

--	--

Pope Francis’ survey
on family and marriage

E

A Bishops’ Synod will take place next year in Rome, which will be attended by Bishops from all over the world. As a preparation to the Synod, Pope Francis sent out various questions to all the Bishops. The Bishops are requested to ask the Christians what they know about the Church’s teaching regarding relationships, marriage, sexual morals, and how Christians feel about the teachings in theory and practice. The following questions are based on the survey that Pope Francis sent to the Bishops.

The results of this anonymous survey will be presented and discussed in the Kleiner Michel (Hamburg) after mass on 8 December at 1 pm. The results will then be given to the Archbishop of Hamburg, who will base his answers to Pope Francis on these results..

General topics

1. Sex

2. Age

3. Confession

4. Grown up in:

5. I attend mass on
- ☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ under 18

☐ 18 - 35

☐ 36 - 50

☐ 51 - 65

☐ over 65

☐ Catholic

☐ Protestant

☐ other Christian

☐ no Christian

☐ Germany

☐ other Europe

☐ Africa

☐ South America

☐ none of the above

☐ Saturday

☐ 6 pm (French)

☐ Sunday

☐ 11.30 a.m.

☐ 3.30 p.m. (Philippine)

☐ 7 p.m.

☐ I don’t attend service/none of the above
6. When did you become a Christian?

☐ I was baptized as a child and practiced the church faith since then

☐ I was baptized as an adult

☐ I was baptized as a child but started to practice my belief as an adult

The Church’s teachings on relationships, marriage and family

7. Are you familiar with the Church’s teachings (Pope, Bishops) on love, sex, intimacy, marriage and family? (Please rate your answer: 1 = not familiar at all, 10 = entirely familiar)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

- ☞ Please answer questions 8 – 10 only if you are familiar with these teachings:

☞ 8. How did you learn about these teachings?
(Please give more than one answer if appropriate)

☐ Parents

☐ Grandparents

☐ Priest

☐ other employees of the Church

☐ mass/religious services/preaching

☐ religious lessons during school

☐ Church youth activities

☐ confirmation classes

☐ preparation for marriage

☐ books, magazines

☐ Internet

☐ other/none of the above

- ☞ 9. Do you generally agree with these teachings?
(1=absolutely disagree, 10=absolutely agree)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

- ☞ 10. Do you – according to your own estimation - generally comply with these teachings? (1=absolutely not, 10=absolutely – may be left unanswered))

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Relationship status

11. How would you describe your relationship status?

Living alone

☐ I live alone and have never lived in a committed relationship

☐ I live alone (widowed)

☐ I live alone (divorced)

☐ I live alone (separated from former partner)

Living in a relationship

☐ civil marriage

☐ church marriage

☐ formerly in a church marriage, remarried in a civil marriage after divorce

☐ not married, in a committed heterosexual relationship

☐ in a committed homosexual relationship

☐ no answer

- ☞ Please answer questions 12 – 15 only, if you live in a committed relationship

☞ 12. How do you live?
☐ we share a flat/house ☐ we live in different flats/houses

☞ 13. Do you attend mass together (at least occasionally)?
☐ yes ☐ no

☞ 14. Is your partner a Catholic?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know

☞ 15. If the previous answer is no: do you attend religious services at your partner’s church (at least occasionally)?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ my partner is not a Christian/does not attend religious services

H Personal background, faith and prayers in your family

16. How would you describe the family that you grew up in (that you currently grow up in)?

☐ My parents were/are married and live(d) together till death

☐ My parents never lived together during my life

☐ My parents divorced before my 18th birthday

☞ 17. If your parents are/were divorced: did you feel treated differently in Church because of your parents’ divorce?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know

18. Did/do you pray together with your parents/ in the family that you grew up in?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know

19. Were religion and the Church of any importance in the family that you grew up in?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know

20. Were you introduced to the Christian faith in the family that you grew up in?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know

Children

21. Do you have one or more children that you live with?
☐ no ☐ one child ☐ two or three children ☐ more than three children

☞ 22. If you have children: Do you raise (or try to raise) your children in the Christian faith?
☐ yes ☐ no

Living together in a relationship

- ☞ **If you live in a committed relationship and share your flat/house with your partner:**
- ☞ **23. Do you intend to get married soon?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **If you are in a civil marriage, but not in a church marriage:**
- ☞ **24. Do you intend to have a church marriage soon?** *(Please do not answer if a previous church marriage was divorced and you are therefore unable to have another church marriage)*
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **If you are in a church marriage:**
- ☞ **25. Did you feel that the Church accompanied you well on your way to getting married?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **26. If the previous answer was no: what could have been done better? – If the previous answer was yes: what in particular did you feel positive about?**
-
- ☞ **If you live in a family with your own children:**
- ☞ **27. Do you feel welcome and included as a family with children in the Church when attending mass?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **28. Are you happy with the support you receive from the Church relating to your questions and problems about raising your children?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **If you live with your partner in a committed relationship, but without being in a church marriage:**
- ☞ **29. Does it matter to you that the Church has a critical view of your relationship status?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **30. If the previous answer is yes: do you therefore refrain from receiving the Holy Communion?**
☐ yes
☐ no, I (sometimes) still receive the Holy Communion
- ☞ **please answer questions 31 to 36 only if you live in a homosexual relationship:**
- ☞ **31. Do you feel accepted by the Church?** ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **32. Does the Church's view of practiced homosexuality matter to you?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **33. Do you participate in the Church's activities and ceremonies, e.g. do you receive the Holy Communion?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I do not know
- ☞ **34. Do you have any wishes and hopes vis-à-vis the Church?**
-
- ☞ **If you live in a relationship (of any kind):**
- ☞ **35. Do you pray together?**
☐ yes ☐ no
- ☞ **36. Do you participate in the Church's activities and ceremonies together?**
☐ yes ☐ no

Regarding contraception

- 37. Are “unnatural contraceptives” acceptable to you?**
☐ yes ☐ no
- ☞ **38. If yes: why? If no: why not?**
-
- ☞ **If unnatural contraceptives are acceptable to you:**
- ☞ **39. Are any of the following contraceptives acceptable to you? (for the elderly: were acceptable to you)**
☐ Barrier method (Condoms or similar)
☐ hormonal methods (e.g. contraceptive pill)
☐ methods that prevent the nidation of the fertilized egg cell
☐ emergency contraceptives/methods that postpone ovulation
☐ none of the above is acceptable to me
- 40. Did you go to confession within the last years?**
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ I am not a Catholic and my Church does not offer confession
- ☞ **If the previous answer is yes:**
- ☞ **41. Did the confession improve your relationship with your family/your partner?**
☐ yes ☐ no
- ☞ **42. Was the confession relevant for your personal relationship with God?**
☐ yes ☐ no
- ☞ **43. If you used unnatural contraceptives (or if they were acceptable to you): would you confess that?**
☐ yes ☐ no
- if you did not go to confession within the last years:**
- ☞ **44. Why did you not go to confession?**
☐ Because I had negative experiences during confession I do not intend to receive that Sacrament again
☐ Because I fear that I would not be understood or be rejected
☐ Because I do not believe in it

Coming to the last question:

45. Is there anything else you would like to say about the topics “relationship, marriage and family”? (short notes/bullet points are appropriate)

This survey was established in Hamburg at the Kleiner Michel on the basis of Pope Francis' questions to the Bishops. It also reflects the www-survey by the BDJ http://umfrage.bdkj.de 25 November 2013 - www.kleiner-michel.de
Martin Löwenstein SJ