

UNITED STATES DATA OVER TIME:

Clergy, Religious, and Lay Leaders; Leaders in Formation	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Total priests	58,632	59,192	58,909	58,398	57,317	52,124	49,054	45,699	41,399	39,993	38,275
Diocesan priests	35,925	37,272	36,005	35,627	35,052	34,114	32,349	30,607	28,094	27,182	26,265
Religious priests	22,707	21,920	22,904	22,771	22,265	18,010	16,705	15,092	13,305	12,811	12,010
Priestly ordinations	994	805	771	593	533	595	511	442	454	459	494
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	6,602	5,279	4,197	4,063	3,658	3,172	3,474	3,308	3,483	3,631
Permanent deacons	na	na	898	4,093	7,204	9,356	10,932	12,378	14,574	16,649	17,464
Permanent deacon candidates	na	na	2,243	2,514	2,263	1,980	2,026	2,497	2,342	2,445	2,018
Religious sisters	179,954	160,931	135,225	126,517	115,386	102,504	90,809	79,814	68,634	57,544	49,883
Religious brothers	12,271	11,623	8,625	7,941	7,544	6,721	6,535	5,662	5,451	4,690	4,318
Lay professional ministers (lay persons; excluding vowed religious)	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,674	17,315	20,379	20,660	21,424
Lay Ecclesial Ministers in parish ministry (most recent survey-based estimates; including vowed religious and other lay persons)	--	--	--	--	--	21,569	29,146	--	30,632	37,929	39,651
Enrollment in Lay Ecclesial Ministry formation programs	--	--	--	--	10,500	--	21,800	31,168	16,037	17,935	22,791
Parishes and the Catholic Population	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Parishes	17,637	18,224	18,515	18,794	19,244	19,620	19,331	19,236	18,891	17,958	17,483
Parishes without a resident priest pastor	549	571	702	791	1,051	1,812	2,161	2,843	3,251	3,353	3,496
Canon 517.2 parishes where a bishop has entrusted the pastoral care of the parish to a deacon or some other person (e.g., a religious sister, religious brother, or other lay person)	na	na	na	na	93	249	314	447	553	469	388
Percentage of diocesan priests active in ministry	94%	90%	88%	85%	84%	80%	76%	74%	70%	68%	68%
Active diocesan priests per parish	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0
Catholic population (<i>The Official Catholic Directory</i> ; parish-connected Catholics)	46.3m	47.9m	48.7m	50.5m	52.3m	55.7m	57.4m	59.9m	64.8m	65.6m	66.6m
Catholic population (self-identified, survey-based estimate)	48.5m	51.0m	54.5m	56.8m	59.5m	62.4m	65.7m	71.7m	74.0m	74.6m	79.7m
Foreign-born adult Catholics (survey-based estimate)	--	--	4.7m	4.1m	4.8m	5.6m	7.0m	10.9m	15.8m	13.2m	21.5m
Former Catholic adults: Those raised Catholic (native- and foreign-born) who no longer self-identify as Catholic (survey-based estimate). As the largest religion in the U.S., Catholicism has the largest number of former members (some later return as <u>reverts</u>). Catholicism has a higher retention rate than most other religions in the U.S. (including <u>all</u> Protestant denominations).	--	--	7.5m	8.6m	8.0m	10.3m	17.3m	17.9m	19.1m	26.8m	28.9m
Religious Education	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Primary school-age children in parish religious education	3.448m	4.175m	3.880m	3.417m	3.106m	3.144m	3.287m	3.592m	3.438m	2.952m	2.695m
Secondary school-age teens in parish religious education	1.357m	1.280m	1.009m	959,935	831,331	736,188	749,377	760,644	787,033	656,722	631,943
Catholic elementary schools	10,667	9,366	8,414	8,022	7,764	7,395	6,964	6,793	6,122	5,889	5,368
Students in Catholic elementary schools	4.431m	3.359m	2.557m	2.227m	2.005m	1.983m	1.815m	1.800m	1.559m	1.508m	1.360m
Catholic secondary schools	1,527	1,986	1,624	1,549	1,425	1,324	1,280	1,297	1,325	1,205	1,200
Students in Catholic secondary schools	689,264	1.008m	884,181	838,136	774,216	606,000	638,440	653,723	653,226	611,723	579,605
Catholic colleges and universities	305	279	245	235	243	228	231	230	229	234	225
Students in Catholic colleges and universities	409,471	411,111	432,597	536,799	545,461	619,300	653,927	683,768	752,718	783,407	787,574

