



History of Catholic Schools in the United States

1965 – present:

Cultural changes and Challenges

1960s and 1970s: Identity crisis and change in the Catholic Church

- Culture changes in the Western World: "A sexual revolution", freedom, protests, mistrust of establishment
- St. John XXIII: "Aggiornamento": bring the Church up to date to face modern times: calls for the Second Vatican Council.



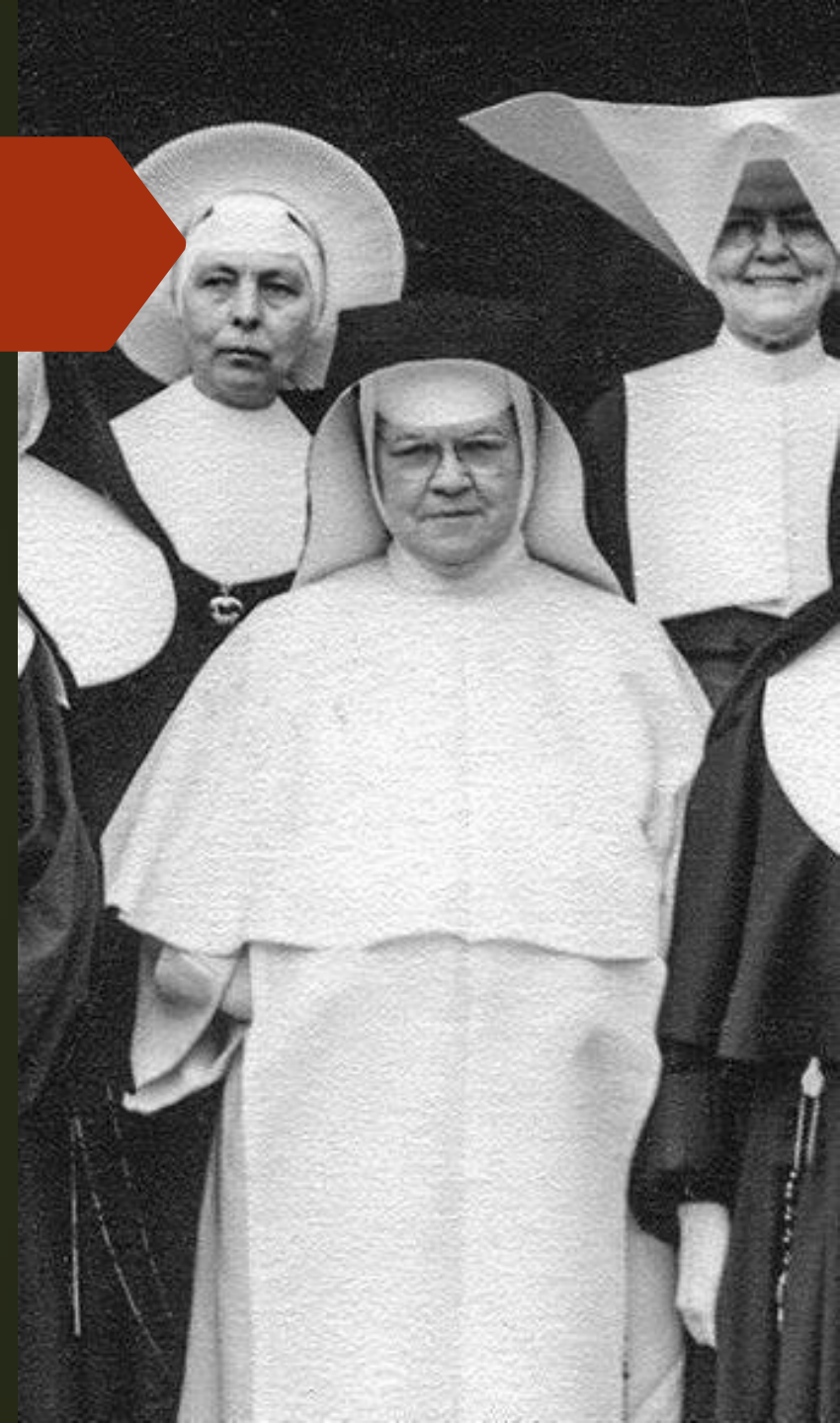
Vatican II: 1962-1965

- 1962-1963: Pope St. John XXIII
- 1963-1965: Pope Paul VI
- St. John XXIII's opening speech (1962):
 - "it is absolutely vital that the Church shall never for an instant lose sight of that sacred patrimony of truth inherited from the Fathers.
 - it is equally necessary for her to keep up to date with the changing conditions of this modern world."
- Result of the Council: renewal of Catholic life in almost every aspect: from the language and theology of the Mass to the Church's role in the world, especially its relationship with other religions.
- Ecumenical Council: participation of believers of other faiths, both Christian and others



Changes with religious

- Many religious no longer wore their habits;
- Many religious leave teaching in schools to minister in other ways, i.e. among the poor in poverty-stricken areas of the country, addressing social justice
- Documents of Vatican II address the increasingly important role of laity in society
- As Catholics become more and more accepted and integrated into American life, a compartmentalized Catholic culture begins to dissipate
- Large Catholic families are less of a reality (thus fewer vocations)
- An increasing number of Catholics marry outside of their ethnic heritage, and outside of the Catholic faith





What trends do the Catholic schools face after the 60s?

School tuition increases at a rate far above annual income increases In families. WHY?

- Fewer and fewer religious staff the schools; lay people must be paid a living wage as they are not under the vow of poverty and many have families to support;
- Parents no longer accept the very large classroom sizes;
- The growth of technology necessitates more expenses in education



Tuition increases and accessibility

- Result: as the years go by, the Catholic school become increasingly inaccessible to many Catholic families
 - Personal examples: my family of 6 boys; my high school tuition
 - \$12 a week in the parish collection – tax deductible
 - My HS tuition: \$900-\$1200 a year; minimum wage job = \$3.10/hr
 - STH tuition today: \$19,180; minimum wage = \$7.25/hr
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- Interesting phenomenon: an increasing number of non-Catholics are enrolled in Catholic schools
 - Other increasing phenomenon: Catholic families who home school



Catholic School Trend Data - USA

- Peak enrollment in the 1960s: more than 5.2 million students in almost 13,000 schools;
- 1970s & 80s: steep decline in both the number of schools and students.
- 1990: 2.5 million students in 8,719 schools.
- Mid-1990s – 2000: steady enrollment **increase** (1.3%) despite continued closings of schools.
- 2010 – present: 1,191 schools were reported closed or consolidated (18.1%), 244 school openings were reported
actual decrease in number of schools since 2010 is 911 (12.8%).
The number of students declined by 382,044 (18.0%).

Most seriously impacted: elementary schools. Since 2010, declined by 24.1% in the 12 urban dioceses and 18.6% in the rest of the U.S.

Some good news: 2010-2020 period as 244 new schools opened in all parts of the country.



Current Enrollment

- Total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2019-2020: 1,737,297.
 - 1,201,391 in elementary/middle schools; 535,906 in secondary schools
- Student diversity:
 - 21.8% are racial minorities,
 - 18.5% are Hispanic/Latino
 - Non-Catholic enrollment= 331,648: 19.1% of total enrollment.



Current statistics (NCEA)

- There are 6,183 Catholic schools: 4,995 elementary; 1,188 secondary.
- 10 new schools opened; 98 consolidated or closed.*
- 1,866 schools have a waiting list for admission.
- Coeducational schools comprise 98.6% of elementary and 70.8% of secondary schools.
- At the secondary level, 12.5% of the schools are male and 16.6% are female.




Professional Staff of American Catholic Schools

- Full-time equivalent professional staff numbered 146,367:
- 97.4%: Laity (Lay women: 75.1% Lay men: 22.3%)
- 2.6%: Religious/Clergy (Sisters: 1.6%; Brothers: 0.4%; Clergy: 0.6%)
- The student/teacher ratio is 12:1.



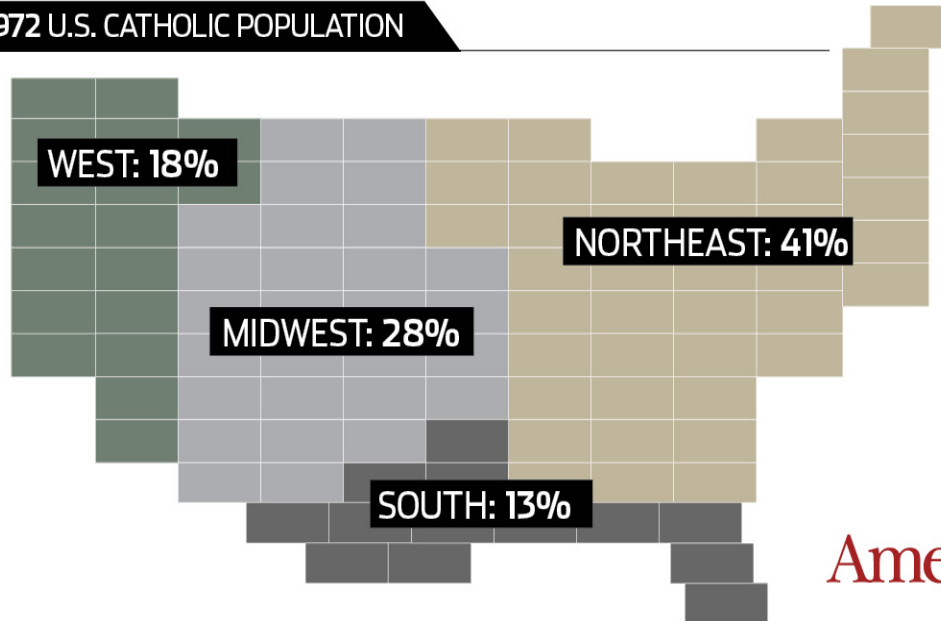
Latino Catholics in the United States

- There are approximately 30.4 million people in the United States who self-identify their religion as Catholic and their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino/a. Some 16.4 million are native-born (54%) and 14.0 million are foreign-born (46%).
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U.S. CATHOLIC POPULATION

55% OF U.S. CATHOLICS ARE
WHITE AND NON-HISPANIC,
DOWN FROM 87% IN 1991

1972 U.S. CATHOLIC POPULATION



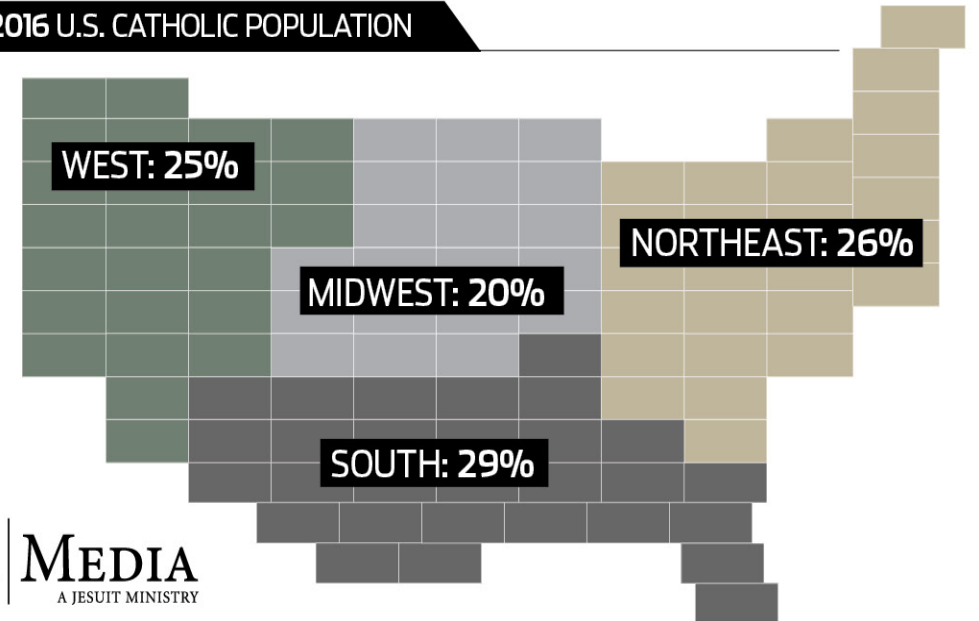
U.S. CATHOLICS OVER 65

WHITE	76%
HISPANIC	17%

U.S. CATHOLICS UNDER 30

WHITE	36%
HISPANIC	52%

2016 U.S. CATHOLIC POPULATION

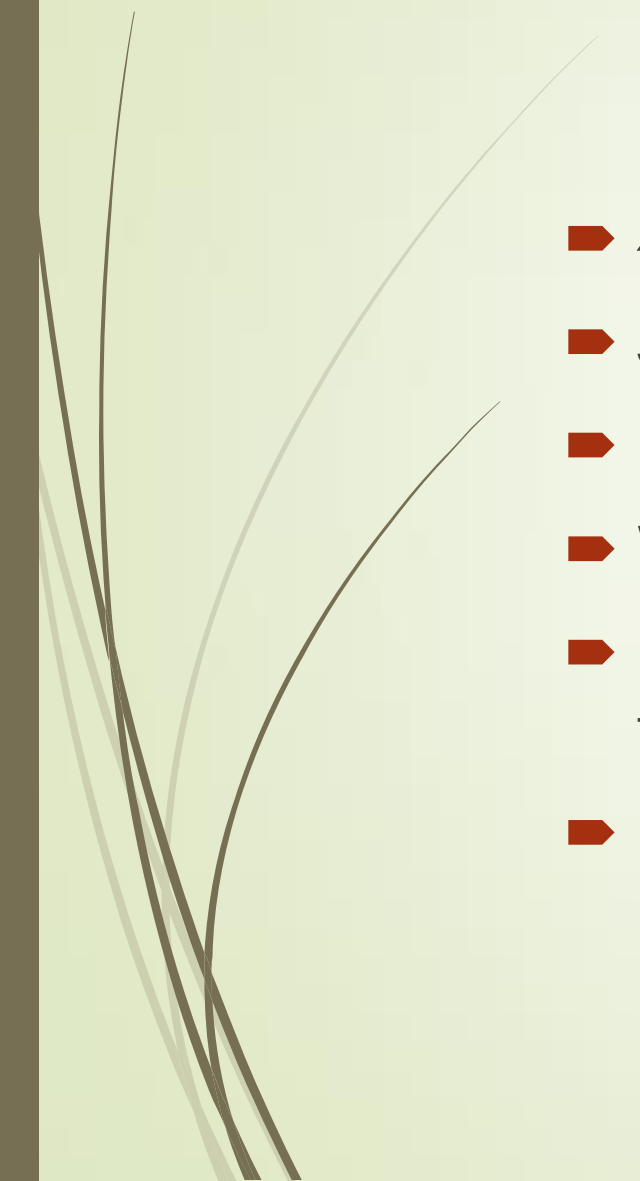


America | MEDIA
A JESUIT MINISTRY

Source: "America's Changing Religious Identity," Daniel Cox and Robert P. Jones, PRRI (prri.org). The PRRI report defines "white Catholic" as being exclusive of "Hispanic Catholic"; neither category includes "other nonwhite Catholics." In the political affiliation chart, numbers may not add up to 100 because of rounding.



Latinos in American Catholic Schools

- 40% of Catholics in the United States are Latino
 - 52% of Catholics under 30 in the United States are Latino
 - 18.5% of students in Catholic schools are Latino
 - WHY THE DIFFERENCE:
 - For immigrants: their experience of Catholic schools in their native land: uniquely for the wealthy;
 - Latino income is significantly lower;
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Cristo Rey High Schools in the United States

- 37 schools in major American cities
- Exclusively for those who suffer the effects of poverty (must earn under a certain income level)
- 1st school founded in Chicago by Fr. John Foley, SJ
- Schools have agreements with local businesses which hire students to work one day a week; salaries go to the school to pay students' tuition;
- Students attend school four longer days per week; work one day
- By graduation, students have résumés detailing their impressive experience in the working world
- Local businesses “mentor” student
- Houston: Cristo Rey Jesuit partners with the University of St. Thomas: Rising Stars Program

Cristo Rey Schools





Huber: Accessibility of Catholic Secondary Schools to various income levels of Catholic families

- In 2004, a majority of Catholic high school families earned over \$100,000/yr
- Practicing Catholic families identified high tuition as the #1 reason they were not sending their child to a Catholic school;
- Of those who attend Catholic schools, a vast majority identify Catholic identity and values as an important reason;
- Schools offer an increasingly generous amount of financial assistance, yet it cannot meet the need, especially for middle class families.



The Catholic School (SCCE 1997)

- In some countries, because of local laws and economic conditions, the Catholic school runs the risk of giving counter-witness by admitting a majority of children from wealthier families. Schools may have done this because of their need to be financially self supporting. This situation is of great concern to those responsible for Catholic education, because first and foremost the Church offers its educational service to "the poor or those who are deprived of family help and affection or those who are far from the faith". Since education is an important means of improving the social and economic condition of the individual and of peoples, if the Catholic school were to turn its attention exclusively or predominantly to those from the wealthier social classes, it could be contributing towards maintaining their privileged position, and could thereby continue to favour a society which is unjust. (SCCE, 1977, Section 58)



Huber's dissertation recommendations

- Catholic families consider Catholic education and the sacrifices necessary to send their children to Catholic schools;
- Catholic high schools must continue to strive, and find new and creative ways to raise funds for their institution, in order to build endowments restricted to financial assistance.
- Fundraising efforts should increasingly remind wealthier graduates of Catholic schools why their assistance is necessary. They are now the #1 asset of schools (the large numbers of religious used to be.)
- Greater unified effort in the (entire) Church so that schools are less on their own.
- Continued efforts to obtain government funding without governmental control.

2020 and beyond

- Despite challenges, Catholic schools remain the largest network of private schools in the United States
- Catholic education is needed more than ever
- Schools are making valiant attempts to become accessible to all income levels
- Cardinal DiNardo: one of the greatest forces of evangelization in our Church: our Catholic schools

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ARE GOOD
FOR AMERICA!

