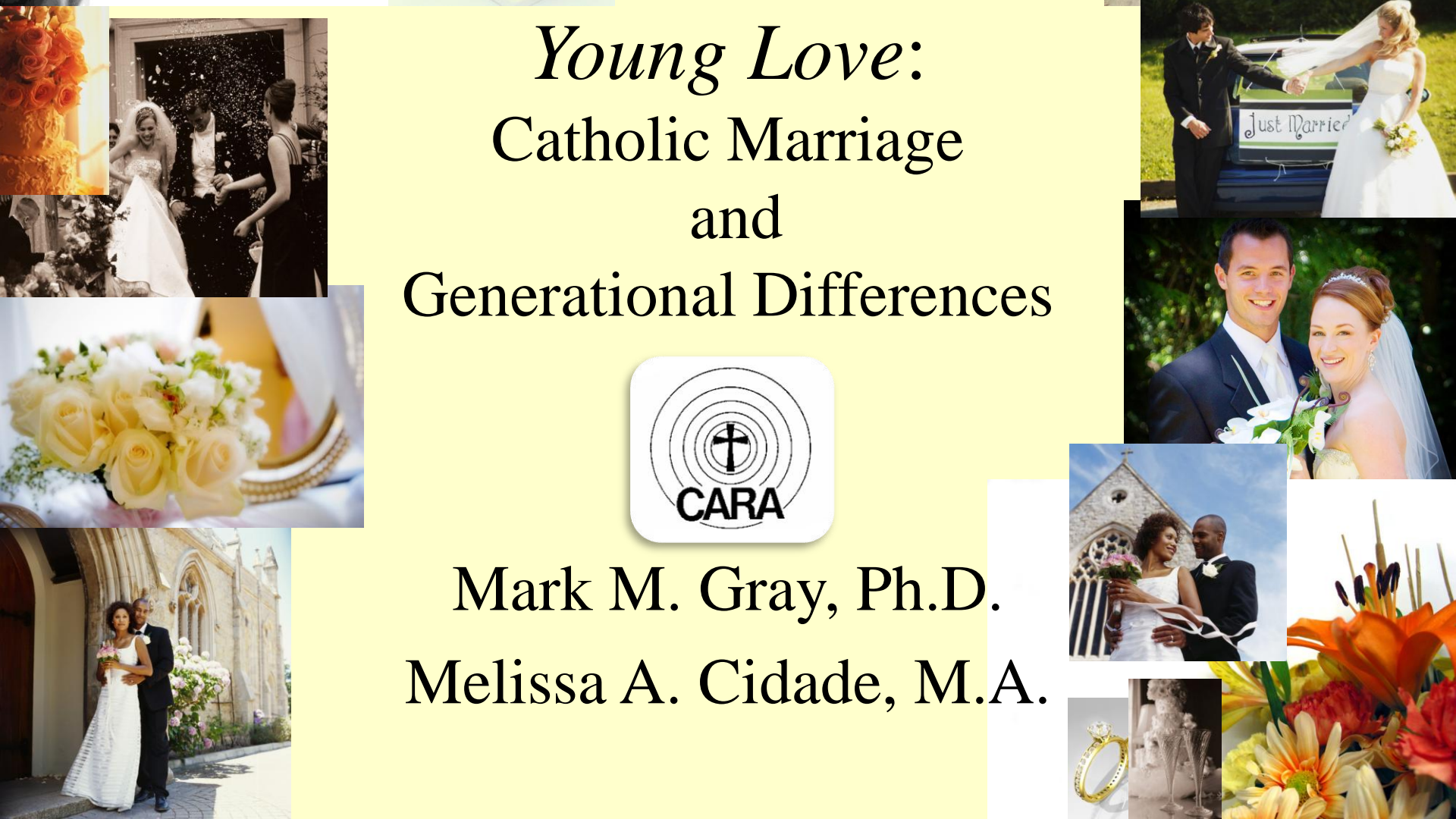




Young Love:
Catholic Marriage
and
Generational Differences



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Marriage in the Catholic Church: A Survey of U.S. Catholics

In Spring 2007, CARA conducted a poll for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to learn more about Catholics’

- General familiarity and specific knowledge about Catholic teaching on marriage
- Consistency of respondents’ own views with various statements about marriage
- View of the acceptability of divorce, both generally and in specific circumstances
- General attitudes about marriage and divorce and influences on these attitudes



Marriage in the Catholic Church: A Survey of U.S. Catholics

- 1,367 adult Catholics polled
- N = 1,008 (sampling error \pm 3.1%)
- 74% response rate
- Majority of respondents reported being currently married

Marital Status	
Never married	25%
Married	53
Separated	1
Divorced	12
Widowed	5
Living with a partner	4



Generations

Pre-Vatican II

- Born: 1942 or earlier
- 19% of survey respondents

Post-Vatican II

- Born: 1961 - 1981
- 40% of survey respondents

Vatican II

- Born: 1943 - 1960
- 31% of respondents

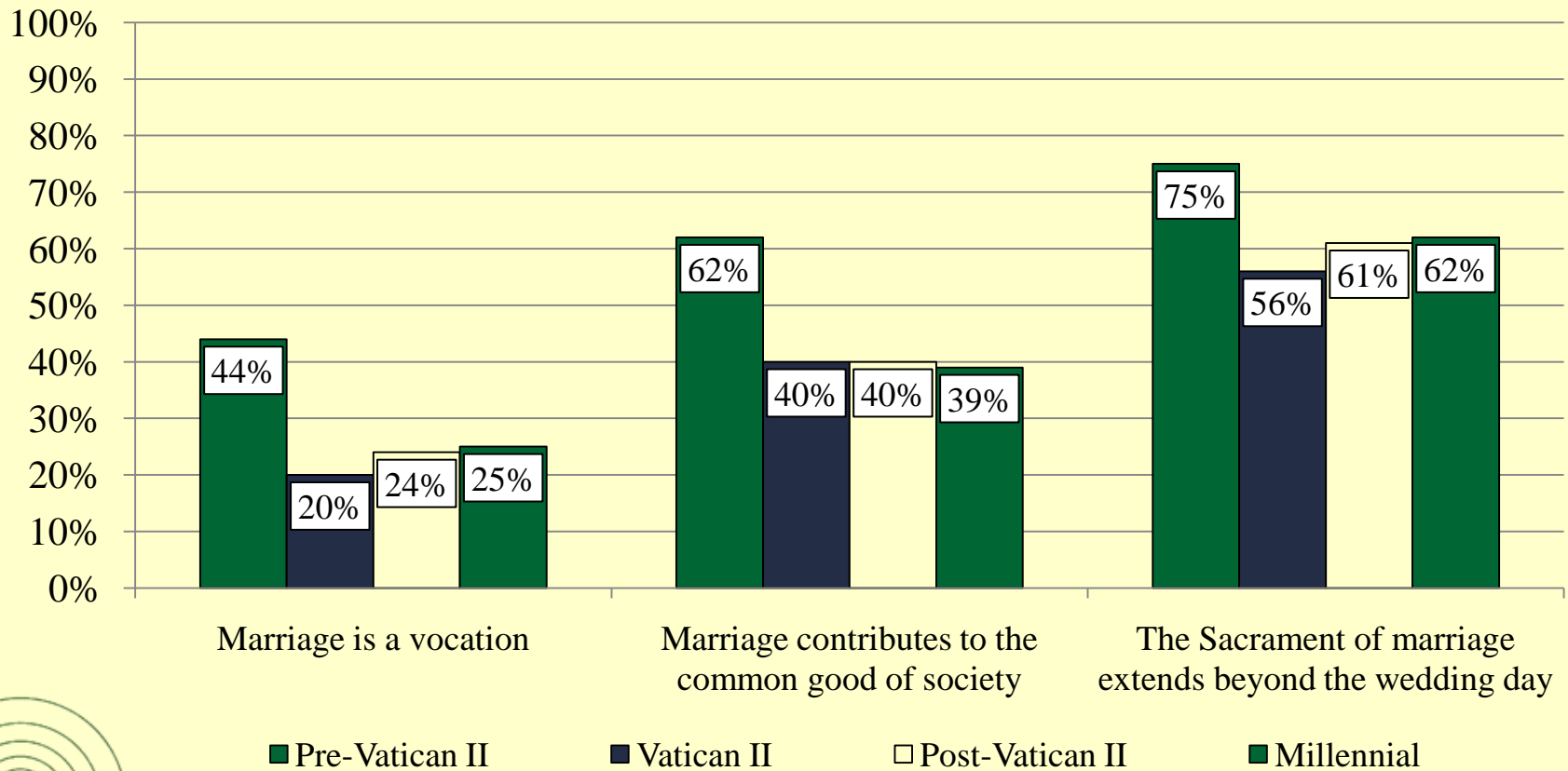
Millennials

- Born: 1982 - 1989
- 10% of respondents



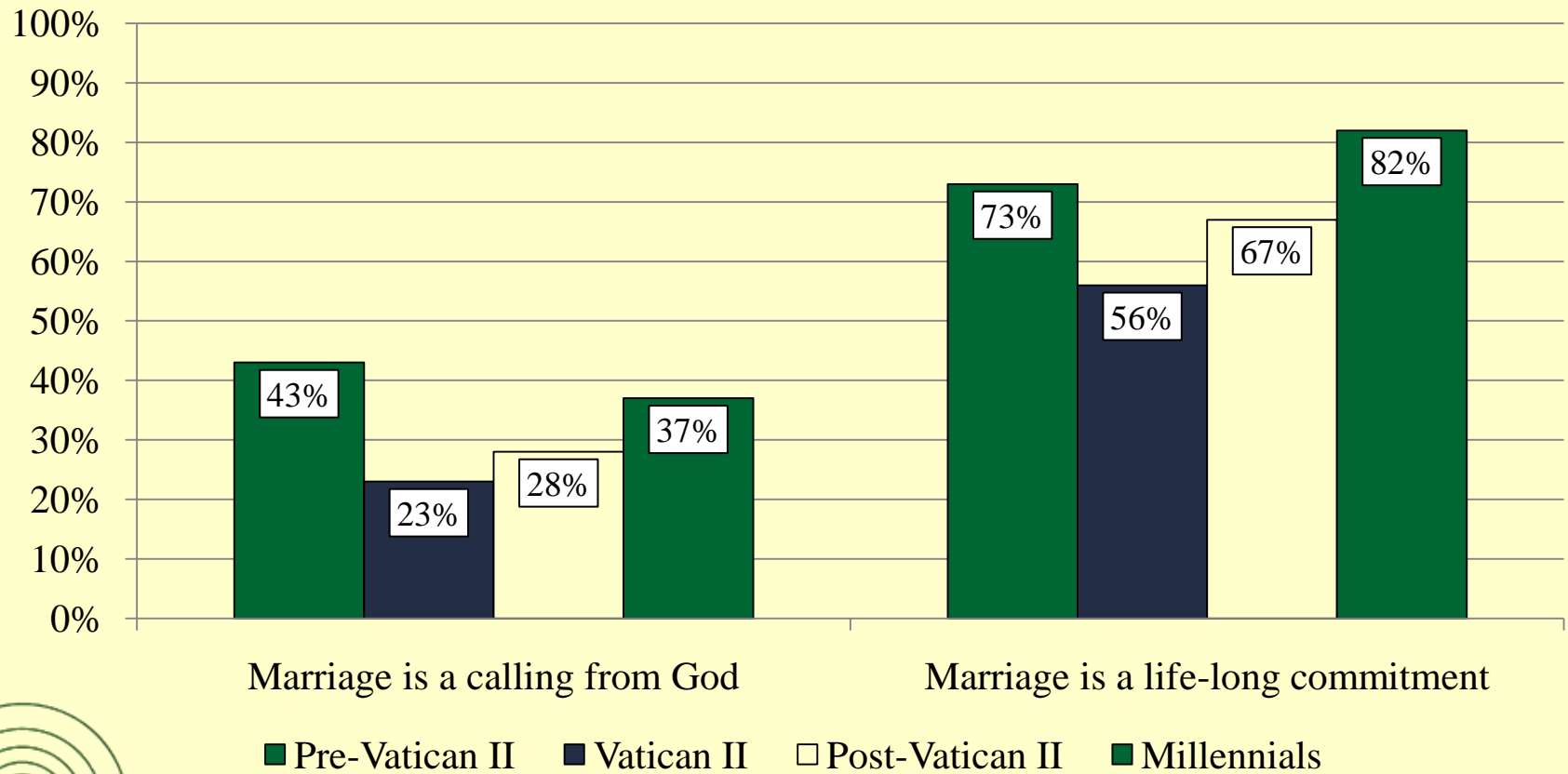
What is marriage?

Percentage responding “very consistent with my views”



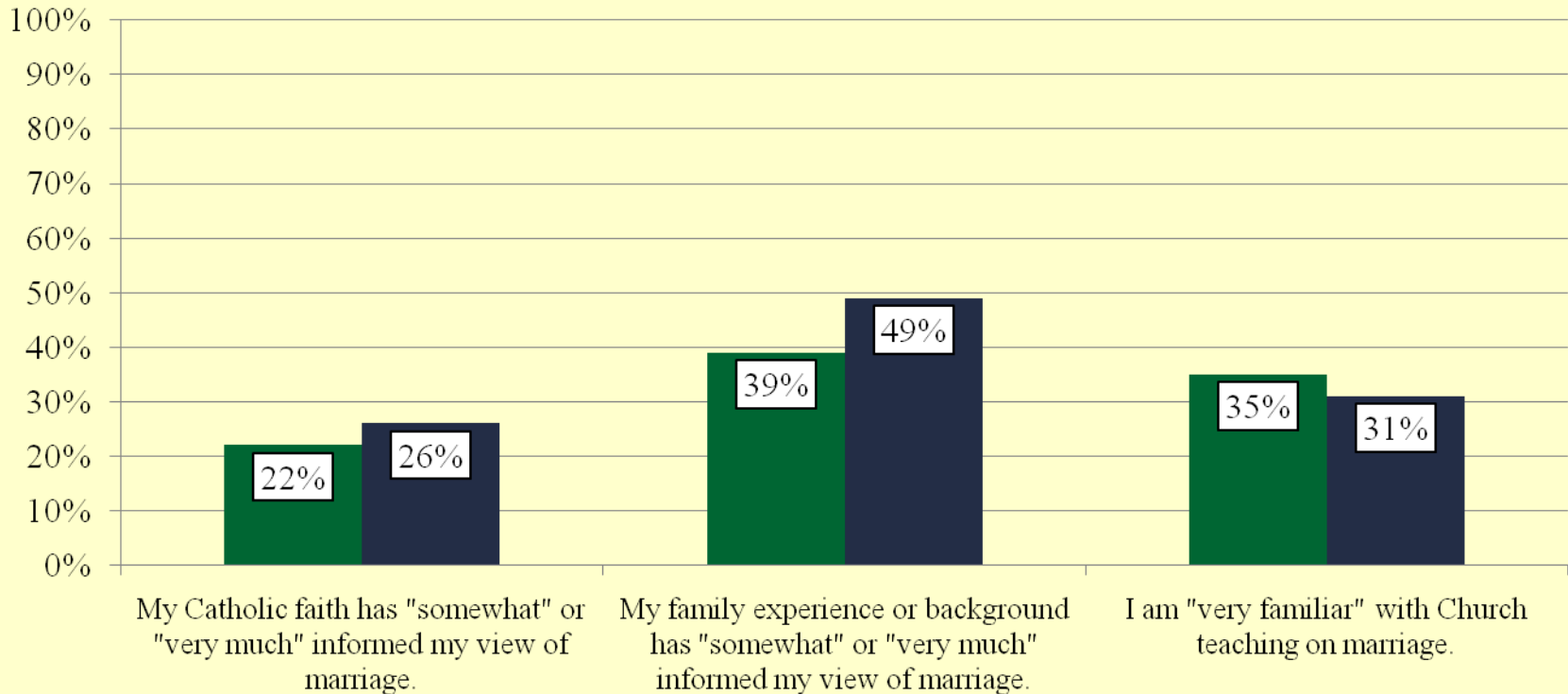
What is marriage?

Percentage responding “very consistent with my views”



What is marriage?

Percentage responding



■ Post-Vatican II

■ Millennials



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Georgetown University

What are they looking for in a spouse?

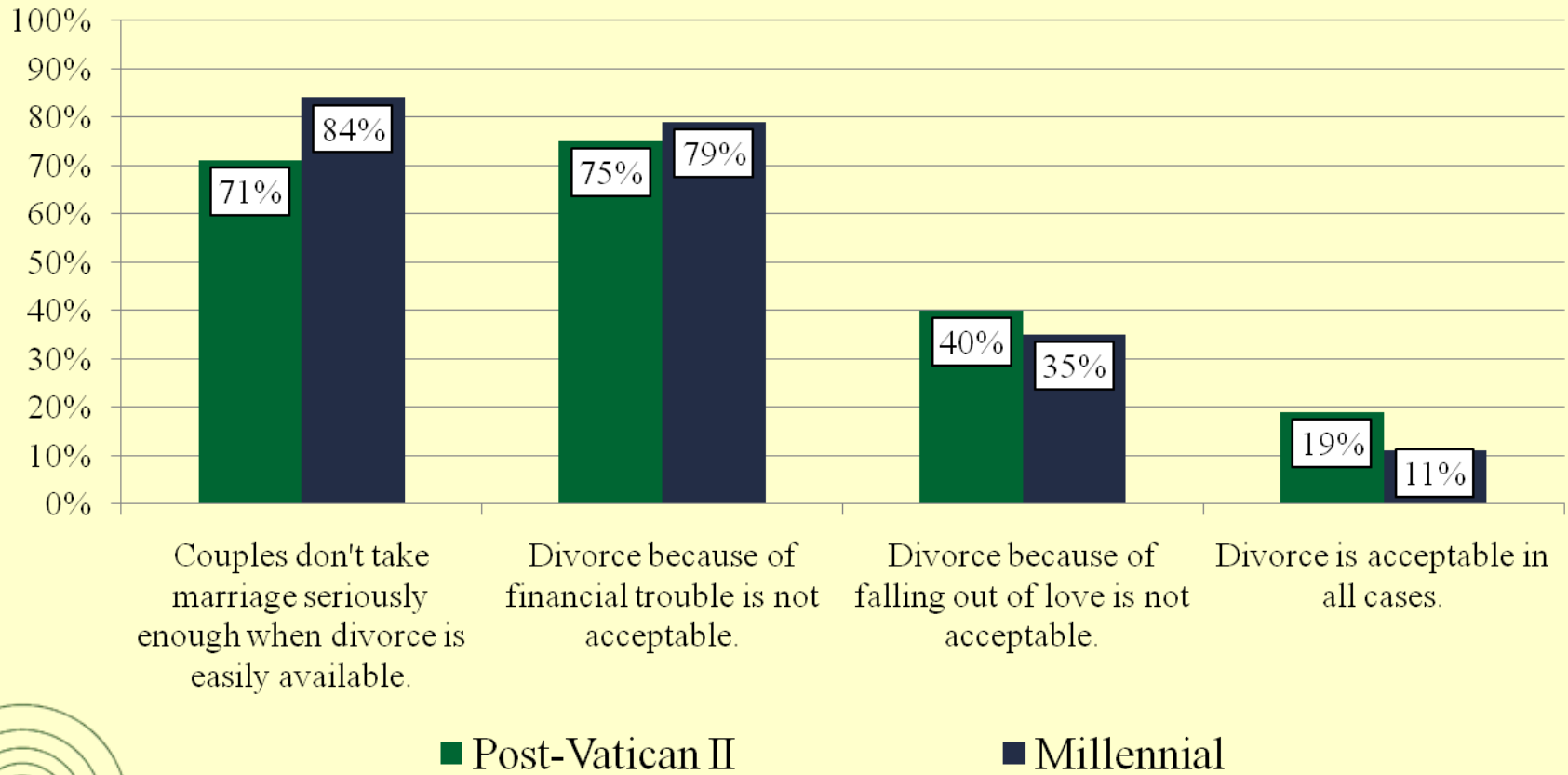
What are the Post-Vatican II and Millennial Generations looking for in a spouse?

	Post-Vatican II	Millennial
<i>Percentage agreeing “somewhat” or “strongly”</i>		
When you marry you want your spouse to be your soul-mate, first and foremost.	75%	88%
<i>Percentage saying “very” likely</i>		
How likely do you think it is that you will get married at some point in your life? (Asked of those single, never married)	23%	56%
<i>Percentage saying “very” important</i>		
How important would it be for you to be married in the Catholic Church? (Asked of those single, never married)	18%	33%



What are their attitudes on divorce?

Percentage agreeing “somewhat” or “strongly”



Conclusions

- While Millennials may distribute closer to actual Church teachings on marriage than their Post-Vatican II counterparts, they are not necessarily more familiar with Church teachings.
- There are still strong cultural factors at work informing young Catholics' views of marriage.
- Millennials are markedly different from the Post-Vatican II cohort.



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