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**Growing Numbers of Young Adult Catholics  
Stay in Church to Effect Change**

The largest young adult progressive Catholic group in the country meets this weekend in Milwaukee, WI as part of the Call To Action Conference. A [recent study](#) by renowned sociologist Robert Putnam exposes how the turn to conservative politics by religious leaders has caused throngs of young adults to leave their religions of origin. However, growing numbers of young adult Catholics are choosing to stay Catholic and work for change from within.

"As the Catholic bishops increase their rhetoric against gays, women and others, some young adults, instead of choosing to walk out of the church, actually choose to stay and work for church reform" says Jim FitzGerald, Executive Director of Call To Action. "Never before, have we seen so much emphasis by Catholic bishops against our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) brothers and sisters. In turn, we have had a ten percent increase in young adults signing up to be leaders within the Call To Action church justice movement in the last year."

In October, the Pew Forum released data showing that Millennials support gay marriage by a margin of 53 to 29 percent, more than any other living generation.

"As a young Catholic, the more bishops speak out against LGBT people, the more I feel called to speak out for change in the church," says 25 year-old Kate Childs Graham, member of the CTA 20/30 National Leadership Team. It is what Jesus did in his own time and it is what I feel we are called to do today."

*For more information on the conference, see  
[www.cta-usa.org/conference](http://www.cta-usa.org/conference)*