Pope John Paul II: The Beatification

April 2011
On May 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2011, the Roman Catholic Church will beatify Pope John Paul II. In this national survey, Americans, as well as American Catholics, recount his impact on them personally and spiritually. They reflect upon his legacy and share their thoughts about this important honor.

This national survey of 1,274 adults was conducted from April 10\textsuperscript{th} through April 14\textsuperscript{th}, 2011.
A majority of Americans, 55%, greatly admire the memory of Pope John Paul II. Catholics, especially those who practice their faith, hold him in even higher esteem. More than eight in ten American Catholics report they admire the former Pope a great deal or good amount.

Pope John Paul II was Pope of the Roman Catholic Church from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was well-known for travelling around the world particularly to countries where no Pope had been before. He stood firm on the principles of the Catholic Church, apologized for wrong doing by the Church, and spoke directly to young people.

Overall, did you admire Pope John Paul II a great deal, a good amount, a little, or not at all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Americans</th>
<th>Catholics</th>
<th>Practicing Catholics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good amount</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey conducted by Marist Poll.
Papal Events of John Paul II

Five percent of Americans personally attended a mass or event with Pope John Paul II.

A notable proportion of Americans, 40%, especially Catholics, 65%, watched a televised event of Pope John Paul II.

Before Pope John Paul II died in 2005, please tell me if you did each of the following:

**Personally attended a mass or event with Pope John Paul II?**

- Americans: 5%
- Catholics: 12%
- Practicing Catholics: 16%

**Watched one of Pope John Paul II’s televised masses or events?**

- Americans: 40%
- Catholics: 65%
- Practicing Catholics: 71%

*Presents percentage reporting “Yes”*
Remembering Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II’s trips to the United States made an impression for many Americans. In fact, 65% recall his visits, including 77% of Catholics.

A notable proportion of Americans, 46%, watched the funeral of Pope John Paul II. Approximately seven in ten Catholics and Practicing Catholics also did so.

Do you remember Pope John Paul II’s trips to the United States?

- Yes: 65%
  - Americans: 77%
  - Catholics: 82%
- No: 35%
  - Practicing Catholics: 23%
  - Non-practicing Catholics: 18%

Did you watch Pope John Paul II’s funeral in 2005?

- Yes: 46%
  - Americans: 68%
  - Catholics: 73%
- No: 54%
  - Practicing Catholics: 32%
  - Non-practicing Catholics: 27%
43% of Americans say Pope John Paul II made a difference in their life spiritually. 73% of Catholics and most Practicing Catholics, 87%, feel the former Pope had an impact on their spiritual life.

Overall, how much of a difference did Pope John Paul II make in your life spiritually:

- **Americans**: 58% A great deal/a good amount, 25% A little, 18% None at all
- **Catholics**: 45% A great deal/a good amount, 28% A little, 27% None at all
- **Practicing Catholics**: 57% A great deal/a good amount, 30% A little, 13% None at all
Nearly six in ten Americans recall Pope John Paul II as either the best or one of the best Popes of the Roman Catholic Church. Most Catholics, especially those who practice their religion, overwhelmingly share this view.

Do you think Pope John Paul II will be remembered as the best Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, one of the best, just average, one of the worst, or the worst Pope of the Roman Catholic Church?

- **The best Pope of the Roman Catholic Church/One of the best**
  - Catholics: 82%
  - Practicing: 87%

- **Just average**
  - Catholics: 15%
  - Practicing: 12%

- **One of the worst / The worst Pope of the Roman Catholic Church**
  - Catholics: <1%
  - Practicing: <1%

- **Unsure**
  - Catholics: 2%
  - Practicing: 1%
Approximately three-quarters of Americans believe Pope John Paul II is a good candidate for beatification. Nearly all Catholics agree this is an appropriate honor for the former Pope.

Pope John Paul II, who died in 2005, is being beatified by the Catholic Church on May 1st. This is the final honor in the Catholic Church before sainthood. This honor means that a person led a good life and their life is a good example for others.

Do you agree or disagree that Pope John Paul II is a good candidate for this honor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Americans</th>
<th>Catholics</th>
<th>Practicing Catholics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How the Survey was Conducted

• This study was undertaken by The Knights of Columbus and conducted by The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

• This report details the findings from a telephone survey of 1,274 adults residing in the continental United States. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined.

• Reports for adults have a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points. Reports for Catholics have a margin of error of +/- 5.5 percentage points. Reports for Practicing Catholics have a margin of error of +/- 7.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

• Interviews were conducted from April 10, 2011 through April 14, 2011.

Please note that some totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
The Knights of Columbus is one of the nation's premiere volunteer and charitable organizations. Last year, Knights worldwide donated nearly 69 million hours, and more than $150 million to charitable causes in communities throughout the Americas, as well in Europe and Asia. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable life insurance to its members, the Knights has been at the service of the community for more than 127 years, and is the world's largest Catholic service organization.

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Founded in 1978, The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) is a survey research center at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Marist Poll has conducted independent research on public priorities, elections, and a wide variety of social issues. Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.