoted to media and on a dedicated website. We hope for a wide variety of projects, including academic conferences, research, publications, formative student programs, liturgies, prayer, and more.

With adequate funding, we will hire a part-time Task Force director to manage the website and liaison with Task Force participants. We will also name a steering committee of prominent experts who can encourage participation from various sectors of Catholic education and represent the Task Force to Catholic media.



## Sacra Liturgia 2022



The Cardinal Newman Society will co-sponsor the Sacra Liturgia conference at the end of June 2022, hosted by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco and aimed at a revival of sacred liturgy. We will lead a general session with the Archbishop about Eucharistic education in Catholic schools, colleges, and other programs. We will also host a working group meeting of Catholic educators and liturgy experts to plan efforts for the Task Force for Eucharistic Education.

## Cardinal Newman Society Fellows Program

As part of our work to identify clear standards and best practices for Catholic education, we will recruit Cardinal Newman Society Fellows to publish research and provide expert advice concerning:

- recommendations for reverent liturgy in schools and colleges;
- best practices for Eucharistic education in school, homeschool, and college curricula; and
- best practices for promoting Eucharistic adoration and devotions in Catholic education.

## We need your help!

Since 1993, The Cardinal Newman Society has worked to promote and defend faithful Catholic education. We are looking for partners to help us promote Eucharistic literacy, liturgy, devotion, and living among students and educators in Catholic schools, homeschools, and colleges. If you have questions, contact Joe McLaughlin, V.P. for Program Development, at (703) 367-0333 ext. 132 or [joemclaughlin@cardinalnewmansociety.org](mailto:joemclaughlin@cardinalnewmansociety.org).

