



# International Consultative Research Conference

September 22, 2020

## **Cultural Diversity in Vocations to Religious Life in the United States**

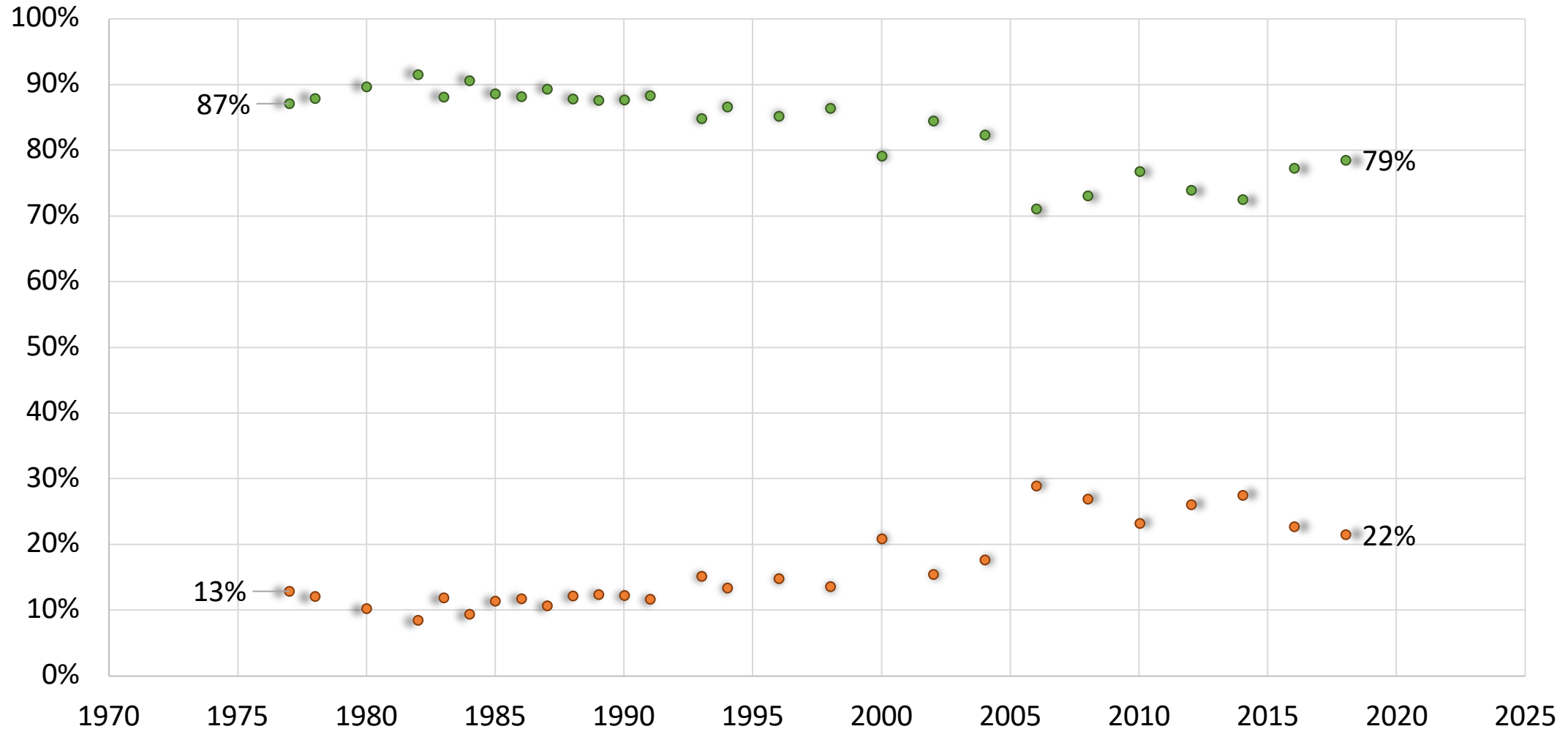
Thu Do, LHC, Ph.D., C.A.R.A. Research Associate

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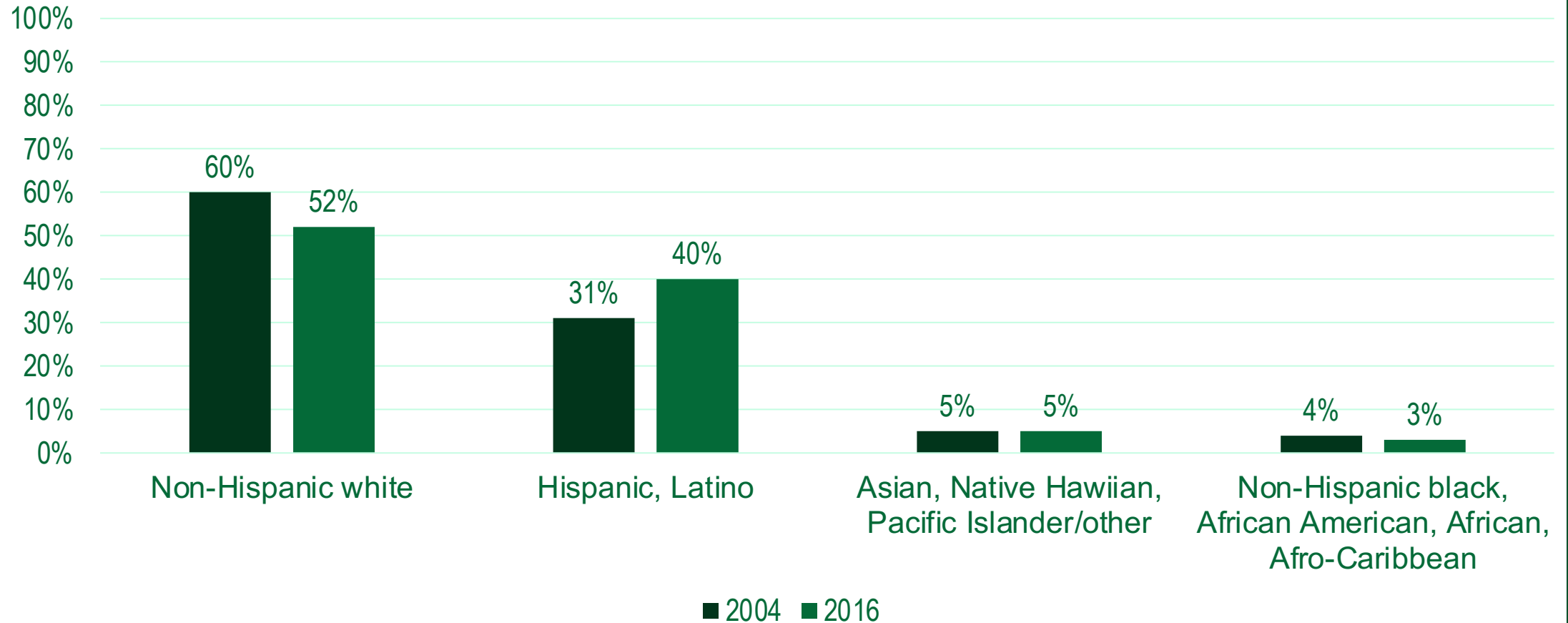
C.A.R.A.

# Percentage of U.S. Adult Catholics by Place of Birth

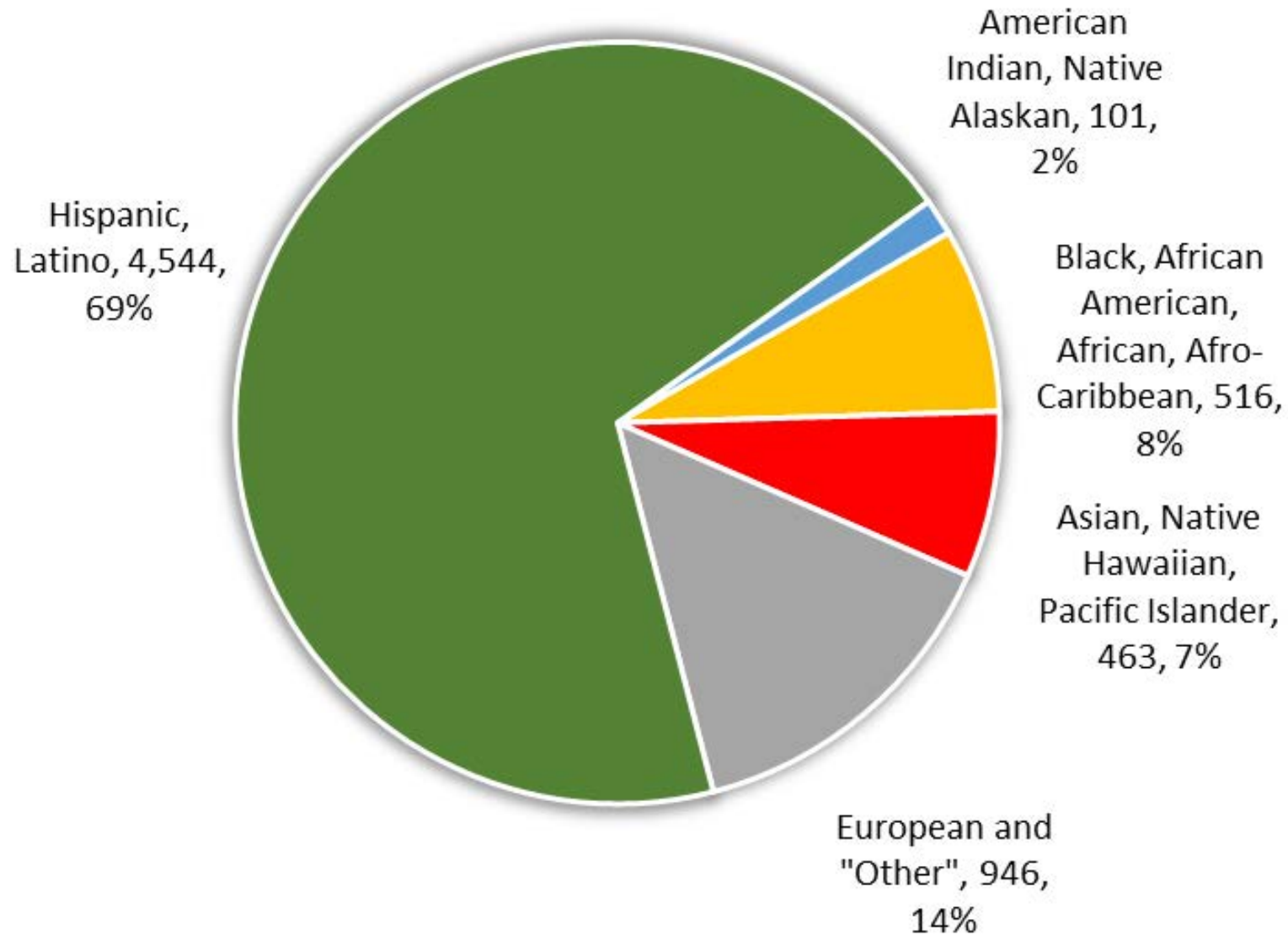
● Born in the U.S. ● Foreign-born



# U.S. Catholics by Race and Ethnicity, Estimated in 2004 and 2016

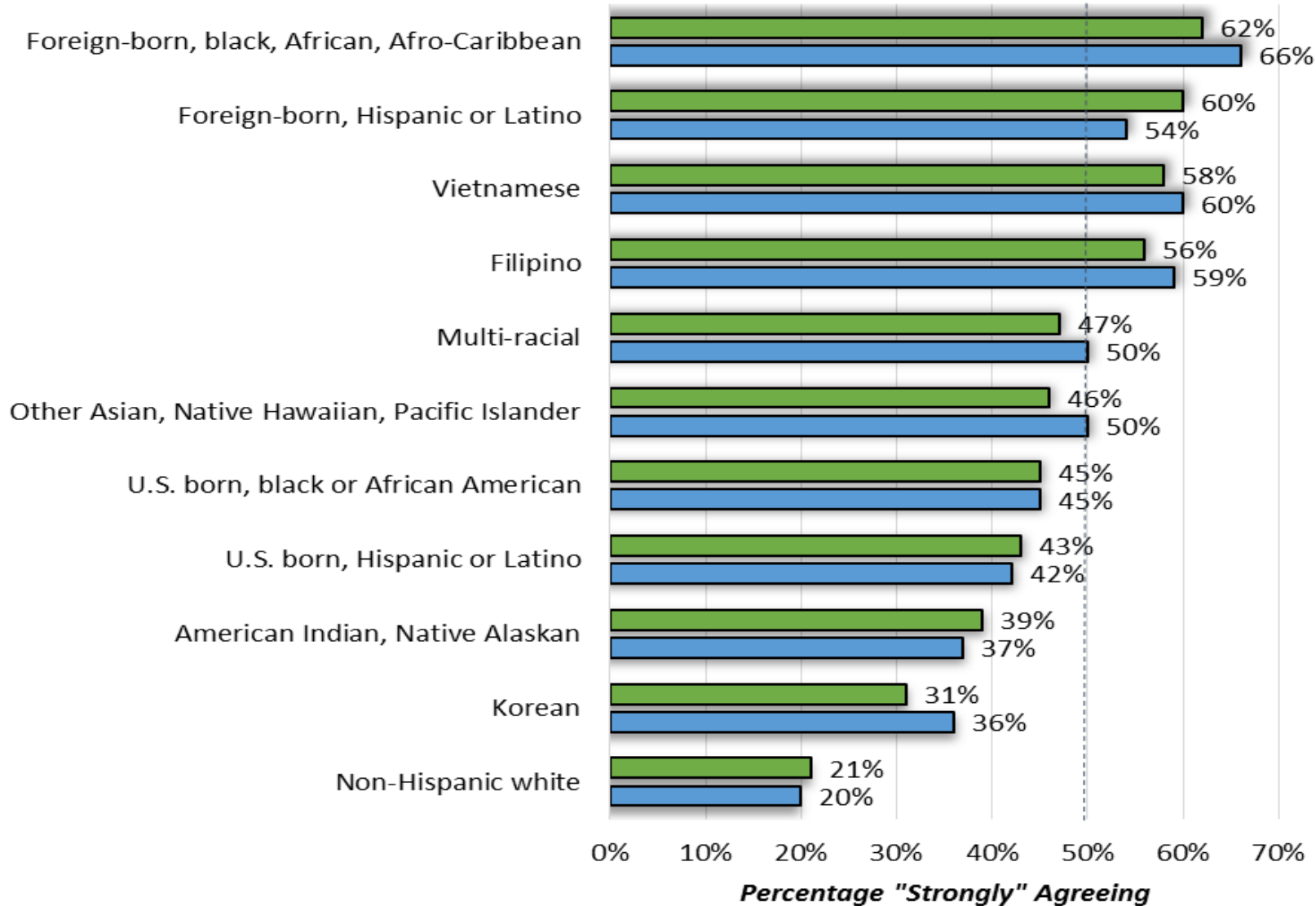


# U.S. Parishes Known to Serve Specific Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, or Linguistic Communities, 2013



## Parishioner Attitudes About Cultural Diversity

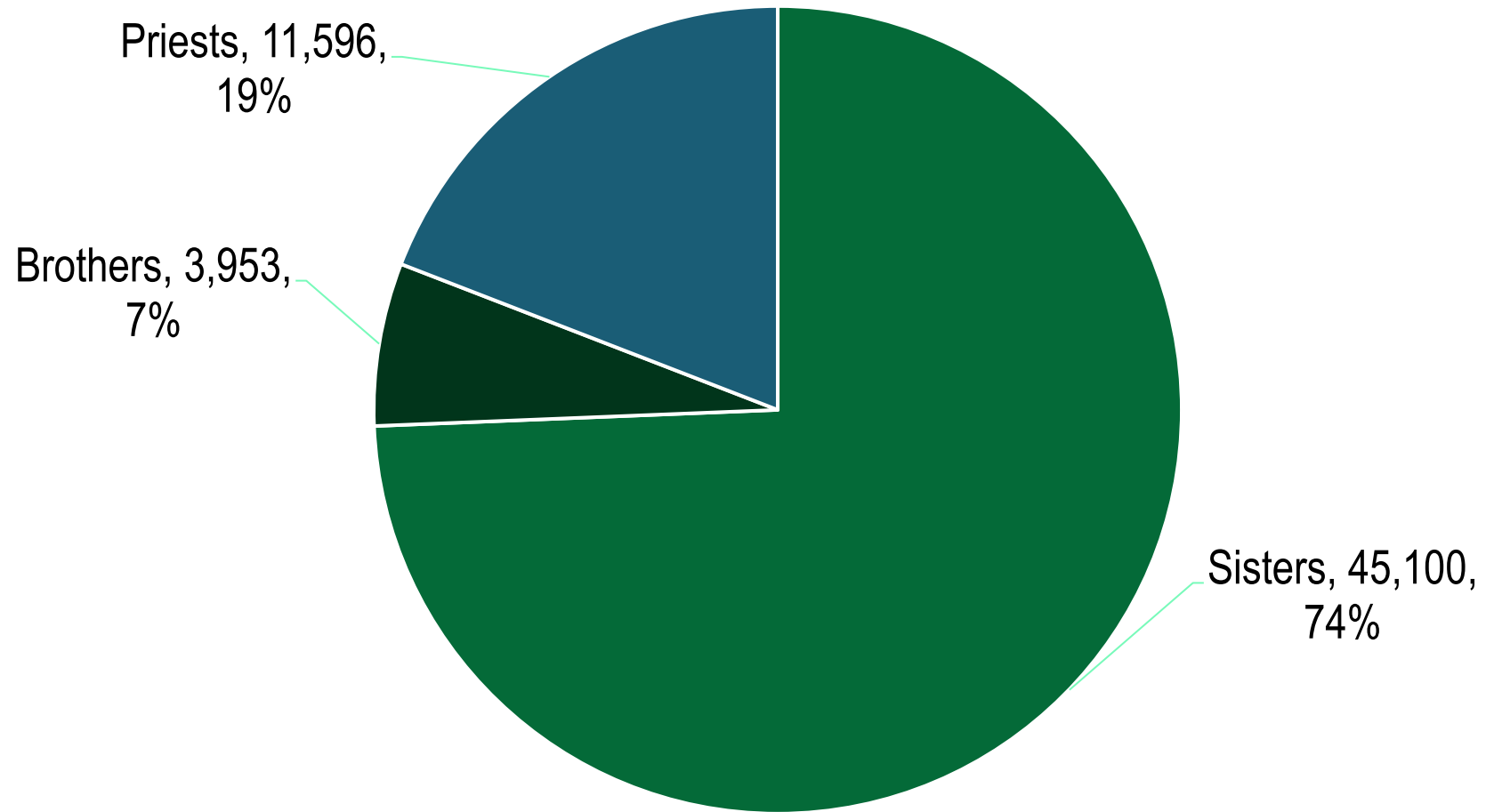
- My parish should be more involved in celebrating cultural diversity
- I would like to see more diversity in the parish



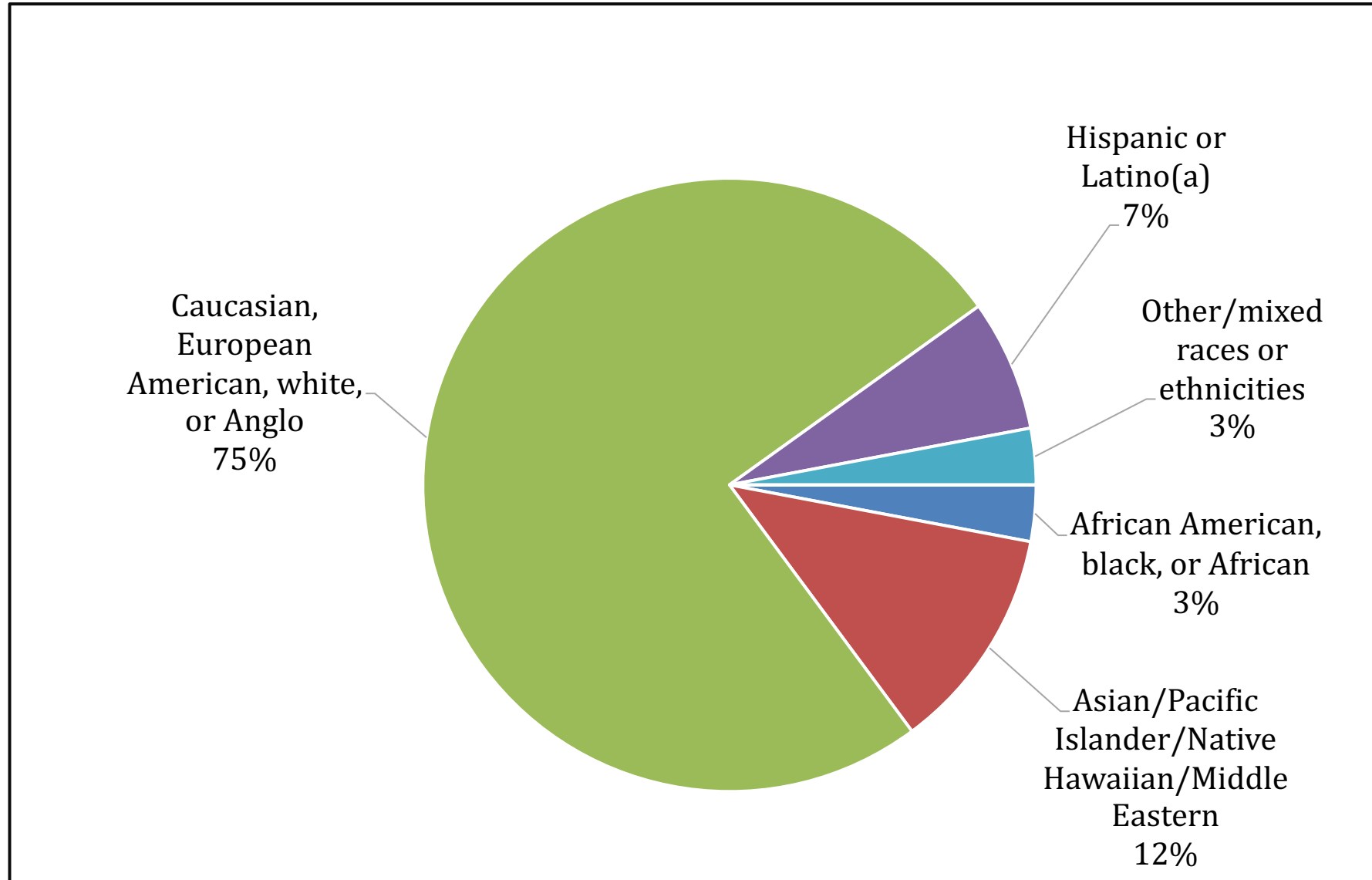
Foreign-born parishioners are among the most likely to embrace their parish celebrating diversity and wishing to see more diversity in the pews.

Non-Hispanic white parishioners are least likely to “strongly” agree with either statement.

# Total Religious in the U.S (by 2018): 60,649

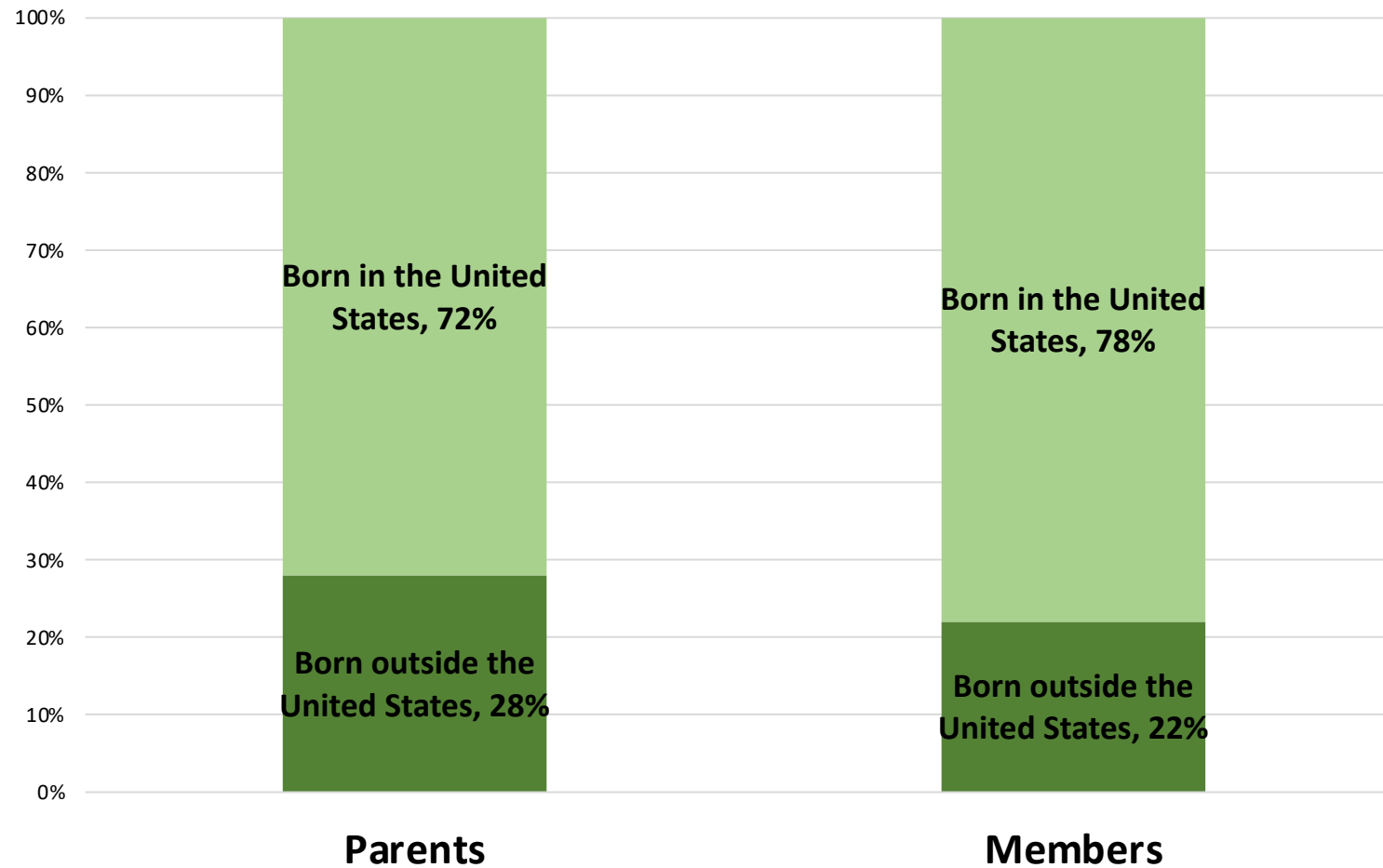


# Racial/Ethnic Background among Women Religious:



Source: NRVC/CARA New Members 2019

# Country of Birth among Women Religious Members and Parents

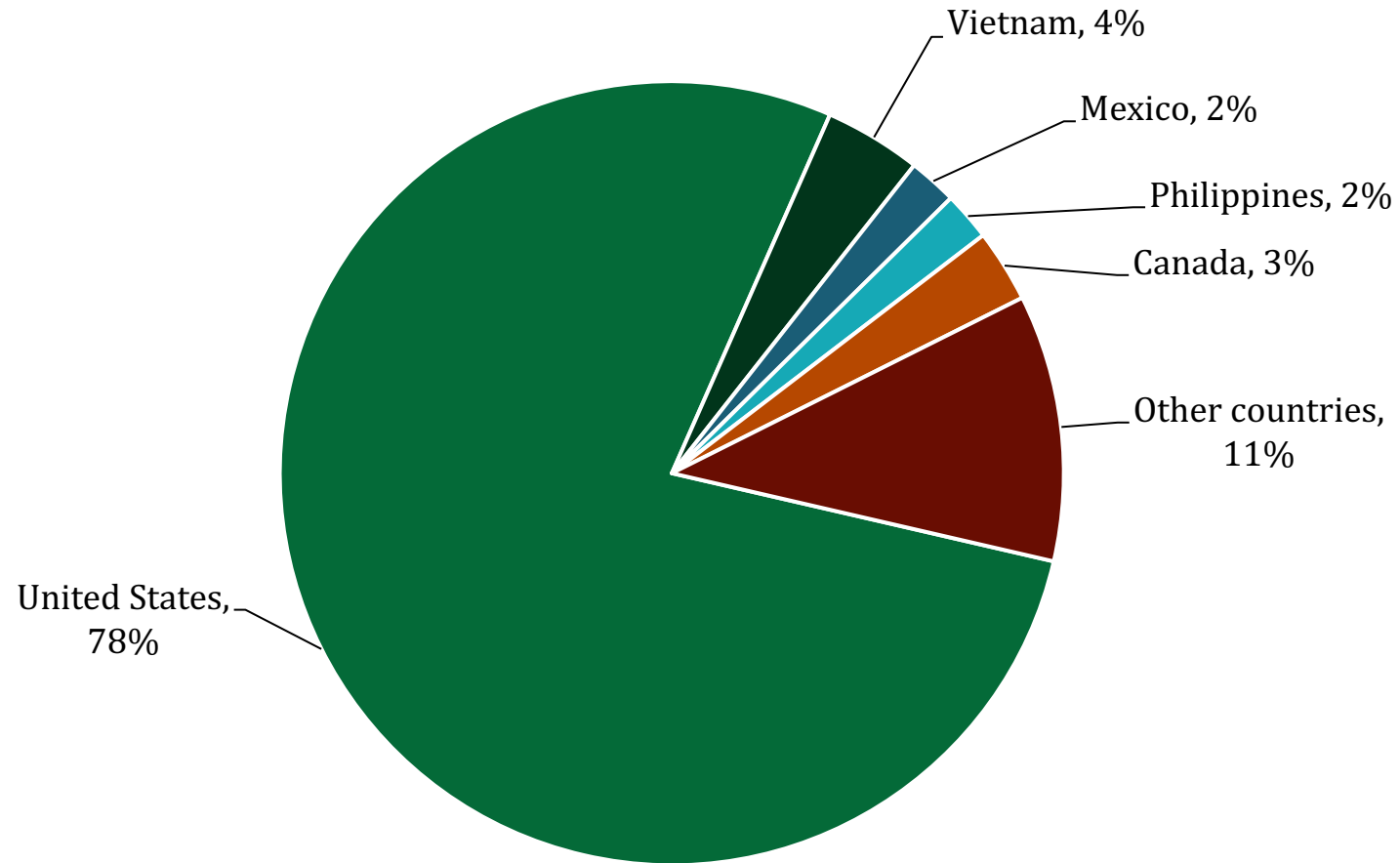


Source: 2019 CARA/NRVC Study on New Members





# Country of Birth of New Members

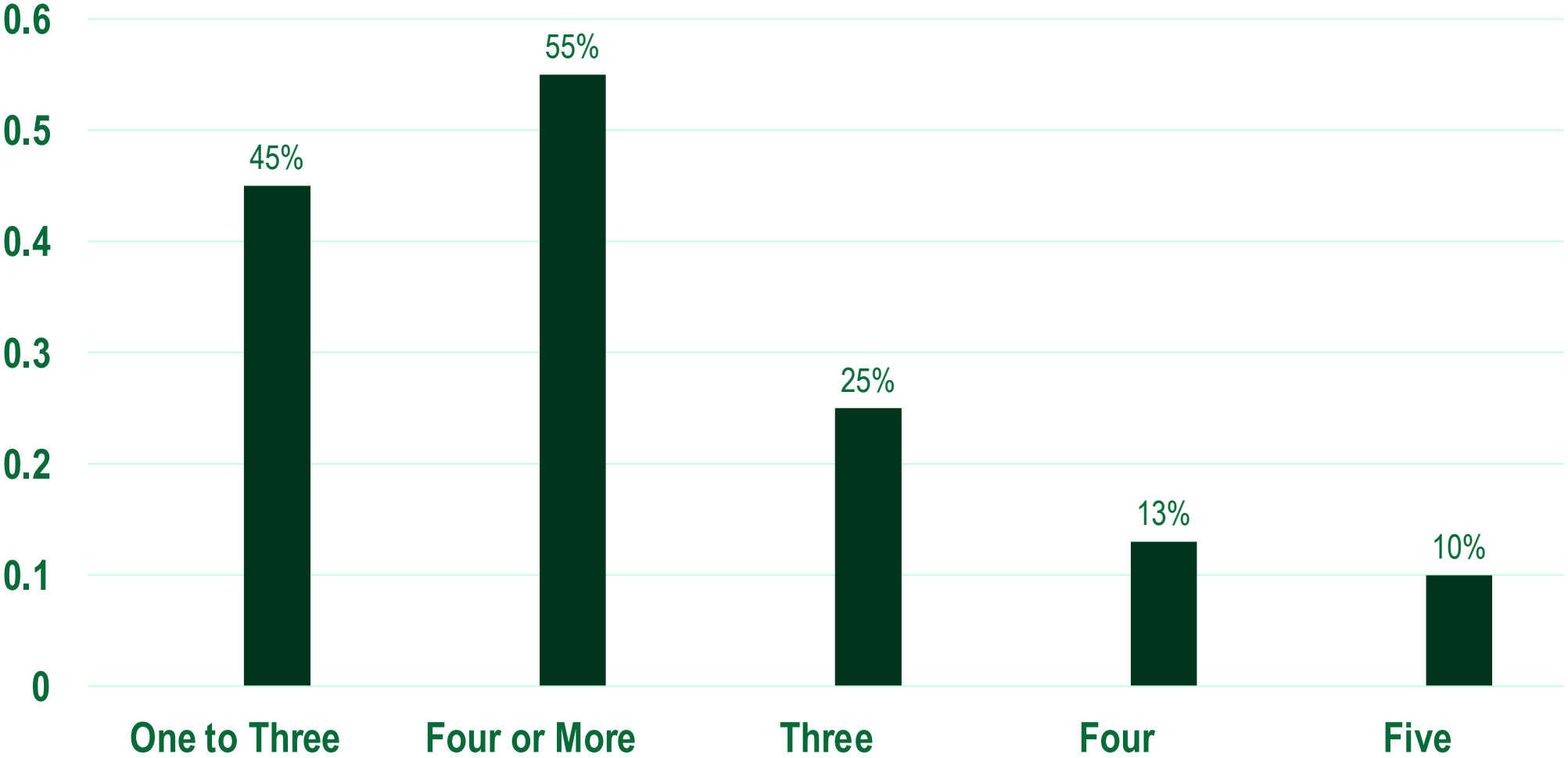




# Women Religious Institutes Engaging Cultural Diversity



# Number of Racial and Ethnic Background Present in Women Religious Institutes



Source: NRVC/CARA Cultural Diversity 2014



# Acceptance of Foreign-born Candidates

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Does your unit have any policies or procedures regarding accepting candidates from outside the United States? 44

Does your unit have any policies or procedures regarding accepting candidates with limited English skills? 33

Does your unit provide an acculturation program for new members from outside the United States? 24

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# Institute's Visibility among Diverse Populations

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Does your unit have any members who work among ethnic minorities? 81%

Does your unit have any members who work among immigrant populations? 73

Does your unit have any members who work outside the United States? 56

Does your unit have any members who work on a college campus? 52

# Developing Cultural Awareness in the Religious Institutes

	Overall
Used music from another culture in prayer	68%
Encouraged members to learn another language	55
Displayed art from another culture	59
Contacted someone from another culture about a vocation to religious life	51
Sponsored or attended a mission trip to another culture	45
Shared cultural traditions in holiday celebrations	50

# Integrating Diversity Into Religious Life

	<b>Overall</b>
Encouraged minority members to share their culture in community life	53%
Accommodated family visit(s) for minority members	40
Increased visibility of minorities on the unit website	27
Mentored minority members for unit leadership	23
Sponsored a minority member to attend an acculturation workshop	15
Sponsored or attended a workshop on racism in religious life	14



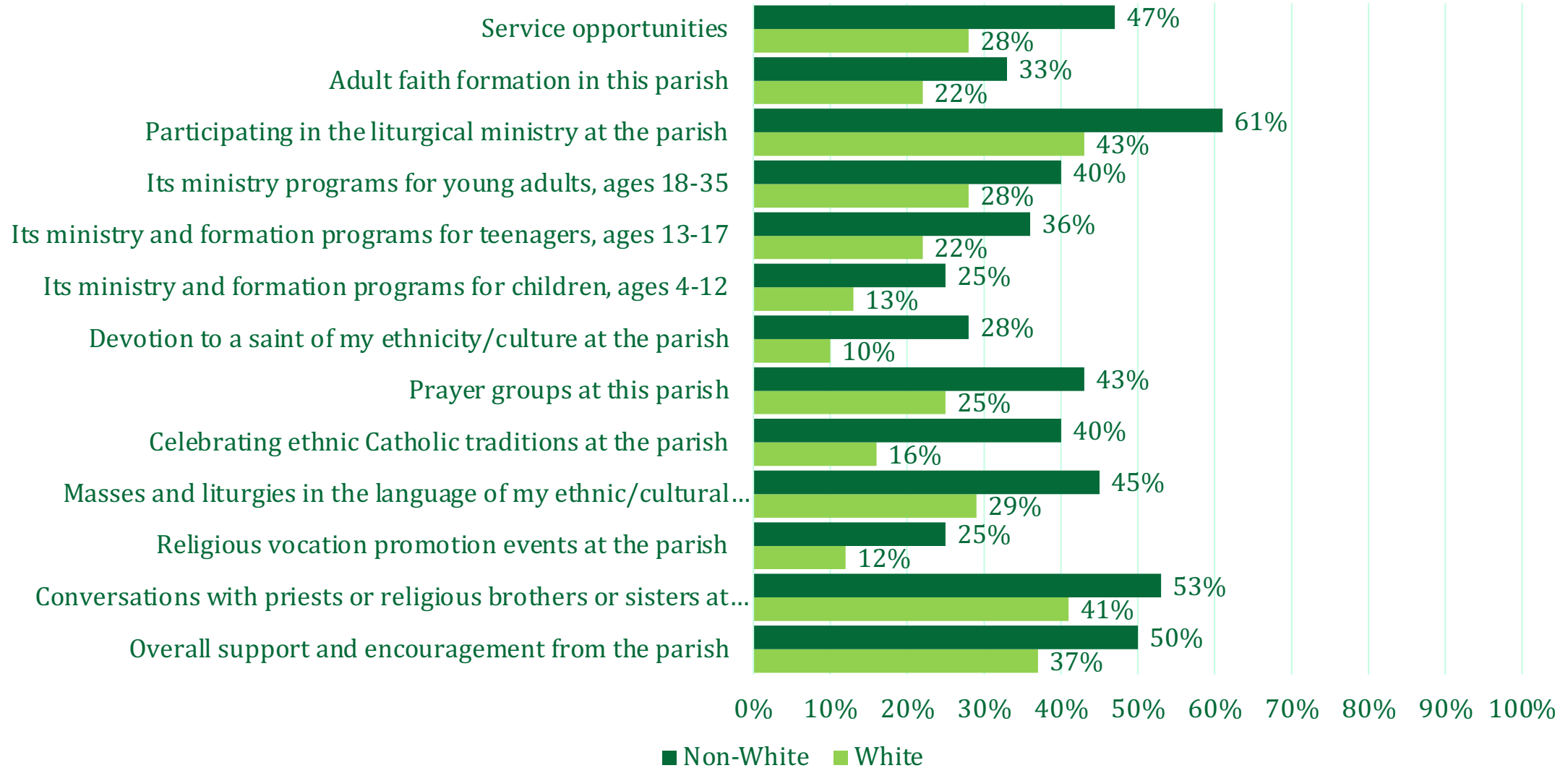
# Women Religious Members Experiencing Cultural Diversity



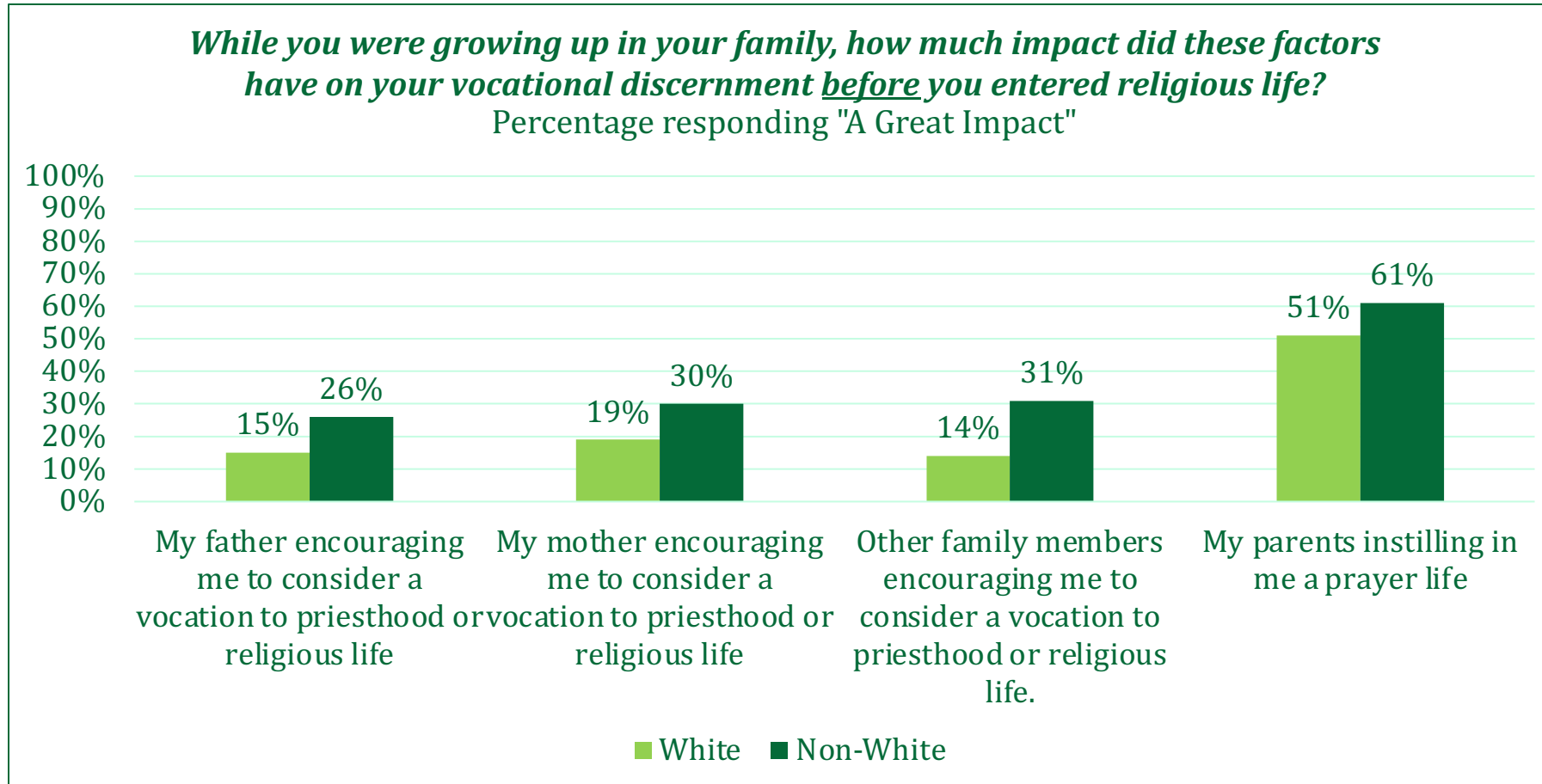


**Thinking of the parish you attended, how much impact did these factors have on your vocational discernment before you entered religious life?**

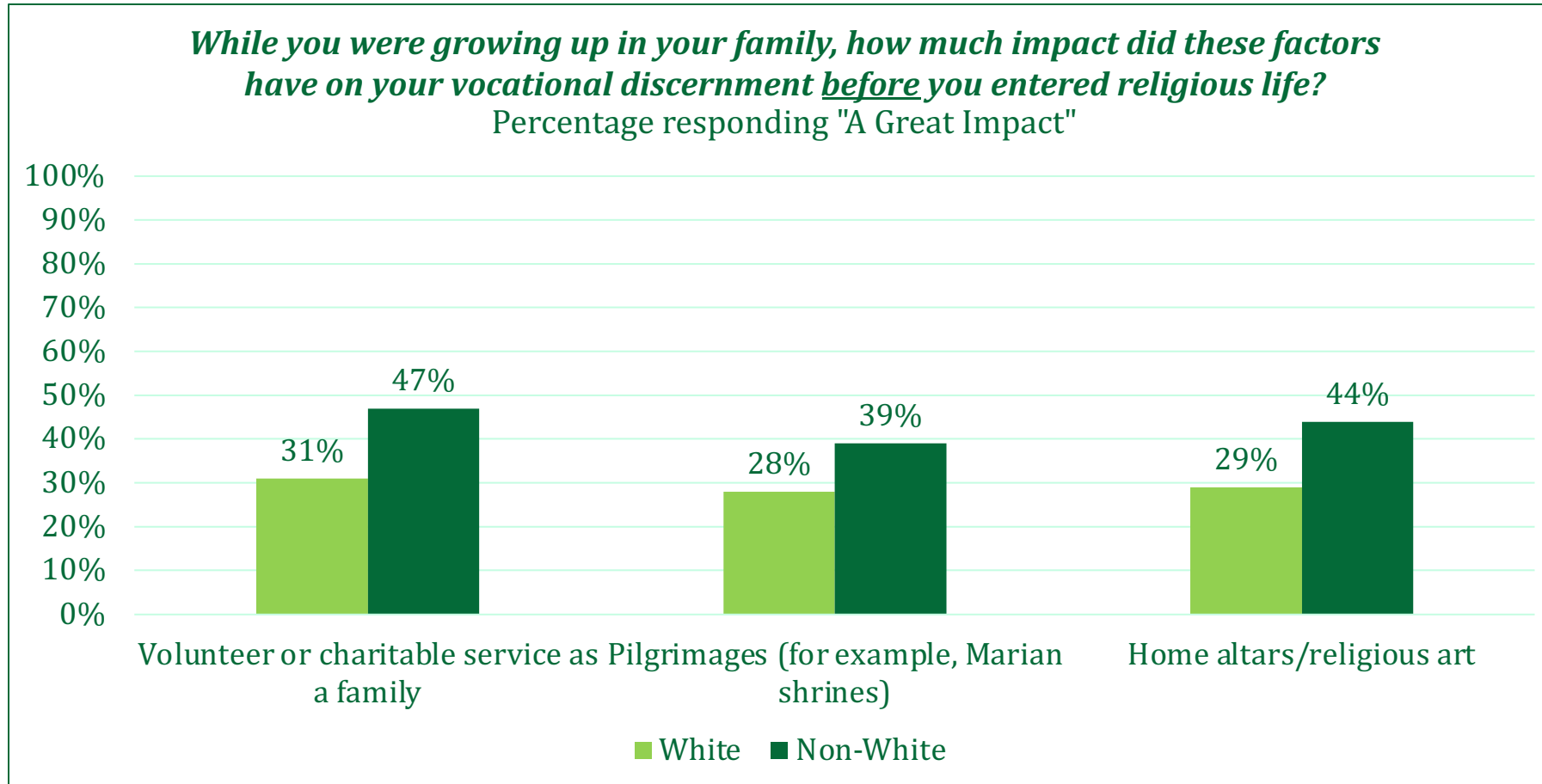
Percentage responding "Very Much"



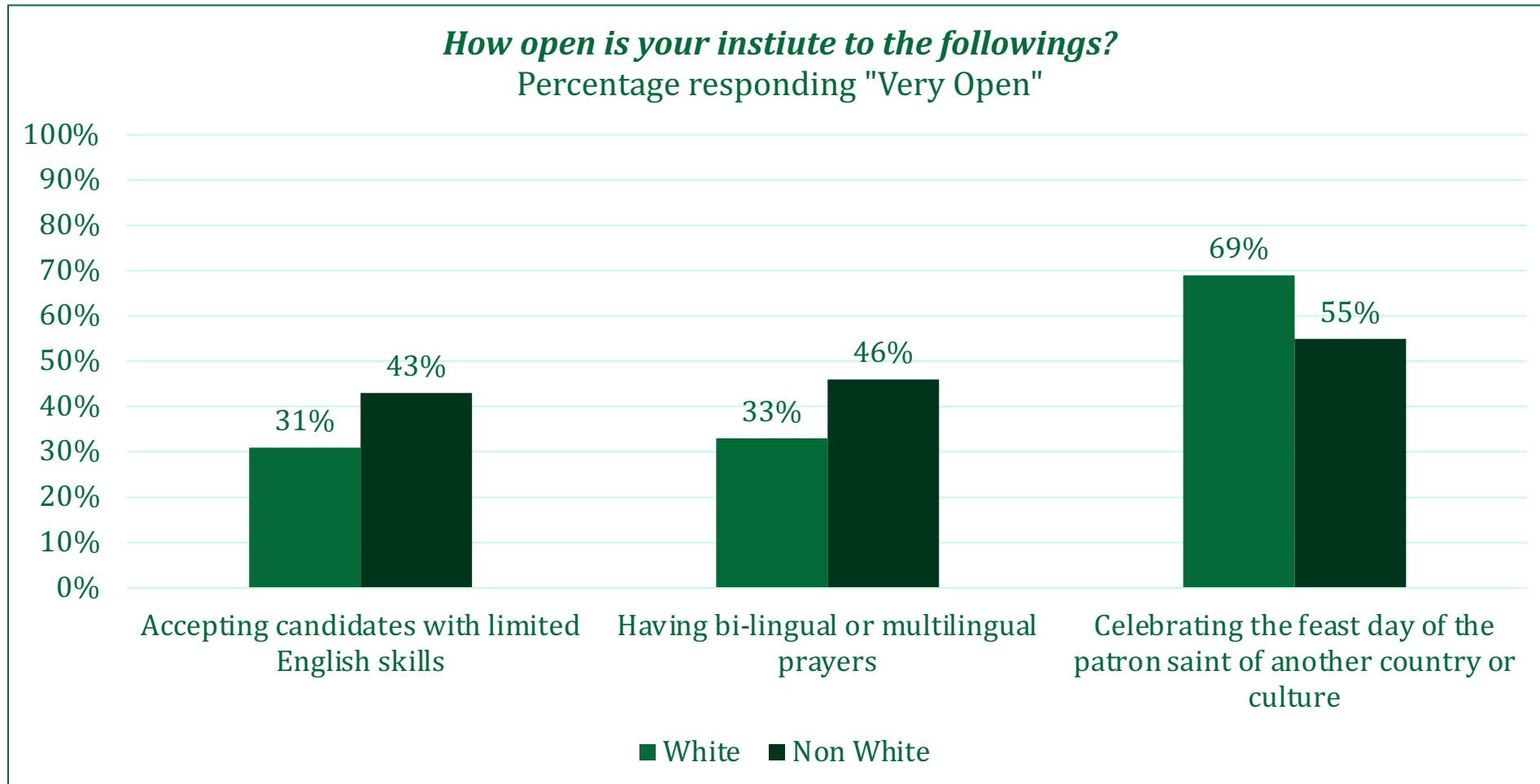
# Family Members on Vocation Promotion



# Religious Family Activities on Vocation Promotion



# Women Religious Institutes Integrating Diversity



# Challenges in Religious Life

*Since you entered your religious institute, how much of a challenge is each of these to you personally?  
Percentage responding at least "Somewhat" of Challenge*

	White	Non-white
	%	%
Members who I live with not understanding my culture	10	40
Not feeling understood by other members of my institute	15	26
Members who I live with not accepting my culture	5	23
Feeling that I am asked too much to accommodate my culture to fit in the dominant ethnic/racial cohort of my institute	4	19
My food not being welcome in my community	6	18
During my initial formation, my formator requiring me to accommodate my culture to that of my institute	7	17
Members who I live with not accommodating my cultural practices	4	16
My culture not being welcome in my community	3	16
Not feeling welcomed by other members of my institute	5	13
My not understanding American culture well enough	4	15
Discrimination due to my cultural/ethnic heritage	2	11

# Questions, Comments, Discussion



Center For Applied Research in the  
Apostolate (CARA)

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