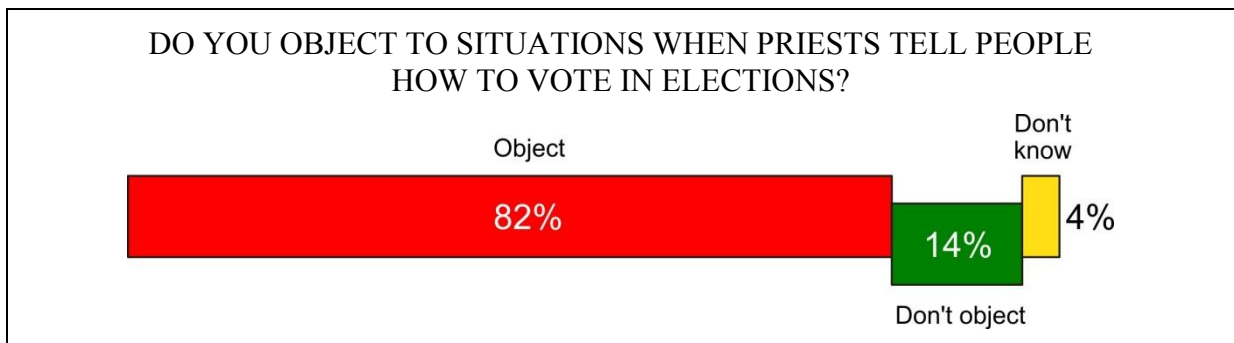


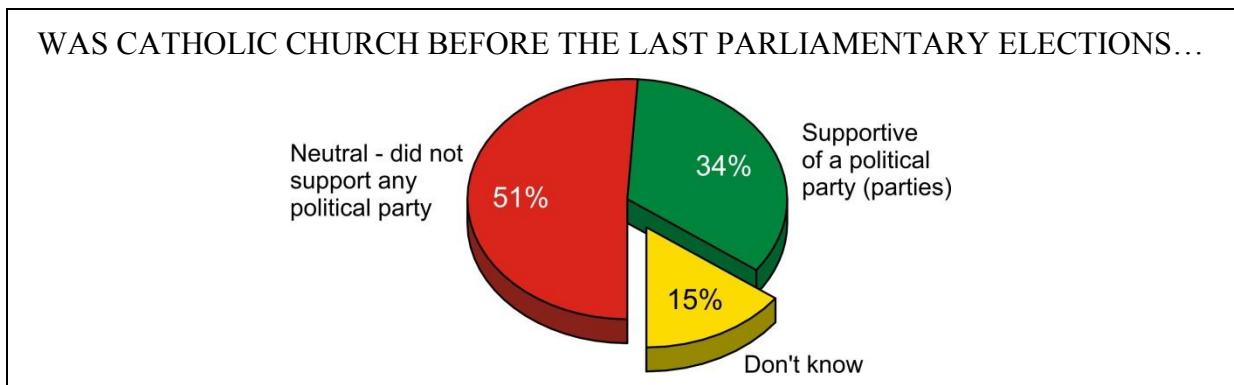
POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF PRIESTS

Cases of involvement of priests in the political campaign are sometimes mentioned. This research shows that such a phenomenon does occur, but it is not as widespread as it is sometimes believed to be.

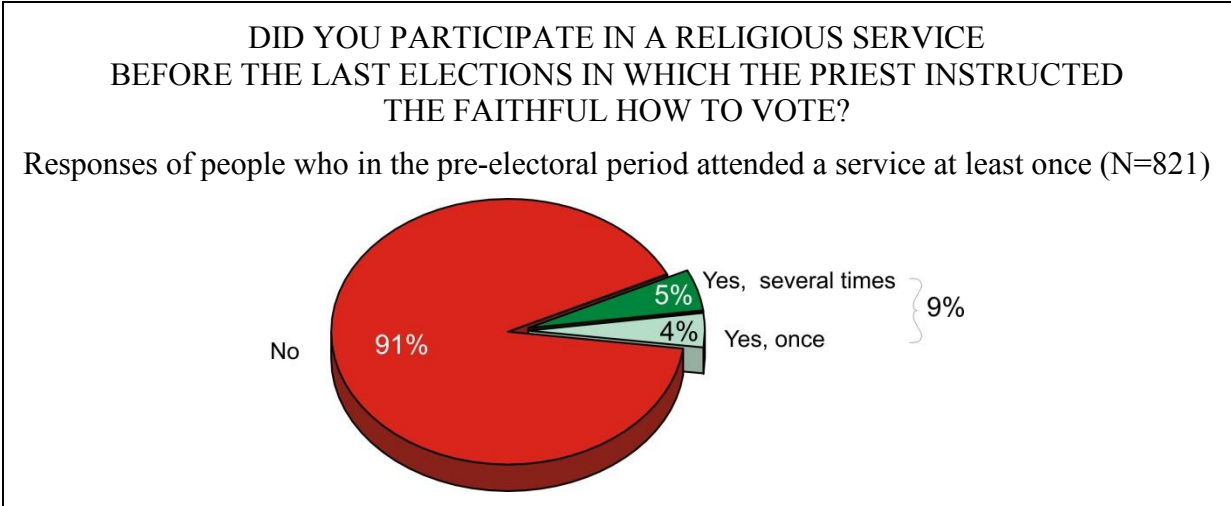
Poles agree that priests should not suggest the believers how to vote in parliamentary elections. A vast majority of respondents (82%) object to such situations.



Over half of Poles (51%) think that the Catholic Church was neutral, i.e. it did not support any political party. Every third respondent, however, thinks that the Church was not impartial.



Declarations of respondents who took part in religious practice before the elections confirm that electoral campaign did indeed happen in some churches, but the scale of this phenomenon is not as widespread as indicated by popular opinions about political involvement of the Church in the pre-electoral period. Overall, 9% of respondents participating in a service were confronted with a situation in which a priest instructed the believers how to vote in elections. The majority (91%) did not see such cases.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “*Between the church and the polling station: political involvement of priests*”, November 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: October and November 2011 (N=1919: Oct./Nov.; N=969: Nov.) . The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.