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Catholic Information Project

The Catholic Church in America –
Meeting Real Needs in Your Neighborhood



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The Catholic Church

A Snapshot

The Catholic Church in 2006

69.1 million Catholics (23% of the U.S. population)¹

18,992 parishes² (46 new parishes in 2005)³

42,271 priests / 5,252 brothers / 67,773 sisters⁴

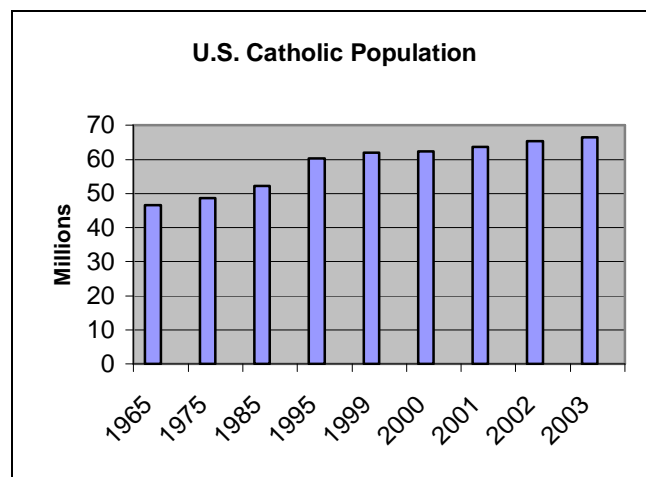
573 Catholic hospitals treated 84.7 million patients in 2005⁵

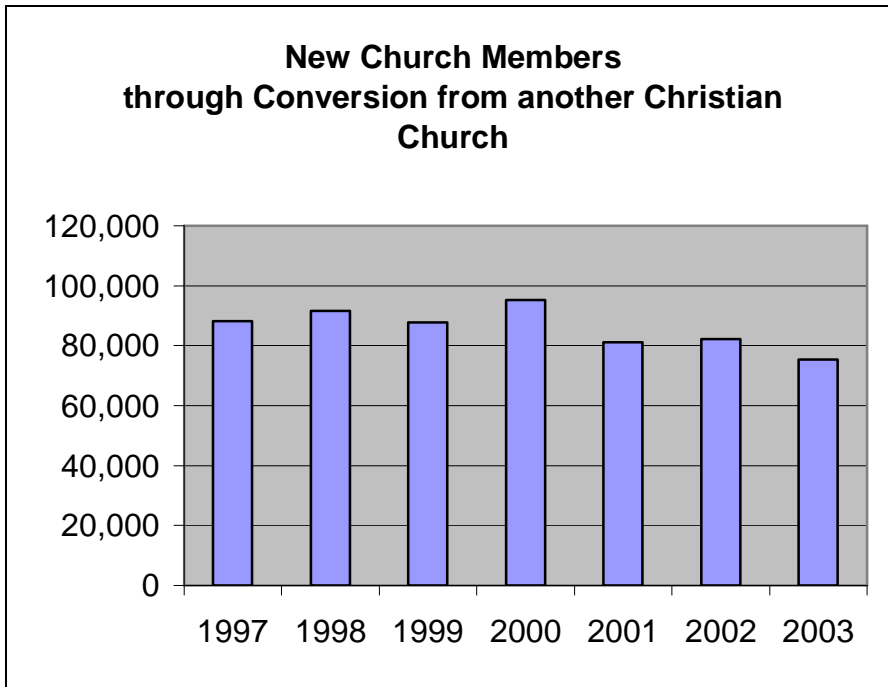
6,511 elementary schools and 1,354 high schools, with a little under 2.5 million students enrolled⁶

231 Catholic colleges and universities with a total of 763,757 students⁷

The People of God

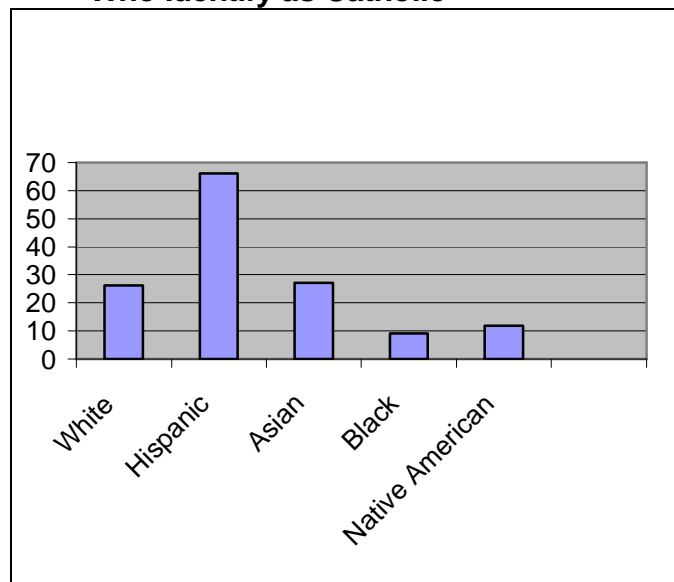
In 2005, there were **69.1 million** Catholics in the United States representing about **23% of the total U.S. population**.⁸





In 2005, **73,684** people were received into full communion with the Catholic Church.⁹ In addition, **80,817** adults and **943,264** infants were baptized.¹⁰

Percentage of Ethnic/Racial Groups in the United States Who Identify as Catholic¹¹



Approximately **39%** - or 26.4 million – of U.S. Catholics are **Hispanic**.¹²

25 of the nation's 273 **active bishops**, are Hispanic. 2,900 of the nation's 44,212 **priests** are Hispanic.¹³

Hispanics make up **41%** of all **Catholics under age 30**, and **44%** of all **Catholics under age 10**.¹⁴

Since 1960, **71% of the U.S. Catholic population growth** has been due to the growth in the number of **Hispanics** in the U.S. population overall.¹⁵ By the second decade of the 21st century, over **50%** of U.S. Catholics will likely be Hispanic.¹⁶

There are 4.1 million people who identify themselves as Native American; **493,615** of these Native Americans, or **12 percent** of the total population, are considered Catholic. Currently, there are **two** Native American bishops in active service in the United States.¹⁷

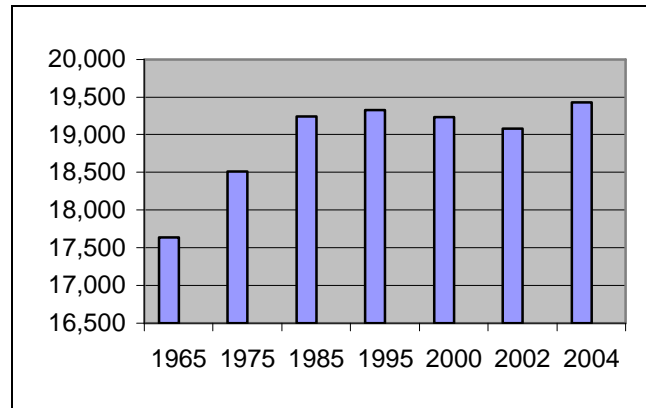
There are **2.3 million African American Catholics**. There are 1,300 parishes which are predominantly African American, 75 of which have African-American pastors. Approximately 250 priests, 300 sisters, and 380 deacons are African American.¹⁸

Catholic Parishes

In 2005, **18,992 parishes** in the 194 dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Church) of the United States serve the nation's **69.1 million Catholics**.¹⁹ In 2005, **46 new parishes opened their doors**.²⁰ In 2000, the average parish had **3,254 members**, or **1,269 households**.²¹ In 2000, a typical non-Catholic congregation included approximately 303 members.²²

The average parish has grown about **10 percent per decade**. Between 2000 and 2001, **165,924 additional households registered** at Catholic parishes.²³

Number of U.S. Catholic Parishes²⁴



Priests, Deacons, and Vowed Religious

Did you know...

42,271 priests serve in the United States. Of these, **32.2%** — or 13,640 — belong to **religious orders**.²⁵

There are **5,252 religious brothers** and **67,773 religious sisters** in the United States.²⁶

6,414 sisters and 1,149 brothers teach in Catholic elementary and secondary schools.²⁷

438 new priests were ordained in 2005. The average age of this year's newly-ordained priest is **37**. **10 percent** of the class is **Hispanic, down from 12 percent last year**.²⁸

14,493 men — over 90 percent of whom are married — serve as **permanent deacons** in the United States. The **permanent diaconate**, restored by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), is a vital ministry in the United States and has grown an average of **10 percent annually**.²⁹ In addition to holding full-time jobs in their places of work, permanent deacons assist in the worship life of the local faith community by preaching, baptizing, teaching, witnessing marriages, officiating at funerals, and sometimes serving as a parish life coordinator in the absence of a priest.

For more information on the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, visit:

- USCCB Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry at www.usccb.org/plm/index.shtml
- USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate at www.usccb.org/deacon/index.shtml
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men (www.cmsm.org)
- Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (www.cmswr.org)
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious (www.lcwr.org)
- Many individual religious orders such as the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) or the Jesuits also offer websites.

There have been more than **500 religious orders in the United States**, each with independent missions.³⁰

Traditionally, vowed religious (brothers and nuns) worked for modest stipends or maintenance that did not include pension benefits. The FICA (Social Security) payments that religious institutes began to submit for their members in the early 1970s were based on their low cost of living allowances compatible with a vow of poverty. That means that Social Security benefits to individual religious women and men are less than one-third what other Americans receive.³¹

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of the hierarchy of the **United States** and the **U.S. Virgin Islands** who jointly exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States. The purpose of the Conference is to promote the greater good which the Church offers humankind, especially through forms and programs of the apostolate fittingly adapted to the circumstances of time and place. This purpose is drawn from the universal law of the Church and applies to the episcopal conferences which are established all over the world for the same purpose.



The bishops themselves constitute the membership of the Conference and are served by a staff of over **350 lay people, priests and religious located at the Conference headquarters in Washington**. There is also an Office of Film and Broadcasting in New York City and a branch office of Migration and Refugee Services in Miami. With a 2004 budget of \$127.1 million, the Conference is organized as a corporation in the District of Columbia.³²

Its purposes under civil law are: "To unify, coordinate, encourage, promote and carry on Catholic activities in the United States; to organize and conduct religious, charitable **and social welfare work at home and abroad**; to aid in **education**; to care for **immigrants**; and generally to enter into and promote by education, publication and direction the objects of its being."

Find out more about the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** at www.usccb.org.

Catholic Elementary and Secondary Education

The Catholic Church runs the largest network of private schools in the United States. Almost **2.5 million** students³³ are enrolled in its **6,386 elementary schools** and **1,203 high schools**.³⁴ In addition, in 2003, 3,612,510 elementary school students and 771,730 high school students received religious instruction outside Catholic schools.

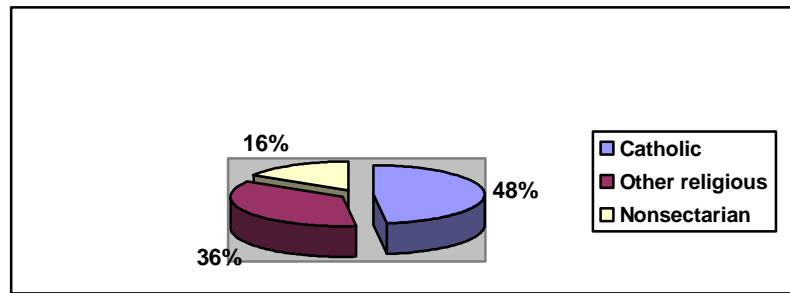
Did you know...

- **2,403** Catholic schools – over 35% – had **waiting lists** for admission for the 2005-2006 academic year.³⁵
- **13.5%** of students at Catholic schools in 2006, or 313,590,, are **non-Catholic**.³⁶
- **Minority enrollment** in Catholic schools for 2006 was 656,991 or **27%** of total enrollment.³⁷
- **99%** of Catholic secondary school students **graduate**, and **97%** go on to **post-secondary education**.³⁸
- Most Catholic schools are now **co-ed**. One percent of all Catholic elementary schools and **33.1%** of secondary schools are single gender.³⁹
- Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$8,019 Catholic elementary and secondary schools provide an almost **\$19.4 billion dollars a year savings** for U.S. taxpayers.⁴⁰
- About 87% of elementary schools provide some form of tuition assistance.⁴¹

For more information, visit the **National Catholic Educational Association** at www.ncea.org or the **USCCB Department of Education** at www.usccb.org/education/index.htm

Private School Enrollment by Type of School

2001-2003⁴²



Minority Enrollment in Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2005-2006⁴³

- 12% Hispanic
- 7.2% African American
- 3.9% Asian American
- 2.8% Multicultural
- 0.3% American Indian/Native American
- 0.9% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

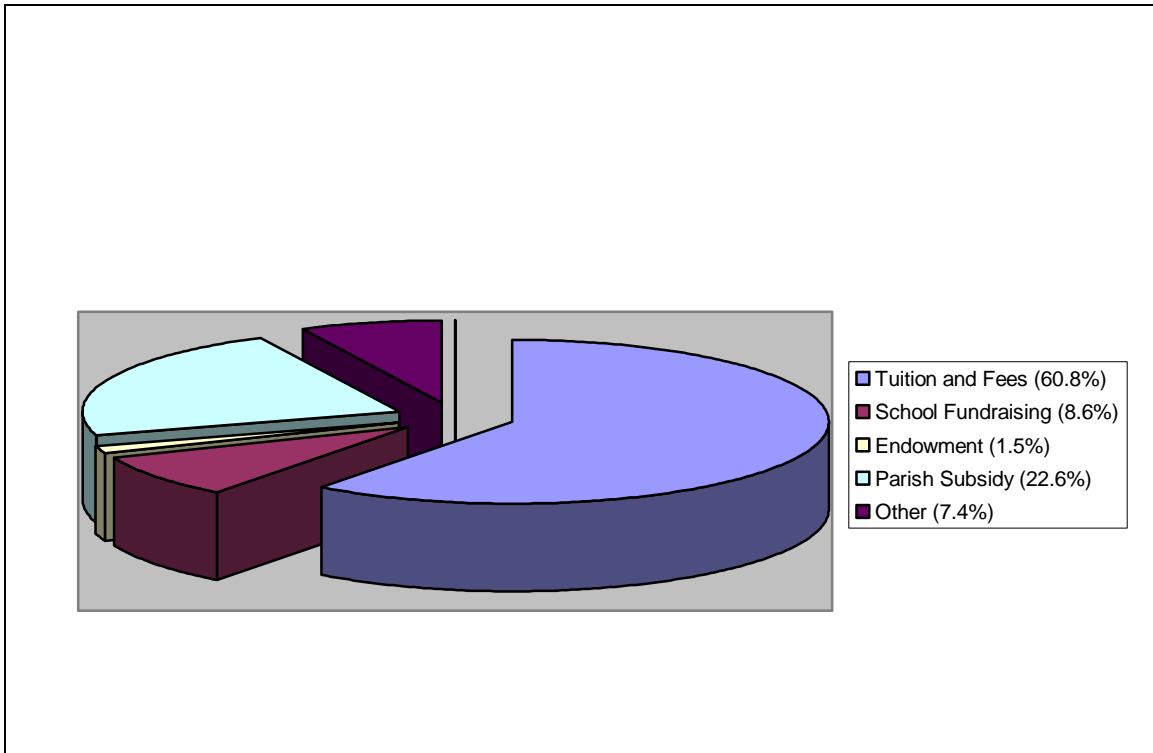
How Catholic schools are funded

- The estimated per pupil cost for a student in a Catholic elementary school for 2004-2005 was \$2,607. The total cost for elementary schools was \$7.57 billion. These estimates were prepared using historical cost increase patterns.
- The estimated per pupil cost for a student in a Catholic secondary school for 2004-2005 was \$5,870. Total cost for secondary schools was \$3.98 billion. These estimates were prepared using historical cost increase patterns.
- **85%** of Catholic elementary schools **received a parish subsidy** during the 2004-2005 school year.⁴⁴ On average, Catholic elementary schools received **22 percent** of their budget from **parish subsidy**.⁴⁵ This transfer of cash from the parish to the parish school likely amounted to approximately **\$1.3 billion** for the year 2000,⁴⁶ and an estimated **\$1.44 billion** for 2002.⁴⁷
- **100%** of Catholic schools hold various types of **fundraisers**.⁴⁸
- **51.5%** of Catholic elementary schools have an **endowment** program.⁴⁹



- An estimated **61%** of total **elementary school costs** are covered by **tuition**.⁵⁰ The average per pupil tuition in elementary schools is **\$2,607**, approximately 62% of **actual costs per pupil (\$4,268)**.⁵¹
- **91%** of elementary schools and **97%** of secondary schools provide some form of **tuition assistance**.⁵²
- In 2003-2004, the total, full-time equivalent teaching staff in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools was **162,337**. The average salary for Catholic elementary school lay teachers with at least a bachelor's degree was **\$30,204** for 2004-2005.⁵³

Average Percentage of Elementary School Revenue from Various Sources⁵⁴



Catholic Colleges and Universities

Over 720,000 students attend 221 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States.⁵⁵ Of these, almost all are governed by a lay board of trustees. Like their secular, private counterparts, Catholic universities rely primarily on tuition for revenue and many also rely on public and private grants and donations. **Eleven** institutions are sponsored by dioceses but receive no direct financial assistance. **The Catholic University of America** in Washington is the only institution sponsored and partially funded directly by the Church. The balance of Catholic colleges and universities are sponsored by their founding religious congregations, such as the Jesuits, who run **28** colleges and universities. Catholic colleges and universities in the United States account for nearly **half** of all of the Catholic universities in the world. Catholic colleges and universities account for over half of all the students enrolled in faith-based institutions of higher education in the United States.⁵⁶

Did you know...

- **Catholic college and university enrollment increased** in the **1990s** by **18.8%**, a rate that is almost **three times the national average** over the same time period (7%). Private university enrollment over the same period increased by 6 percent, and faith-based institutions increased by 16.8 percent.⁵⁷
- **35% of students at Catholic colleges and universities are non-Catholic.**⁵⁸
- **Catholic colleges and universities** are frequently cited in *US News & World Report* as “**Best Buy**” schools, and are consistently cited by the Templeton Foundation as “**Character-Building Schools.**”⁵⁹
- In the **United States**, Catholic institutions of higher learning include: **4** medical schools, **26** Law schools, **17** schools of engineering, **81** schools of nursing, **177** schools of education, **19** women’s colleges, **3** research universities, **13** doctoral universities, and **2** aviation programs.⁶⁰

For more information, visit the **Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities** at www.accunet.org and the **USCCB Department of Education** at www.usccb.org/education/index.htm

Catholic Health Care and Social Services

Catholic health and social service organizations have a long tradition of service in the United States, dating back to New Orleans in 1727 when 12 French Ursuline sisters arrived in the city and became nurses, teachers, and servants of the poor and orphans. Today, the Catholic nonprofit health-care system serves diverse populations in every state in the United States.

615 Catholic hospitals account for **12.5%** of community hospitals in the United States, and over **15.5% of all U.S. hospital admissions**.⁶¹ Catholic health care systems and hospitals are present in all **50 states**.⁶² As a provider, employer, advocate, and citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – Catholic health care is rooted in the belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

Did you know...

- In addition to hospitals, the Catholic health care network also includes **404** health care centers and **1,509** specialized homes.⁶³
- In **20 states**, Catholic health care facilities account for more than **20% of admissions**.⁶⁴
- **Catholic hospitals** employ over **598,934 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)**.⁶⁵
- In 2005, there were more than **15.4 million emergency room visits** and more than **86 million outpatient visits** in Catholic hospitals.⁶⁶
- In 2005, the number of Catholic **residential homes for children**, or orphanages, totaled **235**, serving a total of **50,264 young people**.⁶⁷

For more information, visit the **Catholic Health Association** at www.chausa.org

Catholic Charities: Providing Help, Creating Hope

The Catholic Charities network is the nation's third largest non-profit, according to *The NonProfit Times*. The combined revenue of the Catholic Charities network from all sources, public and private, was **\$2.69 billion in 2000**. Nearly 90 percent of these funds were spent on programs and services, making the Catholic Charities network one of the **country's most efficient charities**.⁶⁸

Today, the **Catholic Charities network** — **more than 1,600 local agencies and institutions nationwide** — provide help, sometimes with government funding, and create hope for **6,597,998 in 2003**, regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds thanks to the dedication of more than **51,000 staff** and **175,000 volunteers**.



Catholic Charities USA — the network's national member service center — was founded in 1910 as the National Conference of Catholic Charities. It provides its members a national voice, networking opportunities, training and technical assistance, program development, and financial support.

The organization has also been commissioned by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to represent the Catholic community in times of domestic disaster. For example, Catholic Charities USA allocated more than \$31 million in grants to 25 local Catholic Charities agencies for September 11 recovery efforts. These grants — which came from \$31.8 million donated to Catholic Charities USA for September 11 disaster assistance — continue to help local Catholic Charities agencies respond to economic and emotional needs of victims more than two years after the tragedy.⁶⁹

Did You Know ...

According to the Catholic Charities USA Annual Survey-At-A-Glance for 2003⁷⁰, the most recent available, the network provided:

Emergency Services to 6,597,998 People

- **Food Services to 5,260,459 People**

Agencies provided both prepared food and food distribution services.

Food banks & pantries	2,226,630
Soup kitchens	803,983
Congregate dining	1,463,718
Home delivered meals	307,901
Other food services	458,227

- **Other Basic Needs Assistance to 1,521,597 People**

This category includes those basic services outside of food, shelter, or housing, such as:

Clothing assistance	34%
Financial assistance	12%
Utilities assistance	12%
Medication assistance	3%
Other basic needs assistance	39%

- **Temporary Shelter Services to 201,653 People**
Services in this category include short-term (up to six months) emergency shelters and safe houses for the homeless, runaway youth, victims of domestic violence, etc.
- **Disaster Response Services to 31,302 People**
These services include services that arise from any calamity—natural or man-made—that exceeds a community or neighborhood's ability to respond without outside intervention.
- **Transitional Housing Services to 27,070 People**
Includes intermediate housing sites (six months to two years) for individuals and families.

Community-Building Services to 3,108,839 People

- **Provided Socialization and Neighborhood Services to 345,820 People**
Agencies provided organized, age appropriate activities at the neighborhood level, such as summer camps for children, the elderly, and the disabled; sports programs; health and employment fairs.
- **Provided Permanent Housing Services to 44,261**
Agencies operated non-treatment-related permanent housing sites for individuals and families.
- **Provided Immigration Services to 313,140 People**
Services include assistance to individuals and families with immigration issues, such as legal status and citizenship.
- **Provided Housing Services to 186,584 People**
Agencies provided non-facilities based services, including vouchers for housing, home repair, loan assistance, housing search, subsidized home purchase, building material banks, and rental assistance.
- **Provided Refugee Resettlement Services to 76,864 People**
Services in this category include resettlement and placement, job development, ESL classes, life skills education, job readiness training, and cultural adaptation of refugees.

Find out more about Catholic Charities at www.catholiccharitiesinfo.org

Humanitarian Aid

Founded in 1943 by the U.S. Bishops, **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. **CRS** provides direct aid to the poor, and involves people in their own development, helping them to realize their potential. **CRS** reached **80 million people in 99 countries and territories in 2002**, bringing relief in the wake of disasters and offering hope and the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency to the poorest of the poor.⁷¹



Funding for **CRS** comes from the CRS Collection (formerly the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal (ABOA)). Major support is also derived from public and private grants, individual donors and through a program of sacrificial giving called Operation Rice Bowl.⁷²

Did You Know ...

- In 2003, more than **13 million Ethiopians** were dependent on food aid for survival. **Catholic Relief Services** responded with more than 500 metric tons of commodities.⁷³
- Working through local partner Caritas Iraq and Save the Children in 25 communities to help rebuild homes and lives.⁷⁴

Find out more about **Catholic Relief Services** at www.catholicrelief.org.

Catholic Involvement in Affordable Housing

Catholic organizations play a sizable role as part of the nonprofit sector that increasingly is relied upon to provide housing for people with low incomes and special needs. Catholic organizations, often assisted by government funding, have been responsible for building and rehabilitating more than **51,400 units** of multi-family, single-family and congregate units – valued at a minimum of **\$2.9 billion** – housing more than **70,000 residents**.⁷⁵

On average, **87%** of the residents are **low-income**.⁷⁶

Annual operating budgets for all projects (as of 1997) totaled **\$479.4 million**. The average budget was about **\$300,000** for most projects.⁷⁷

Nearly **70%** — or **128** — of U.S. **dioceses sponsor housing** or housing-related **services**.⁷⁸

Welcoming Migrants & Refugees

“The new communities of Catholics that exist throughout this nation are vital resources and strengths to be integrated fully into the Catholic Church in the United States. The challenge to affirm and serve these groups is felt strongly by the Catholic Bishops of the United States...”

One Family Under God, USCCB Committee on Migration Statement, March 25, 1998

Migration and Refugee Services

Over the past 26 years, the Catholic Church in the United States – through the USCCB’s **Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)** – has resettled **912,160,740 refugees**, or **33%** of the total number of refugees admitted to the United States.⁷⁹

The 2003 **MRS** budget was **\$36.2 million**, the majority of which was comprised of government grants.⁸⁰ **MRS** carries out the **commitment of the bishops to serve and advocate for immigrants, refugees, migrants, and people on the move.**

Did you know that...

- **104** dioceses have refugee resettlement offices.⁸¹
- In 2005, the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Trafficking, of which MRS is a founding member, grew to more than 30 national and international organizations.⁸²
- In 2003, the Catholic Church – with the assistance of government grants – spent **\$29.4 million** on **direct programs and assistance for the resettling of refugees.**
- Through the program Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees, **volunteers** nationwide contributed more than **300,000 documented hours of service**, the equivalent of 150 full-time employees.⁸³

Further information on the **Office of Migration and Refugee Services** is available online at www.usccb.org/mrs/index.shtml

**U.S. Refugee Admissions and Resettlements
by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Migration and Refugee Services)⁸⁴**

Year	Total U.S. Admissions	USCCB Caseload	USCCB % of Total U.S. Admissions
1975	146,158	64,037	44
1980	327,116	132,326	40
1985	67,704	26,439	39
1990	122,066	32,232	26
1995	99,974	24,800	25
2000	72,518	17,827	25
2002	27,075	6,533	22
2003	28,420	7,425	26
TOTAL for 1975-2003	2,613,689	834,165	32

Pastoral Care for Immigrants and People On the Move

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that foreign-born persons and their children comprise roughly **one in five residents in the United States**. The U.S. **foreign-born population** has increased by **33 percent** since 1990.⁸⁵

The Catholic Church is concerned also for those members of ethnic communities who cannot sufficiently make use of the common and ordinary pastoral services of local parishes.

More than **40,000** elderly, low-income, low-literate, disabled and persecuted newcomers achieved citizenship through CLINIC's projects.⁸⁶

Overview of Ethnic Ministries (Apostolates)⁸⁷

Ethnic Group	Total # in U.S.	Total # of Catholics
Asian & Pacific Communities	796,700	32,000
Brazilian	800,000	560,000
Czech	50,000	30,000
Ethiopian & Eritean	250,000	4,000
Filipino	1,850,314	1,536,590
Haitian	1,200,000	800,000
Italian	400,000	360,000
Kmhmu	5,000	3,500
Laotian	300,000	7,000
Maya	200,000	150,000
Portuguese	1,500,000	1,350,000
Samoan	95,000	22,000
Slovak	2,000,000	1,600,000
Tongan	28,000	10,000
Vietnamese	1,500,000	450,000

In addition, the Church has developed its outreach to those whose work and lifestyle necessitate frequent travel which prevents regular participation in a local parish community. Diocesan priests, men and women religious, and lay leaders are involved in national, diocesan and parish efforts to provide pastoral outreach to these people, including such diverse groups as airport workers and travelers, seaport workers and cruise ship employees and travelers, race car circuit workers, migrant farm workers, circus and carnival workers, and gypsies. They are linked to the USCCB's Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees through national Catholic organizations devoted to providing for the pastoral needs to people on the move wherever they work and travel in the United States.

For more information, see www.usccb.org/mrs/pcmr/index.htm.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC)

In 1988, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops created the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC)**. **CLINIC's** mission is to enhance and expand delivery of **legal services to indigent and low-income immigrants**, principally through diocesan immigration programs, and to meet the immigration needs identified by the Catholic Church in the United States.

CLINIC operates as a legal support agency for a rapidly growing network of Catholic charitable immigration programs. **CLINIC** and its local partner agencies serve vulnerable newcomers, such as INS detainees, refugees, asylum-seekers, families in need of reunification, and victims of trafficking and domestic violence.



By the end of 2003, **CLINIC** had an annual budget for program services of **\$5.8 million**. They trained and supported **156 member agencies** that operated legal offices in **255 sites**.⁸⁸ Its members employ roughly **1,200 attorneys “accredited” to represent immigrants** by the federal Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and **paralegals who, in turn, serve 400,000 low-income immigrants each year**.⁸⁹

*For more information about **CLINIC**, see www.cliniclegal.org.*

Catholic Lay Organizations

Over **135 national** and hundreds more local **Catholic lay organizations** serve the Church and **provide direct services** in communities throughout the United States. Here is a spotlight on just four of these organizations: the **Knights of Columbus**, the **Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary**, the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, and the **Catholic Extension Society**.

For more information, visit the cited organizations' websites and the USCCB's Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth at www.usccb.org/laity/index.shtml.

Knights of Columbus

"In service to One, in service to all."

The Knights of Columbus, with over 1.7 million members in North America, is a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society founded in 1882. Today, it is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, and public relief works.⁹⁰



Year	Dollars Donated to Charity	Volunteer Service Hours
1995-2005	More than \$1.208 billion	574 million
2005	139,711,619	64,039,706

Find out more at www.kofc.org.

Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary

The **Knights of Peter Claver** and its **Ladies Auxiliary**, with over **45,000 members** nationwide, is a national Catholic fraternal organization comprised of men, women, young men and young ladies. The organization has been **servicing the needs of African-American Catholics** since 1909. In addition to serving as a support to pastors and bishops, the Knights award scholarships, mentor youth, and contribute to numerous charitable organizations.

In 2002, the **Knights of Peter Claver** donated:

- \$200,000 to various charitable causes
- \$100,000 in scholarships for graduating high school students
- \$35,000 for training of seminarians
- \$30,000 to victims of Sickle Cell Anemia
- \$40,000 for tutorial programs for African American students
- Approximately 800,000 hours of volunteer service

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Founded in France in 1833 and established in the United States in 1845, the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is comprised of men and women, known as “Vincentians,” who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need.



In 2003, **120,000 members** served **15 million** people.⁹¹

U.S. volunteers in 2003 engaged in:⁹²

- 646,820 home visits
- 360,596 hospital visits
- 361,420 aged daycare visits
- 159,257 prison visits
- **\$392 million** in total expenditures and monetary value of volunteer services provided.⁹³

The Catholic Church Extension Society of America

“Supporting Missionary Work in America”

Founded in 1905 to extend the Catholic faith in mission dioceses of the United States where resources are insufficient, **The Catholic Church Extension Society of America** builds awareness of mission needs and raises funds to spread the Gospel message.

Since its founding, Catholic Extension has received and distributed nearly **\$400 million**. For fiscal year 2005, Catholic Extension took in contributions from over 90,000 concerned Catholic priests, religious, and laity and disbursed **\$20.1 million** to missions,⁹⁴ including:

- \$4,512,203 million for evangelization & religious education programs
- \$2,926,674 million for subsidies for priests and religious
- \$4,941,860 million for church construction and repair
- \$1,849,947 million for seminarian education
- \$1,072,375 for campus ministry/Newman Centers
- \$2,120,394 for emergency and disaster relief
- \$2 million for Pope John Paul II Memorial Fund
- \$678,578 for mass intentions to mission priests

Further information is available at www.catholic-extension.org

Church Finances

The Catholic Church is able to carry out its good works in large part due to the generosity of her people. Catholics financially support their Church primarily through the Sunday offertory collection; annual bishops' appeals, which support diocesan-sponsored causes; and 13 national collections coordinated by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Parish Giving

Catholic giving to the Sunday collection increased by an estimated \$272 million between 2001 and 2002, or an average of 4.8% in all geographic regions of the country. **Estimated Catholic giving** to local parishes in the Sunday collection **grew from \$5.573 billion in 2001 to \$5.864 billion for 2002.**⁹⁵ By way of comparison, *Giving USA 2001*, a research publication, estimated that Americans gave **\$74.3 billion** to houses of worship of all faiths, national headquarters of faith traditions, and missionary societies in 2000.⁹⁶

In 2002, there were **15.9 million registered active Catholic households** in the United States⁹⁷, which on average **gave \$455 each**⁹⁸ to the Sunday collection in 2002.⁹⁹

Approximately **\$5.384 billion (73 percent)** of the entire parish revenue budget for 2000 arrived via the Sunday collection.¹⁰⁰ Parishes in the United States raised an estimated total revenue of **\$7.375 billion** in 2000.¹⁰¹

- Total expenses for all parishes in the country are estimated at **\$6.6 billion** in 2000.¹⁰²
- Salaries represented the largest single expense at **\$2.8 billion (42 percent)** of total parish expenses.¹⁰³
- All other parish, plant and program expenses totaled **\$3.8 billion (58 percent)** of total parish expenses.¹⁰⁴
- An average parish in the United States spent **\$356,248** in 2000 to pay parish salaries and fund plant and program expenses. Salaries accounted for \$149,352 of the average parish cost.¹⁰⁵
- In 1999, Catholic elementary schools received 23.9 percent of their budget from parish subsidy.¹⁰⁶ This transfer of cash from the parish to the school likely amounted to approximately \$1.3 billion for the year 2000,¹⁰⁷ and an estimated \$1.44 billion for 2002.

Some **90 percent of donations to local parishes stay with the parishes** to operate churches and schools. The remaining 10 percent — called the *cathedraticum* — is passed on to the diocese to pay for such expenses as insurance, clergy and layperson salaries, recruiting and training of priests, and building maintenance. Nationally, dioceses average some **\$33.8 million in annual offertory collections.**¹⁰⁸

The smallest dioceses average about a tenth of the annual offertory collection of the largest dioceses: **\$7.9 million** compared to **\$76 million.**¹⁰⁹

Bishops' Annual Diocesan Appeals

Many bishops conduct annual appeals in their dioceses to address needs of the diocese and local parishes such as social service programs, Catholic schools, youth ministry, seminaries and seminarians, evangelization, parish needs, campus ministry, and priests' retirement.¹¹⁰ The **average goal of 2003** diocesan annual appeals was **\$3.4 million**.¹¹¹ Collections typically exceeded the goal, with the average total collection almost \$4 million.¹¹²

Total bishops' appeal pledges for 2002 are estimated at \$635 million.¹¹³

National Collections¹¹⁴

Throughout the course of the year, many dioceses participate in **13 national collections coordinated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for specific needs** of the Church. These collections are taken up in parishes as a second collection after the Sunday offertory.

The 13 collections are:

Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This special collection channels aid through the bishops' conferences of Central and Eastern Europe to meet the needs of rebuilding the Church – training seminarians and lay leaders, reaching out to young people, reviving Catholic charities, and renewing programs of catechesis and evangelization.

Since the collection was begun in 1991, U.S. Catholics have contributed **\$75 million** to the churches of post-communist Russia and Central and Eastern Europe.

For more information, visit www.usccb.org/aei/index.shtml

Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRS Collection) (formerly the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal (ABOA)). This appeal supports agencies that build the international social ministry of the Catholic Church through advocacy on behalf of the powerless and impoverished people and relief and resettlement services to victims of natural disasters, war, and religious and ethnic persecution. The CRS Collection helps to fund the work of Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB Department of Social Development and World Peace, relief work of the Holy Father, USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

In 2004, U.S. Catholics contributed **\$15.6 million** to the CRS Collection/ABOA.

For more information, visit www.usccb.org/crscollection/index.shtml

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection was mandated by the U.S. bishops to "address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and transformative education." Since its establishment in 1970, CCHD has granted **\$270 million** to more than **4,000 community-based, self-help projects** initiated and led by people living in poverty. Twenty-five percent of contributions from U.S. Catholics is retained by dioceses to fund local grants and 75 percent is sent to the national office at the USCCB to fund the projects that demonstrate the greatest need.

Learn more at www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml

Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). The CCC produces and supports media projects that promote Gospel values and bring the Catholic Church's message to television, radio and other media, and through special projects of the Catholic press. An annual collection is taken up in the dioceses, which remit 50% of the funds collected to the national office. From these funds, grants are made following recommendations by the USCCB Communication Committee. The remaining portion of the collection is retained by the dioceses for use in local communication projects.

Between 1983 and 2003, the CCC collection has raised **\$64.2 million** to support diocesan and national media efforts.

For more information, visit www.usccb.org/ccc/index.shtml

Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Launched in 1998, the Appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories where resources are thin and priests are few. In 2003, the Appeal made over \$11 million in grants. Grantees include 85 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses in Appalachia, the South, the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain states, Alaska, and the islands of the Pacific and Caribbean. The Appeal also supports about 25 organizations and religious communities engaged in home mission work. The appeal funds a wide range of pastoral services, including evangelization, religious education, the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups, especially Hispanics.

Learn more at www.usccb.org/hm/index.shtml

Church in Latin America. Support for various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean is made possible through the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Projects are at the continental, regional, diocesan and local levels, and include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Funding is limited to programmatic expenses and excludes building construction.

Since it was established by the U.S. bishops in 1965, **\$116,375,154** has been granted to projects throughout Latin America.

Learn more at www.usccb.org/latinamerica/index.shtml

Peter's Pence (Collection for the Holy Father). The Peter's Pence Collection enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests for aid to the neediest throughout the world – those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters. It likewise provides the faithful with a tangible opportunity not only to empower the weak, defenseless, and voiceless, but also to sustain those who suffer.

Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR). Now in its 18th year, the Retirement Fund for Religious has generated an unprecedented response from U.S. Catholics. Since 1988, the RFR has distributed over **\$426 million** through restricted grants to any religious institute in the United States that has an unfunded past service liability and both basic, supplemental and special assistance retirement grants to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. **Ninety-six percent** of the donations are invested for present and future retirement needs of the elderly members (religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests) of the over 500 religious institutes in the United States. Today, nearly 60,000 religious men and women are over the age of 60.

Find out more at www.usccb.org/nrro/index.shtml

Black and Indian Missions. Organized officially in 1885 by decree of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, the National Collection for Black and Indian Missions supports and strengthens diocesan evangelization programs which otherwise would cease. In 2004, the collection disbursed **\$8.4 million** in grants for Black missions and for Native American evangelization programs.¹¹⁵

The Catholic University of America. This national collection provides funding for academic scholarships at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Catholic University, founded in 1887, is the only institution of higher education founded by the U.S. bishops. Students are enrolled from all 50 states and almost 100 countries.

Holy Land. This national collection, taken on Good Friday, provides support for the sacred places, and the educational and charitable institutions in the Holy Land, and educates young men for the Missions of the Custody of the Holy Land in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Rhodes, Israel, and Egypt.

Operation Rice Bowl. This collection provides funding for many Third World food security projects promoting agricultural, nutritional, and educational growth and self-sufficiency. Seventy-five (75) percent is remitted to Catholic Relief Services for overseas projects and 25% may be retained in the diocese for local antipoverty programs.

World Mission Sunday. In 1926, Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday, celebrated on the next to the last Sunday in October, as the feast of catholicity and universal solidarity so Christians the world over will

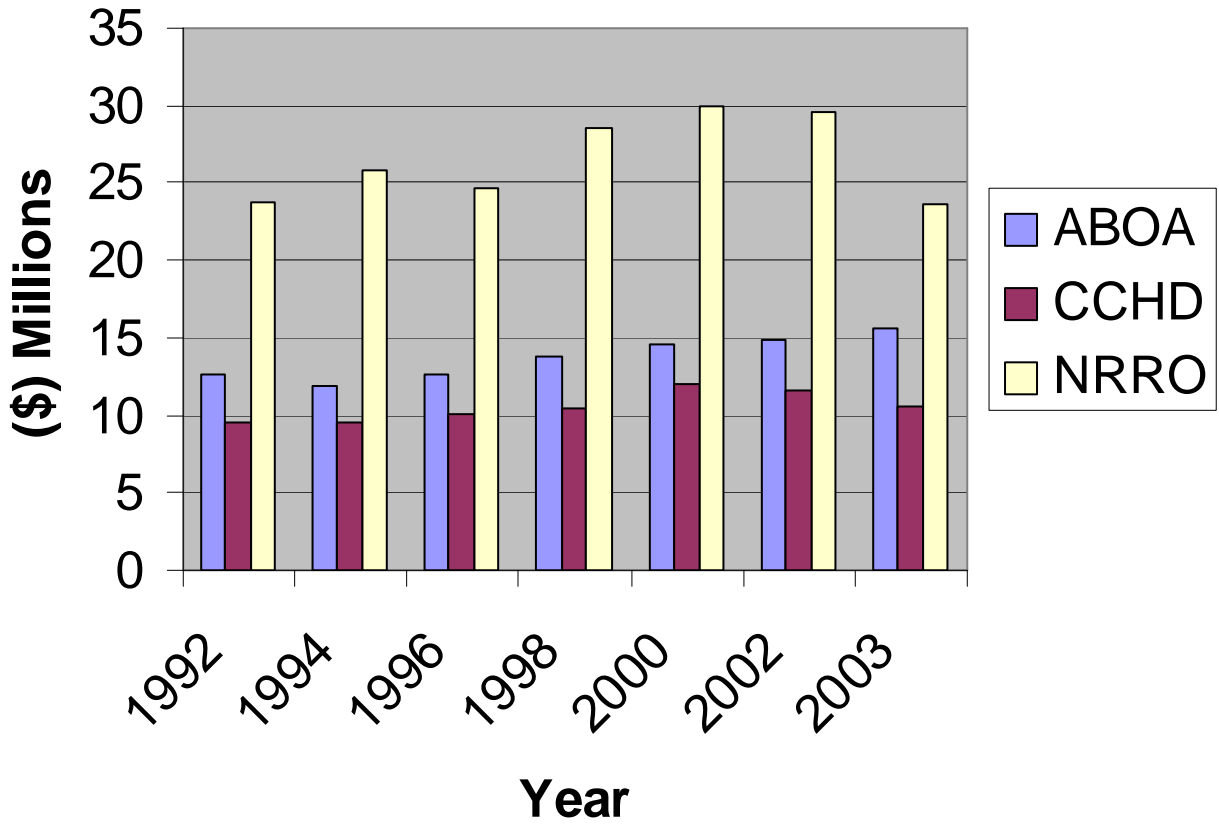
recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world. The majority of this collection goes to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

National Collection Totals, 1983-2003

National Collection	Total Diocesan National Collection Proceeds, 1983-2003
American Bishops' Overseas Appeal	\$269,792,660
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$206,124,432
Church in Latin America	\$93,464,205
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$65,741,147
American Board of Catholic Missions/Home Missions Appeal	\$133,377,087
Aid to the Church in Eastern Europe (total since 1991)	\$95,259,786
National Religious Retirement Office (total since 1988)	\$418,806,369
TOTAL	\$1,282,565,686

Three National Collection Totals

American Bishops' Overseas Appeal (ABOA), Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), and National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO)



Endnotes

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- ⁸ While the *Official Catholic Directory 2006* (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2004) states that at the beginning of 2005, there were 69.1 Catholics, this figure includes the Catholic populations of Puerto Rico, the Caroline Islands, and Samoa-Pago. According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which cited the *Official Catholic Directory* and the Vatican's *Annuario Statisticum Ecclesiae* (ASE), at the beginning of 2004 there were 64.3 million Catholics in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and all U.S. military personnel stationed overseas. Cf. "Frequently Requested Church Statistics," Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate (www.cara.georgetown.edu/bulletin/index.htm). Estimates of the U.S. Catholic population vary by up to nine million depending on the types of measuring instruments employed. "The *Official Catholic Directory* presents a more restrictive measure of Catholic membership than the broad definition of self-identification. The *Directory* consists of Catholic population estimates provided by parish managers," write Joseph Claude Harris and Mary Gautier in *Financing Catholic Parishes in the United States: A National and Regional Comparison* (Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate: Georgetown University, 2002), p. 9. Harris further explains in his recent *Did Catholic Giving to Parishes or Dioceses Decline in 2002?*, "The *Official Catholic Directory* staff coordinates an annual census conducted at the parish and agency level of a variety of religious, educational and charitable activities undertaken by Catholics." Harris points to data (proportions of self-identifying Catholics) from the American Religions Identification Survey (ARIS) conducted in 2001 by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, which revealed that 24.6 percent of Americans call themselves Catholic. Applying data from this study to state populations, Harris estimates that 70.9 million Americans called themselves Catholic in 2002. "A comparison of the OCD population estimate and the results of the ARIS 2001 religious preference survey indicated that 8.8 million more Americans call themselves Catholic than are reported by the census efforts of *The Official Catholic Directory*," Joseph Claude Harris, *Did Catholic Giving to Parishes or Dioceses Decline in 2002?* (October, 2003: josephclaudeharris.com), p. 18. Harris suggests that one reason the numbers vary so widely is the phenomenon of Catholics who move from one state to another, and fail to register in their new local parish.
- ⁹ *Official Catholic Directory 2006* (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p. 2003.
- ¹⁰ *Official Catholic Directory 2006* (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p. 2003.
- ¹¹ Information provided by the USCCB Secretariat for African American Catholics, Hispanic Affairs, and "Native American Catholics at the Millennium," a report by the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Native American Catholics, June 19, 2003. See "Bishops' report on Native American Catholic released," USCCB Department of Communications, June 19, 2003.
- ¹² *2006 Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005), p. 424-429.
- ¹³ *2006 Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005), p. 424-429.
- ¹⁴ Instituto Fe y Vida (Faith and Life Institute), Stockton, California. 2002 study. Cf. Agostino Bono, "Latest study asks church to remodel Hispanic youth ministries," Catholic News Service, 2002.
- ¹⁵ *2006 Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005), p. 426.
- ¹⁶ *2006 Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005), p. 426.
- ¹⁷ *2006 Catholic Almanac* (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005), p. 429.
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- ²⁴ Parish figures are from the annual editions *The Official Catholic Directory*. For 2005 figure, cf. *The Official Catholic Directory 2006* (New Providence, New Jersey: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p. 2003.
- ²⁵ *The Official Catholic Directory 2006*, (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p.2003.
- ²⁶ *The Official Catholic Directory 2006*, (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p.2003.
- ²⁷ *The Official Catholic Directory 2006*, (New Providence, N.J.: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 2005), p.2003.
- ²⁸ "Increase in Median Age, Foreign Born, Education, Among Newly Ordained Priests," Department of Communications press release, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, April 12, 2005.

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- ²⁹ 2002 *Vatican Yearbook*, 2004, and International Diaconate Center (<http://www.usccb.org/deacon/statisticsworld.shtml>)
- ³⁰ "Facts and FAQs 2005," National Religious Retirement Office, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/nrro).
- ³¹ "Facts and FAQs 2005," National Religious Retirement Office, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/nrro).
- ³² November 2003 Bishops' Meeting Agenda Documentation, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Complete audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2005 are available online at www.usccb.org/finance/financialstatements2005.pdf.
- ³³ There were 1,842,918 elementary school students and 641,334 high school students for the 2005-2006 school year. McDonald, Dale. *United States Elementary and Secondary Schools 2005-2006* (National Catholic Educational Association, 2006).
- ³⁴ At the beginning of 2005, there were 6,386 elementary schools and 1,203 high schools. *The Official Catholic Directory, 2006*, p. 2003.
- ³⁵ McDonald, Dale. *United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2005-2006* (National Catholic Educational Association, 2006).
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- ⁴¹ Robert R. Bimonte, *Financing The Mission: A Profile of Catholic Elementary Schools in the United States 2005* (National Catholic Educational Association, 2006), p. 8.
- ⁴² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Private Schools: A Brief Portrait*, NCES 2001-03, by Marth Naomi Alt and Katharin Peter. Washington: 2002, p. 4.
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- ⁴⁵ Robert R. Bimonte, *Financing The Mission: A Profile of Catholic Elementary Schools in the United States 2005* (Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association, 2006), p. 12.
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- ¹¹³ Joseph Claude Harris, *Did Catholic Giving to Parishes or Dioceses Decline in 2002?* (October, 2003: josephclaudelharris.com), p. 56.
- ¹¹⁴ All national collection financial data made available by the Finance and Accounting Department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org/finance/index.shtml).
- ¹¹⁵ *2006 Catholic Almanac*, (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2005), p. 428.