

Catholic Schools' Impact on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice

- Catholics who attended Catholic schools are significantly more likely to actively practice their faith, including the reception of the sacraments.
- Those concerned about promoting sacramental practice would do well to ensure that Catholic education remains a realistic option for today's families.
- Those who attended a Catholic elementary school are more likely than those who did not to say the following are "very" important to their sense of what it means to be a Catholic:

– Helping those in need	(54% compared to 44%)
– Living a life consistent with Church teaching	(46% compared to 30%)
– Having devotion to Mary	(41% compared to 35%)
– Receiving the Eucharist	(71% compared to 58%)
- Those who attended a Catholic high school are more likely than those who did not to say the following are "very" important to their sense of what it means to be a Catholic:

– Helping those in need	(56% compared to 46%)
– Living a life consistent with Church teaching	(49% compared to 33%)
– Meaningfulness of Holy Orders	(62% compared to 45%)
- More likely to believe the Eucharist is most meaningful to them (37% compared to 22%).
- Men who attended a *Catholic high school* are more likely to have considered the vocation of priest or religious brother (32% overall).
- Women who attended a *Catholic high school* are among the most likely to have considered the vocation of a nun or religious sister (25% overall).
- 63% of those who attended a *Catholic high school* "strongly" agree that they are proud to be Catholic, compared to 54% who did not attend.
- 64% of those who attended a *Catholic high school* say their Catholic faith is at least "among the most important parts" of their life, compared to 40% who did not attend.
- Keeping Catholic schools "viable and affordable" leaps out from the data as a pastoral priority.