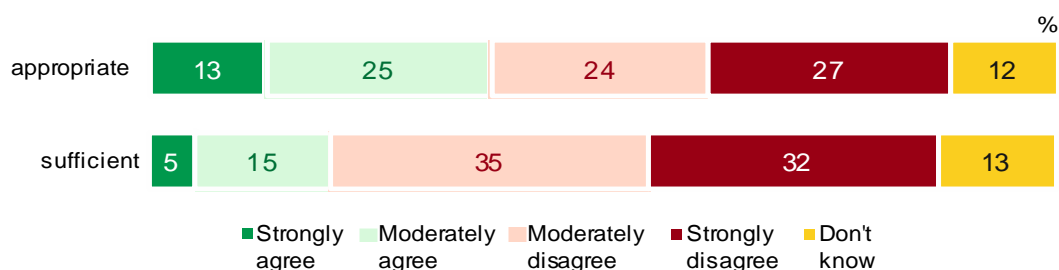


Situation of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland

Recently, a lot has been said in Poland about the cases of child sexual abuse by clergy. This discussion was inspired by the documentary film "Tylko nie mów nikomu" (Do not tell anyone), directed by Tomasz Sekielski, revealing cases of paedophilia committed by priests. According to declarations, 36% of adult Poles watched this film.

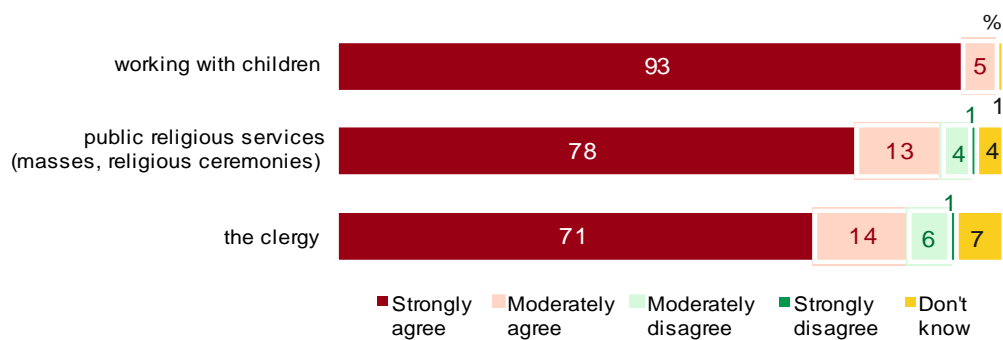
Respondents critically assess the Church's reaction to accusations of paedophilia. Approximately half of respondents (51%) believe that the response of the Polish Church to disclosed information about sexual abuse is inappropriate. Even more, at around two-thirds (67%), think it is insufficient.

Do you agree that the reaction of the Polish Roman Catholic Church to the disclosed information about the sexual abuse of minors by priests is ...



Poles expect resolute reaction from the Church to paedophilia. Respondents agree that priests who have committed sexual abuse of minors should be removed from working with children in all instances. The opinion is widespread that they should be removed from public religious service and from the clergy.

Do you agree that priests who have committed sexual abuse of minors should in all instances be removed from...

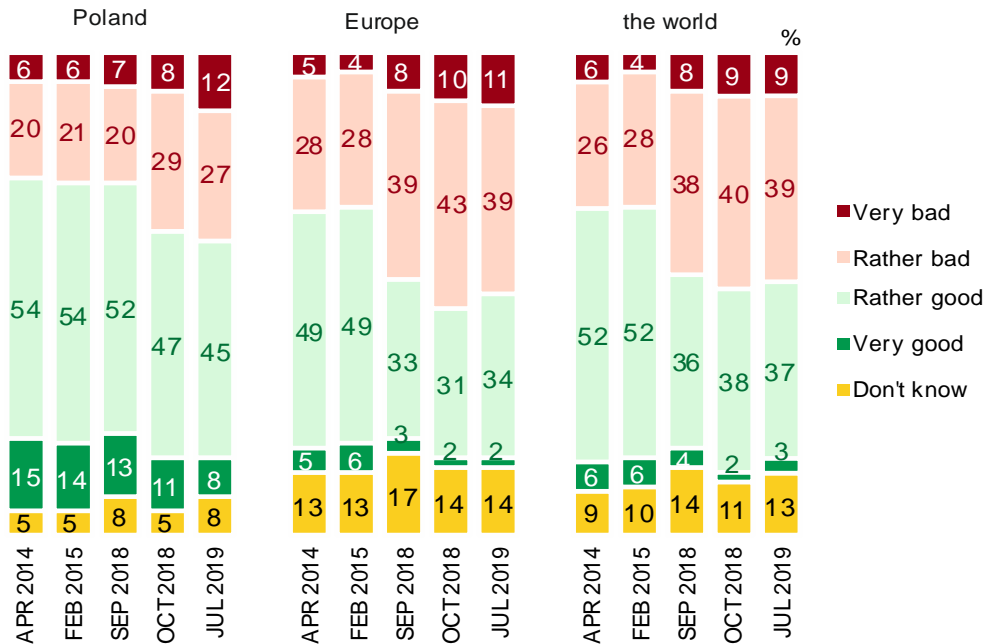


Disclosure of cases of sexual abuse of children by priests negatively affects the image of the Church as an institution. From March to July 2019, the proportion of people assessing the Church's activity well decreased from 57% to 48%.

General assessments of the situation of the Catholic Church in Europe and in the world are currently similar to levels recorded in the second half of 2018, and clearly worse than in 2014 and 2015. Currently, half (50%) of respondents think that the situation of the Church in Europe is bad; slightly more than a third (36%) of respondents consider it good. The situation of Catholicism in the world is rated slightly better: 48% of respondents consider it bad and 40% see it as good.

Assessments of the situation of the Church in Poland are also slightly worse than in previous measurements. Still, his situation is assessed as better than in Europe and the world. In this year's survey, just over half (53%) of respondents described it is good. Almost two-fifths (39%) consider it as bad.

How do you assess the current situation of the Roman Catholic Church in...

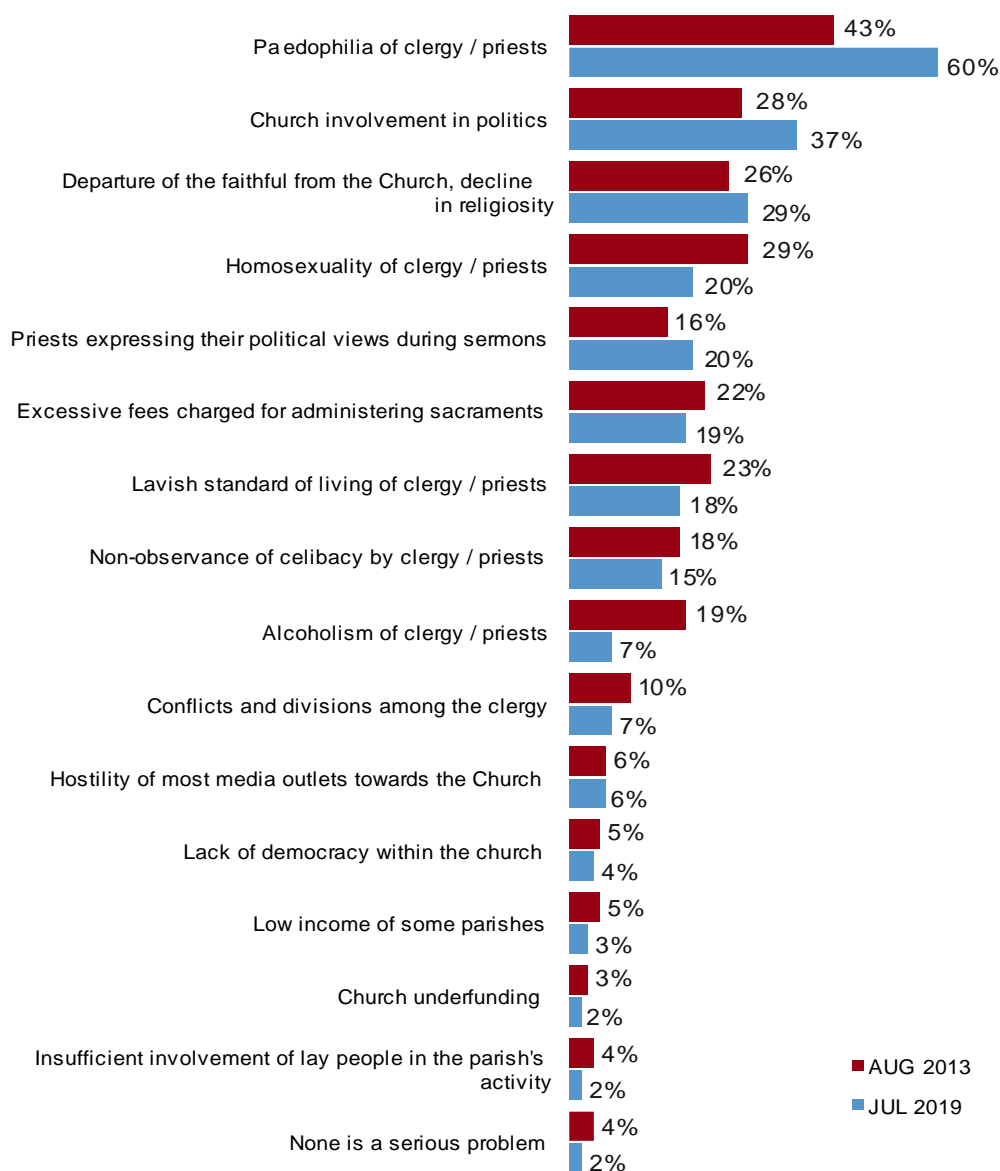


Over half of Poles (60%) mention paedophilia of priests as one of the most serious problems facing the Church in Poland. However, it is worth noting that also in August 2013 it was the most frequently indicated answer.

Compared to the previous measurement, the frequency of answers referring to the Church's involvement in politics has also increased (a 9-point rise), to 37% currently. Like six years ago, this is the second most-chosen answer. Next in hierarchy are: the faithful leaving the Church (29%), homosexuality of clergy (20%), expressing political views during sermons (20%), excessive fees charged for administering sacraments (19%), lavish lifestyle of clergy (18%) and non-compliance with celibacy (15%). Other answers are indicated by less than one-tenth of respondents.

In addition to the changes mentioned earlier, it is also worth paying attention to the decrease in the frequency of answers indicating the high standard of living of clergy (by 5 percentage points compared to August 2013), homosexuality (by 9 points) and alcoholism (by 12 points) as the main problems of the Church in Poland.

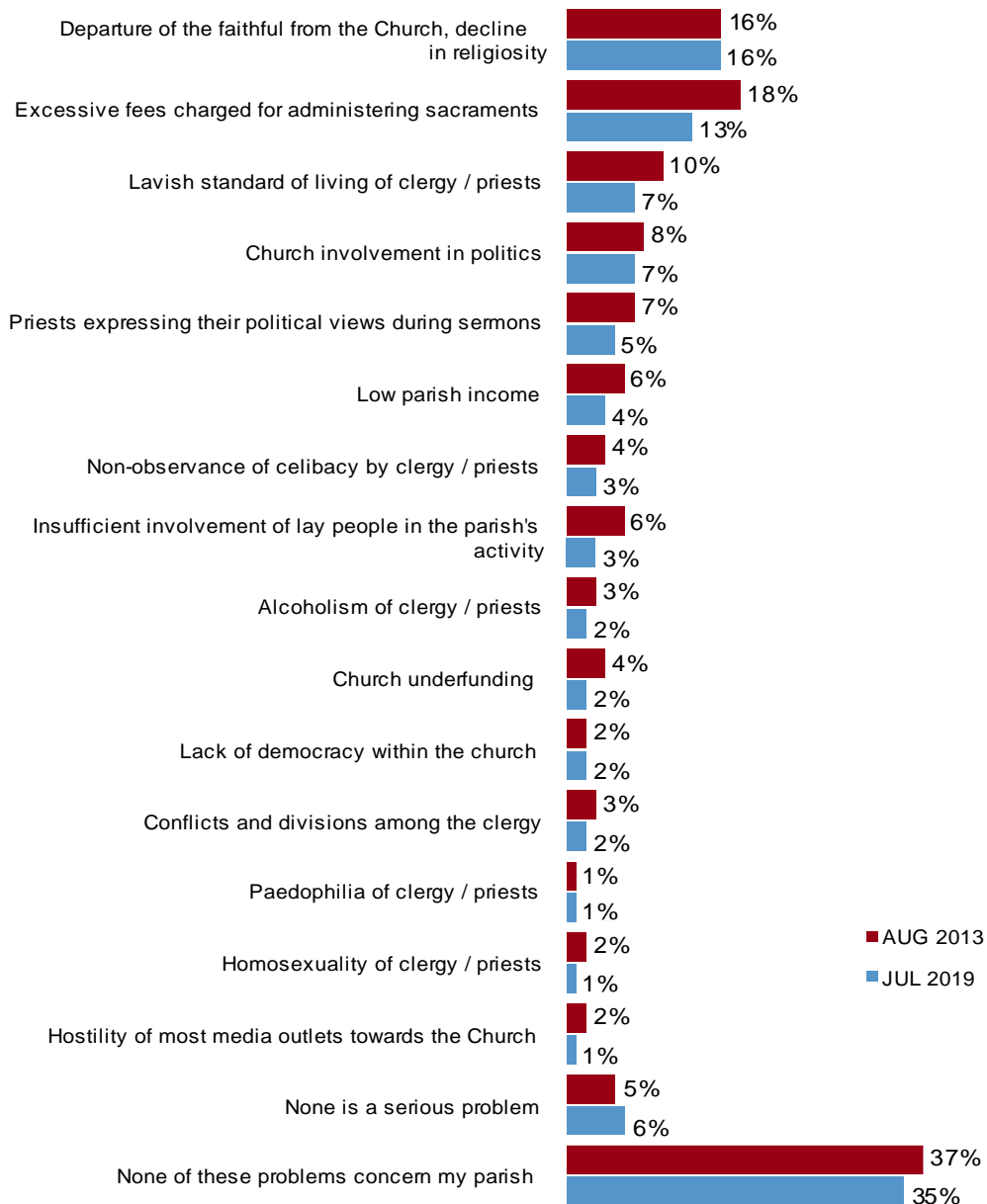
What are the problems faced by the Roman Catholic Church in Poland?



Up to three responses possible. „Don't know” omitted.

The problems of the Church look completely different from a local perspective. In respondents' parishes, most often none of the listed problems concern their local Church (35%). If they do indicate any of the problems as concerning their parish, the most common are the faithful leaving the Church (16%) and excessive fees charged for administering sacraments (13%).

Do any of these problems concern your parish? If so, which ones?



Up to three responses possible. „I do not belong to any Catholic parish” and „Don't know” omitted.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: “Opinions about Situation of Roman Catholic Church in Poland” and “Public Opinion Reactions to Information about Cases of Paedophilia among Priests”, July 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2019, N=1073 and July 2019, N=1077. The random address samples are representative for adult population of Poland.