

The Papal Visit: Americans Reflect



April 2008

How the Survey was Conducted

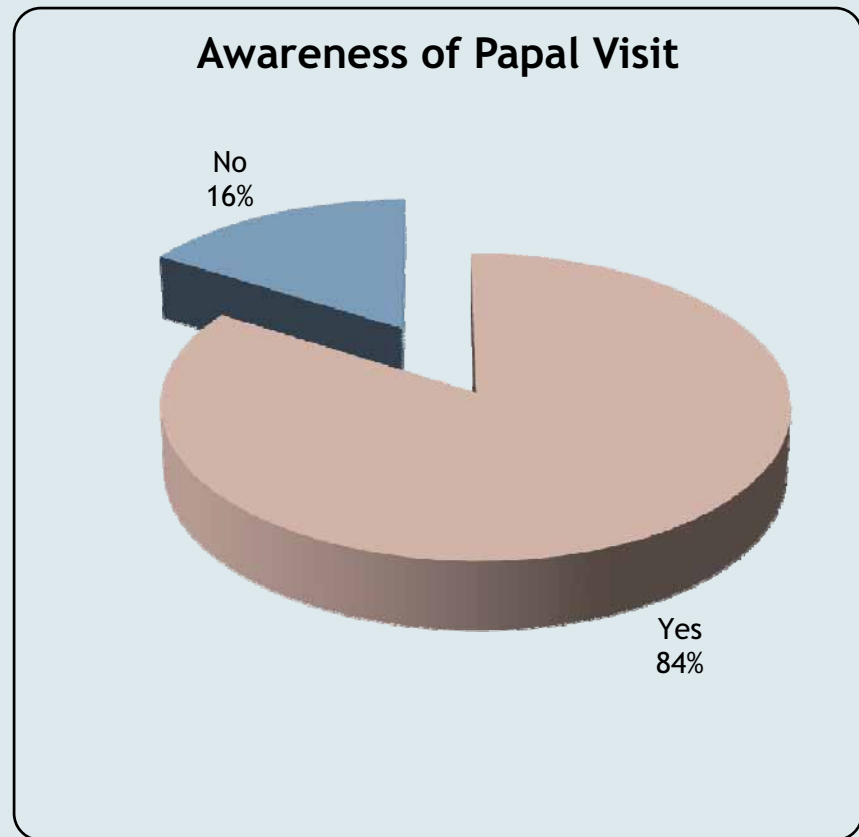
- *The Papal Visit: Americans Reflect* reports the results of a national survey of Americans' reactions to Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April 2008.
- The survey by the Knights of Columbus was conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.
- 1,013 adults eighteen years of age or older who live in the continental United States were interviewed April 22st through April 24th, 2008.
- The survey results for all residents are statistically significant at $\pm 3.1\%$. The margin of error increases for sub-groups in the population.

Introduction

- Most Americans are aware of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April and have a positive impression of his trip.
- Many Americans believe Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the U.S met or exceeded their expectations.
- In addition, many Americans have a more positive impression of His Holiness and a majority feel they have a more positive view of the Catholic Church as a result of the visit.
- The most meaningful part of the visit for many was the meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and the victims and families of children abused by priests.

An Historic Event: Americans Tune into the Papal Visit

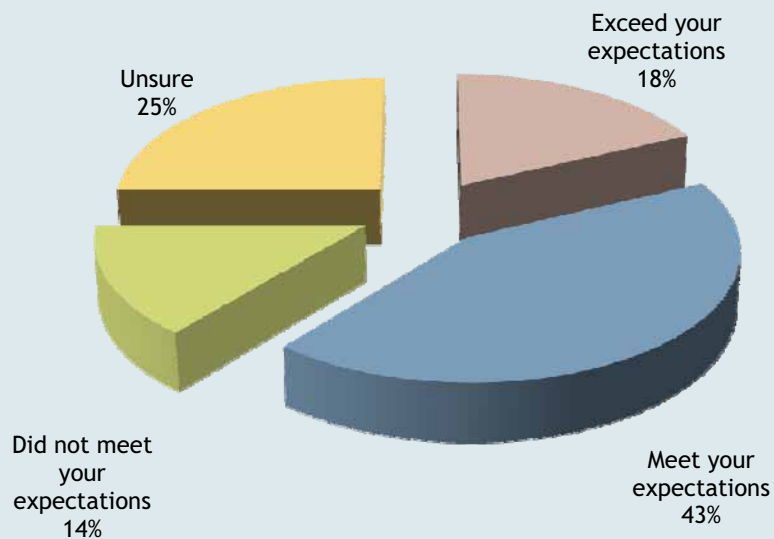
- 84% of Americans saw, read, or heard something about Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April 2008.



Question wording: Pope Benedict XVI recently visited the United States. Did you see, read, or hear anything about Pope Benedict's visit?

Were Expectations Met?

**Expectations of
Pope Benedict XVI's Visit**



- 61% of Americans feel Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the United States met or exceeded their expectations for his visit.

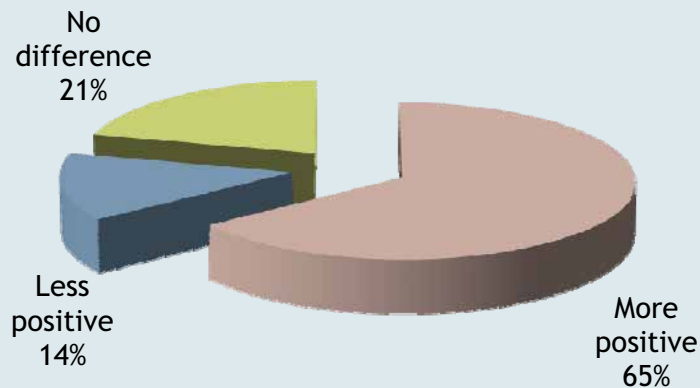
Question wording: Overall, thinking about Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States, did his visit exceed your expectations, meet your expectations, or did his visit not meet your expectations?

Making an Impression

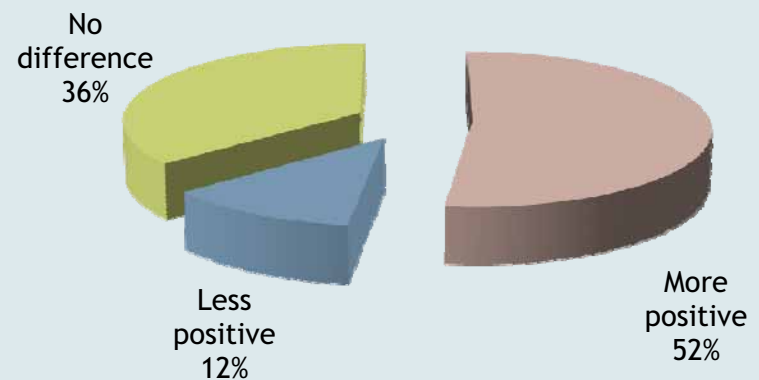
As a result of what they saw and heard during Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the U.S:

- 65% of Americans have a more positive view of Pope Benedict XVI;
- 52% of Americans have a more positive view of the Catholic Church.

Impression of Pope Benedict XVI

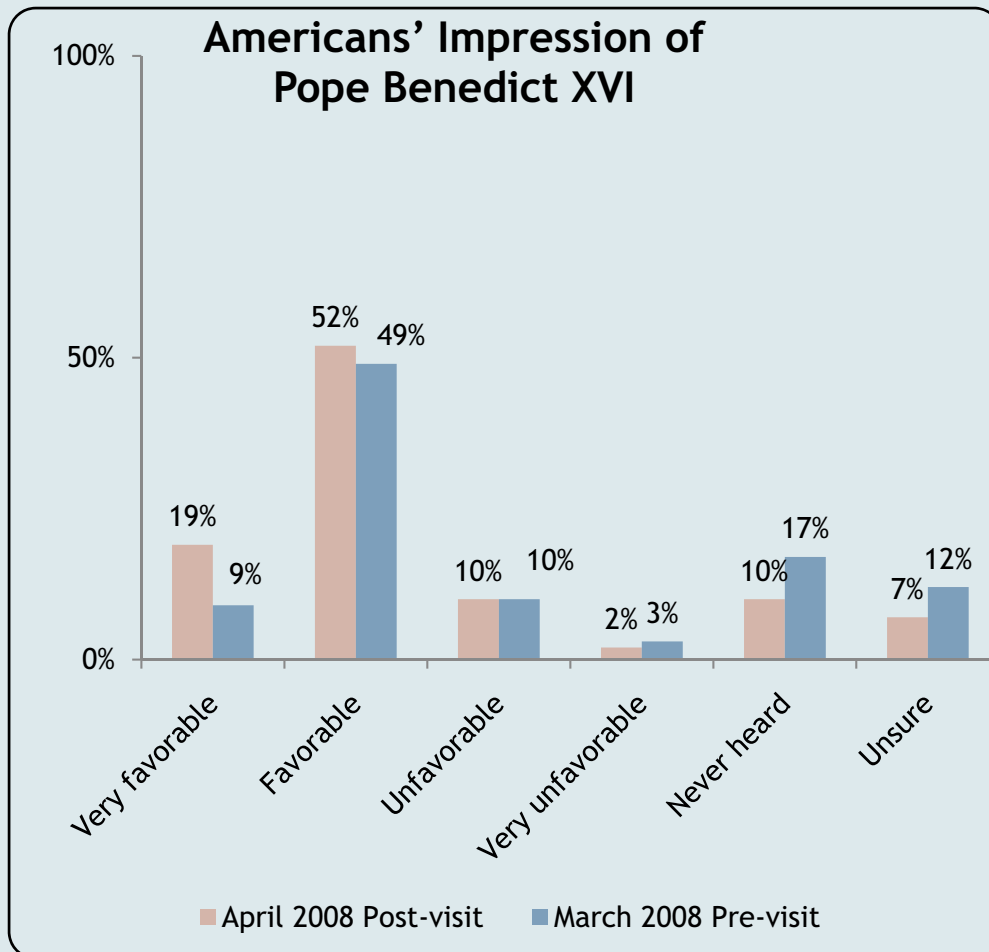


Impression of the Catholic Church



Question wording: From what you know about Pope Benedict's visit to the United States, do you have a more positive or less positive impression of Pope Benedict XVI/the Catholic Church?

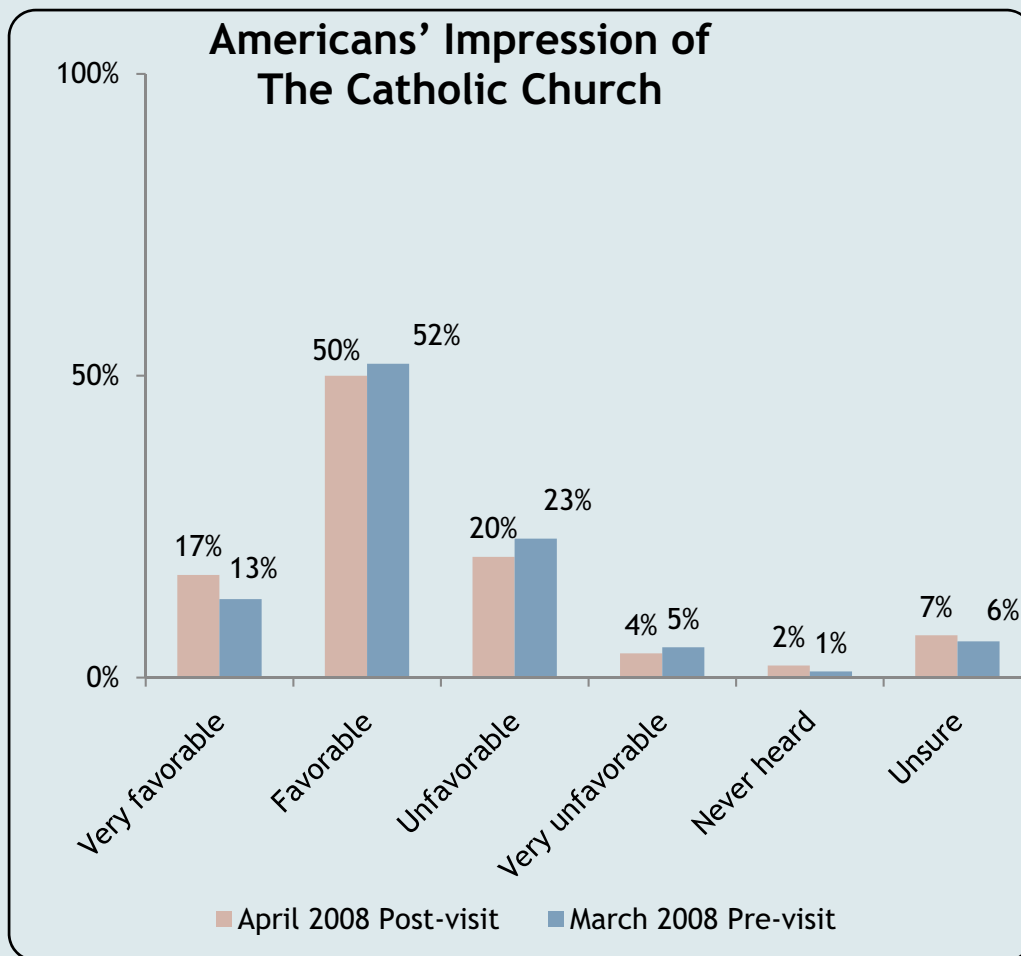
Making an Impression



Question wording: Do you view Pope Benedict XVI as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

- More Americans have a favorable view of Pope Benedict XVI than they did before his visit to the U.S.
- 71% of Americans now have a favorable impression of Pope Benedict XVI. Prior to his visit to the U.S., 58% of Americans shared this view.
- In addition, more Americans are familiar with His Holiness. Before his visit, 29% of Americans did not know enough about Pope Benedict XVI to offer an opinion of him. After his visit, this declined to 17%.

Making an Impression

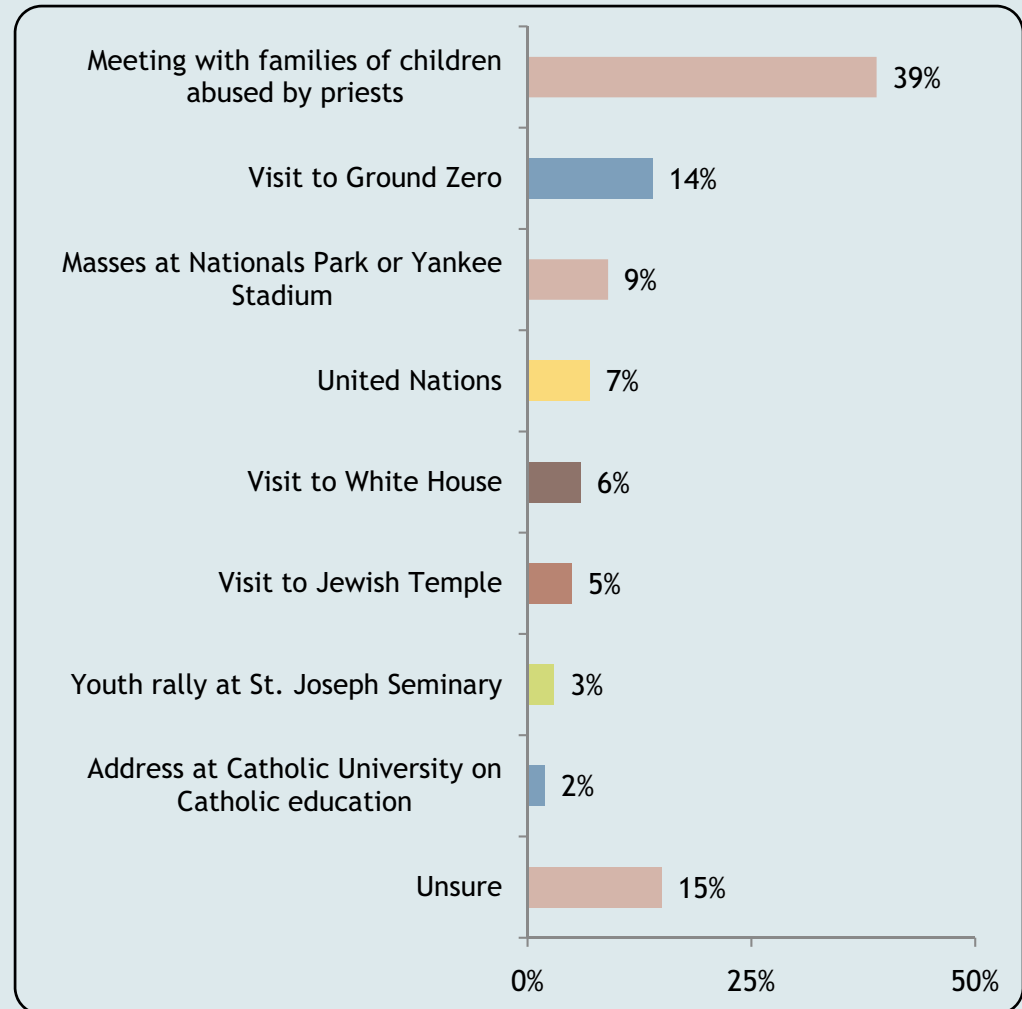


- 67% of Americans now have a favorable impression of the Catholic Church compared with 65% who had this view prior to Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. This is statistically unchanged from a month ago.

Question wording: Do you view the Catholic Church as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Most Meaningful Part of the Visit

- By more than two to one, Americans think the most meaningful part of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. is his meeting with the victims and the families of children abused by priests.
- 14% are also moved by his visit to Ground Zero followed by 9% who feel his stadium Masses were most important to them.



Question wording: As you may have heard, Pope Benedict XVI had many scheduled public appearances during his visit to the United States. Which one of the following was the most meaningful part of his trip for you:

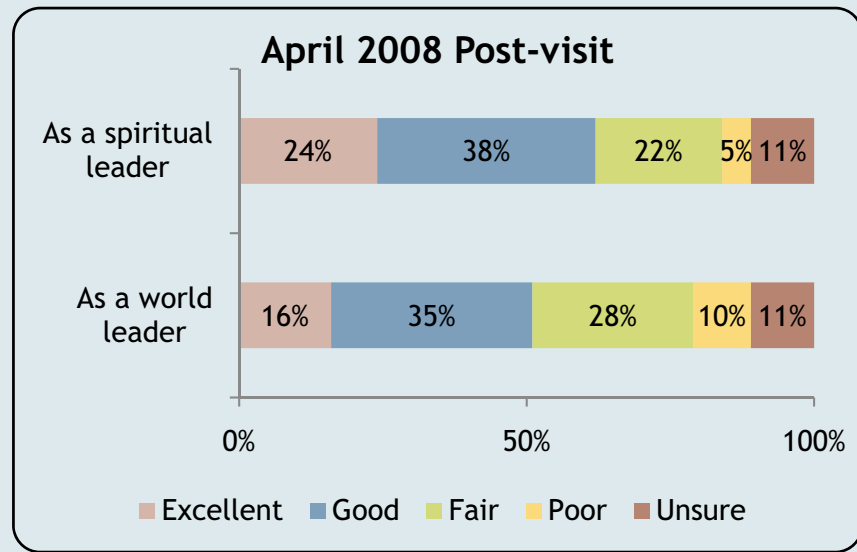
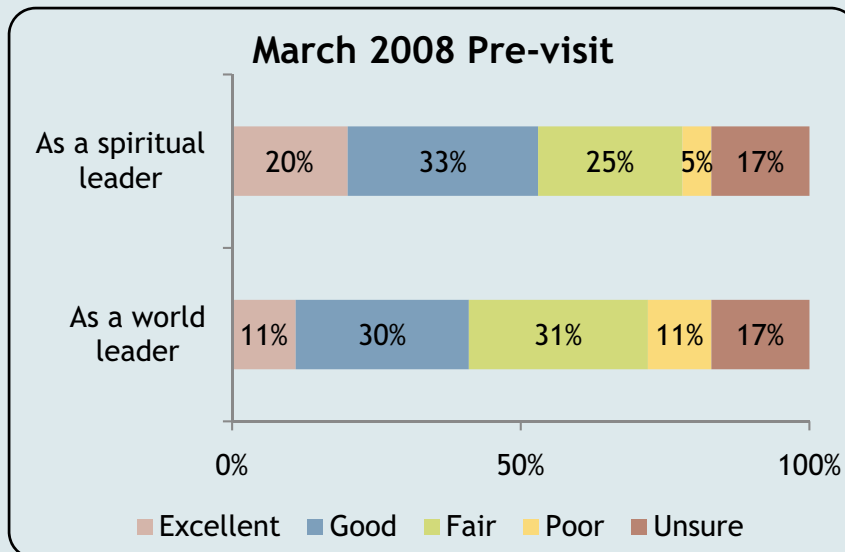
Americans' View of Pope Benedict XVI

Before Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S:

- 53% of Americans described him positively as a spiritual leader;
- 41% characterized him as either an excellent or good world leader;
- Nearly one in five Americans were unsure how to describe him on either attribute.

After Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S:

- 62% of Americans describe him positively as a spiritual leader;
- 51% characterize him as either an excellent or good world leader;
- Only about one in ten Americans are unsure how to describe him on either attribute.



Question wording: From what you know about Pope Benedict XVI, would you rate him as excellent, good, fair, or poor on each of the following:

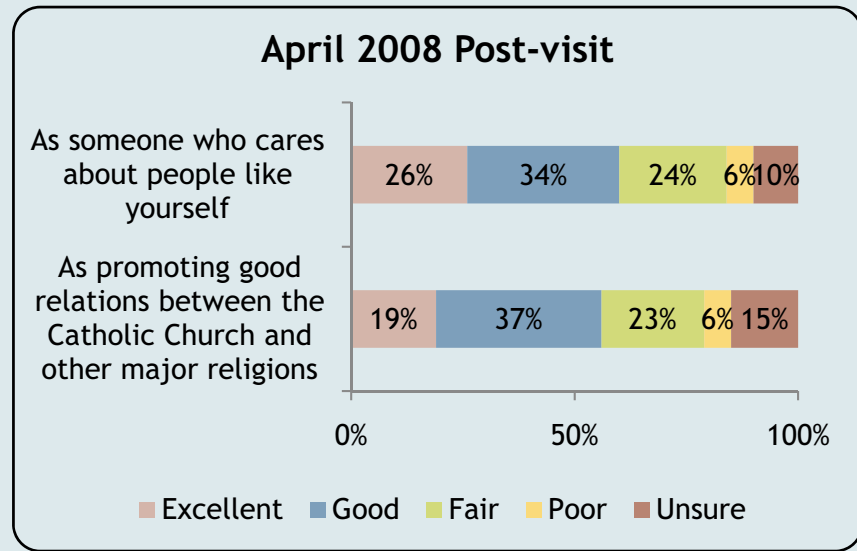
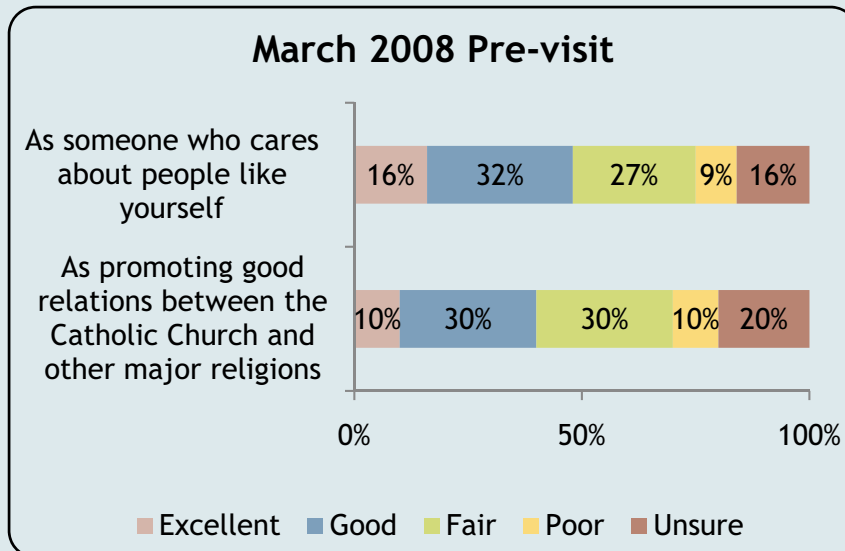
Americans' View of Pope Benedict XVI

Before Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S:

- 48% of Americans saw him as someone who cares about people like themselves;
- 40% described his ability to promote good relations between the Catholic Church and other major religions as either excellent or good.

After Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S:

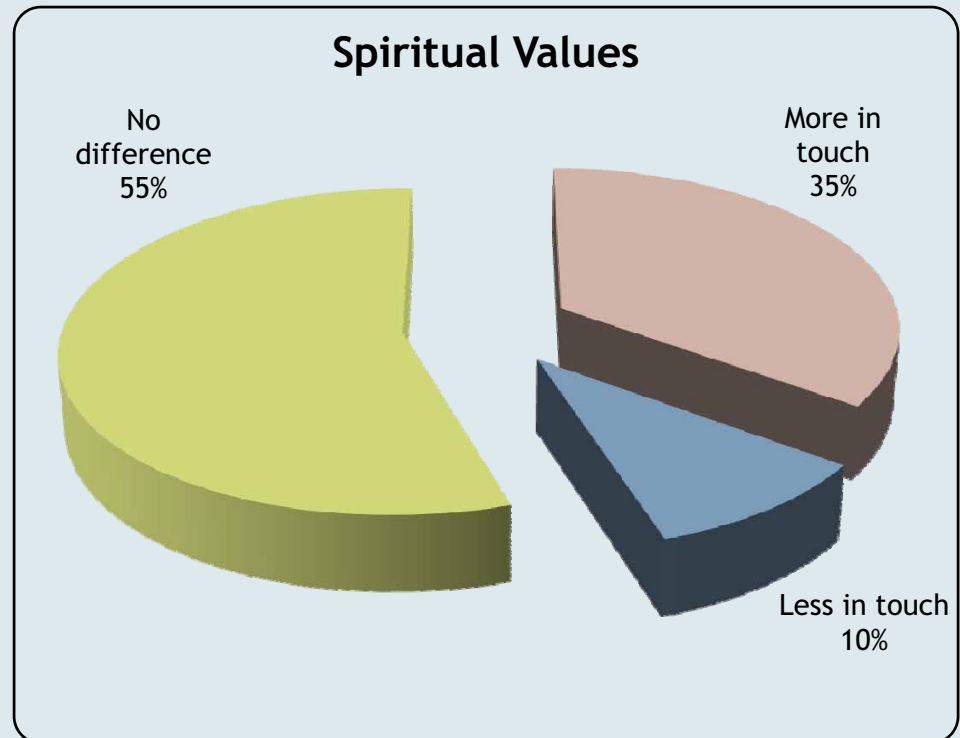
- 60% of Americans see him as someone who cares about people like themselves;
- 56% describe his ability to promote good relations between the Catholic Church and other major religions as either excellent or good.



Question wording: From what you know about Pope Benedict XVI, would you rate him as excellent, good, fair, or poor on each of the following:

Making a Difference

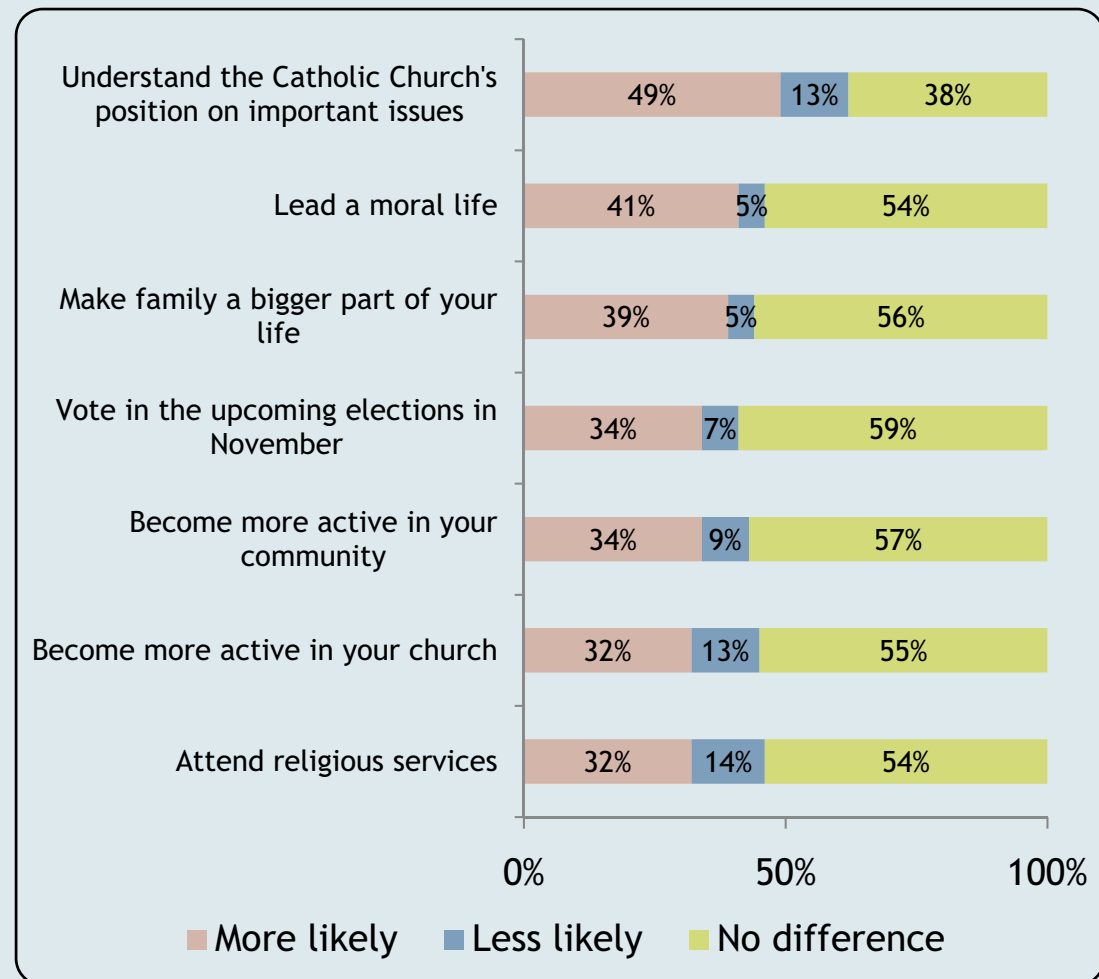
- 35% of Americans say they are now more in touch with their own spiritual values as a result of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S.
- Only 10% say they are less in touch.



Question wording: Did his visit put you more in touch or less in touch with your own personal spiritual values?

Making a Difference

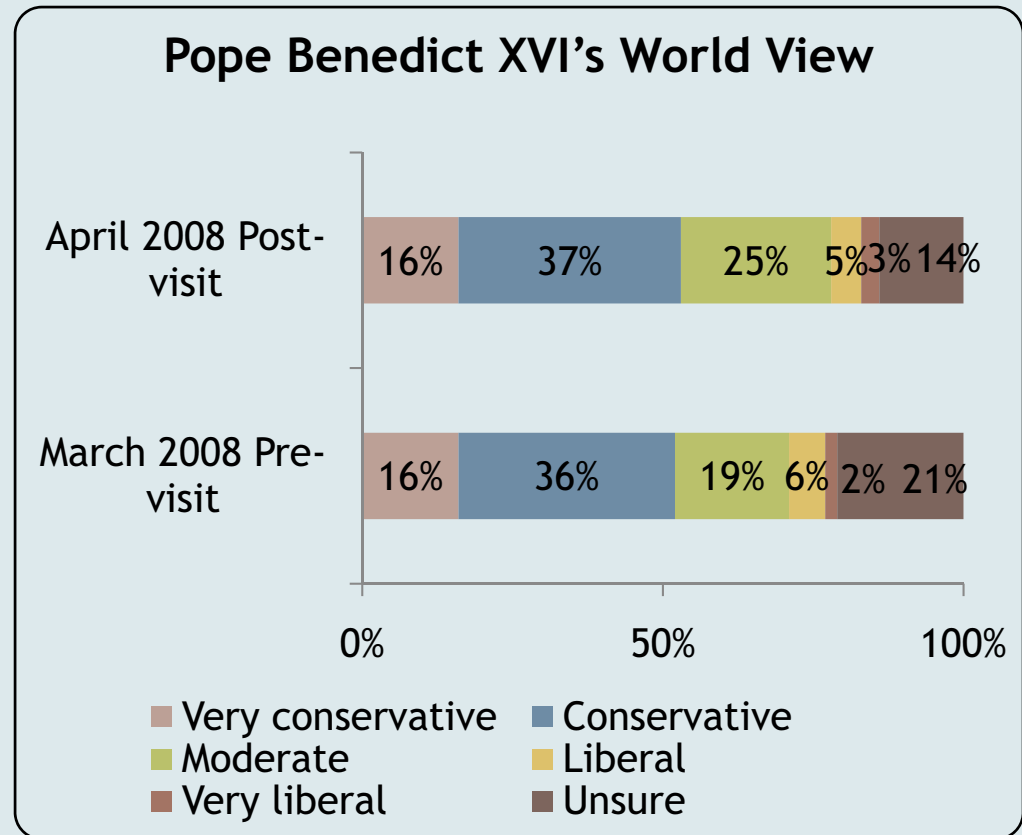
- Nearly half of all Americans now have a better understanding of the Catholic Church's positions on important issues.
- About four in ten say they are more likely to lead a moral life and make family a bigger part of their lives.
- About one in three Americans are more likely to participate in elections, their community, and their church as a result of the Papal visit.



Question wording: As a result of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States, are you more or less likely to do each of the following:

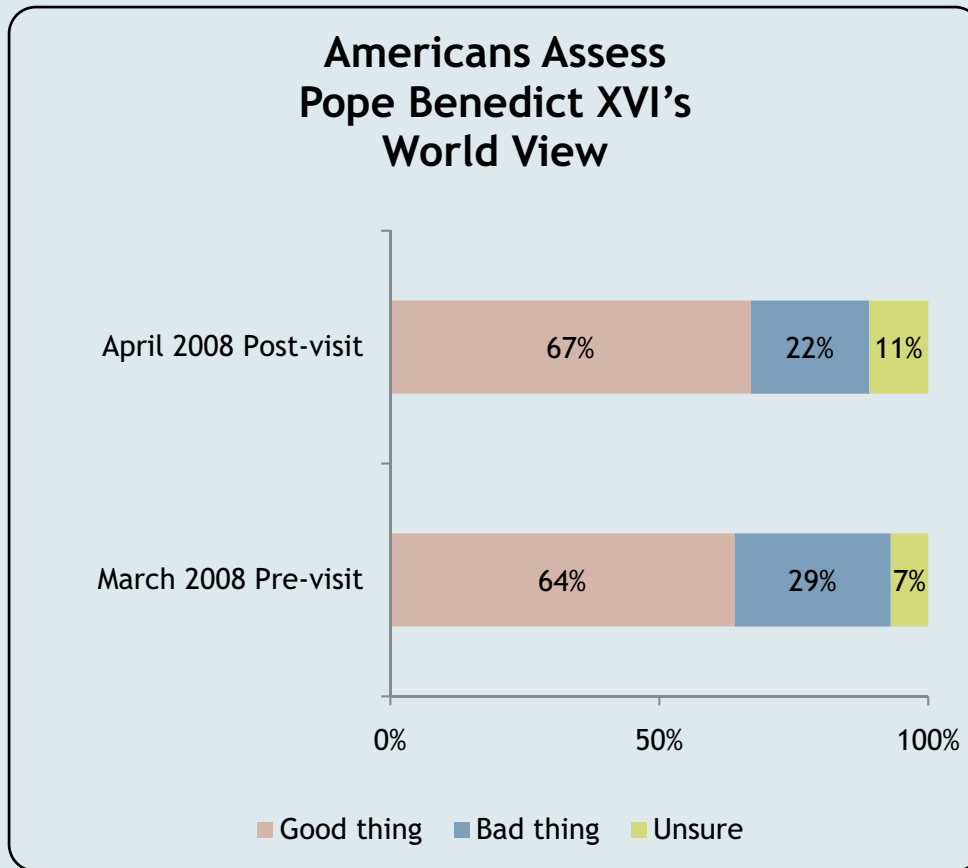
How Americans Regard Pope Benedict XVI's World View

- A majority of Americans regard Pope Benedict XVI's world view as either conservative or very conservative while only 8% believe his views are liberal.
- These views are statistically unchanged from before his visit to the U.S.



Question wording: Overall, would you describe Pope Benedict XVI as someone whose world view is very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?

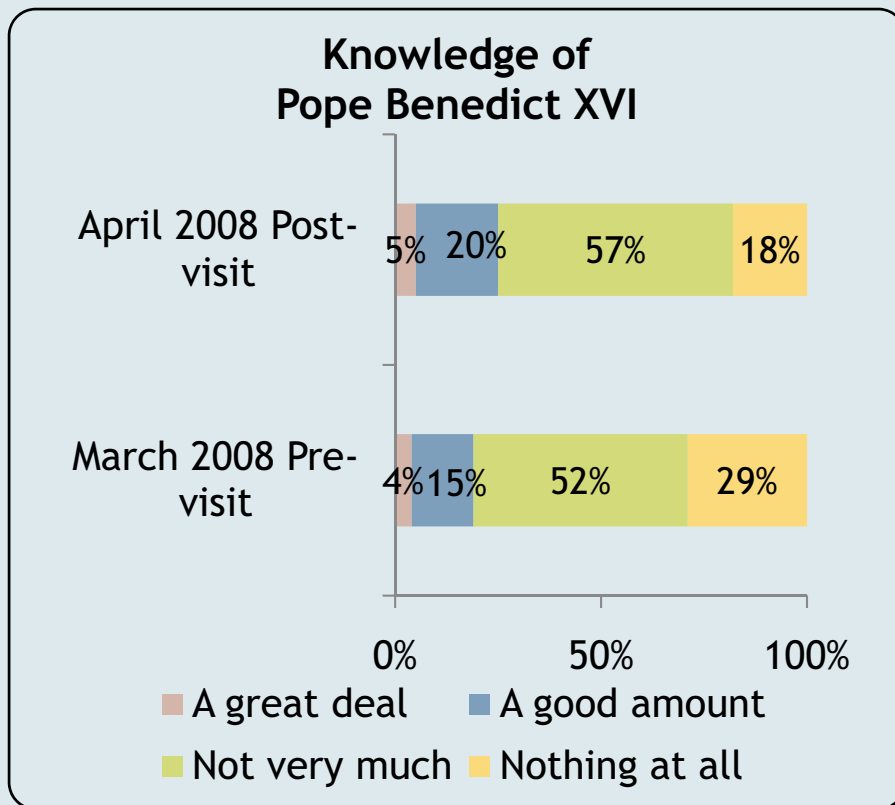
How Americans Regard the Pope's World View (Follow-Up)



- By a three to one margin, Americans assess Pope Benedict XVI's world view positively.

Question wording: Do you see this as a good thing or a bad thing that Pope Benedict's worldview is [Respondent's response from previous question]?

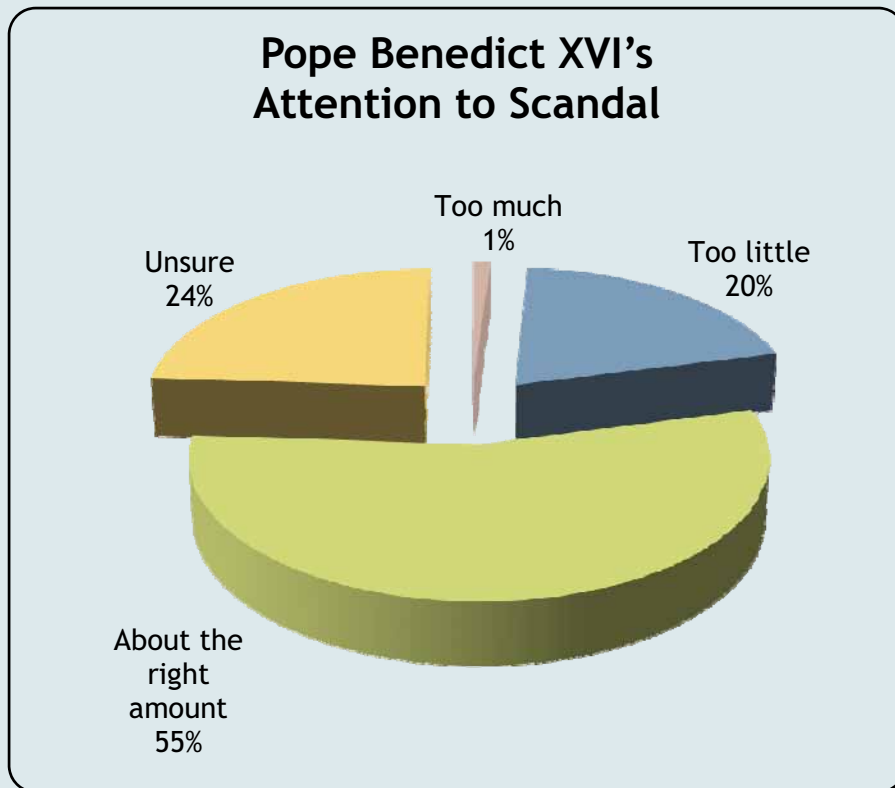
How Much Do Americans Know About Pope Benedict XVI?



Question wording: Overall, would you say that you know a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all about Pope Benedict XVI?

- Most Americans still do not feel they know the Pope well. When asked whether they know a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all about Pope Benedict XVI, 57% say not very much.
- However, the proportion of Americans who respond that they know nothing at all about Pope Benedict XVI has declined from 29% prior to his visit in March to 18% now.

Pope Benedict XVI Addresses Sex Abuse Scandal

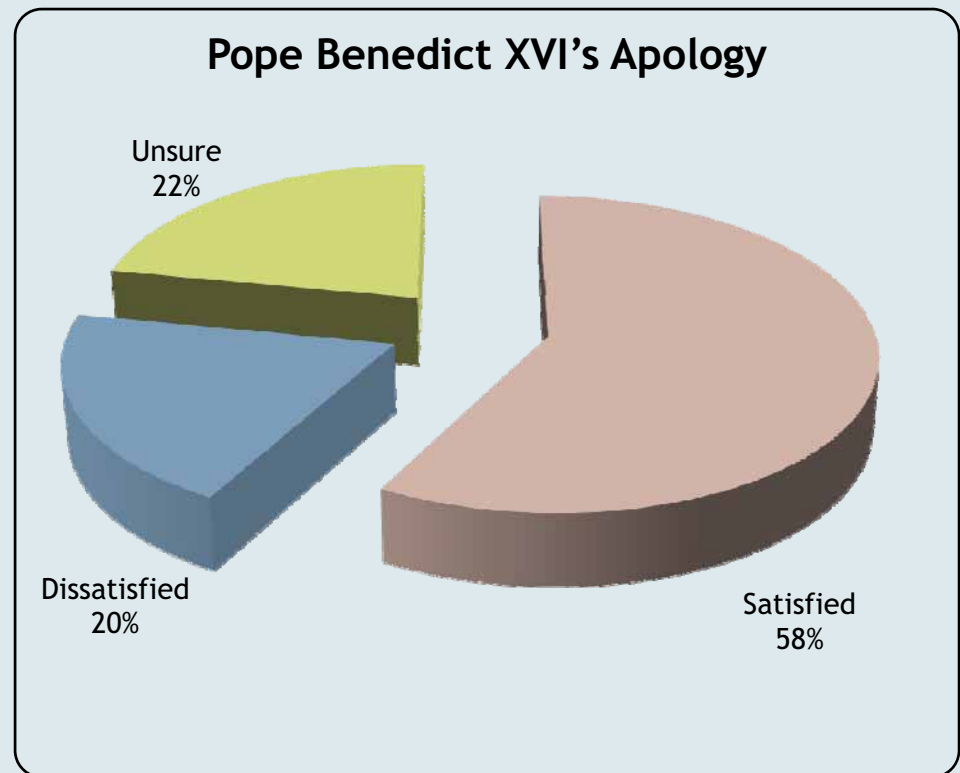


Question wording: During his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the sex abuse cases involving priests: did he talk about the issue too much, too little, or about the right amount?

- A majority of Americans believe Pope Benedict XVI spent the right amount of time during his visit discussing the sex abuse scandal.
- One in five think he should have spent more time on the issue and only one percent think he focused too much on the topic.

Americans React to Pope Benedict XVI's Apology

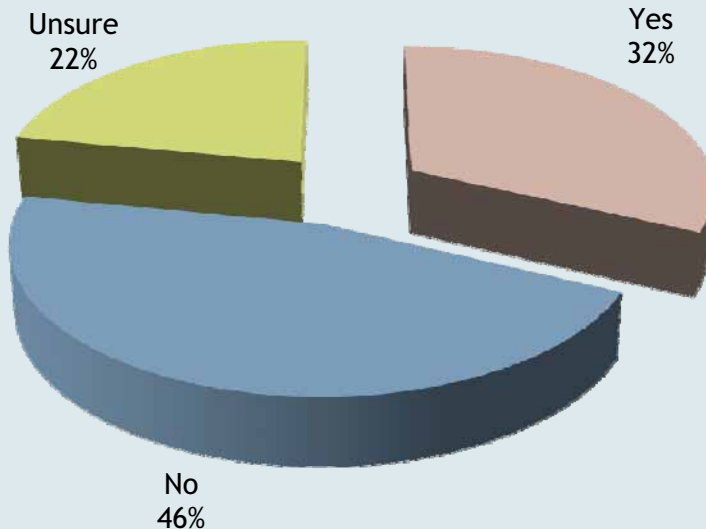
- 58% of Americans are satisfied with Pope Benedict XVI's apology about the sex abuse scandal.
- 20% are dissatisfied.
- About one in five Americans do not have an opinion about Pope Benedict XVI's apology.



Question wording: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Pope Benedict's apology for what happened?

Has the Catholic Church Taken Steps to Avoid Similar Situation?

Necessary Steps Have Been Taken



Question wording: Do you think the Catholic Church has taken the necessary steps to avoid this happening again, or not?

- 46% of Americans believe the Catholic Church has not done enough to avoid a recurrence of a sex abuse scandal in the future.
- 32% believe sufficient steps have been taken.

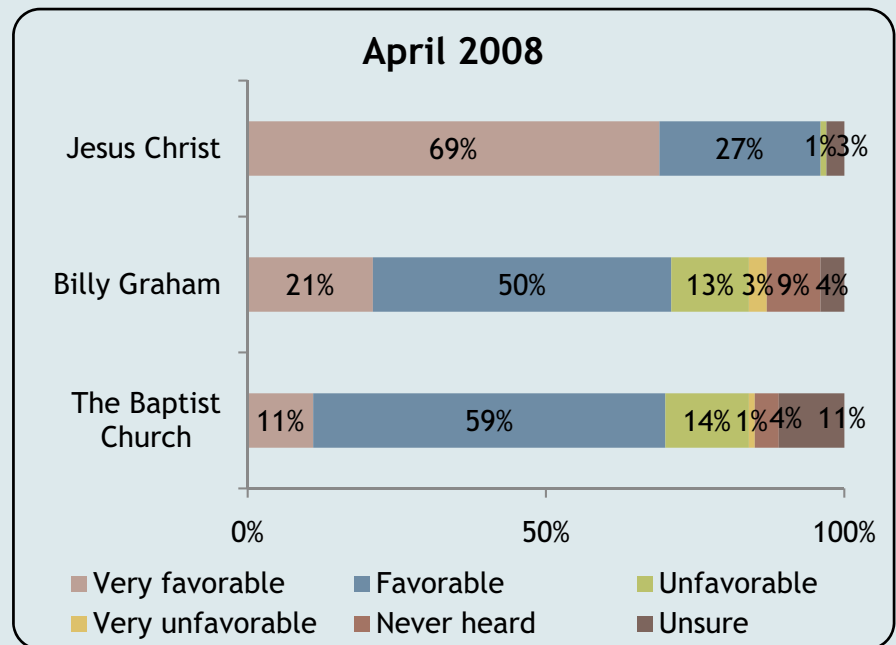
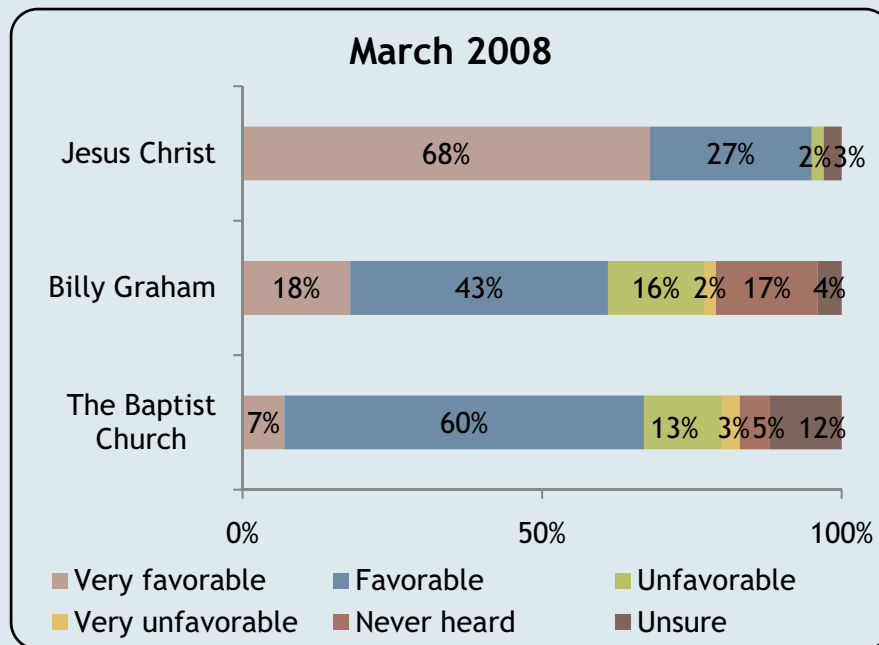
Name Recognition: Religious

In March 2008:

- 95% of Americans had a positive view of Jesus Christ;
- 61% characterized Billy Graham positively;
- 67% had a positive impression of the Baptist Church.

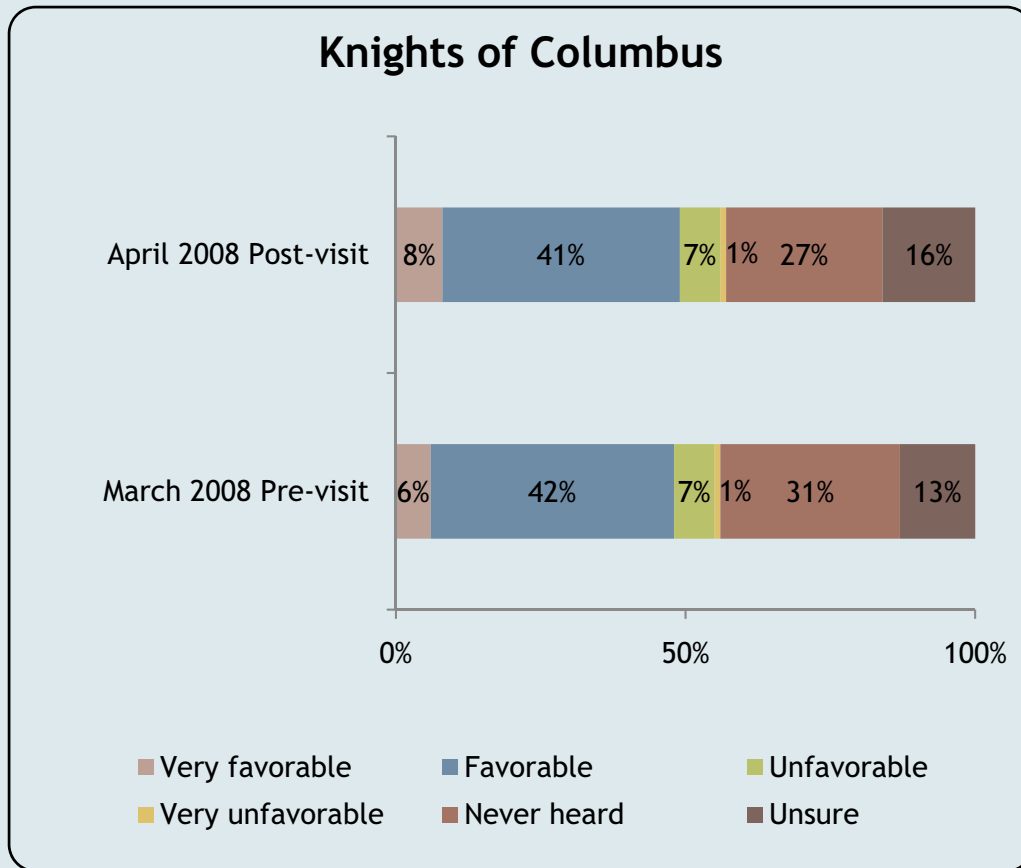
In April 2008

- 96% of Americans have a positive view of Jesus Christ;
- 71% characterize Billy Graham positively;
- 70% have a positive impression of the Baptist Church.



Question wording: Do you view each of the following as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Name Recognition: Service

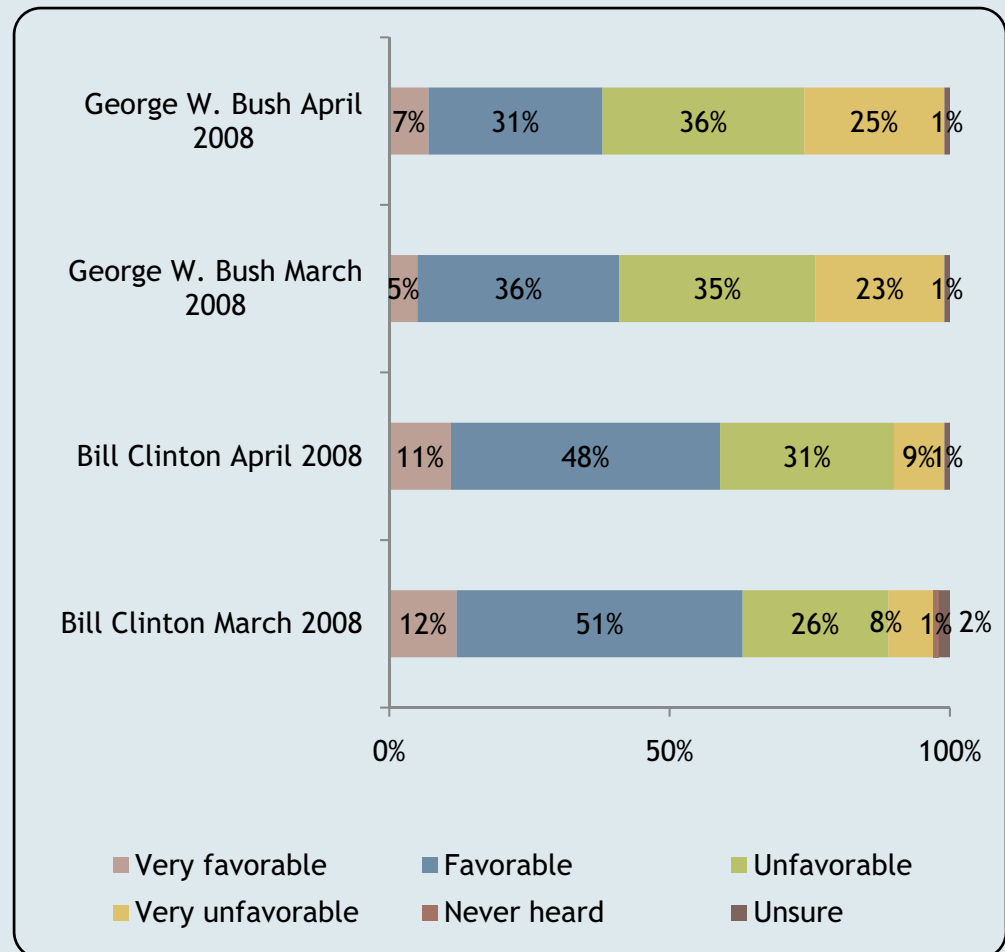


- 49% of Americans have a positive view of the Knights of Columbus statistically unchanged from a month ago prior to the Papal Visit.

Question wording: Do you view The Knights of Columbus as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Name Recognition: Political

- 38% of Americans have a positive view of President Bush compared with 41% a month ago.
- 59% of Americans have a positive view of former President Clinton. In March, 63% of Americans shared this view.



Question wording: Do you view President George W. Bush/Bill Clinton as very favorable, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable?



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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 public issues.

Through the regular public release of surveys, MIPO has built a legacy of independence, reliability, and accuracy. Frequently cited by journalists, public officials, and policy experts, the Marist Poll has been recognized for fairness, accuracy, and timeliness. Its results are featured in print and electronic media throughout the world.



Knights of Columbus Headquarters
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- The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 as a Catholic fraternal benefit society. It has grown to 1.7 million members belonging to 13,000 local councils located throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland Central America, and the Caribbean.
- In 2007, Knights donated more than 68 million hours of volunteer time and \$143 million to charitable causes, and they carry out a wide range of educational, charitable, religious and social welfare programs. Its 19th century mutual aid and death benefit system has grown over the past 125 years into a highly-rated insurance program with \$66 billion of life insurance in force.