



**Tier 3**  
**60 dioceses**  
**100,000 - 300,000 Catholic Population**

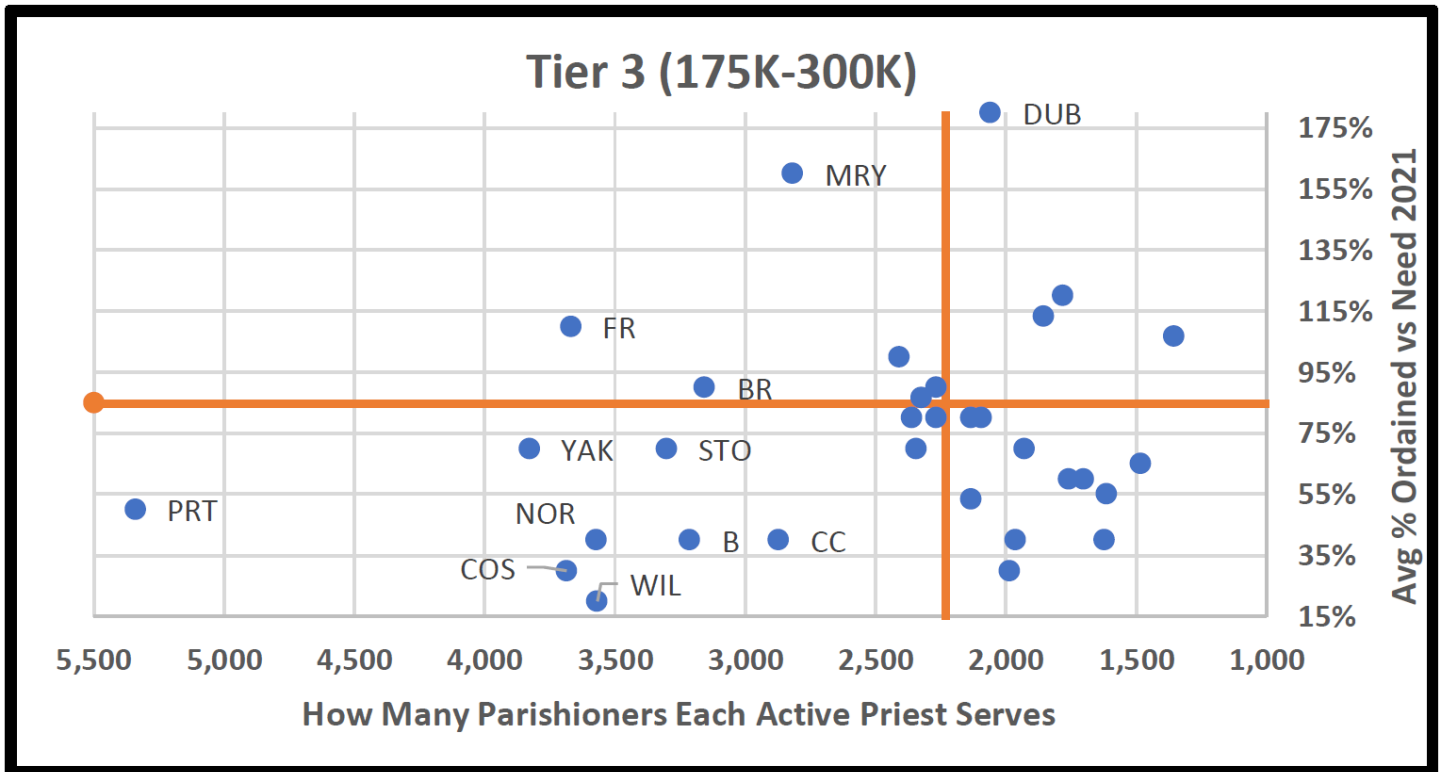
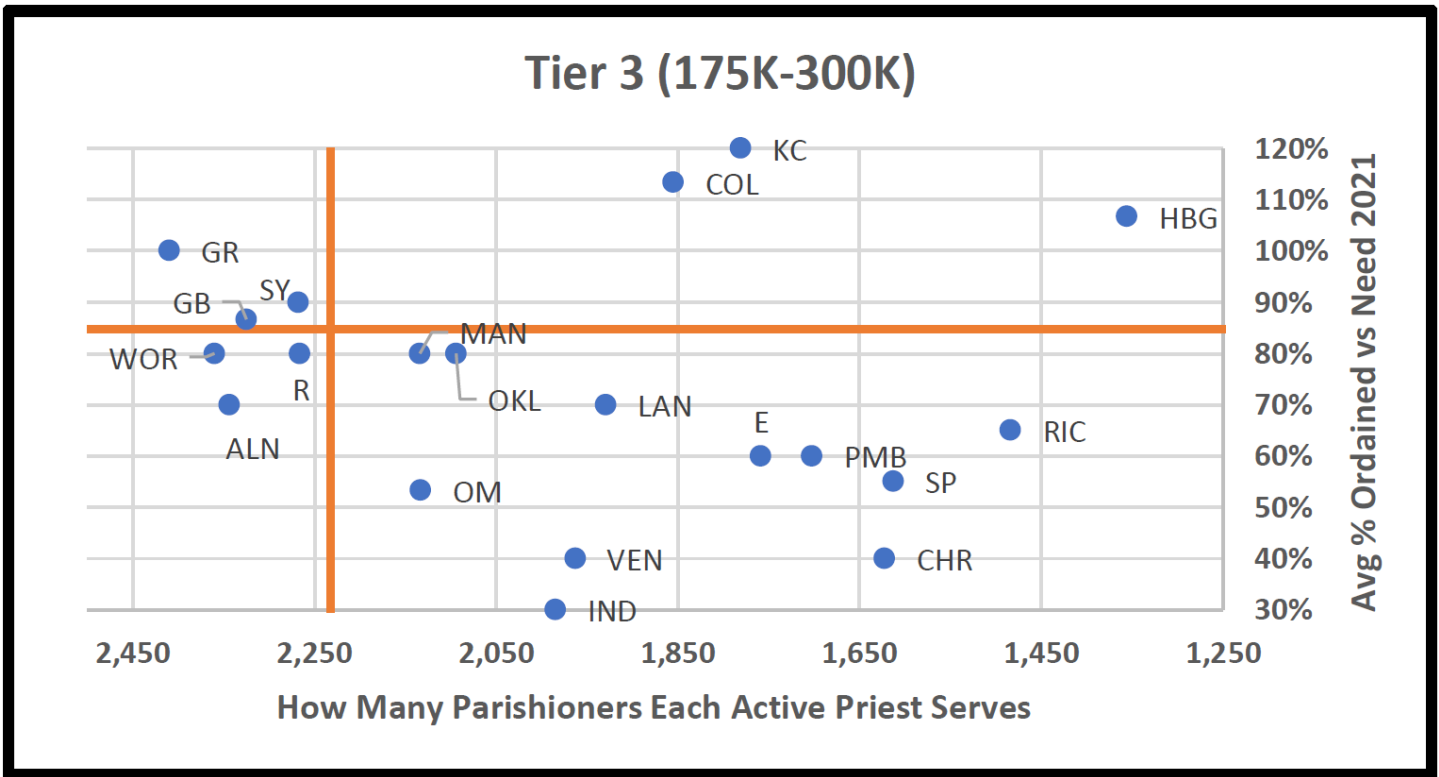
DIOCESE	Diocese Abbrev.	Total Catholics in Diocese 2021	Priestly Ordinations 2021	Priestly Ordination Avg 2017-2021	Priestly Ordinations Needed 2021*	On Avg % Ordained vs. Need 2021	Total Seminarians 2021	Seminarian Avg 2017-2021	Seminarians Needed 2021**	% of Total Seminarians 2021 vs # Needed	How Many Parishioners Does Each Active Priest Serve in the Diocese in 2021
St. Petersburg, Florida	SP	283,874	1	2.2	4	55%	16	18	34	48%	1,613
Portland, Maine	PRT	277,703	0	1.0	2	50%	8	8	20	40%	5,340
Worcester, Massachusetts	WOR	266,700	4	2.4	3	80%	22	24	29	76%	2,360
Fall River, Massachusetts	FR	260,498	1	2.2	2	110%	11	14	19	58%	3,669
Green Bay, Wisconsin	GB	255,743	1	2.6	3	87%	17	17	24	72%	2,325
Omaha, Nebraska	OM	247,427	0	1.6	3	53%	19	23	28	67%	2,133
Wilmington, Delaware	WIL	246,165	1	0.4	2	20%	12	10	19	63%	3,568
Stockton, California	STO	237,657	0	1.4	2	70%	7	6	18	38%	3,301
Venice, Florida	VEN	237,483	2	1.2	3	40%	16	16	27	59%	1,963
Raleigh, North Carolina	R	235,704	2	2.4	3	80%	19	22	23	84%	2,266
Palm Beach, Florida	PMB	233,244	1	1.8	3	60%	8	9	27	29%	1,703
Norwich, Connecticut	NOR	228,520	1	0.8	2	40%	7	8	18	38%	3,571
Richmond, Virginia	RIC	226,964	1	2.6	4	65%	26	27	32	82%	1,483
Allentown, Pennsylvania	ALN	215,601	2	1.4	2	70%	16	16	22	73%	2,343
Columbus, Ohio	COL	213,282	3	3.4	3	113%	19	26	26	72%	1,855
Monterey, California	MRY	211,306	4	3.2	2	160%	7	16	22	32%	2,817
Corpus Christi, Texas	CC	209,713	0	0.8	2	40%	13	12	17	75%	2,873
Manchester, New Hampshire	MAN	206,996	2	1.6	2	80%	11	12	22	50%	2,134
Indianapolis, Indiana	IND	206,387	0	0.6	2	30%	27	24	22	124%	1,984
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	HBG	206,072	2	3.2	3	107%	19	25	31	61%	1,356
Boise, Idaho	B	202,400	0	0.8	2	40%	10	9	17	58%	3,213
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	BR	202,030	3	1.8	2	90%	9	14	17	52%	3,157
Charleston, South Carolina	CHR	199,543	1	1.2	3	40%	16	18	26	61%	1,622
Erie, Pennsylvania	E	195,243	0	1.8	3	60%	9	11	22	41%	1,759
Colorado Springs, Colorado	COS	191,687	0	0.6	2	30%	15	12	16	92%	3,686
Dubuque, Iowa	DUB	185,260	3	3.6	2	180%	15	20	21	72%	2,058
Kansas City, Kansas	KC	183,441	3	2.4	2	120%	22	25	21	105%	1,781
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	OKL	182,186	1	1.6	2	80%	19	22	21	91%	2,094
Syracuse, New York	SY	179,129	4	1.8	2	90%	10	11	21	48%	2,267
Grand Rapids, Michigan	GR	178,324	1	2.0	2	100%	23	25	16	140%	2,410
Yakima, Washington	YAK	176,126	2	1.4	2	70%	7	10	16	43%	3,829
Lansing, Michigan	LAN	175,535	2	1.4	2	70%	31	26	21	148%	1,929
Santa Rosa, California	SR	172,194	1	0.8	2	40%	6	7	16	37%	3,444
Gary, Indiana	GRY	169,617	0	1.0	2	50%	12	11	16	73%	2,976
Madison, Wisconsin	MAD	167,958	2	3.4	2	170%	17	20	20	85%	1,826
Louisville, Kentucky	L	167,784	2	2.4	2	120%	10	14	20	50%	1,997
Springfield, Massachusetts	SPR	159,379	0	2.2	2	110%	1	5	20	5%	1,660
Little Rock, Arkansas	LR	158,378	5	5.8	3	193%	32	29	25	130%	1,257
Spokane, Washington	SPK	156,756	0	0.4	2	20%	6	5	15	39%	3,266
St. Augustine, Florida	STA	153,041	3	3.0	2	150%	19	25	20	95%	1,700
Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana	FTW	147,996	6	3.8	2	190%	21	27	20	105%	1,451
Youngstown, Ohio	Y	143,784	2	2.0	2	100%	15	17	15	124%	1,970
Lubbock, Texas	LUB	136,894	0	0.2	2	10%	4	5	15	27%	2,402
Winona-Rochester, Minnesota	WIN	136,214	0	1.0	2	50%	19	17	15	130%	2,270
La Crosse, Wisconsin	LC	136,032	3	2.8	3	93%	13	19	24	55%	1,153
Peoria, Illinois	PEO	131,199	2	1.2	3	40%	21	20	24	89%	1,067
Honolulu, Hawaii	HON	128,580	1	1.0	2	50%	13	11	19	68%	1,714
Tyler, Texas	TYL	124,671	4	2.0	2	100%	18	15	19	94%	1,708
Sioux Falls, South Dakota	SFS	123,500	3	2.6	2	130%	15	18	19	78%	1,625
Springfield, Illinois	SFD	123,226	1	4.4	2	220%	15	19	19	78%	1,311
Kansas City- St. Joseph, Missouri	KCKS	120,857	3	2.2	2	110%	14	22	19	73%	1,456
San Angelo, Texas	SAN	119,935	1	1.0	2	50%	9	8	14	66%	2,306
Greensburg, Pennsylvania	GBG	116,927	0	0.2	2	10%	10	7	14	73%	1,982
Wichita, Kansas	WCH	115,390	4	7.4	2	370%	29	37	18	159%	1,110
St. Cloud, Minnesota	SCL	115,158	0	1.4	2	70%	14	13	14	103%	1,799
Birmingham, Alabama	BIR	113,432	0	0.8	2	40%	11	8	14	81%	1,575
Burlington, Vermont	BUR	110,000	1	1.2	2	60%	8	8	14	59%	2,245
Des Moines, Iowa	DM	108,080	5	1.8	2	90%	15	16	15	110%	1,481
Gallup, New Mexico	GLP	107,653	0	0.4	2	20%	3	3	14	22%	2,392
Las Cruces, New Mexico	LSC	101,000	1	1.0	2	50%	4	5	14	29%	2,295

\*Priestly Ordinations Needed 2021 = The Average of 2 factors:

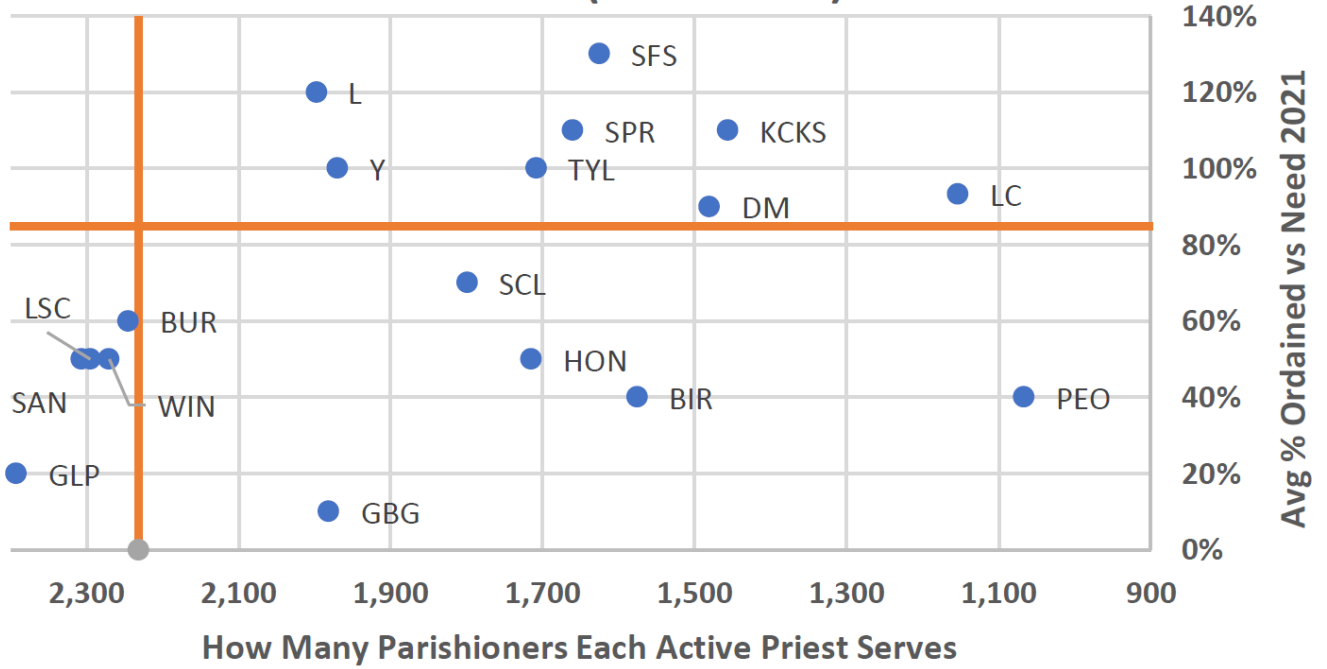
- 1) A Population Factor of one ordination per 120,000 Catholics in a diocese
- 2) The Replacement Rate of Priests. Replacement Rate = 2.7%.

\*\*Seminarians Needed 2021 = ((Priestly Ords Needed 2021 \* 7) + 30% discern out rate)

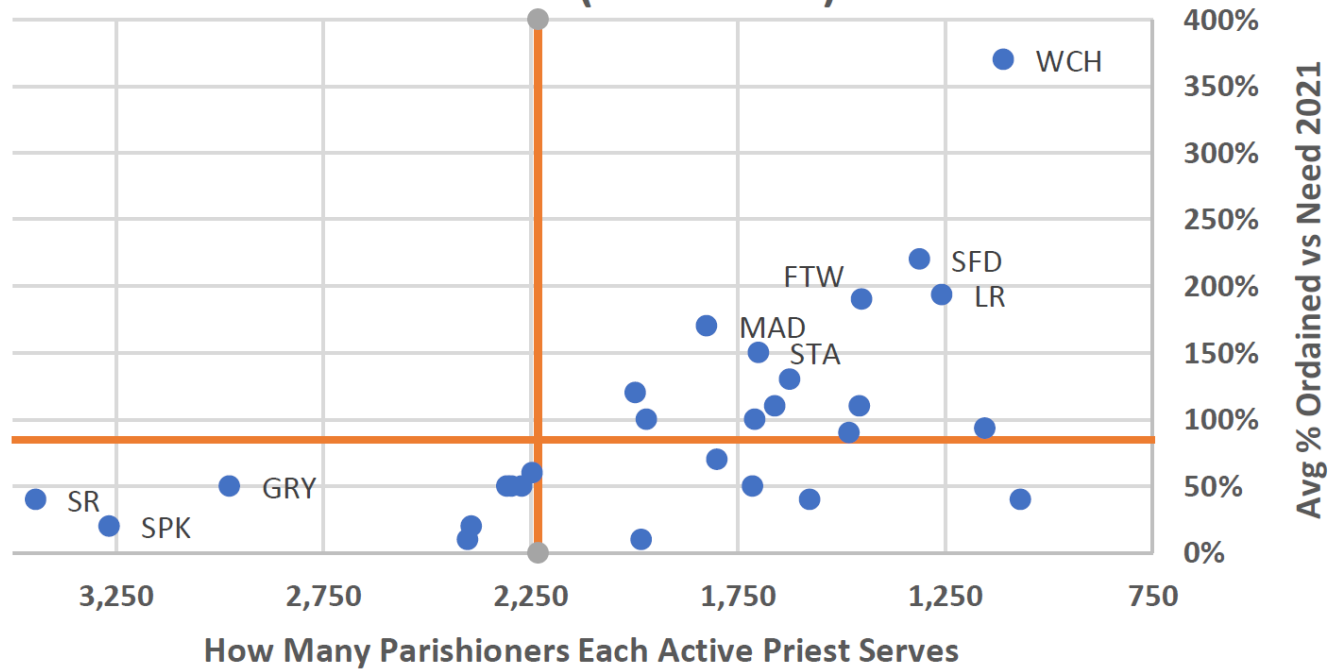
### Tier 3 – Quadrants



### Tier 3 (100K-175K)



### Tier 3 (100K-175K)





## Tier 3 – 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 3 - Correlations

Vocation Ministry was interested to know if any of the diocesan information collected from the Official Catholic Directory publications of 2015 to 2022 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 3 – Correlation Findings

#### 60 Dioceses

Tier 3	Priests to Parishioners per Parish	How Many Parishioners Does Each Active Priest Serve	Total Active Priests per Total Parishes
Priestly Ords Avg 2017-2021	0.48***	-0.47***	0.06
Avg % Ordained vs. Base Ordination Need Rate 2021	0.40**	-0.41**	-0.05
Avg # of Seminarians 2017-2021	0.55***	-0.53***	0.02
% of Total Semin's 2021 vs Base Seminarian Need Rate 2021	0.35**	-0.38**	-0.18
* $p < .05$ , ** $p < .01$ , *** $p < .001$			

- Tier 3 dioceses average just over one priest per parish. However, Total Active Priests per Total Parishes does not appear to be correlated to the ordination or seminarian vocational categories.
- In contrast, all four of the categories in the far-left column are significantly affected by How Many Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves. Dioceses that have priests serving a smaller number of parishioners have more time and interaction available in a priest’s schedule to foster a vocational atmosphere.