Giving to Religion

- Contributions to the religion subsector comprised 29 percent of all donations received by charities in 2018.¹
- Giving to religious organizations declined 1.5 percent in current dollars from 2017, totaling $124.52 billion in 2018. Adjusted for inflation, giving to religion declined 3.9 percent from 2017.
- Contributions to religion in 2018 reached the fourth highest inflation-adjusted amount recorded to date.
donations to Catholic service agencies and schools saw a small drop in donations.\(^5^0\)

According to BishopAccountability.org, 18 U.S. Catholic dioceses that have faced allegations of sexual abuse have also filed for bankruptcy since 2004.\(^5^1\) Four more dioceses have announced intentions to file in direct response to the crisis.\(^5^2\) *MarketWatch* reports that the Catholic Church has been ordered to pay more than $3 billion in settlements and monetary compensation to victims.\(^5^3\)

In February 2019, Pope Francis convened the Vatican’s first-ever summit on sexual abuse, in which nearly 200 bishops from around the world gathered to discuss the sexual abuse crisis and ways to better respond to victims.\(^5^4\) Pope Francis offered an eight-point pledge to address the crisis, which included a call for greater transparency within the Catholic Church and full cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the future.\(^5^5\)

THE #IGIVECATHOLIC GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN GREW IN 2018

Giving Tuesday, the movement to raise charitable dollars using social media on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, raised over $380 million in 2018, with 3 percent of total donations going to religion-related causes.\(^5^6\) One Giving Tuesday campaign, #iGiveCatholic, raised over $5.6 million from over 23,000 donors to support 1,354 parishes, schools, and nonprofits, an increase over the $3.6 million raised in 2017.\(^5^7\) The #iGiveCatholic campaign was launched in 2015 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and quickly grew to include a total of 29 dioceses in 2018.\(^5^8\)

CATHOLIC SISTERS INITIATIVE SUPPORTS RETIREMENT FUNDS FOR MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Since 2013, the Catholic Sisters Initiative, one of the primary program areas of the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation, has awarded more than $105 million in grants to 62 organizations. In the past five years, the Catholic Sisters Initiative attempted to address congregations’ unfunded retirement liabilities crisis.\(^5^9\) In 2018, two grantees made significant steps toward financial stability: the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), which received a $2.5 million grant, reduced retirement liabilities of women’s congregations by 10 percent, while another grantee, Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) saw a 60 percent increase in sustained giving between the years 2014 and 2017.

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**Jewish giving**

**PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING**

On October 27, 2018, eleven people were killed during a shooting at Shabbat
“Has the sexual abuse crisis affected your donations to the church?” *America Magazine*, retrieved April 18, 2019, https://www.americamagazine.org/

Same as note 49.


Same as note 51.


“#GivingTuesday 2018 Surpasses Billion Dollars in Online Donations Since Its Inception, In Most Generous Year Yet,” GivingTuesday, retrieved April 18, 2019, https://www.givingtuesday.org/blog/2018/11/givingtuesday-2018-surpasses-billion-dollars-online-donations-its-inception-most; “In the U.S., $274 Million Dollars was Raised Online in 24 Hours from over 2 Million Donations; People in More Than 150 Countries Participated in #GivingTuesday This Year,” GivingTuesday, retrieved June 15, 2019, https://www.givingtuesday.org/millions-people-come-together-make-givingtuesday-2017-most-generous-yet

“Behind the Scenes With #iGiveCatholic,” GivingTuesday, retrieved April 2019, https://www.givingtuesday.org/blog/2019/03/behind-scenes-igivecatholic
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