



Tier 2  
41 dioceses

300,000 - 750,000 Catholic Population

ARCHDIOCESE	Diocese Abbrev.	Total Catholics in Diocese in 2022	Priestly Ordinations 2022	Priestly Ordination Avg 2018-2022	Priestly Ordinations Needed 2022*	On Avg % Ordained vs. Need 2022	Total Seminarians 2022	Seminarian Avg 2018-2022	Seminarians Needed 2022**	% of Total Seminarians 2022 vs # Needed	How Many Parishioners Does Each Active Priest Serve In the Diocese in 2022
Seattle, Washington	SW	726,438	3	3	6	50%	13	19	55	24%	5,341
St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota	MSP	720,000	5	5	7	71%	55	54	64	86%	2,780
El Paso, Texas	EPTX	715,654	7	3	5	140%	18	21	46	40%	8,322
San Jose, California	SJCA	689,000	2	3	5	40%	6	8	46	13%	5,839
Metuchen, New Jersey	MNJ	662,256	1	3	5	20%	24	22	46	53%	4,631
Austin, Texas	ATX	652,966	3	4	6	50%	28	30	55	51%	4,324
Washington, DC	DC	647,417	10	7	9	111%	72	77	82	88%	1,610
Hartford, Connecticut	HART	643,341	0	2	5	0%	14	14	46	31%	4,376
Trenton, New Jersey	TNJ	640,000	0	2	5	0%	12	14	46	26%	4,507
Las Vegas, Nevada	LVN	620,000	0	1	4	0%	9	8	36	25%	13,191
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	PIT	618,731	1	2	6	17%	33	32	55	60%	3,291
Cleveland, Ohio	CLE	604,089	3	3	7	43%	48	54	64	75%	2,571
Providence, Rhode Island	PROV	600,835	1	2	5	20%	15	15	46	33%	4,845
Denver Colorado	DEN	598,964	8	6	6	133%	49	56	55	90%	2,866
Buffalo, New York	BUF	557,600	2	4	5	40%	9	15	46	20%	3,793
Charlotte, North Carolina	CHAR	546,370	2	3	5	40%	49	32	46	108%	4,406
New Orleans, Louisiana	NO	514,847	6	5	6	100%	30	33	55	55%	2,681
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	MKE	509,903	6	5	7	86%	50	45	64	78%	1,910
Joliet, Illinois	JOL	507,455	3	5	5	60%	24	29	46	53%	3,874
Baltimore, Maryland	BAL	503,937	5	4	6	83%	57	54	55	104%	2,495
Miami, Florida	MIA	487,506	3	5	6	50%	50	54	55	92%	2,402
St. Louis, Missouri	STL	483,911	2	4	6	33%	38	44	55	70%	2,095
San Francisco, California	SF	472,000	2	2	4	50%	19	16	36	52%	3,576
Cincinnati, Ohio	CIN	435,362	7	5	5	140%	46	56	46	101%	2,655
Arlington, Virginia	ARL	433,401	8	5	5	160%	48	49	46	105%	2,293
Paterson, New Jersey	PAT	420,000	7	7	5	140%	11	25	46	24%	2,675
Rockford, Illinois	ROCK	411,932	1	2	4	25%	10	16	36	27%	3,193
Portland, Oregon	PORO	400,822	1	3	5	20%	26	23	46	57%	2,569
Orlando, Florida	ORFL	390,668	2	3	4	50%	21	22	36	58%	3,311
Monterey, California	MON	371,000	2	3	4	50%	6	12	36	16%	4,756
Oakland, California	OAK	367,389	1	3	5	20%	12	14	46	26%	1,944
Salt Lake City, Utah	SLC	340,476	1	1	3	33%	8	9	27	29%	6,424
Bridgeport, Connecticut	BRPT	337,969	2	2	4	50%	26	24	36	71%	2,748
Columbus, Ohio	COL	334,881	0	4	3	0%	24	25	27	88%	3,130
Laredo, Texas	LTX	328,508	1	2	3	33%	3	6	27	11%	8,213
Santa Fe, New Mexico	SFNM	327,368	4	3	4	100%	12	16	36	33%	2,558
Scranton, Pennsylvania	SCR	317,429	0	2	4	0%	8	10	36	22%	2,461
Toledo, Ohio	TOL	316,318	1	2	3	33%	12	17	27	44%	3,476
Albany, New York	ALB	316,275	2	3	3	67%	33	26	27	121%	3,365
Rochester, New York	RONY	315,239	1	2	3	33%	4	8	27	15%	3,121
Camden, New Jersey	CAM	311,489	5	3	3	167%	8	14	27	29%	2,911

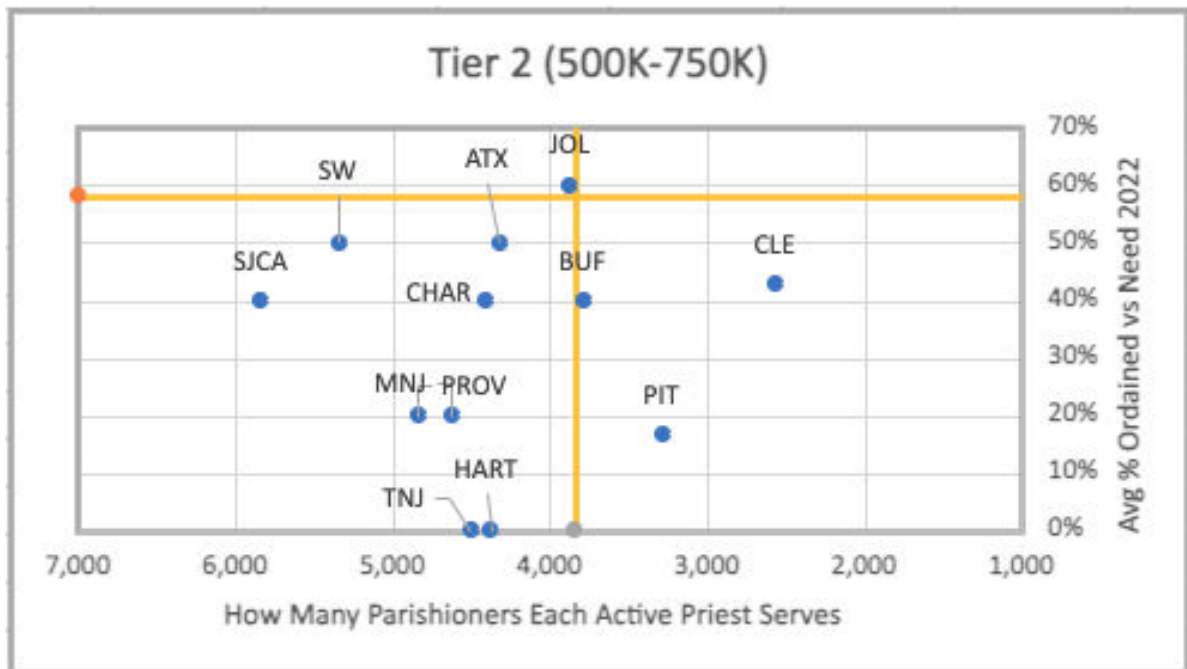
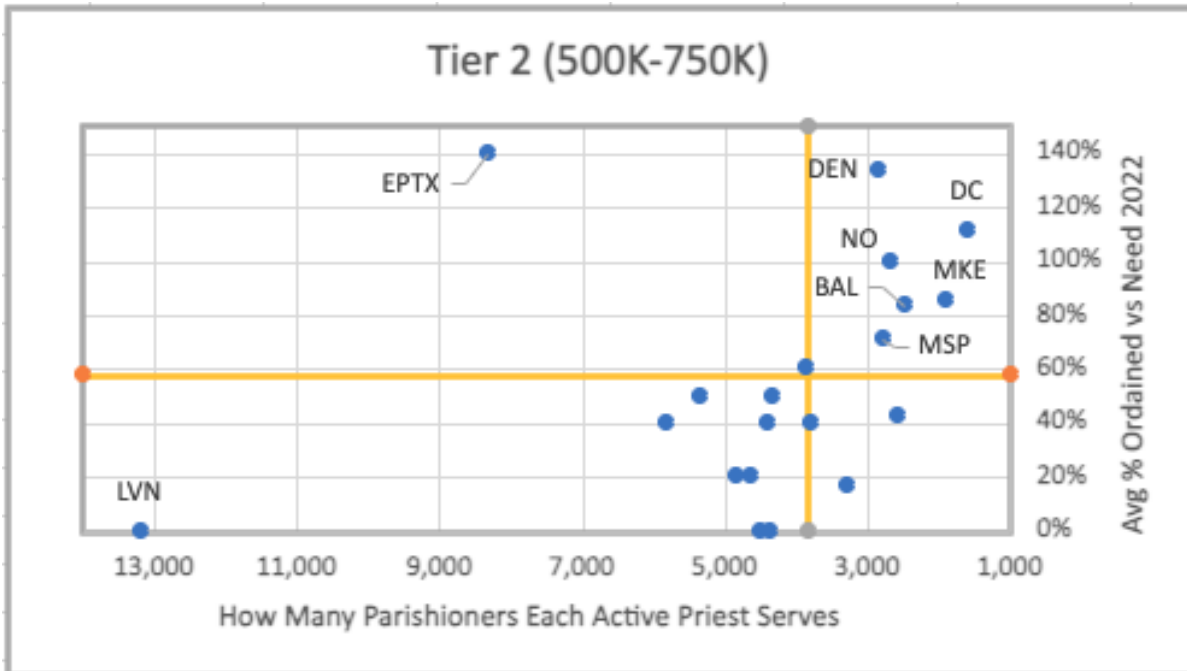
\*Priestly Ordinations Needed 2022 = The Average of 2 factors:

- 1) A Population Factor of one ordination per 120,000 Catholics in a diocese
- 2) The Replacement Rate of Priests. Replacement Rate = 2.7%.

\*\*Seminarians Needed 2022 = (Priestly Ords Needed 2022 \* 7) + 30% discern out rate)

\*\*\*Retirement Rate of Priests not factored into data

### Tier 2 – Quadrants







## Tier 2 – Quadrant Analysis

These Quadrant Charts are graphs of “How Many Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves” compared to “Average Ordination Rate vs. Need”. Each dot on these charts represents the data for a diocese. The vertical and horizontal orange lines provide the overall averages for all the dioceses in their group. Let’s define what each quadrant represents:

### **Upper Right Quadrant-**

**Current Situation:** The dioceses in this quadrant generally have good numbers of active priests and smaller numbers of parishioners that each priest serves. Ordinations are relatively high compared to the other dioceses in the demographic group. Since each priest serves smaller numbers, access to priests is greater and relationship potential, which has been shown to be necessary for the development of vocations, is more possible.

**Future Situation:** The dioceses in this quadrant, even though it may not be ordaining as many as it would like, is in the best situation of all the quadrants heading forward. Since ordination rates are higher, and the replacement of existing priests is ongoing, as we approach the high retirement rates of baby boomer priests, this group will most likely handle this situation the best of the 4 quadrants.

### **Upper Left Quadrant-**

**Current Situation:** The dioceses in this quadrant generally have smaller numbers of active priests and large numbers of parishioners that each priest serves. This reason can be different in the tiers. Some dioceses are Catholic population dense in a smaller geographic area; others may simply have a small number of priests serving very large numbers of parishioners. Either way, the result is that access to priests is reduced. We generally see very few dioceses in the quadrant, which means it is almost impossible to develop a strong, nurturing vocational environment. This doesn’t mean that individual parishes are not able to do this successfully, but dioceses that average high parishioner numbers have found it almost impossible to generate more than 60% of the ordinations needed in this quadrant.

**Future Situation:** Since there are very few dioceses in this quadrant with a high number of parishioners that each priest serves and a high ordination rate, it’s hard to see a model that shows us what success looks like.

### **Bottom Right Quadrant-**

**Current Situation:** The dioceses in this quadrant generally have good numbers of active priests and smaller numbers of parishioners that each priest serves. Ordinations are relatively low compared to the other dioceses in the demographic group. Since each priest serves smaller numbers, access to priests is greater and relationship potential, which has been shown to be necessary for the development of vocations, is more possible.

**Future Situation:** If the addressable steps are taken, it will take time to see positive change in these dioceses because of the number of years needed for priestly formation. But this group has all the tools and inputs necessary for revival at hand.

**Bottom Left Quadrant-**

Current Situation: Dioceses in this quadrant are struggling in many cases with a lack of existing priests and each existing priest is serving large numbers of parishioners. Ordination rates are very low, compared to the other dioceses in their demographic group. With all the demands of handling these large parishes, priests are finding it very challenging to create a vocational environment to develop sustaining numbers of vocations to the priesthood. Therefore, very few ordinations are fostered in these dioceses.

**Future Situation:** The question is what changes can be made to make it possible to create a more vocational environment. The first step is awareness. Changes of some priorities from administrative to vocational are possible. Defining roles where religious priests, lay people, and retired religious can fill gaps to alleviate the situation outlined can help create a vocational environment.



## Tier 2 - Correlations

Vocation Ministry was interested to know if any of the diocesan information collected from the Official Catholic Directory publications of 2014-2023 could be contributing factors affecting vocations to the priesthood, and, if so, how important the effects may be. Understanding these trends may be useful to help all understand what creates a more favorable environment to foster vocations.

Pearson correlations are a way to measure the direction and strength of the relationship between two variables. The direction of the effect is indicated by a “+” or “-” sign in front of the reported number. For instance, a “-” sign would indicate the two variables move in different directions, i.e., as one increases, the other decreases. A “+” indicates the two variables move together in the same direction, either higher or lower.

The reported number indicates the strength of how perfect the relationship is. All reported numbers are between “0” and “1.0”. A perfect relationship would be 1.0, which rarely occurs, and no relationship at all would be “0”. To understand the range of reported numbers and what they indicate, see the table below for a description of relationship strengths. While no individual trait should be expected to represent all the variations, those that are significant can be taken as direct contributing factors.

<b>&gt; -0.8</b>	<b>Very High Negative Correlation</b>		<b>&gt; +0.8</b>	<b>Very High Positive Correlation</b>
<b>-0.6 to -0.8</b>	<b>High Negative Correlation</b>		<b>+0.6 to +0.8</b>	<b>High Positive Correlation</b>
<b>-0.4 to -0.6</b>	<b>Moderate Negative Correlation</b>		<b>+0.4 to +0.6</b>	<b>Moderate Positive Correlation</b>
<b>-0.2 to -0.4</b>	<b>Low Negative Correlation</b>		<b>+0.2 to +0.4</b>	<b>Low Positive Correlation</b>
<b>0 to -0.2</b>	<b>No Correlation</b>		<b>0 to +0.2</b>	<b>No Correlation</b>

Tests of significance using *p values* (*probability values*) of .05, .01, and .001 were applied and are designated as \*, \*\*, \*\*\*, respectively. To understand statistical significance, a *p value* of .05 would indicate a 1 in 20 chance of this outcome being exceeded by chance alone, .01 would indicate 1 chance in 100, and .001 would indicate 1 chance in 1000. Thus, confidence in results increase as reported correlations are strong (in either direction) and *p values* get smaller.



## Tier 2 – Correlation Findings

### 41 Dioceses

Tier 2	Priests to Parishioners per Parish	How Many Parishioners Does Each Active Priest Serve	Total Active Priests per Total Parishes
Priestly Ord's Avg 2018-2022	0.59***	-0.49***	0.25
Avg % Ordained vs. Base Ordination Need Rate 2022	0.25	-0.25	0.12
Avg # of Seminarians 2018-2022	0.73***	-0.49***	0.30*
% of Total Sems 2022 vs Base Need Seminarian Rate 2022	0.50***	-0.42**	0.12

\* P <.05, \*\*p <.01, \*\*\*p <.001

- Dioceses that have a sufficient number of priests to care for the Catholic population or smaller numbers of parishioners per parish generally have a positive association in generating priestly ordinations, seminarians and seminarians needed. While some of these dioceses may still struggle to ordain as many as needed, this relationship is still significant, but at a lower level.
- In general, dioceses that have priests serving smaller numbers of parishioners are having much greater success fostering all aspects of our vocational categories, noted in the first column on the correlation table, than those dioceses where priests are serving large numbers of parishioners.