



Catholic Marriage Preparation Survey 2010

Newsletter: Progress through April

The Catholic Marriage Preparation Survey 2010 conducted by the Marriage and Family Life Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has completed its fourth month. In this time, a total of 229 responses have been collected from priests, deacons, marriage preparation providers, and couples involved in Catholic marriage preparation this year.

For anyone who has not yet completed the survey, please go to <http://www.catholicmarriage.org.uk>. Your participation is greatly appreciated! For those who have completed the survey, the following results are provided upon request for updates on progress of the survey.

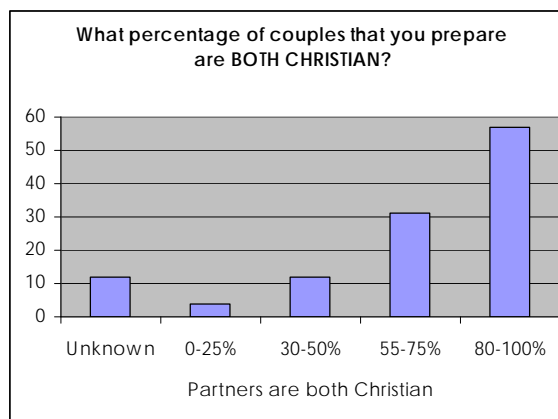
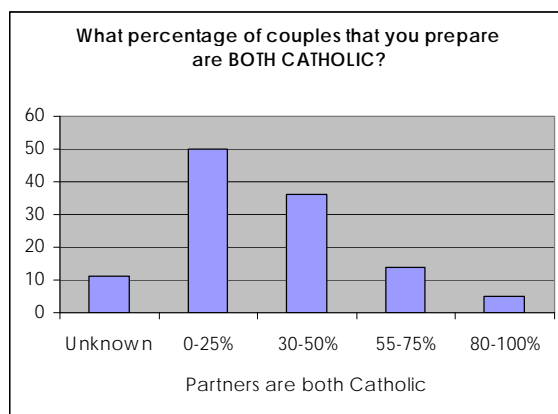
Highlights from the Survey of Marriage Preparation Providers: *140 responses have been collected*

- 32% became involved in marriage preparation at the request of someone already involved with it
- 54% of courses are conducted in a day; 32% over a series of evenings
- 55% facilitate interfaith issues
- 16% address fertility awareness and family planning with a strong emphasis; 31% do not discuss it
- 96% facilitate discussion of conflict management with a strong or moderate emphasis

Comments received from couples who experienced marriage preparation:

"[The course] was very positive. It gave us the chance (in a hectic time) to take time out to look at our future and positives, things to look for, etc."

"We found the course very helpful and it helped to cement our relationship further."



Highlights from the Survey of Couples Prepared for Marriage in 2010: *61 responses have been collected*

- 48% of couples prepared include one Catholic partner and one Christian partner of another denomination
- 47% said that a priest's recommendation was an important reason for taking a course
- 45% found it easy to find information on marriage preparation programs
- 95% said 'Yes' or 'For the most part' about their facilitators having a genuine interest in the health and strength of their marriage
- 56% feel that their understanding of the Catholic faith improved after their course

We have free prayer cards to give to couples preparing for marriage this year. If you would like to receive a special prayer card in celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, please e-mail Elizabeth with your mailing address: Elizabeth.Davies@bccew.org.uk