**Vocation Ministry**

**10-year Averages**
**Tier 2**
**300,000-750,000 Catholics**
**40 Dioceses**

| (ARCH)DIOCESE | Diocese Abbrev. | Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves 2014-2023 | Seminarian Average 2014-2023 | Seminarians Needed 2023** | % of Total Seminarians 2014-2023 vs. Need** | Priestly Ordination Avg 2014-2023 | Priestly Ordinations Needed 2023* | On Avg % Ordained vs Need 2014-2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle, Washington | SW | 4,418 | 22 | 67 | 32% | 3 | 6 | 45% |
| St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota | MSP | 3,012 | 57 | 78 | 73% | 6 | 7 | 86% |
| El Paso, Texas | EPTX | 9,891 | 20 | 56 | 36% | 3 | 5 | 46% |
| Austin, Texas | ATX | 4,169 | 35 | 56 | 62% | 4 | 5 | 68% |
| Washington, DC | DC | 1,837 | 76 | 90 | 85% | 7 | 8 | 83% |
| Trenton, New Jersey | TNJ | 4,557 | 17 | 56 | 29% | 3 | 5 | 56% |
| Hartford, Connecticut | HART | 2,688 | 17 | 56 | 29% | 3 | 5 | 54% |
| Metuchen, New Jersey | MNJ | 4,141 | 20 | 56 | 35% | 2 | 5 | 40% |
| Denver Colorado | DEN | 3,033 | 58 | 67 | 86% | 6 | 6 | 97% |
| Las Vegas, Nevada | LVN | 11,969 | 7 | 45 | 16% | 1 | 4 | 20% |
| Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | PIT | 2,866 | 30 | 67 | 44% | 4 | 6 | 52% |
| Providence, Rhode Island | PROV | 4,362 | 17 | 56 | 29% | 2 | 5 | 32% |
| Cleveland, Ohio | CLE | 2,507 | 56 | 67 | 82% | 5 | 6 | 68% |
| Buffalo, New York | BUF | 3,419 | 23 | 56 | 41% | 3 | 5 | 58% |
| Charlotte, North Carolina | CHAR | 3,213 | 29 | 56 | 52% | 3 | 5 | 54% |
| Milwaukee, Wisconsin | MKE | 2,484 | 40 | 67 | 60% | 5 | 6 | 70% |
| San Jose, California | SJCA | 5,275 | 8 | 56 | 14% | 2 | 5 | 34% |
| Baltimore, Maryland | BAL | 2,332 | 46 | 67 | 67% | 4 | 6 | 60% |
| New Orleans, Louisiana | NO | 2,456 | 34 | 67 | 50% | 4 | 6 | 67% |
| Joliet, Illinois | JOL | 3,864 | 33 | 56 | 59% | 4 | 5 | 74% |

\* See formulas for calculations in appendix.

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| (ARCH)DIOCESE | Diocese Abbrev. | How Many Parishioners Does Each Active Priest Serves 2014-2023 | Seminarian Average 2014-2023 | Seminarians Needed 2023** | % of Total Seminarians 2014-2023 vs. Need** | Priestly Ordination Avg 2014-2023 | Priestly Ordinations Needed 2023* | On Avg % Ordained vs Need 2014-2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami, Florida | MIA | 2,496 | 56 | 67 | 83% | 5 | 6 | 77% |
| San Francisco, California | SF | 2,697 | 16 | 45 | 35% | 2 | 4 | 50% |
| St. Louis, Missouri | STL | 2,127 | 45 | 56 | 80% | 5 | 5 | 84% |
| Portland, Oregon | PORO | 2,967 | 25 | 45 | 54% | 4 | 4 | 80% |
| Cincinnati, Ohio | CIN | 2,443 | 55 | 56 | 97% | 5 | 5 | 96% |
| Arlington, Virginia | ARL | 2,504 | 45 | 56 | 80% | 6 | 5 | 102% |
| Paterson, New Jersey | PAT | 2,519 | 35 | 56 | 62% | 7 | 5 | 128% |
| Rockford, Illinois | ROCK | 2,809 | 18 | 45 | 40% | 2 | 4 | 48% |
| Orlando, Florida | ORFL | 2,843 | 27 | 45 | 58% | 3 | 4 | 53% |
| Bridgeport, Connecticut | BRPT | 2,931 | 24 | 45 | 52% | 3 | 4 | 55% |
| Monterey, California | MON | 3,197 | 15 | 45 | 32% | 3 | 4 | 73% |
| Oakland, California | OAK | 2,444 | 16 | 56 | 28% | 3 | 5 | 46% |
| Scranton, Pennsylvania | SCR | 2,161 | 10 | 45 | 22% | 2 | 4 | 28% |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | SLC | 5,720 | 9 | 34 | 26% | 1 | 3 | 30% |
| Laredo, Texas | LTX | 7,334 | 5 | 34 | 14% | 2 | 3 | 37% |
| Columbus, Ohio | COL | 2,340 | 30 | 34 | 88% | 3 | 3 | 97% |
| Santa Fe, New Mexico | SFNM | 2,644 | 22 | 45 | 49% | 4 | 4 | 83% |
| Toledo, Ohio | TOL | 3,127 | 17 | 34 | 50% | 2 | 3 | 67% |
| Albany, New York | ALB | 3,250 | 27 | 34 | 80% | 3 | 3 | 70% |
| Camden, New Jersey | CAM | 3,565 | 14 | 34 | 42% | 2 | 3 | 47% |

* See formulas for calculations in appendix.

**Tier 2**
**10-Year Quadrant Analysis**
**500,000-750,000**

Tier 2 (500K-750K) 10 Year

How Many Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves in 2014-2023

Avg % Ordained vs Need 2014-2023
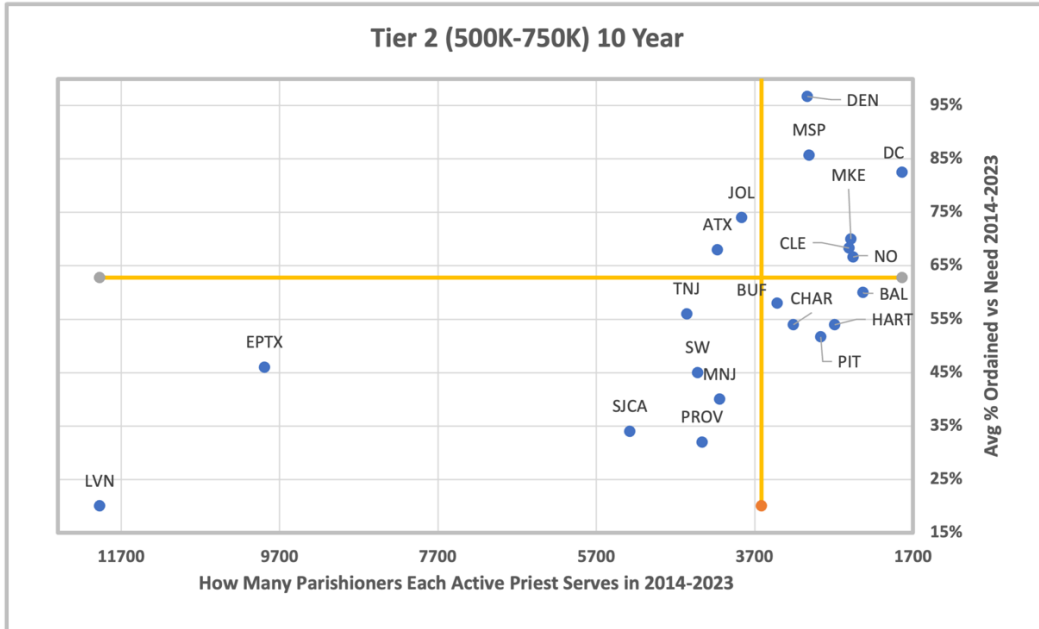
**Tier 2**
**300,000-500,000**

Tier 2 (300K-500K) 10 Year

How Many Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves in 2014-2023

Avg % Ordained vs Need 2014-2023
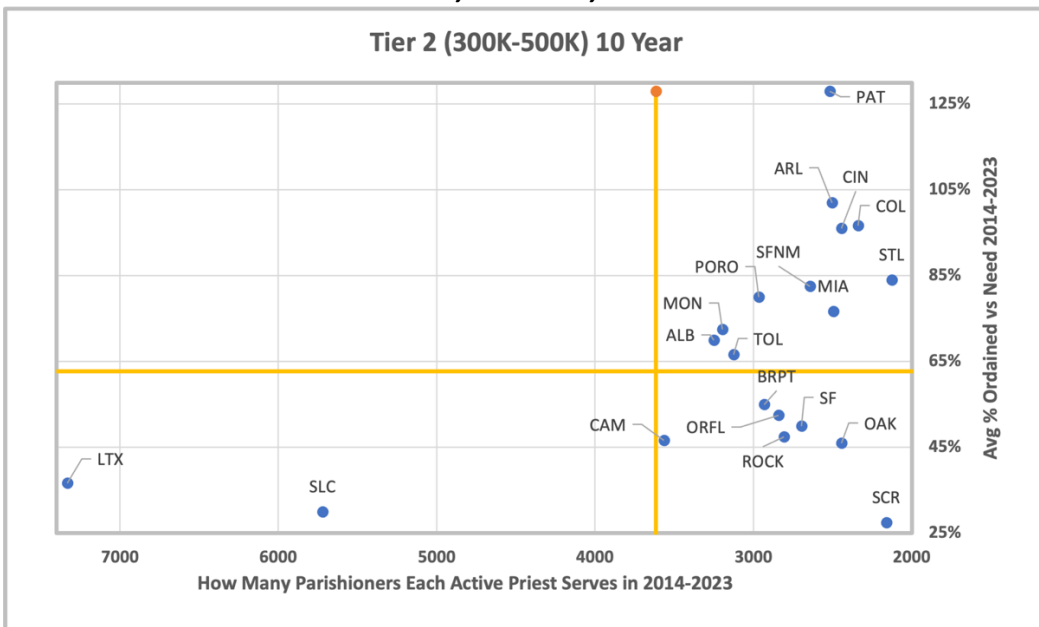
# Tier 2 – Quadrant Analysis

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 four 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.

## 10-Year Averages of Marriages

| (ARCH)DIOCESE | Total Catholic Marriages 2014 | Total Catholic Marriages 2015 | Total Catholic Marriages 2016 | Total Catholic Marriages 2017 | Total Catholic Marriages 2018 | Total Catholic Marriages 2019 | Total Catholic Marriages 2020 | Total Catholic Marriages 2021 | Total Catholic Marriages 2022 | Total Catholic Marriages 2023 | Percent Change Over 10 Years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seattle, Washington | 1,122 | 1,185 | 1,161 | 1,161 | 1,105 | 1,098 | 418 | 729 | 344 | 873 | -39.2% |
| St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota | 1,618 | 1,677 | 1,588 | 1,685 | 1,447 | 1,370 | 1,152 | 1,208 | 1173 | 1134 | -19.7% |
| El Paso, Texas | 743 | 693 | 833 | 785 | 722 | 698 | 292 | 374 | 525 | 525 | -31.7% |
| Austin, Texas | 1,427 | 1,380 | 1,402 | 1,419 | 1,517 | 1,435 | 1,174 | 1,267 | 1235 | 1283 | -26.0% |
| Washington, DC | 1,231 | 1,420 | 1,405 | 1,275 | 1,416 | 1,369 | 638 | 750 | 1186 | 1514 | 17.2% |
| Trenton, New Jersey | 1,350 | 1,409 | 1,278 | 1,300 | 1,216 | 1,186 | 552 | 1,144 | 1238 | 1179 | 13.2% |
| Hartford, Connecticut | 1,124 | 1,082 | 1,034 | 837 | 985 | 935 | 645 | 734 | 756 | 674 | -46.8% |
| Metuchen, New Jersey | 854 | 817 | 835 | 843 | 788 | 736 | 465 | 620 | 640 | 681 | -18.0% |
| Denver Colorado | 1,456 | 1,479 | 1,504 | 1,516 | 1,724 | 1,420 | 1,313 | 635 | 1194 | 1131 | -28.6% |
| Las Vegas, Nevada | 481 | 484 | 468 | 505 | 516 | 475 | 394 | 337 | 419 | 427 | -16.4% |
| Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 1,809 | 1,768 | 1,692 | 2,870 | 1,500 | 1,423 | 649 | 1,026 | 1183 | 1008 | -42.7% |
| Providence, Rhode Island | 751 | 979 | 944 | 670 | 639 | 634 | 454 | 696 | 705 | 750 | 3.4% |
| Cleveland, Ohio | 2,166 | 2,076 | 1,972 | 1,836 | 1,827 | 1,579 | 1,258 | 1,354 | 1368 | 1480 | -20.6% |
| Buffalo, New York | 1,319 | 1,192 | 1,201 | 1,114 | 1,033 | 934 | 611 | 682 | 756 | 651 | -46.3% |
| Charlotte, North Carolina | 935 | 928 | 994 | 978 | 919 | 998 | 679 | 797 | 899 | 746 | -71.0% |
| Milwaukee, Wisconsin | 1,512 | 1,584 | 1,501 | 1,376 | 1,404 | 1,263 | 1,007 | 1,049 | 1165 | 1157 | -17.1% |
| San Jose, California | 899 | 952 | 871 | 911 | 865 | 835 | 605 | 487 | 359 | 660 | -17.5% |
| Baltimore, Maryland | 1,172 | 1,188 | 1,315 | 1,200 | 1,192 | 1,192 | 1,169 | 922 | 833 | 1110 | -8.0% |
| New Orleans, Louisiana | 1,339 | 1,403 | 1,357 | 1,270 | 1,247 | 1,096 | 1,083 | 948 | 1144 | 1144 | -15.0% |
| Joliet, Illinois | 1,310 | 1,239 | 1,239 | 1,228 | 1,186 | 1,162 | 757 | 965 | 954 | 855 | -21.4% |

* See formulas for calculations in appendix.

| (ARCH)DIOCESE | Total Catholic Marriages 2014 | Total Catholic Marriages 2015 | Total Catholic Marriages 2016 | Total Catholic Marriages 2017 | Total Catholic Marriages 2018 | Total Catholic Marriages 2019 | Total Catholic Marriages 2020 | Total Catholic Marriages 2021 | Total Catholic Marriages 2022 | Total Catholic Marriages 2023 | Percent Change Over 10 Years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami, Florida | 1,806 | 1,883 | 1,759 | 1,950 | 1,737 | 1,640 | 1,025 | 2,502 | 1434 | 1304 | -23.2% |
| San Francisco, California | 971 | 877 | 833 | 833 | 833 | 722 | 491 | 491 | 491 | 491 | -41.0% |
| St. Louis, Missouri | 1,707 | 1,651 | 1,602 | 1,615 | 1,475 | 1,380 | 1,052 | 1,230 | 1314 | 1262 | -14.0% |
| Portland, Oregon | 929 | 862 | 832 | 857 | 812 | 827 | 602 | 582 | 701 | 515 | -46.8% |
| Cincinnati, Ohio | 1,740 | 1,654 | 1,631 | 1,636 | 1,623 | 1,448 | 1,207 | 1,414 | 1290 | 1250 | -24.5% |
| Arlington, Virginia | 1,054 | 1,365 | 1,453 | 1,485 | 1,293 | 1,246 | 1,022 | 1,176 | 1322 | 1325 | 32.9% |
| Paterson, New Jersey | 984 | 888 | 975 | 851 | 911 | 792 | 549 | 785 | 828 | 745 | -23.4% |
| Rockford, Illinois | 947 | 910 | 849 | 888 | 847 | 786 | 527 | 502 | 715 | 789 | -20.3% |
| Orlando, Florida | 952 | 1,070 | 1,113 | 1,033 | 1,033 | 1,054 | 870 | 809 | 937 | 827 | -20.2% |
| Bridgeport, Connecticut | 741 | 709 | 847 | 836 | 594 | 489 | 318 | 469 | 566 | 473 | -25.2% |
| Monterey, California | 758 | 1,069 | 801 | 812 | 798 | 746 | 435 | 533 | 627 | 583 | -57.0% |
| Oakland, California | 928 | 918 | 903 | 894 | 877 | 909 | 1,677 | 611 | 691 | 1517 | 88.0% |
| Scranton, Pennsylvania | 830 | 758 | 663 | 640 | 678 | 616 | 179 | 409 | 526 | 457 | -56.6% |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | 437 | 475 | 411 | 438 | 407 | 318 | 273 | 323 | 344 | 320 | -36.8% |
| Laredo, Texas | 351 | 361 | 353 | 387 | 365 | 399 | 298 | 241 | 361 | 265 | -27.8% |
| Columbus, Ohio | 780 | 740 | 743 | 683 | 726 | 691 | 661 | 492 | 530 | 601 | -37.4% |
| Santa Fe, New Mexico | 874 | 752 | 759 | 843 | 769 | 763 | 542 | 573 | 573 | 591 | -32.8% |
| Toledo, Ohio | 968 | 901 | 910 | 994 | 1,456 | 796 | 665 | 3,079 | 655 | 594 | -37.8% |
| Albany, New York | 766 | 764 | 670 | 650 | 594 | 544 | 429 | 224 | 396 | 414 | -43.6% |
| Camden, New Jersey | 816 | 869 | 813 | 862 | 862 | 669 | 477 | 381 | 573 | 621 | 23.2% |

\* See formulas for calculations in appendix.

Appendix

**Formulas Used for This Report**

**Base Need Ordination Rate**—To determine how many ordinations are needed by dioceses, Vocation Ministry used the average of two factors:
1. Population Factor equals one ordination per 120,000 Catholics in a diocese
2. Replacement Rate of Priests (see below).

**Replacement Rate of Priests**—The replacement rate of priests is the number of ordinations needed annually simply to replace the current number of priests in a diocese. The rate used in this report is 2.7 percent. This rate was arrived at by determining the average years of ministry for priests in the US.

Subtracting the average ordination age of priests (34) from the average retirement age (71), the average length of ministry is 37 years. Considering a priest's length of ministry to be a unit, divide that unit by the number of years. Thus, the annual rate of replacement necessary to retain the current number of priests over a given time period (1/37 = 0.027 or 2.7%).

Thus, if a diocese has 83 priests, each year they will need to ordain an average of 2.241 (83 * 0.027) new priests yearly just to replace the current number as they retire.
Depending on a diocese's particular need, a higher replacement rate may be necessary. This calculation does not include other factors of attrition which may cause a decrease in priests, such as a higher than the average normal rate of retirement.

**Base Need Seminarian Rate**—To determine the number of seminarians needed, the Base Need Ordination Rate was multiplied by the average length of seminary formation (seven years), then increased by the average discern-out rate of 40 percent.

**Priestly Availability Index** — ((Total Active Priests)/(Total Catholics in Diocese/Total Parishes in Diocese))*1000

**Total Catholic Marriages**—To determine the number of total Catholic marriages, the number of marriages between two Catholics is added to the number of interfaith marriages (one spouse is Catholic, and one is of a different faith).