

Myths and Realities Of Catholic Giving

Chuck Zech

**Villanova University
Center for the Study of Church
Management**

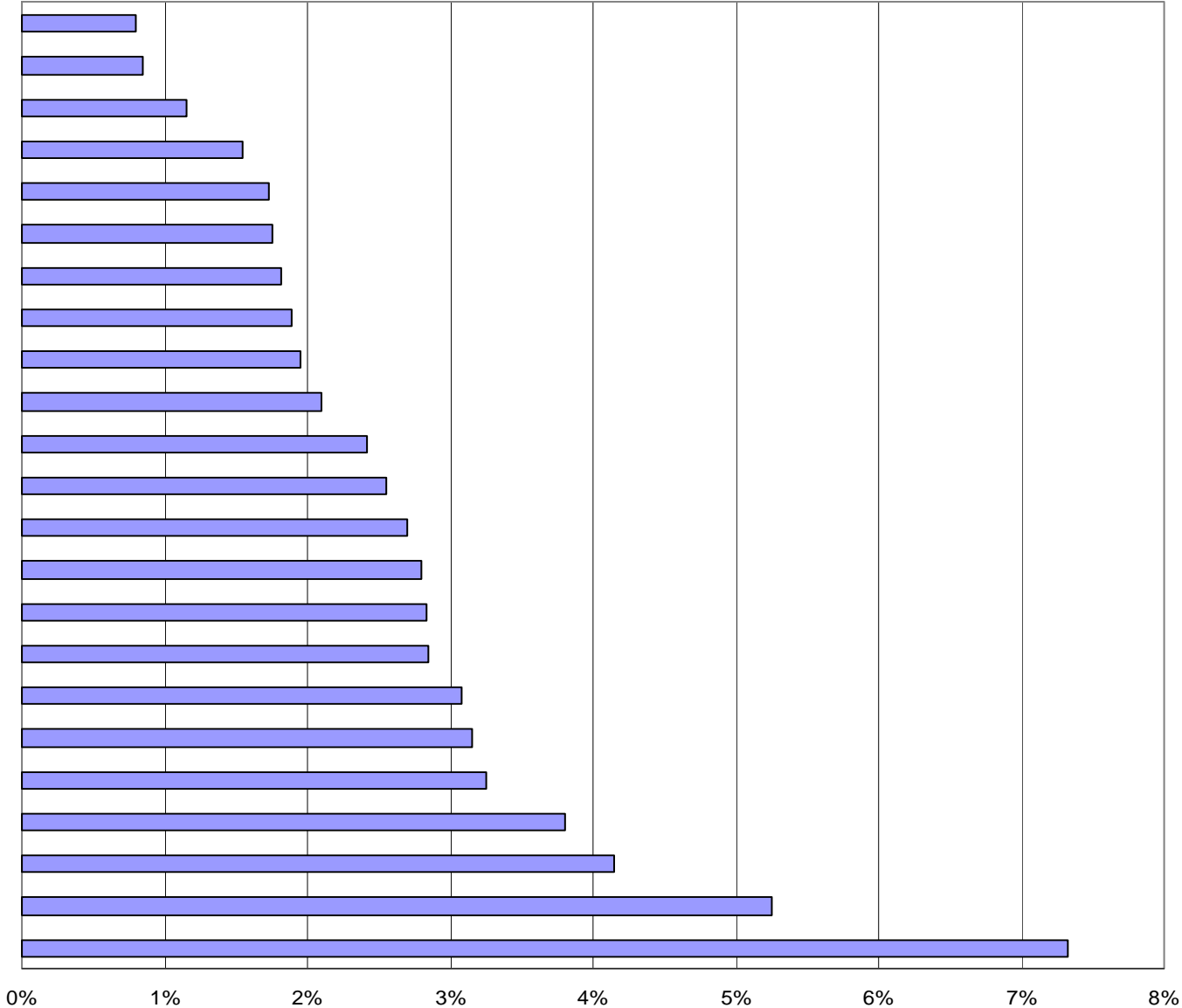
Permeate

Question 1

While no church is entirely satisfied with the amount that their members contribute, Catholics contribute to their parish at about the same rate as Protestants.

Giving as a Percent of Income by Denomination

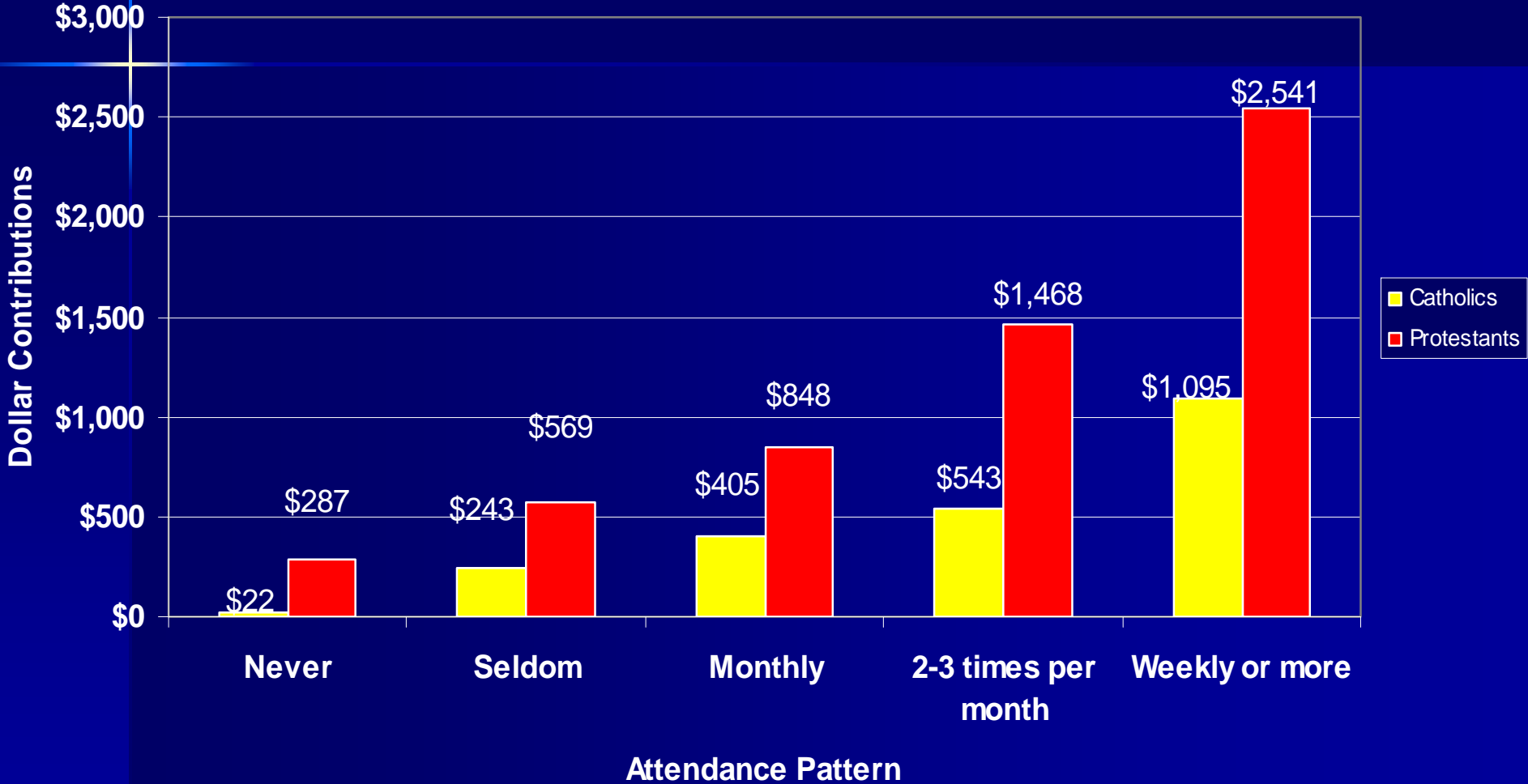
- Unitarian-Universalist
- Christian Science
- Catholic
- ELCA Lutheran
- Episcopal
- Disciplines of Christ
- Methodist (Main)
- Conservative Lutheran
- United Church of Christ
- Black Methodist
- Presbyterian (Main)
- Liberal Baptist
- Black Baptist
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Presbyterian (Other)
- Church of Christ
- Southern Baptists
- Nazarene
- Reformed
- Church of God
- Adventists
- Assemblies of God
- Latter-day Saints



Question 2.

Catholics who attend Mass more often contribute more to their parish.

Religious Contributions by Attendance Pattern



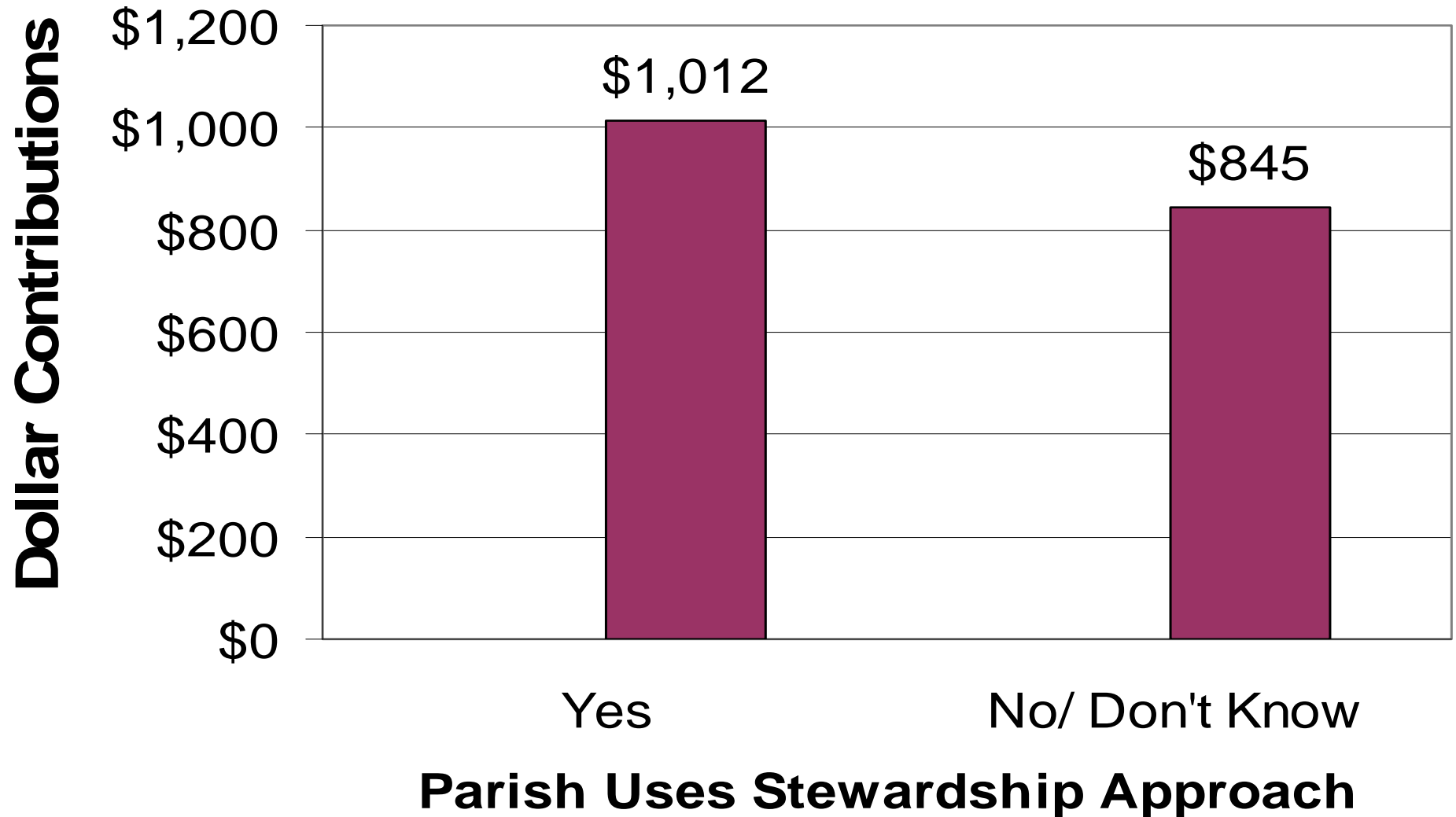
Question 3.

Parishes that preach a
stewardship message
receive larger
contributions from
their members

Stewardship

- **"All We Have is Really a Gift From God, Who Asks Us To Return a Portion in the Form of Our Time, Talent, and Treasure To Support His Work on Earth"**
- **"Developing a Need to Give, Rather than Giving to a Need"**
- **"Stewardship is an Understanding of a Total Way of Life. Conversion of Mind and Heart"**
- **"Stewardship is Not About Something We Do, Its About Who We Are, and Whose We Are"**
- **"Asking Ourselves, What Do We Own, and What Owns Us?"**

**Figure 6-21 Religious Contributions
Stewardship Parish**



Goals

What We're Already Doing

To bring people into a relationship with our parish and with the work it does in a way that makes them want to support it.

Stewardship

To bring people into a closer relationship with God through the experiences of giving time, talent, and treasure that we help to create by offering occasions where this giving is consciously evoked as a spiritual act and practice

Ideal Outcomes

What We're Already Doing

Parishioners make a contribution to the parish in recognition that the parish needs resources if it is to continue its work (that is, parishioners give to a need)

Stewardship

Parishioners are more generous to their parish in their gifts of time, talent, and treasure because every gift becomes an occasion for growth in faith (that is, parishioners develop a need to give)

Ultimate Objective

What We're Already Doing

To provide financial (and other) support for our parish, so that it may carry out the godly work to which we believe it has been called.

Stewardship

To "build the household of God" so there will be more human and spiritual, as well as material, resources to carry out the work of building the kingdom, in whatever form that work may take.

Remember:

**Stewardship is First
and Foremost a
Spiritual Activity**