

**EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE ROMAN  
RITE IN PERCEPTION OF COMMITTED  
CATHOLIQUES IN POLAND**

**Research results**

**Warsaw 2017**

The study includes the results of the empirical research conducted by

**Institute for Catholic Church Statistics SAC**

In cooperation with **Association Paix Liturgique**

Editor: **Wojciech Sadłoń**

Data collection and data mining: **Robert Stępisiewicz**

Institute for Catholic Church Statistics is the first Polish center for research on religiosity and pastoral activity. Founded in 1972 by the Society of Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines). It cooperates with the Central Statistical Office and the Polish Bishops Conference.



## Methodology:

The research was conducted as on-line survey. With the use of e-mail address database, a group of 'committed Catholics'<sup>1</sup> were asked to complete a short electronic form. The survey was conducted from May 13 to June 4, 2017. After collecting more than 800 responses, people who did not meet the research group criteria were screened from the research sample. Based on the distribution of the engaged population of Catholics<sup>2</sup>, the data set (N=635) has been weighted to represent to the population structure. The distribution of demographic characteristics of the research group is presented in the tables below:

**Tab. 1. Sex**

	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Women	400	63,0
Men	235	37,0

**Tab. 2. Age**

	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Less than 24 years old	43	6,7
From 25 to 34	58	9,1
From 35 to 44	101	16,0
From 45 to 54	175	27,6
From 55 to 64	186	29,3
From 65 to 74	61	9,7
75 years and over	10	1,6

**Tab. 3. Education**

	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Lower and lower secondary, vocational, secondary, post-secondary	484	76,3
Higher (including bachelor)	150	23,7

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<sup>1</sup> 'Committed Catholics' are defined as people who regularly attend Sunday Mass and belong to Catholic organizations or Catholic movements or are actively involved in parish life.

<sup>2</sup> Structure of 'committed Catholics' population was based on Nationwide Survey of Socio-Religious Attitudes of Poles from 2013, updated with result of Social Cohesion Study of Polish Central Statistical Office from 2015.

**Tab. 4. Place of residence**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Village	248	39,1
City of 20 thousand inhabitants	68	10,8
City of 20 to 100 thousand inhabitants	79	12,4
City of 100 to 500 thousand inhabitants	97	15,2
The city has over 500 thousand inhabitants	143	22,5

**Tab. 5. Voivodeship**

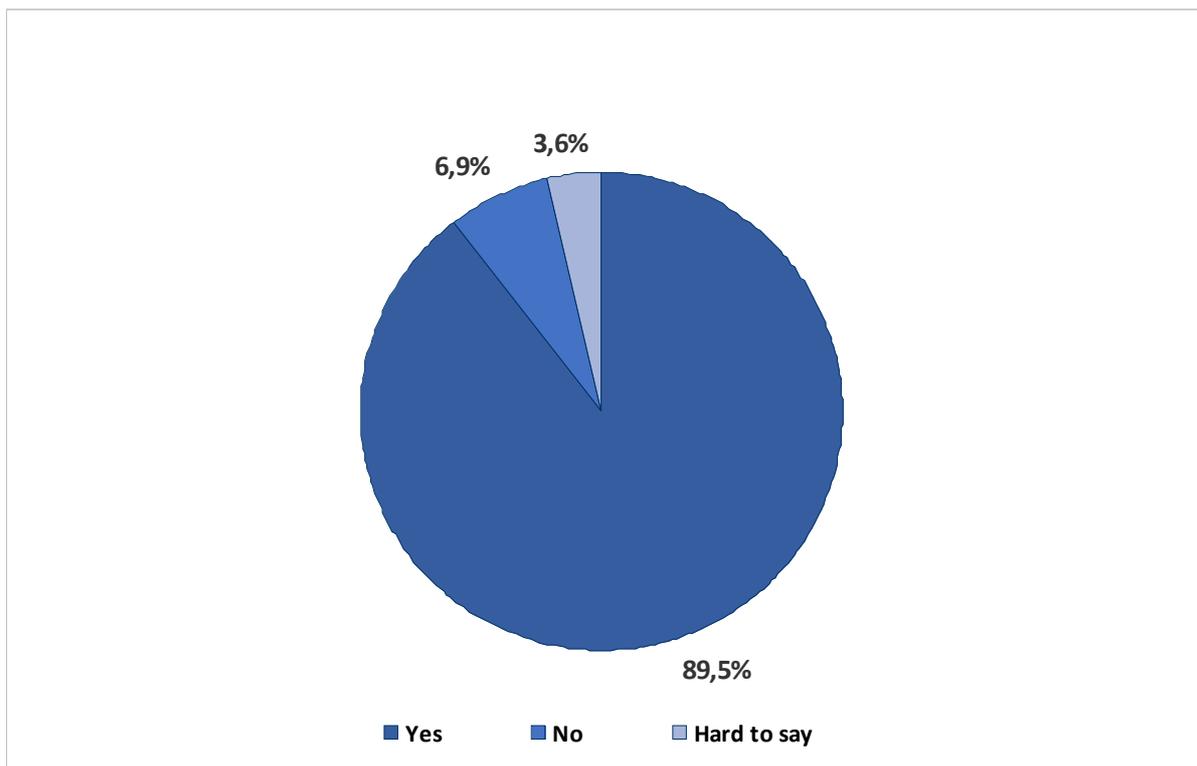
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
dolnośląskie	35	5,5
kujawsko-pomorskie	31	4,9
lubelskie	34	5,4
lubuskie	8	1,3
łódzkie	81	12,7
małopolskie	31	4,8
mazowieckie	140	22,1
opolskie	34	5,3
podkarpackie	24	3,8
podlaskie	21	3,4
pomorskie	35	5,5
śląskie	77	12,1
świętokrzyskie	5	0,8
warmińsko-mazurskie	12	1,9
wielkopolskie	32	5,1
zachodniopomorskie	33	5,3

## Research results

The survey shows that only a small proportion (10%) of 'Catholics involved' in Poland is unaware of the possibility of celebrating the Mass in traditional form (extraordinary form of Roman Rite). 90% of 'committed Catholics' is aware that it is allowed to celebrated the Mess in the "traditional" form.

**Tab.6. Pope Benedict XVI recalled in July 2007 that the Mass could be celebrated both in the "new", so called "ordinary" (according to the Missal of Paul VI) form, when the priest is facing the faithful, and in the "old" traditional form, called also as extraordinary form of the Roman rite ("Tridentine"), in Latin, when the priest is facing the tabernacle? Have you ever heard of this?**

	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Yes	568	89,5
No	44	6,9
Hard to say	23	3,6

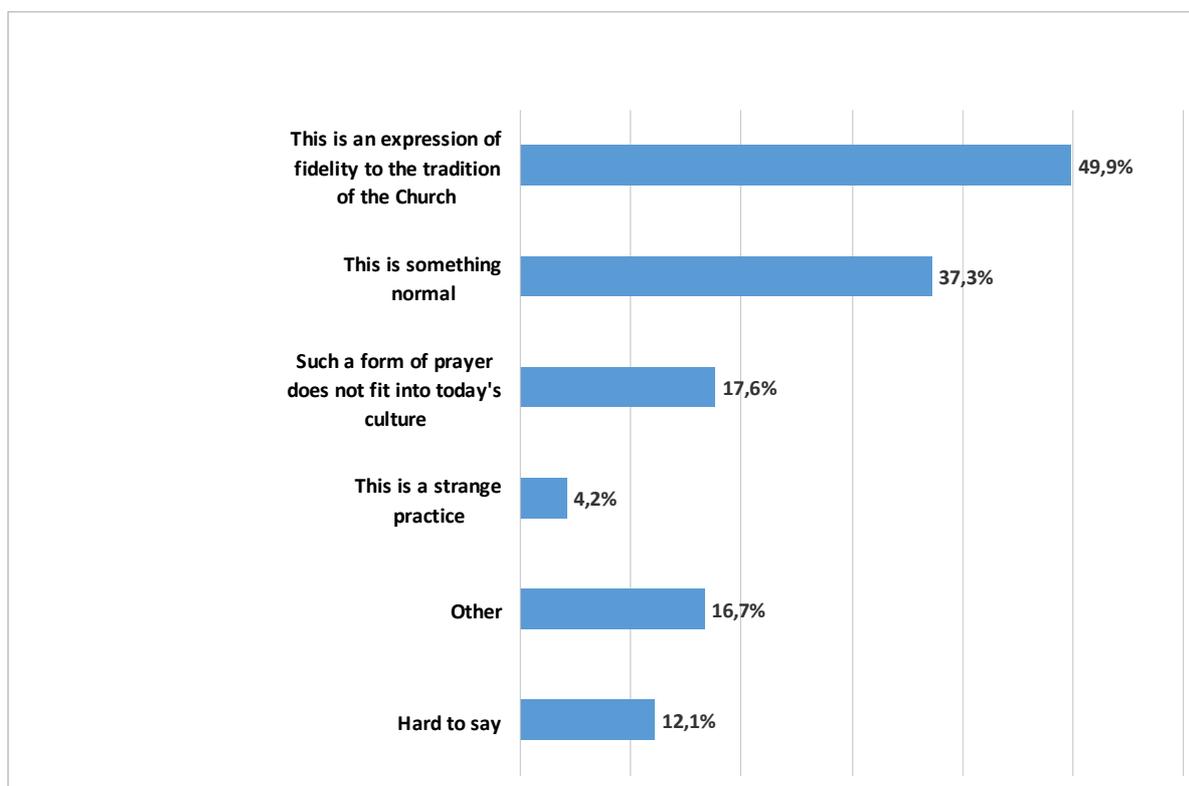


Exactly half of 'committed Catholics' (50%) believe that the celebration of Mass in extraordinary form is an expression of fidelity to the tradition of the Church. 37% say it is 'normal'. Far fewer respondents indicate that 'such a form of prayer does not fit into today's culture' (18%) and that 'it is a strange practice' (4%).

**Tab.7. What is your attitude to celebrating Mass in extraordinary form (in Latin and facing the tabernacle)?**

	N*	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>x</b>
This is an expression of fidelity to the tradition of the Church	317	49,9%
This is something normal	237	37,3%
Such a form of prayer does not fit into today's culture	112	17,6%
This is a strange practice	27	4,2%
Other	106	16,7%
Hard to say	77	12,1%

\* - pytanie wielokrotnego wyboru, odpowiedzi nie sumują się do 100.



Asked if respondents would like to attend the 'Old Mass' (in Latin and facing the tabernacle), if they had the opportunity in their parish, the overwhelming majority expressed their positive response. 29% declared that 'I would like to participate in it regularly'; 52% that 'they would like to attend, but only occasionally'. Only 15% expressed that they would not attend at all.

**Tab.8. Assuming that in your parish you had the opportunity to participate in the old Mass (celebrated in Latin and face the tabernacle), please specify your attitude to it.**

	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100,0</b>
I would like to attend it regularly	184	28,9
I would like to participate in it, but only occasionally	328	51,6
I did not want to participate in it at all	95	15,0
Hard to say	28	4,4

