



Backgrounder

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prepared by

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 Fourth Street NE · Washington, DC 20017

202-541-3200 (O) · 202-541-3173 (F) ·

<http://www.usccb.org/>

The Catholic Church in the United States at a Glance

(Figures Represent the U.S. Catholic Church through 2016 Unless Otherwise Indicated)

Laity

There are an estimated 74.2 million self-identified Catholics in the United States and about 1.1 billion Catholics worldwide.¹

Dioceses and Archdioceses² (As of May 2017)

In the United States, there are 195 archdioceses/dioceses and one 1 apostolic exarchates, and 1 Personal Ordinariate:

- 145 Latin Catholic dioceses
- 33 Latin Catholic archdioceses
- 16 Eastern Catholic dioceses
- 2 Eastern Catholic archdioceses
- 1 apostolic exarchate for Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The latest information on dioceses and bishops is available at:

www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/index.cfm.

Clergy and Religious³

38,517 priests

3,520 graduate-level seminarians

18,173 permanent deacons

47,170 religious sisters

4,119 religious brothers

Catholic Education⁴ (As of 2016-2017)

Total Catholic elementary and high school enrollment: **1,878,824**.

Elementary/Middle Schools: **5,224** schools educating

1,309,429 students

High Schools: **1,205** schools educating **569,395** students

There are [261](#) Catholic institutions of higher education in the U.S.⁵

Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)⁶

USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) is the world's largest refugee resettlement agency. In 2016 Migration and Refugee Services provided assistance in the following categories:

Refugee Resettlement

- MRS resettled 23,638 individuals in FY 2016 into 88 dioceses in the U.S.
- Largest refugee populations resettled by MRS in 2016 were Burmese, Iraqi, Somali, Afghan and Congolese.
- 1,412 volunteers in over 220 parishes across the United States supported MRS' Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) program, giving both their time and energy to help newly arriving refugees start a new life in the U.S.
- 3,701: The combined number of Cubans (3,159) and Haitians (542) resettled by the MRS Cuban/Haitian program office in Miami in 2016.

Children's Services

- Served 2,287 unaccompanied children who arrived to the United States in 2016.
- Provided foster care and shelter to 440 of these unaccompanied, migrant children.
- Provided family reunification services for 1,682 children while they were undergoing immigration proceedings.
- Served 165 in Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program; this includes both unaccompanied children who arrived to the United States without legal status and who became eligible for immigration status, and unaccompanied children who arrived as refugees.
- 100% of these children get access to health care and education

Human Trafficking

- The Amistad Movement trained over 2440 peer educators in culturally diverse communities to recognize and provide support for victims of human trafficking.
- Provided comprehensive case management services to 192 survivors of human trafficking, to assist in stabilizing them and preparing them for self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities⁷

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and its national network of social service agencies are on the front lines of responding to the needs of those living in poverty in America. In communities across the nation, the network of 177 Catholic Charities member agencies and affiliates help individuals and families move out of poverty and achieve their full potential by providing services in the areas of hunger, health, housing, education and workforce development, and family economic security.

CCUSA was founded in 1910 on the campus of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. as the National Conference of Catholic Charities. For more than 100 years, CCUSA has guided and supported the vast network of Catholic Charities agencies nationwide in our common mission to serve, advocate and convene.

¹ Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, (CARA) Frequently Requested Catholic Church Statistics

² United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

³ CARA Frequently Requested Catholic Church Statistics

⁴ National Catholic Educational Association, United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary 2016-2017, Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing

⁵ Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, FAQ.

www.accunet.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3797#HowMany

⁶ USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services, data for 2016.

⁷ Catholic Charities USA