

Survey of Catholic Adults in Miami-Dade County



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

METHODOLOGY

The results and findings of this Bendixen & Associates poll are based on 400 interviews with Miami-Dade Catholic adults conducted Friday and Saturday (5/8-9) of this week. All of the interviews were administered by bilingual, professionally trained operators. The sample is representative of the Catholic population of the county by ethnicity, age, gender and geographic distribution. The margin of error of the poll is 5 percentage points.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- A substantial majority (74%) of Miami-Dade Catholics - Hispanics and non-Hispanics - oppose the celibacy policy of the Catholic Church which prohibits priests from getting married or having any type of sexual relations. An overwhelming majority of local Catholics agreed that "priests should be allowed to marry because the celibacy requirement for Catholic clergy is antiquated and no longer viable." Moreover, more than two-thirds of those interviewed disagreed with the Church's position that "Catholic priests should be celibate because it allows them to dedicate themselves to God and the church without distraction." And only a small percentage of local Catholics (20%) think that priests adhere to their celibacy vows throughout their lives.
- Miami-Dade Catholics appear conflicted about Father Alberto Cutie's romantic relationship. A majority of them feels BOTH that "it is OK for Father Alberto to be romantically involved with a woman" and that "the Archdiocese did the right thing by suspending him from his duties at his parish."
- Father Cutie is very popular among all Catholics in Miami-Dade. Almost four-fifths of those interviewed have a favorable impression of him.
- The interest in the "Father Cutie controversy" is universal among local Catholics. More than 90 percent of those interviewed said that they were aware of the story and two-thirds said they were "very aware."