



Backgrounder

Papal Transition 2013

prepared by

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Women in the Church

Women in diocesan leadership (data from the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators):

- Women hold just under 50 percent of diocesan leadership positions.
- The percentage of women in diocesan leadership positions compares favorably with the U.S. workforce. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2002 women made up 51 percent of the executive, administrative, managerial and professional workforce. In that same year, women held 48.9 percent of diocesan administrative positions.
- Women hold about one-quarter of the highest positions in dioceses. These include the chiefs of pastoral services, finance, personnel, education and community services.
- About a quarter of all diocesan chancellors are women. This is a position of considerable influence in many dioceses.
- Women hold the top administrative position in national Catholic organizations. Current examples include Sister Carol Keehan at the Catholic Health Association, Carolyn Woo, Ph.D., at Catholic Relief Services, and Karen Ristau, Ed.D., at the National Catholic Education Association.