

CARA's Diocesan Demographic Research

Is Demography Destiny?

Most dioceses in the United States are facing a future of ongoing population change in the Catholic Church. The Catholic population in the United States has more than doubled since 1950, and the face of Catholics in the United States is becoming increasingly diverse. At the same time, the number of priests available for ministry to this changing Catholic community has not kept pace.



To explore the demographic characteristics and trends of the community at large, Catholic population, and clergy in your diocese, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University offers three reports that explore the demographic aspects of Catholic dioceses in the United States. Drawing on Catholic data, diocesan priest data, and current U.S. Census data, each report addresses the issues that dioceses face today in planning for the future.

For more than 40 years, CARA has informed Catholic decision making. Contact us today for help with your planning needs.

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate



CARA Demographic Research



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Serving the Church's Research Needs Since 1964

Diocese at a Glance

Diocese at a Glance is a new report series created by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. This 12-page diocesan demographic summary illustrates and explains socio-economic characteristics of both the Catholic and total population living in a diocese.

Maps, graphs, and tables clearly illustrate data at the national, provincial, diocesan, and county levels. The report presents data on the size and distribution of the Catholic population in a diocese and province. Census data on population race and ethnic composition, household income, poverty rates, age, and residence provide insight into the community as a whole in which the Catholic Church ministers.

This report is intended for a wide audience and is easily reproduced for distribution to diocesan planners, clergy, and lay Catholics alike. In addition to a printed report, dioceses are provided with an electronic .pdf file that may be uploaded to a website, as well as picture files of all maps.

The cost for a Diocese at a Glance report ranges from \$7,000 to \$9,000, depending on the geographic complexity of the diocese and its mapping requirement.

The growth of the Hispanic population in the United States outpaces growth in all other major population groups. This trend has important implications for the Catholic Church, now and into the future.



Priest Projections

CARA's **Priest Projection** program has been used in more than 60 dioceses over the past 15 years. Known for its precise methodology that proves to have startling accuracy over time, the priest projections are an invaluable tool for clergy planning.

The projection uses data from a single questionnaire that is provided by CARA, collecting information on the current age of diocesan priests, priest retirement age, recent ordinations, and seminarians currently in formation. The result is a report with an executive summary, followed by tables and charts with low, medium, and high projections of the number of priests who will be available to serve in a diocese through 2030.

The three factors most likely to affect the number of diocesan priests available for active ministry are the number ordained/incardinated each year, the retirement age, and whether some priests continue to serve after retirement. The Priest Projection report presents 18 likely scenarios created by different combinations of these three factors. This allows the diocese full flexibility in using the projections as these details evolve over time.

The cost for a Priest Projection is \$2,250.

Questions about any of these reports? Contact Dr. Mary Gautier, Senior Research Associate, at (202) 687-8086. Sample reports are available for all demographic research reports.



Demographic Portraits

Demographic Portraits are full-length (45-80 page) reports that explore demographic characteristics of the total population of the diocese, with an emphasis on the Catholic population. This report uses data from *The Official Catholic Directory*, Glenmary's *Religious Congregations and Membership* study, CARA's *National Parish Inventory*, and the U.S. Census Bureau to create a comprehensive tool that is indispensable in diocesan planning.

Historic trends in the size of the Catholic population are presented and projections of the Catholic population are created. The size of the presbyterate in a diocese over time is also explored, and when accompanied by a priest projection report, projections of the ratio of Catholics per priest are also provided. This report includes full color maps and easy-to-understand charts and tables. Parish locations are superimposed on all maps displaying Census or Catholic characteristics, and vicariate or deanery boundaries can be provided as well.

Every Demographic Portrait report is tailored specifically to each diocese's demographic and planning needs. Contact CARA for information about creating a demographic portrait for your diocese.

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