

# National Catholic Survey

## Findings on Christian Persecution Around the World

# The survey aimed to measure US Catholic perceptions of Christian persecution around the world

- **The extent to which American Catholics are aware of Christian persecution around the world;**
- **The countries and regions where they consider Christians most severely persecuted;**
- **Specific measures and policies they want the US and other Western governments to pursue;**
- **The extent to which they feel that the Pope, their bishops and their parishes are making the issue of Christian persecution a priority;**
- **Actions they believe they can and should take themselves.**

# Methodology

This nationwide poll of 1,000 Catholic adults was conducted from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

All interviews were conducted online; survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units.

This nationwide poll of 1,000 Catholic adults has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval.

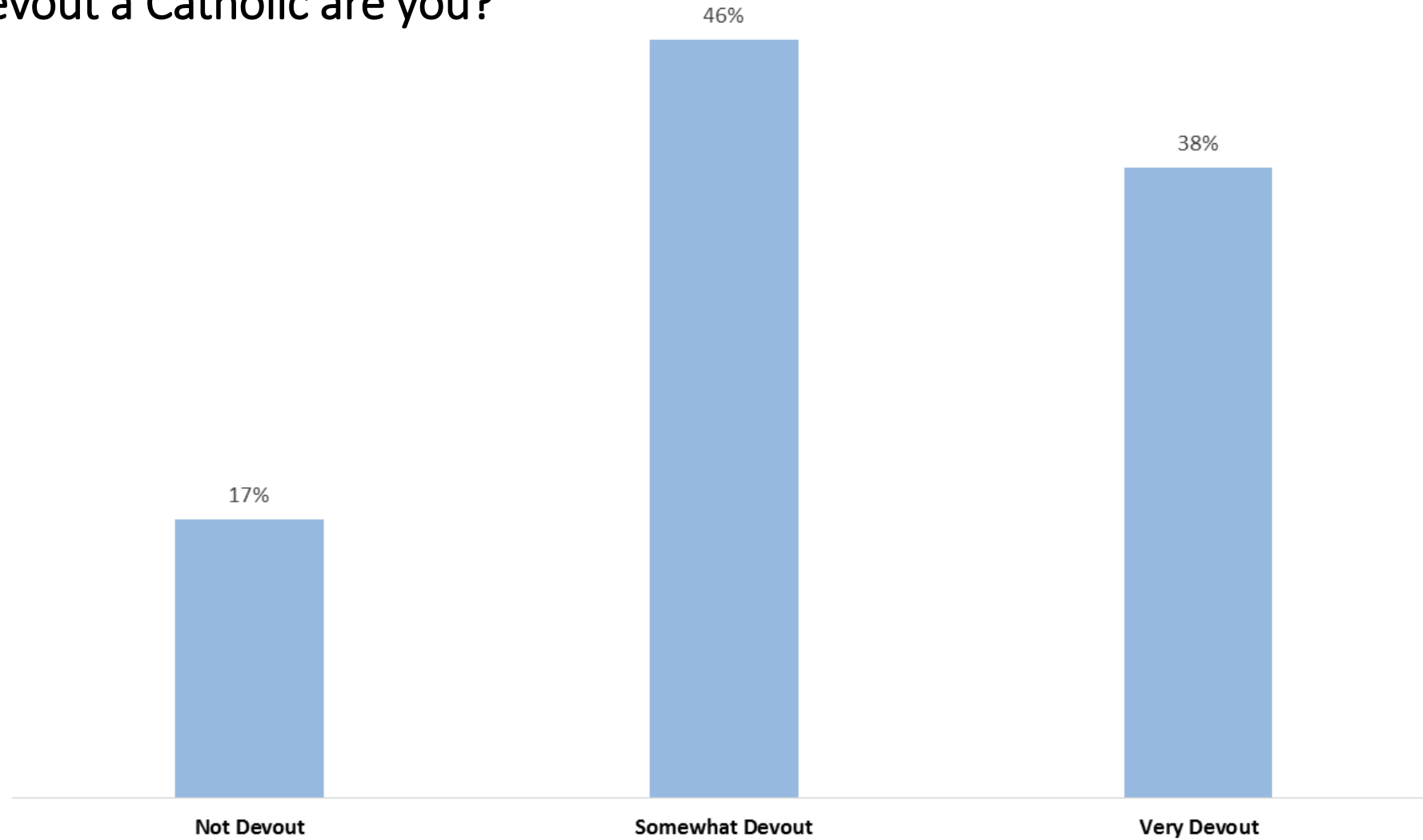
# Respondent Profile

- Male 46% and Female 54%
- Age: 18-29 (18%), 30-40 (18%), 41-55 (21%), 56-65 (23%), Over 65 (20%)
- Education: 45% had a college degree or higher education
- Political affiliation: 28% Republican; 39% Democrat; 33% Independent/Other
- Racial background: White/Caucasian (55%), Hispanic (37%), African-American/Black (4%), Asian/Asian-American (3%), Other 1%.

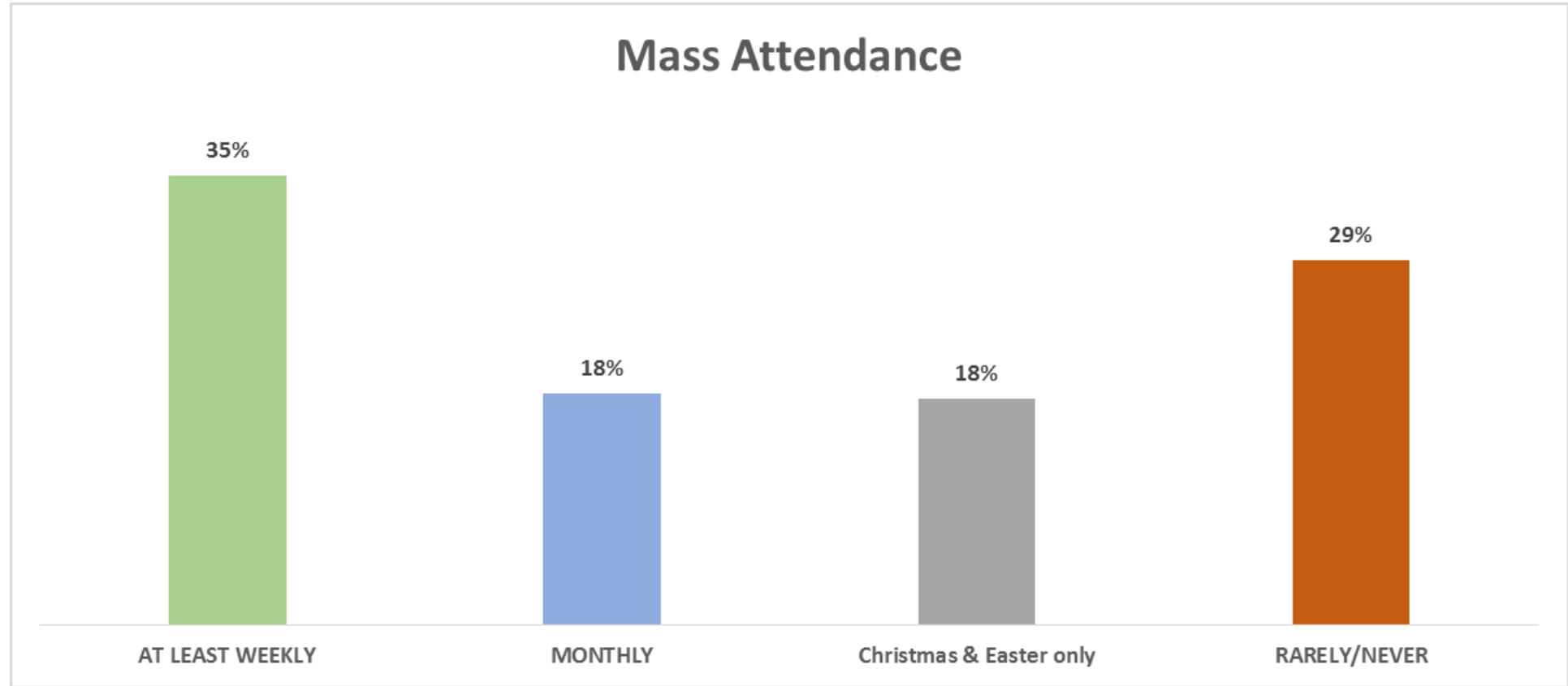
# The religious profile of US Catholics

- 38% of US Catholics identify themselves as very devout; almost half (45%) think of themselves as somewhat devout, while 17% describe themselves as not devout.
- 35% of US Catholics say they attend Mass at least weekly; 18% attend Mass on a monthly basis; 18% attend Mass only at Christmas and Easter, while 29% rarely or never go to Mass.
- In terms of their religious beliefs, 27% identified themselves as liberal, 39% as moderate and 34% as conservative.

# How devout a Catholic are you?



## Mass Attendance

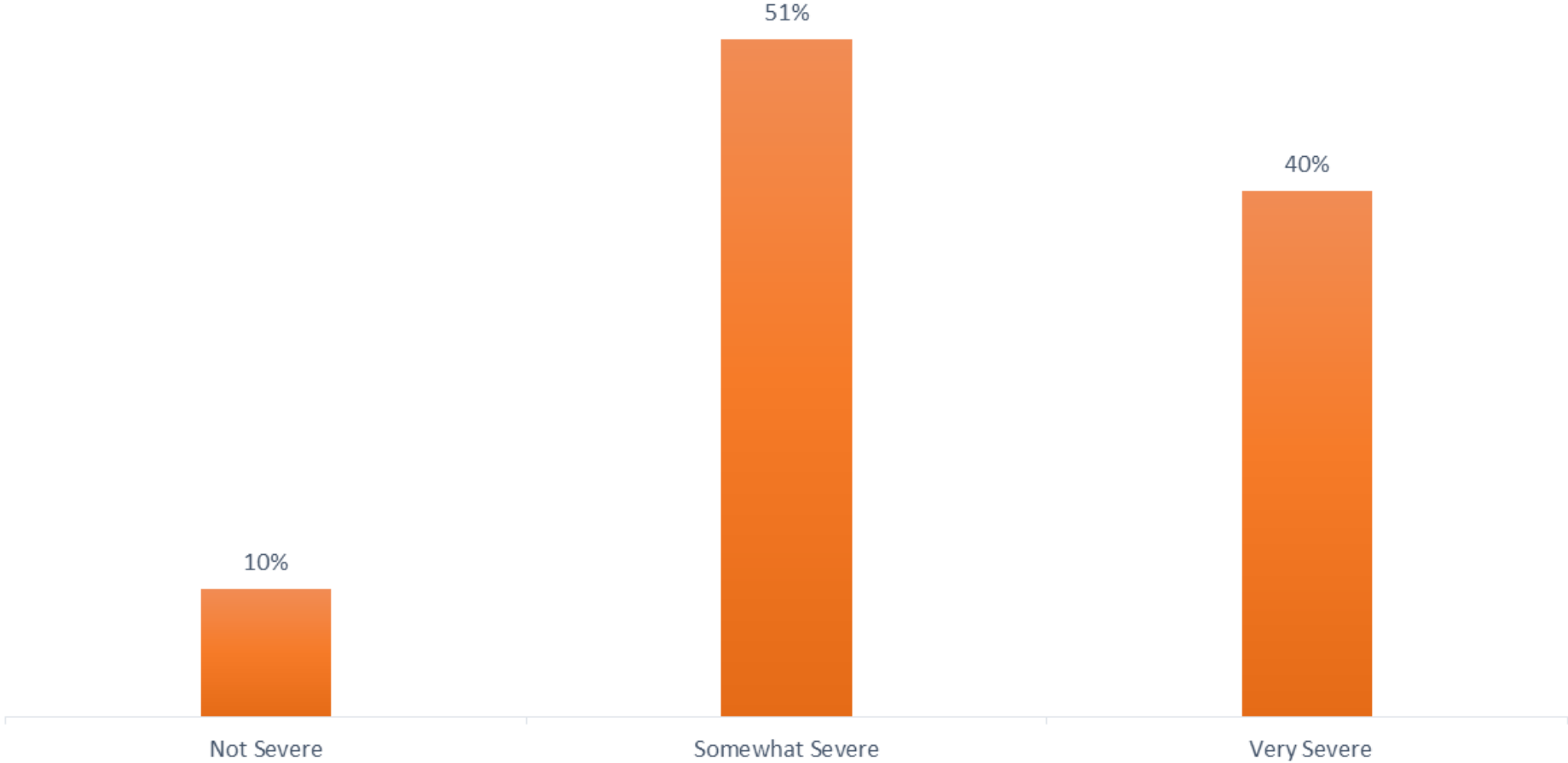


## US Catholics' perceptions of Christian persecution around the world

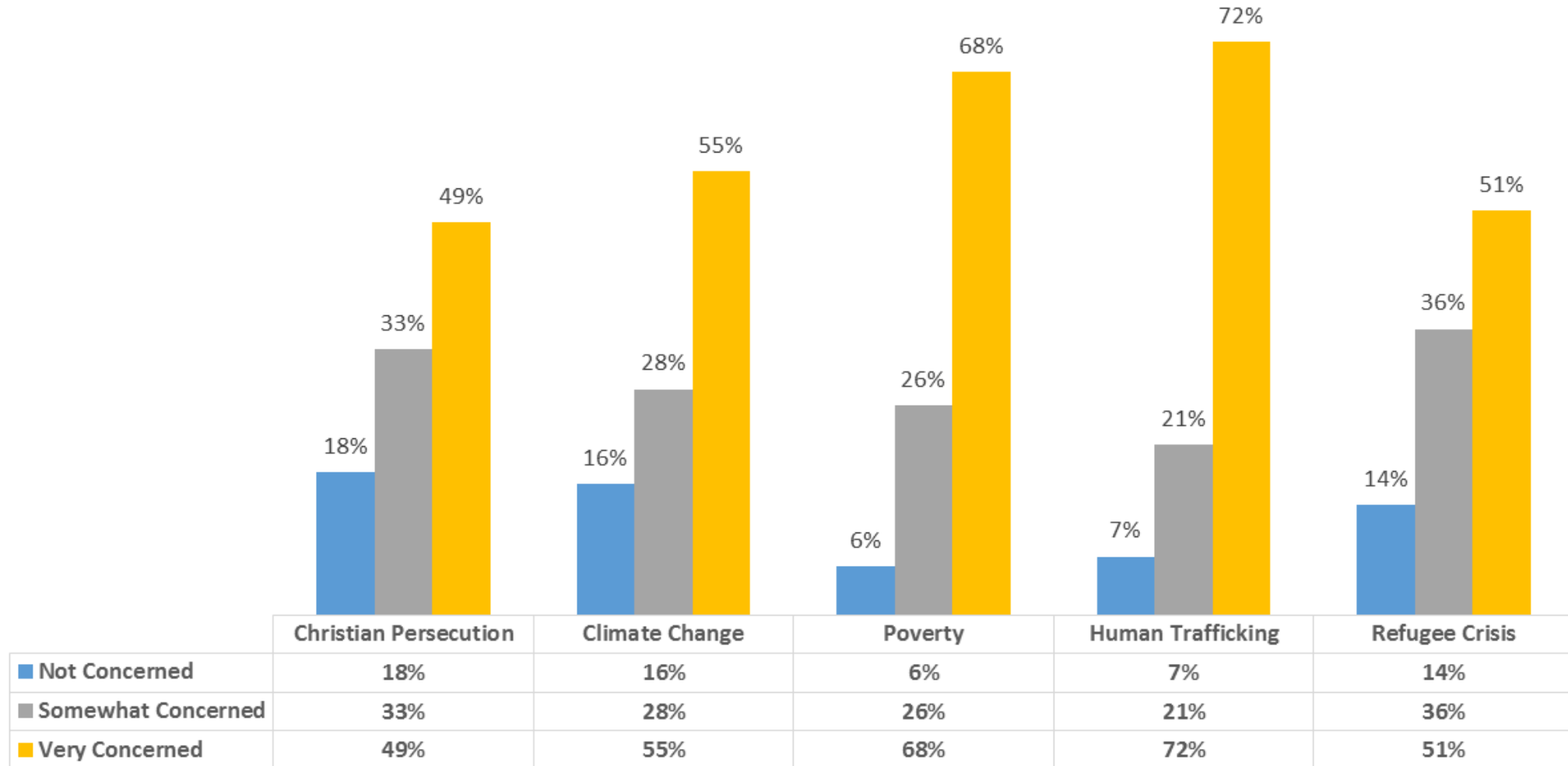
- 40% of Catholics acknowledge that Christian persecution around the world is “severe,” while 51% consider it to be “somewhat severe;” four-in-ten Catholics say that half or more of religiously-based attacks around the world are directed at Christians
- When ranking the severity of Christian persecution in 14 countries, US Catholics ranked in the following order the top five countries where they believe Christian persecution is “extremely severe” -- North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan
- **However, when asked to rank their concerns about global issues, US Catholics ranked Christian persecution last as the issue they are very concerned about. The percentage of US Catholics very concerned about global issues was: human trafficking 72%, poverty 68%, climate change 55%, refugee crisis 51%, and Christian persecution 49%.**



# Severity of Christian Persecution Around the World



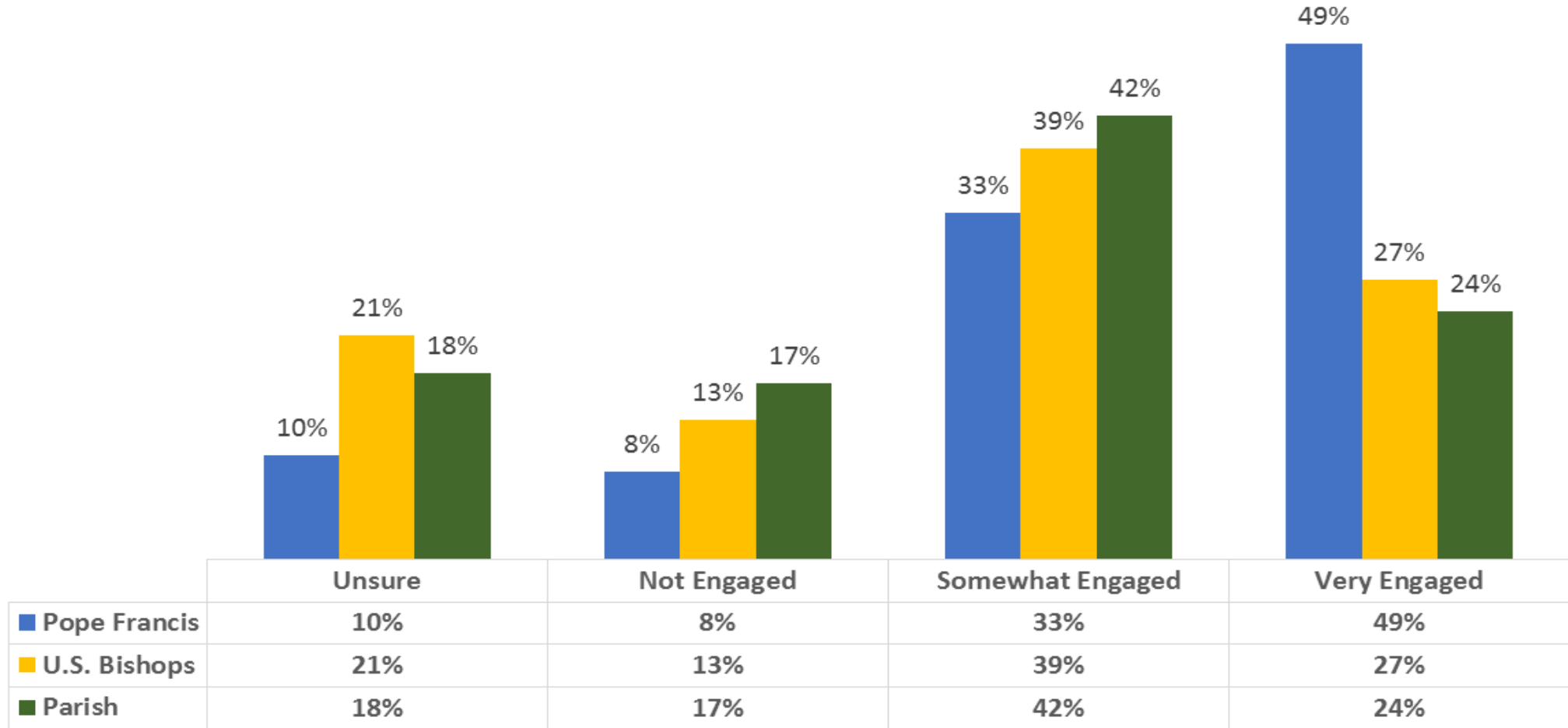
## Global Issues



# The US Catholic Church and Christian Persecution

- Almost half of US Catholics say that Pope Francis is “very engaged” on the issue of Christian persecution, while only 27% think their local bishop is engaged and only 24% believe their parish is involved with the issue
- By contrast, 8% of US Catholics say Pope Francis is “not engaged” on the issue of Christian persecution, while 13% indicate their local bishop is not engaged and 17% of US Catholics feel that their parishes are not involved
- A significant number of US Catholics is unsure about the engagement level of the Catholic Church on the issue of Christian persecution; 10% do not know the engagement level of the Pope, 21% are unsure about the engagement level of their bishop, while 18% do not know the engagement level of their parish.

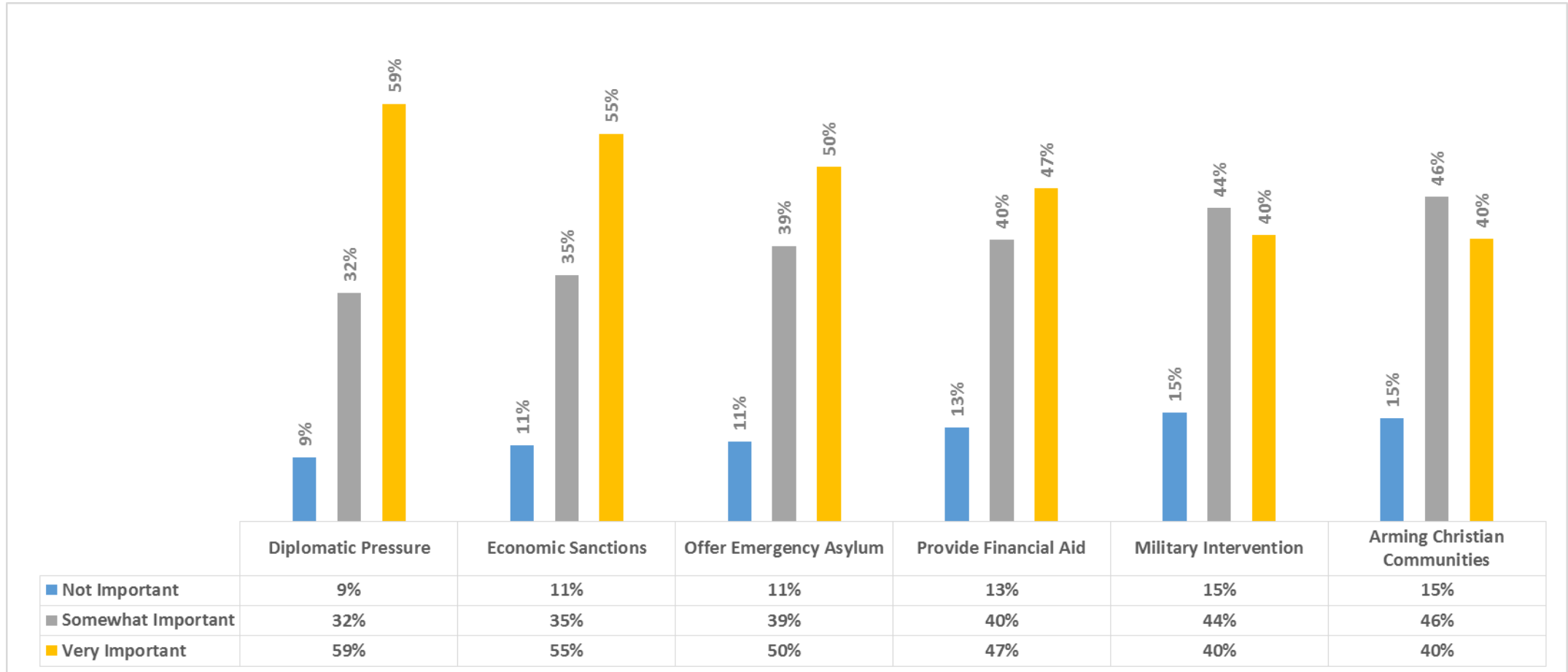
## Engagement Level



# Policies and Actions to Deter Christian Persecution

- The majority of American Catholics say that it is important for the U.S. and other Western countries to pursue certain policies to deter Christian persecution around the world
- Diplomatic pressure on countries is seen as “very important” by 59% of American Catholics; 55% ranked economic sanctions as most important; 50% favored emergency asylum; and 47% chose financial aid to persecuted Christian communities as most important
- Important but less so than other policies were ranked military intervention to save and protect persecuted Christians (40%), and military training and arming of Christian communities facing persecution (40%).

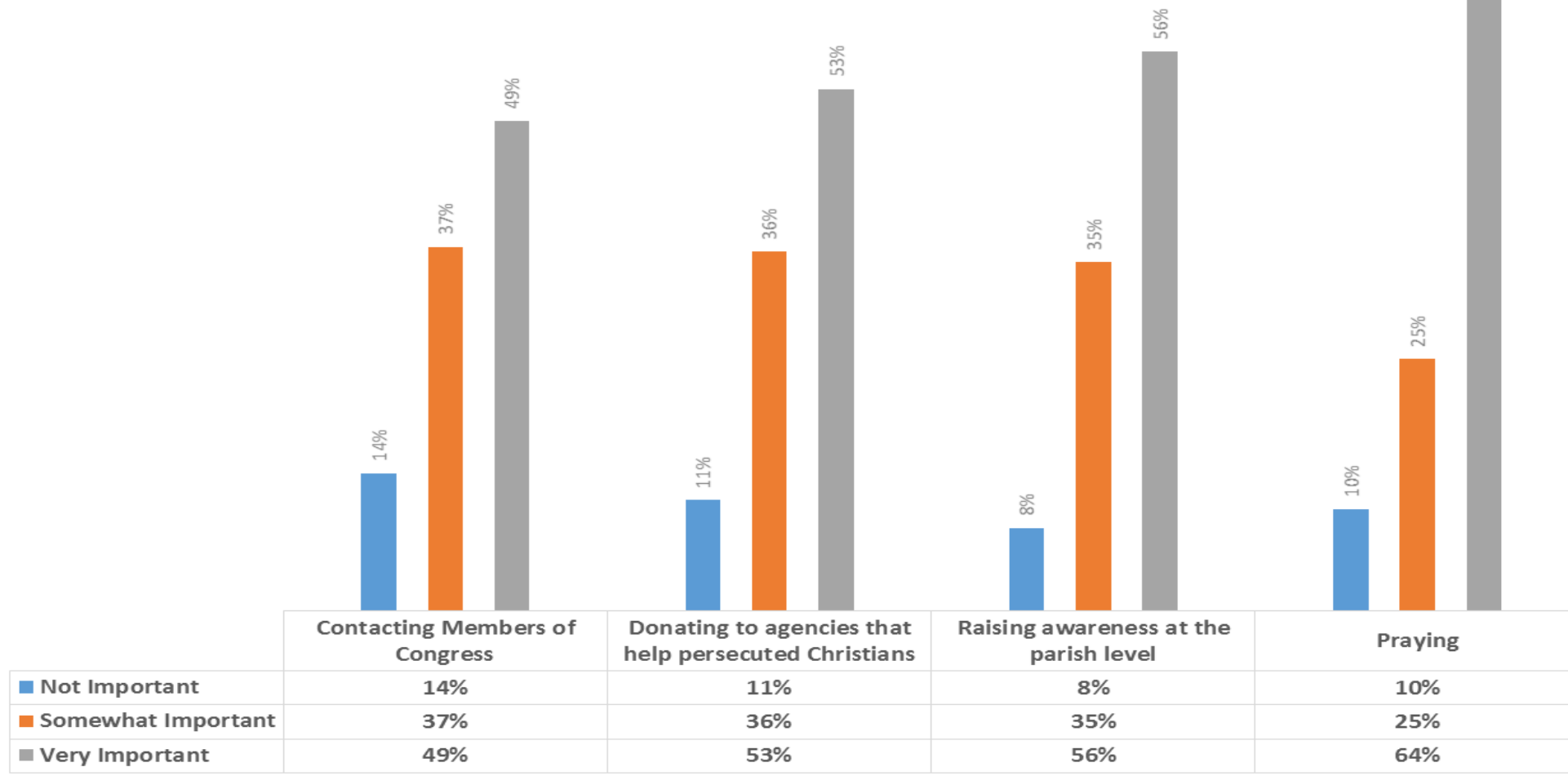
# Importance of policies to save and protect persecuted Christians



## Personal initiatives to help persecuted Christians around the world

- The majority of American Catholics agree that it is important to be engaged as a community with various initiatives that help persecuted Christians around the world
- 64% of US Catholics ranked prayer as “very important” to help persecuted Christians, followed by raising awareness at the parish level (56%), donating (53%), and contacting Members of Congress (49%).

# Importance of personal initiatives





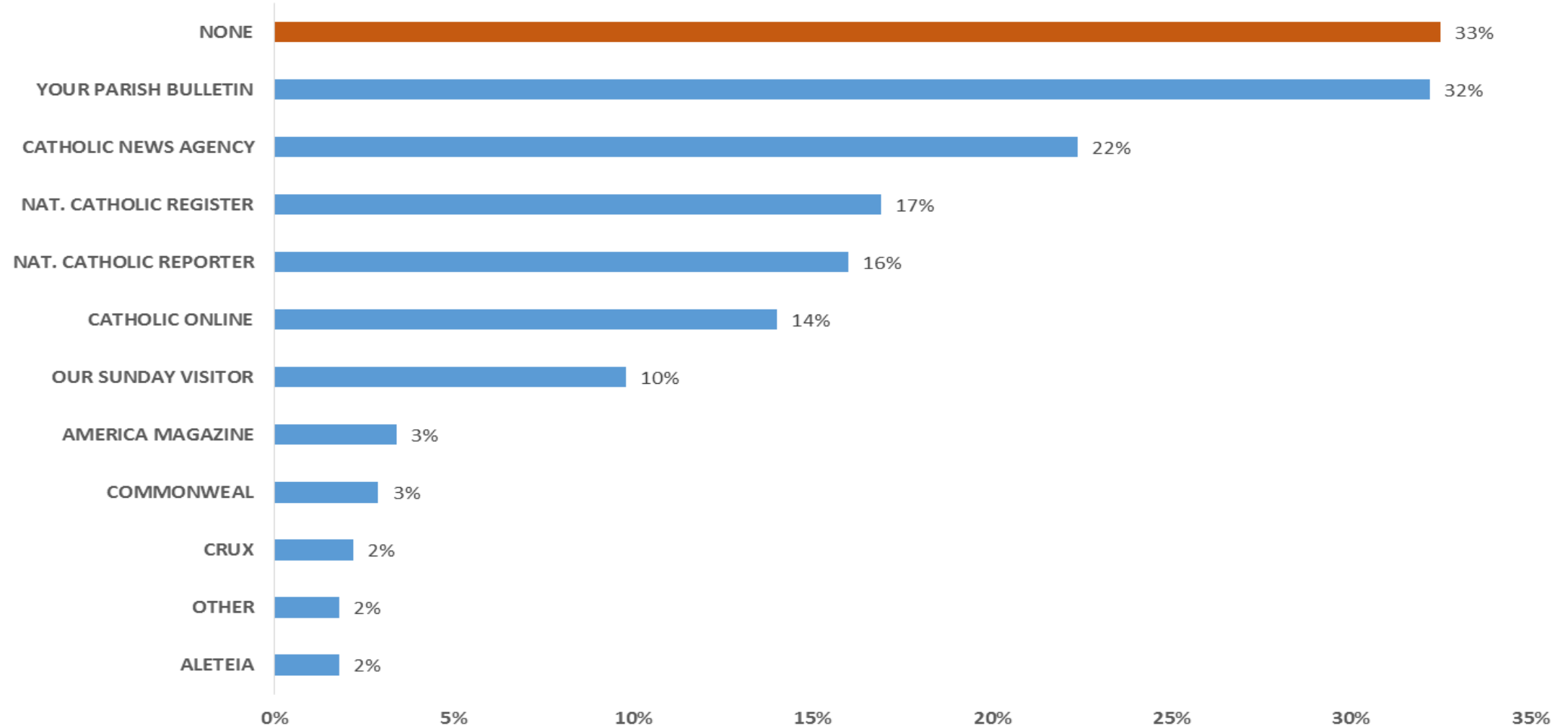
# Supporting organizations that help persecuted Christians

- About half of US Catholics say that they have donated in the prior year to an organization that helps persecuted Christians. However, almost half, 47%, have not made any donation.
- Giving increases among regular Mass-goers. The majority of those who do not regularly attend Mass do not give to any organization.

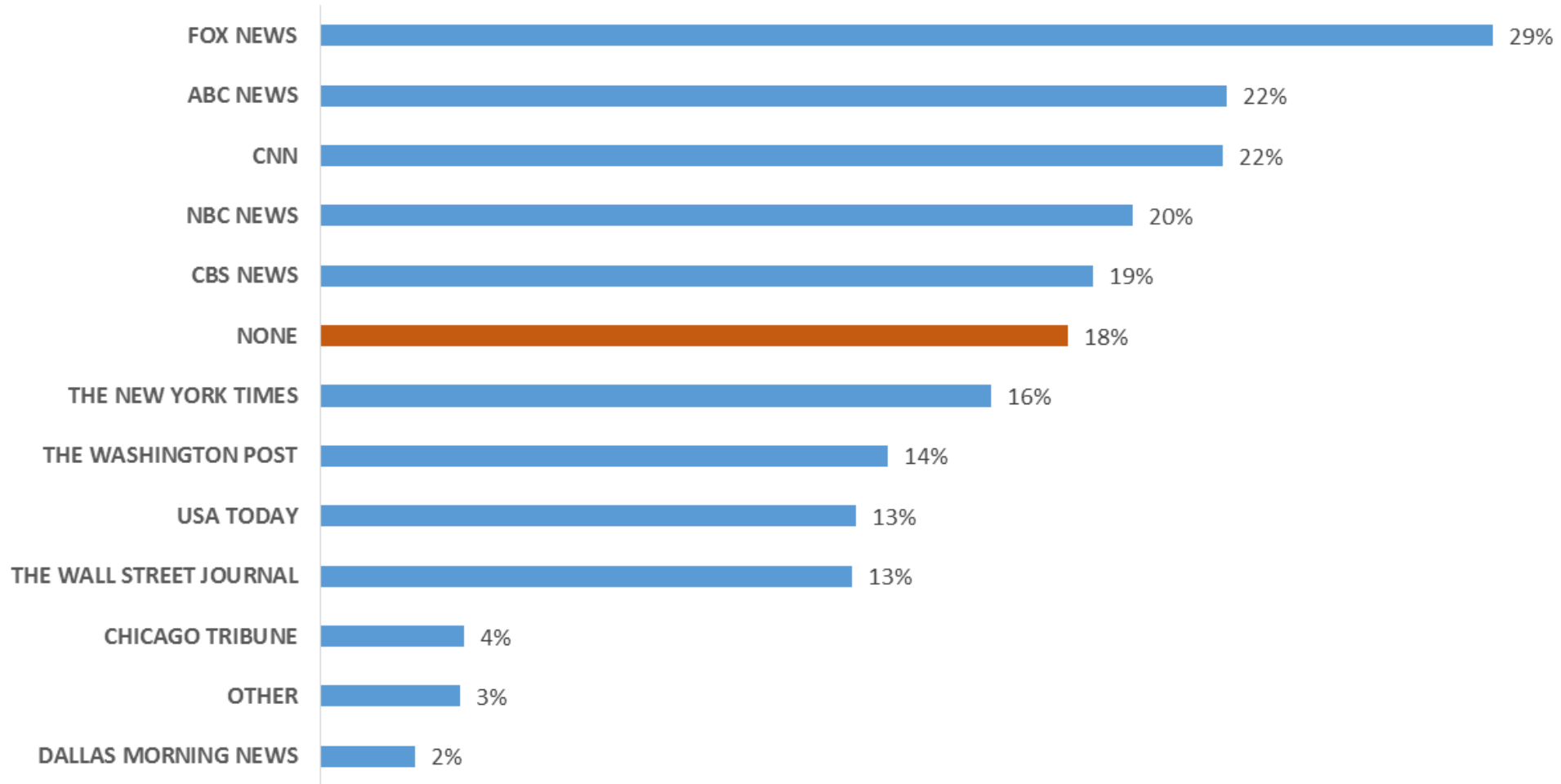
# Media engagement of US Catholics

- 32% of US Catholics trust their parish bulletin the most as a source of news, while 33% don't trust any Catholic news organization; and 18% don't trust any major secular news organization
- The top four sources of Catholic news are: the parish bulletin (32%), Catholic News Agency (22%), National Catholic Register (17%), and National Catholic Reporter (16%)
- The top four sources of secular news are: Fox News (29%), ABC News and CNN (22% each), and NBC News (20%)
- 67% of US Catholics rank Facebook as their preferred social media platform.

## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATHOLIC NEWS ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU TRUST MOST?



## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SECULAR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU TRUST MOST?



“The survey reveals quite clearly that there is a need to increase the engagement level of the US Catholic Church when it comes to global Christian persecution— both at the grassroots and leadership levels.

There is a need to better inform and engage the Catholic audience.

There is an obligation to keep the spotlight on the topic and showcase the seriousness and pervasiveness of Christian persecution around the world.”

***George J. Marlin***

***Chairman of Aid to the Church in Need-USA***