

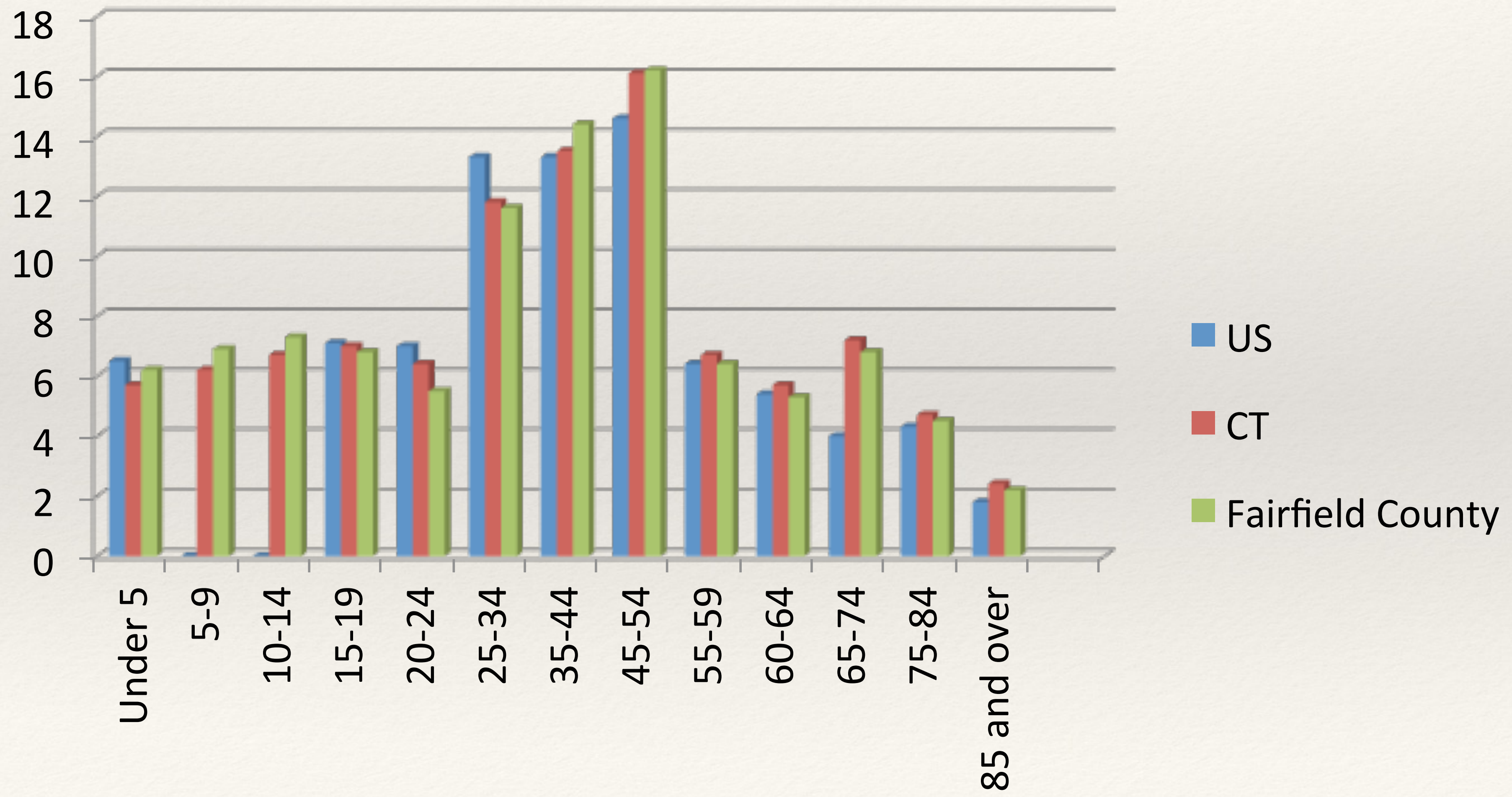


# Empower the Young Church

Deacon John DiTaranto



## Age trend continues (or “it’s the same old song”)



Compared to US and rest of CT, Fairfield County reports the highest % of youth.



# Recent Studies of Youth

- ❖ %of population that are “Unaffiliated” 16.1%
- ❖ % of 18- to 29-year-olds that are “Unaffiliated” 24%

## Catholics who Leave, Leave Early

- ❖ % who have left by age 18 48%
- ❖ % who have left Catholicism by age 23 79%



# Recent Studies of Youth

## Need a Revival!

- ❖ In the past, carefully nurtured religious identity acquired in childhood endured throughout life...
- ❖ ...Not So in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!
- ❖ Strong Faith, more than Education, is a predictor of Remaining in the Catholic Faith
- ❖ 50% of Adults whose focus was on Religious Attendance vs. creating a Strong Catholic Faith as a Young Adult have left the Church



# What Are the Challenges?

- ❖ Competition
- ❖ Distractions
- ❖ Misinformation
- ❖ Not Enticing Enough
- ❖ Anti 21st Century



Let's Dig Deeper...