



Backgrounder

Papal Transition 2013

prepared by

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Hispanics in the United States and the Catholic Church

- 50.5 million Hispanics live in the United States or 16 percent of the total U.S. population, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.
- U.S. Hispanic population is the second size ranking worldwide, as of 2010. Only Mexico (112 million) had a larger Hispanic population than the United States (50.5).
- 68 percent of Hispanics in the U.S. consider themselves Roman Catholics, approximately 39 percent of U.S. Catholics.
- 64 percent of Hispanics who identify as Catholic attend church services regularly.
- 54 percent of U.S. Millennial Catholics are Hispanic (born in 1982 or later).
- 28 active bishops are Hispanic.
- 15 percent of the priests ordained in 2012 are Hispanic. There are about 3,000 priests of Hispanic descent.
- Since 1960, 71 percent of the U.S. Catholic population growth has been due to the growth in the number of Hispanics in the U.S. population overall.
- 40 percent of the increase in registered parishioners from 2005 to 2010 was among Hispanic Catholics.
- 29 percent of parishes celebrate Mass at least once a month in a language other than English. 81 percent of those Masses are in Spanish. Overall, about 6 percent of Masses (weekday and weekend) are celebrated in Spanish in the United States.
- At least 4,800 parishes, or about 25 percent, have Hispanic ministry.
- 43 percent of lay people in formation programs are of Hispanic descent.
- 63 percent of U.S. Hispanic family households reported to be a married couple.
- 9.7 million Hispanic citizens reported voting in the 2008 Presidential Election.

- Hispanics 5 and older who speak Spanish at home: 75.1 percent.
- Projected Hispanic population by 2050 132.8 million or 30 percent of the total U.S. population.
- Top 5 Hispanic Population by country of origin: 64.9 percent are from Mexico; 9.2 percent from Puerto Rico; 3.7 from Cuba; 3.6 percent from El Salvador; 3.0 percent from the Dominican Republic.
- In 2009, 47 percent of the Hispanic population in the U.S. reported to be foreign-born.
- Eight states had one million or more Hispanic residents in 2011: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas.
- More than 50 percent of all the Hispanic population in 2011 lived in California, Florida and Texas as of July 1, 2011.
- Between year 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic population grew over 100 percent in: Maryland, Alabama, Tennessee, South Dakota, Arkansas and South Carolina.
- The 25 states in which Hispanics were the largest minority groups are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.
- Hispanic population exceeds 16 percent in 40 U.S. Catholic dioceses. The Hispanic population exceeds 50 percent in: Brownsville, Laredo, El Paso and Corpus Christi. *

**CARA takes the Census numbers and analyzes them within diocesan boundaries. The data make no distinction regarding religion.*

Sources:

The Catholic Church By The Numbers, USCCB. <http://www.usccb.org/about/media-relations/statistics/laity-parishes.cfm>

USCCB's Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. Hispanic Latino Ministry Media Kit: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/hispanic-latino/demographics/

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

<http://cara.georgetown.edu/CARAServices/CatholicDemographic.html>