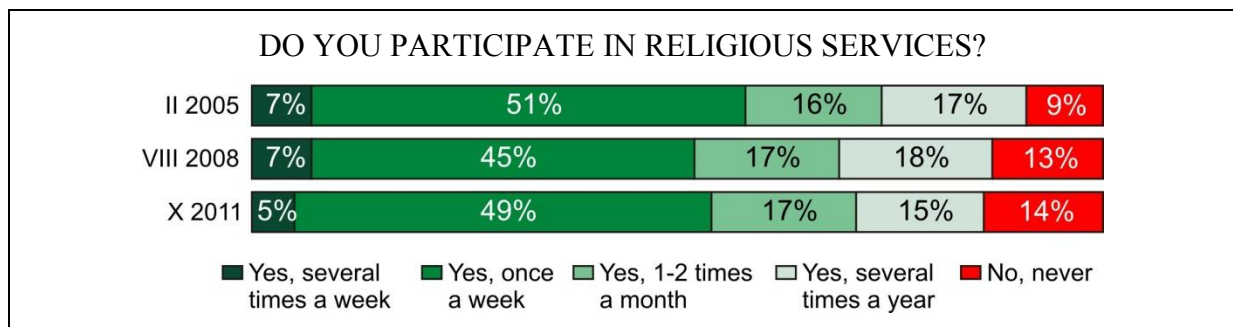
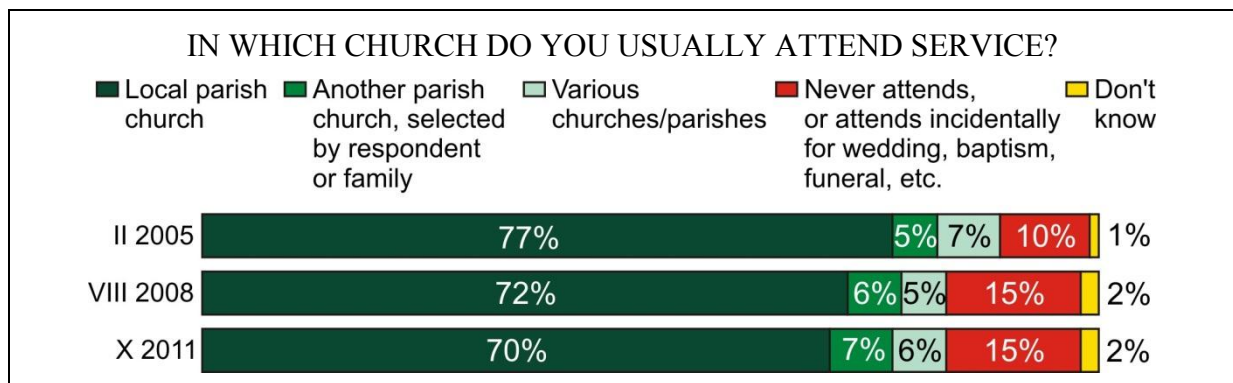


COMMUNITY LIFE IN PARISHES

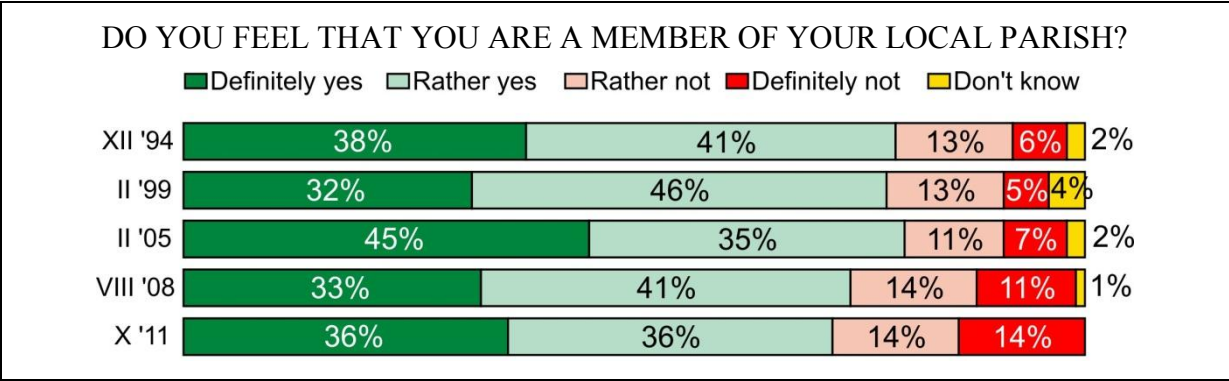
Social research has detected symptoms of declining religiosity in Poland in recent years. Nevertheless, around 95% of adult Poles consider themselves as Roman Catholics, 92% are believers, and over half of them attends religious service regularly (at least once a week).



For a large majority of Poles (70%), the local parish is the basic place of religious practice. Only 7% usually attend service at a different parish, selected by themselves or their family, while 6% practice at various churches. Over one-seventh (15%) admit they usually do not go to religious service, or appear in church incidentally, usually for wedding, baptism or funeral.



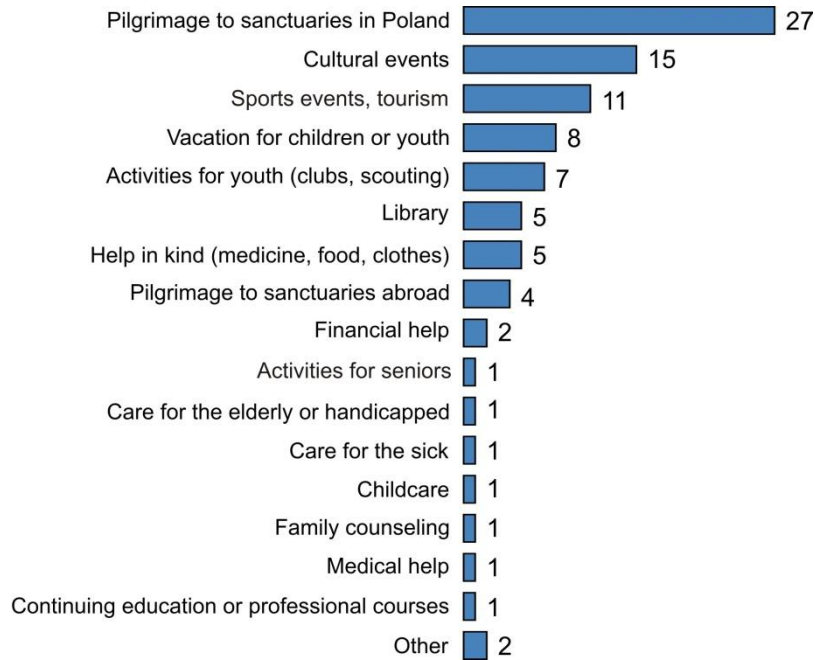
As far as subjective ties with the local parish are concerned, a significant majority (72%) consider themselves as its members, and every second person this group (36% of the total) identify completely. More than a quarter of respondents (28%) do not feel involved, out of which 14% do not identify at all. Although declared ties to the local parish are strong, they have weakened since 2005, and now are at the lowest level since the beginning of 1990s.



The local parish satisfies not only religious needs, which is its primary function, but it also helps satisfy other needs. Poles usually declare that they or their families participate in pilgrimages to sanctuaries in Poland (27%) or abroad (4%). Some families take part in cultural events organised by the parish (15%), or in sports or tourism (11%). Somewhat less frequently, respondents declare that their children go on holidays organised by the parish (8%), or that they attend courses there (7%). Some families borrow books from parish libraries (5%), or uses charitable help, either in kind (5%), or financial (2%). Only very few people join pensioners' clubs, use parish help in childcare or care for the elderly, consult help centres for families, go for medical consultation, continuing education courses (1% each), or use other facilities (2%). If all answers indicating participation in some kind of activity are counted, two-fifths (41%) of respondents (including members their families) receive some benefits from their local parish. The largest part of this group (18% of the total) use one service, while one-tenth claim there are two such services, and 13% mention at least three.

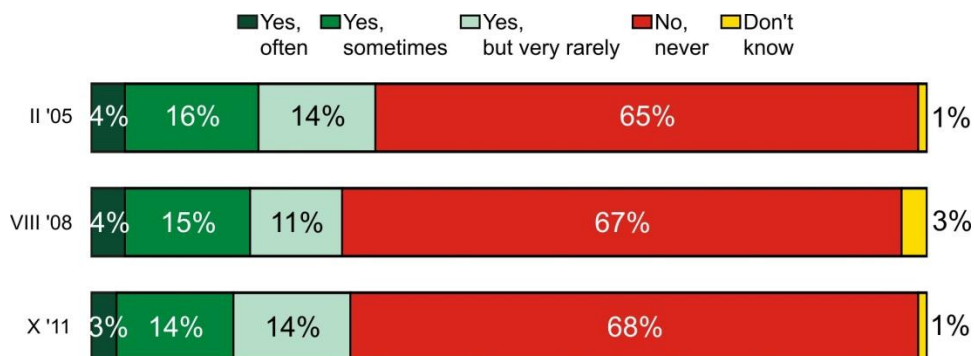
DID YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OR USE FACILITIES OFFERED BY YOUR PARISH?

Percentage of affirmative answers



The parish is often considered to be a training ground for collective activity for the religious or local community. Almost one-third of respondents claim having worked voluntarily, without pay, for the local parish church and the parish community. Only 3% do this often, while the rest act voluntarily sometimes (14%), or very rarely (14%). As in previous years, the majority of respondents (68%) never engage voluntarily for the parish. The level of volunteer work for the parish has been constant for six years.

DO YOU WORK VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT PAY, FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH AND THE PARISH COMMUNITY?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “*Religious and social engagement in local parishes*”, November 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2011 (N=1099) . The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.