

- Americans describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years, from 78.4% in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014.
- Catholics in 2007 represented 23.7%, in 2014 20.8 (-3.1%)
- Americans who are religiously unaffiliated – describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” – has jumped more than six points, from 16.1% to 22.8%.
(Pew Research Center)
- Average number of children per woman is 1.7 (Center for Disease Control)
- 76.7 Million Catholics in the U.S. Infant Baptisms 730,171 or less than 1% (USCCB)

Kevin Cotter’s review of Forming Intentional Disciples

- 1. Only 30 percent of Americans raised Catholic are still practicing (p. 24).**
- 2. 10 percent of all adults in America are *ex-Catholics* (p. 25).**
- 3. Nearly 80 percent of cradle Catholics are no longer Catholic by the age of 23 (p. 33).**
- 4. In the early 21st century, among Americans raised Catholic, becoming Protestant is the best guarantee of stable church attendance as an adult (p. 35).**

United States data over time:

Clergy, Religious, and Lay Leaders; Leaders in Formation	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Total priests	58,632	59,192	58,909	58,398	57,317	52,124	49,054	45,699	41,399	39,993	38,275
*Diocesan priests	35,925	37,272	36,005	35,627	35,052	34,114	32,349	30,607	28,094	27,182	26,265
*Religious priests	22,707	21,920	22,904	22,771	22,265	18,010	16,705	15,092	13,305	12,811	12,010
Priestly ordinations	994	805	771	593	533	595	511	442	454	459	494
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	6,602	5,279	4,197	4,063	3,658	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,483	3,631
Permanent deacons	na	na	898	4,093	7,204	9,356	10,932	12,378	14,574	16,649	17,464
Permanent deacon candidates	na	na	2,243	2,514	2,263	1,980	2,026	2,497	2,342	2,445	2,018
Religious sisters	179,954	160,931	135,225	126,517	115,386	102,504	90,809	79,814	68,634	57,544	49,883
Religious brothers	12,271	11,623	8,625	7,941	7,544	6,721	6,535	5,662	5,451	4,690	4,318
Lay professional ministers (lay persons; excluding vowed religious)	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,674	17,315	20,379	20,660	21,424
Lay Ecclesial Ministers in parish ministry (most recent survey-based estimates; including vowed religious and other lay persons)	--	--	--	--	--	21,569	29,146	--	30,632	37,929	39,651
Enrollment in Lay Ecclesial Ministry formation programs	--	--	--	--	10,500	--	21,800	31,168	16,037	17,935	22,791