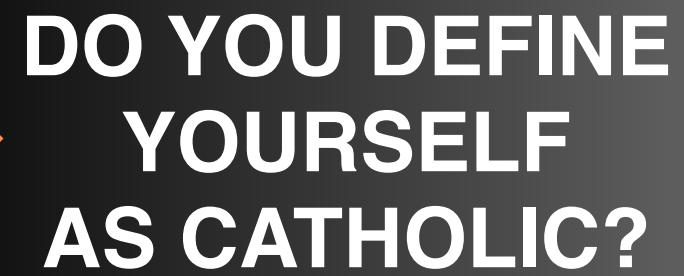


CONFRATERNITIES AND BROTHERHOODS IN SPAIN



SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY - FEBRUARY 2024



**DO YOU DEFINE
YOURSELF
AS CATHOLIC?**

- **17.9% practicing Catholic**
- **37.7% non-practicing Catholic**
- **38.9% agnostics, atheists, and unaffiliated**



HYPOTHESIS

GREATER SECULARIZATION

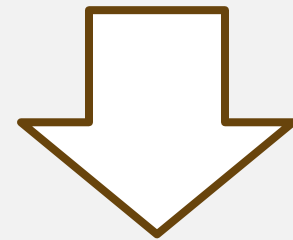
- **More modernity → Less religiosity**
- **Popular piety continues as a non-religious festival/tradition**

WITH THESE DATA, HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THE HIGH DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION IN POPULAR PIETY IN SPAIN?

Is secularization a myth?

People believe “without belonging.”

Concept of “invisible religion”. People believe, individually and privately.



Popular piety is an alternative model to secularizing individualism.

Popular piety is a unique opportunity to publicly share all we carry inside during the year.

PURPOSES OF THE CONFRATERNITIES



UNOFFICIAL DATA ON CONFRATERNITIES AND BROTHERHOODS IN SPAIN



14,247

**Confraternities,
brotherhoods, and
religious associations**



16,834

**Processions and
religious events**



22,768

**Images and sculptural
ensembles**

- **Between 1.5 and 3 million brothers**
- **46.67% of all brothers are active in their brotherhoods.**

- **Popular piety has gone from being in the background of the Church to being at the forefront of the Church.**

THREE MAIN AREAS WHERE THE CONFRATERNITIES ARE THE MOST ESTABLISHED



CASTILLA - LEÓN

- PENITENTIAL NATURE
- AUSTERITY
- SILENCE
- SEVERITY



ANDALUCIA

- PENITENTIAL NATURE
- BOISTEROUS
- JOYFUL
- SPONTANEITY



VALENCIA - MURCIA

- PENITENTIAL NATURE
- FESTIVE
- JOYFUL
- SPECTACULAR

CASTILLA - LEÓN



VALENCIA - MURCIA





ANDALUCIA

REGISTRY OF RELIGIOUS ENTITIES IN THE SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

**7,273 Brotherhoods and
Confraternities.**

Oldest confraternity. Toledo

1.085

**Many brotherhoods are
not registered in the
official registry**

Levante

682 Confraternities

Oldest confraternity. Cartagena 1.641

Andalucía

2.728 Confraternities

Oldest confraternity. Sevilla

1.356



MÁLAGA HOLY WEEK CONFRATERNITY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1921

Includes 41 brotherhoods

Comprises 80,000
brothers

15% of the city's
population

85 thrones in processions

18,000 *nazarenos*
16,000 throne bearers

Confraternities allocate
€700,000 per year to
social work



STRENGTHS OF THE CONFRATERNITIES

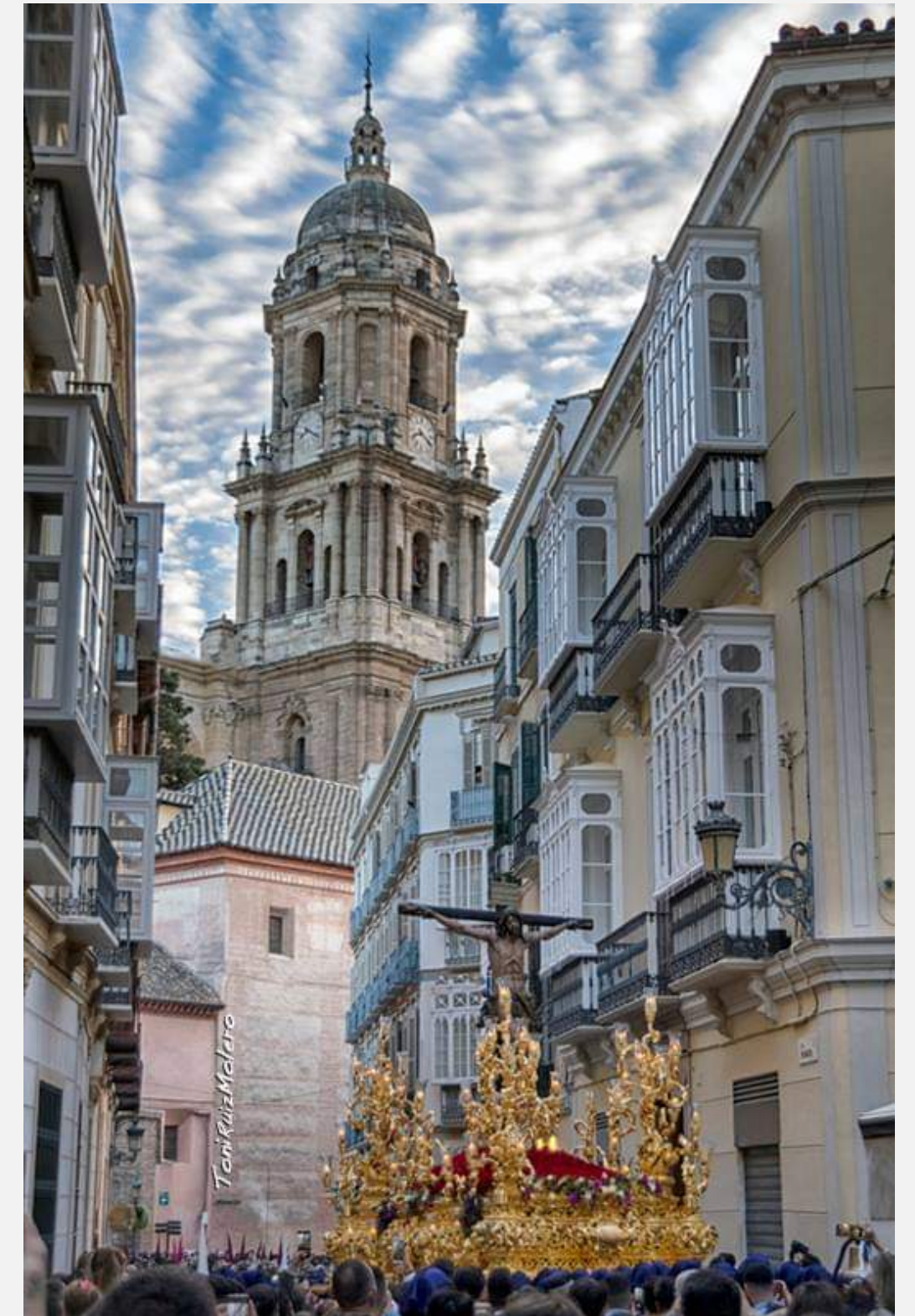


Youth Involvement

Over 60% of participants in brotherhood activities are younger than 35.

Social mixing

Brothers belong to all cultural, economic, geographic, and generational strata.



STRENGTHS OF THE CONFRATERNITIES

Geographical environment

An integral part of their neighborhoods, they are aware of neighbors' social and personal problems.

Very direct social work

They direct their resources where they are needed and where State entities do not reach.

Work in parishes

Brothers are involved in their parishes: catechesis, charity, liturgy...



WEAKNESSES OF THE CONFRATERNITIES

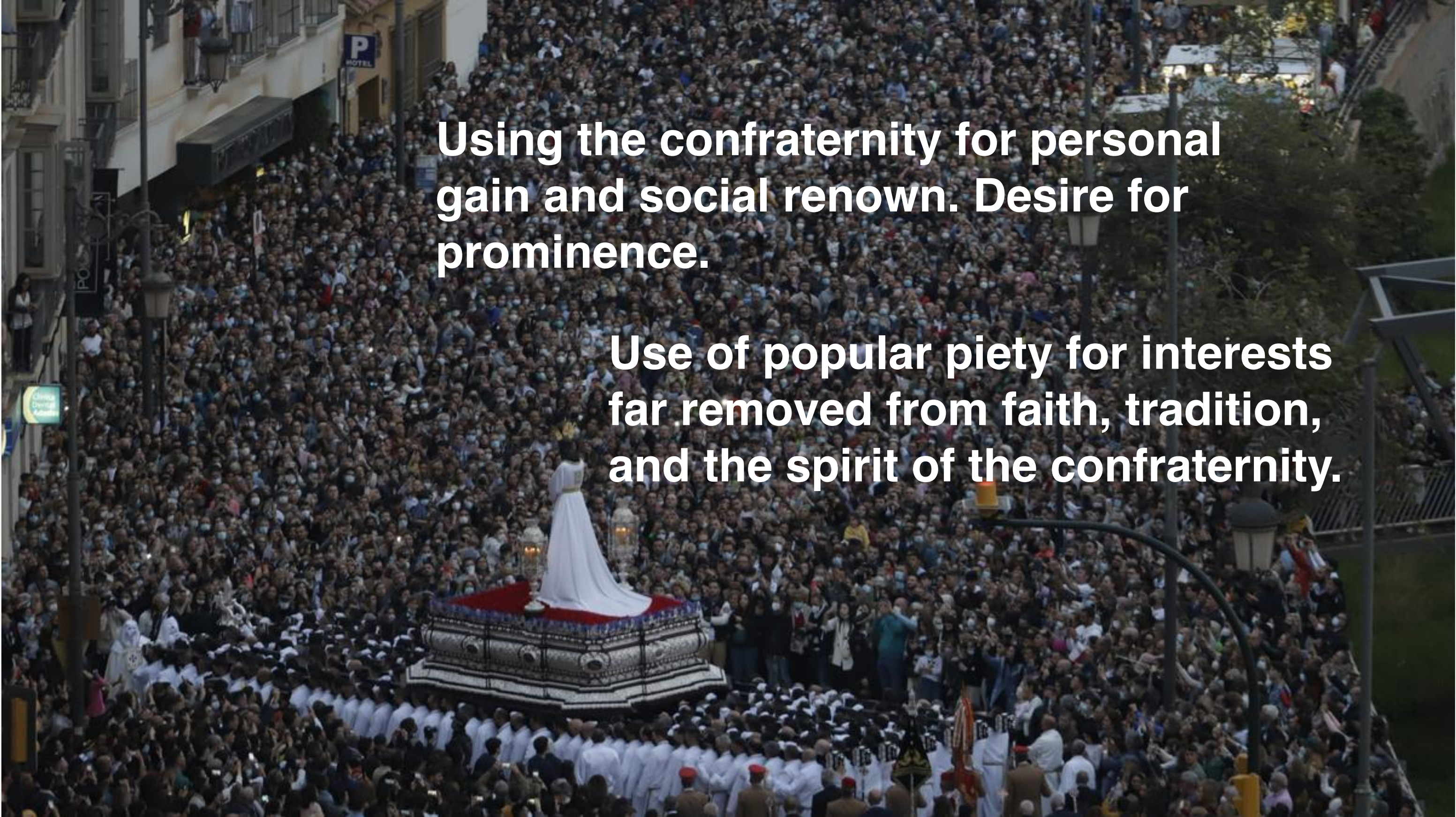
Celebrate in the name of God, but without God. The Golden Calf.

Brothers who are more interested in appearances than the essence.

Seeing the confraternity as a cultural, historical, and traditional experience, but without faith and without an evangelizing vocation.



WEAKNESSES OF THE CONFRATERNITIES

A high-angle photograph of a massive crowd of people filling a city street. In the lower center, a religious procession is visible, featuring a person in a white robe and hood standing on a raised, ornate platform. The crowd is dense and extends far into the background, with buildings lining the street on the left. The scene is illuminated by streetlights, suggesting it is evening or night.

Using the confraternity for personal gain and social renown. Desire for prominence.

Use of popular piety for interests far removed from faith, tradition, and the spirit of the confraternity.



Thank You