

THE CHURCH WORLDWIDE

(Changes from 2000 to 2012)

REGION	2000	2012	DIFFERENCE
Africa			
Catholic population	130,018,000	198,587,000	+53%
Priests, diocesan and religious	27,165	40,133	+48%
Americas			
Catholic population	519,391,000	598,819,000	+15%
Priests, diocesan and religious	120,841	122,924	+2%
Asia			
Catholic population	107,302,000	134,641,000	+25%
Priests, diocesan and religious	43,566	60,042	+38%
Europe			
Catholic population	280,144,000	286,868,000	+2%
Priests, diocesan and religious	208,659	186,489	-11%
Oceania			
Catholic population	8,202,000	9,706,000	+18%
Priests, diocesan and religious	4,947	4,725	-4%
Worldwide			
Catholic population	1,045,057,000	1,228,621,000	+18%
Priests, diocesan and religious	405,178	414,313	+2%

Source: [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](#)

WORKFORCE FOR THE APOSTOLATE

As of December 31, 2017

Category	Worldwide	USA	US % of Total
Bishops	5,487	508	9%
Priests, diocesan and religious	419,728	37,181	9%
Permanent Deacons	45,609	18,287	40%
Religious Brothers	52,625	4,007	8%
Religious sisters	659,445	45,605	7%
Total Catholics	1,299,000,000	74,300,000	6%

Sources: [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](#) and [catholic-hierarchy.org](#)

U.S. DATA ON CATHOLICS

	1965	1975	1985	1995	2005	2019
Diocesan priests	35,925	36,005	35,052	32,349	28,702	24,857
Religious priests	22,707	22,904	22,265	16,705	14,137	11,072
Total priests	58,632	58,909	57,317	49,054	42,839	35,929
Priestly ordinations	994	771	533	511	454	515
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	5,279	4,063	3,172	3,308	3,526
Permanent deacons	--	898	7,204	10,932	14,574	17,397
Religious brothers	12,271	8,625	7,544	6,535	5,451	3,931
Religious sisters	179,954	135,225	115,386	90,809	68,634	42,441
Parishes	17,637	18,515	19,244	19,331	18,891	16,914
Parishes without a resident priest pastor	549	702	1,051	2,161	3,251	3,572
Catholic population	45.6m	48.7m	52.3m	57.4m	64.8m	64.9m
Percent of U.S. population that is Catholic	24%	23%	23%	23%	23%	21%

Sources: *The Official Catholic Directory*, *CARA Catholic Ministry Formation Directory**

*as summarized on the [USCCB website](#)