



**10-year Averages**  
**Tier 4**  
**<100,000 Catholics**  
**53 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
Las Cruces, New Mexico	LCNM	3,376	6	22	23%	1	2	40%
Burlington, Vermont	BUR	1,834	8	22	35%	2	2	65%
Lafayette, Indiana	LAIN	1,457	16	22	70%	2	2	90%
Lincoln, Nebraska	LINC	705	37	34	107%	5	3	140%
Covington, Kentucky	COV	1,479	13	22	57%	3	2	120%
Reno, Nevada	RENO	2,514	6	11	48%	1	1	50%
Davenport, Iowa	DAV	1,366	11	22	46%	2	2	85%
Saginaw, Michigan	SAG	1,855	7	22	29%	1	2	40%
Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida	TALL	885	14	22	59%	2	2	60%
Savannah, Georgia	SAV	921	16	22	69%	2	2	75%
Sioux City, Iowa	SCIA	1,515	10	22	42%	2	2	60%
Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana	HUM	1,855	13	22	55%	2	2	85%
Knoxville, TN	KNO	1,084	12	22	53%	2	2	90%
Jefferson City, MO	JEFF	1,077	8	22	36%	1	2	45%
Beaumont, Texas	BEAU	1,471	7	22	29%	1	2	15%
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania	BEL	1,184	7	22	28%	1	2	35%
Fargo, North Dakota	FAR	791	17	22	74%	2	2	75%
Ogdensburg, New York	OGD	1,399	8	22	35%	1	2	45%
Victoria, Texas	VIC	1,646	11	22	48%	2	2	85%

\* See formulas for calculations in the appendix.

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Evansville, Indiana	EVAN	1,837	12	22	54%	2	2	60%
Kalamazoo, Michigan	KAL	1,605	8	22	34%	1	2	30%
Altoona-Johnston, Pennsylvania	ALT	1,087	5	22	21%	1	2	30%
Memphis, Tennessee	MEM	1,029	16	22	70%	2	2	85%
Springfield- Cape Girardeau, Missouri	SPMO	1,025	11	22	48%	2	2	95%
Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia	WHE	734	9	22	38%	2	2	55%
Bismarck North Dakota	BIS	971	22	22	96%	3	2	110%
Tulsa, Oklahoma	TUL	796	17	22	75%	2	2	100%
Biloxi, Mississippi	BIL	1,082	7	22	29%	1	2	50%
Dodge City, Kansas	DODG	1,923	6	11	46%	1	1	40%
Superior, Wisconsin	SUP	1,496	4	22	17%	1	2	40%
Lake Charles, Louisiana	LCLA	1,288	12	22	51%	2	2	60%
Owensboro, Kentucky	OWEN	687	7	22	29%	2	2	55%
Pueblo, Colorado	PUE	1,106	4	11	31%	1	1	60%
Marquette, Michigan	MARQ	952	10	22	42%	2	2	70%
Helena, Montana	HEL	1,006	11	22	47%	2	2	60%
New Ulm, Minnesota	ULM	1,424	8	11	69%	1	1	80%
Cheyenne, Wyoming	CHE	1,150	6	22	25%	2	2	60%
Grand Island, NE	GINE	1,199	5	11	44%	1	1	30%
Gaylord, Michigan	GAY	770	9	22	37%	2	2	65%

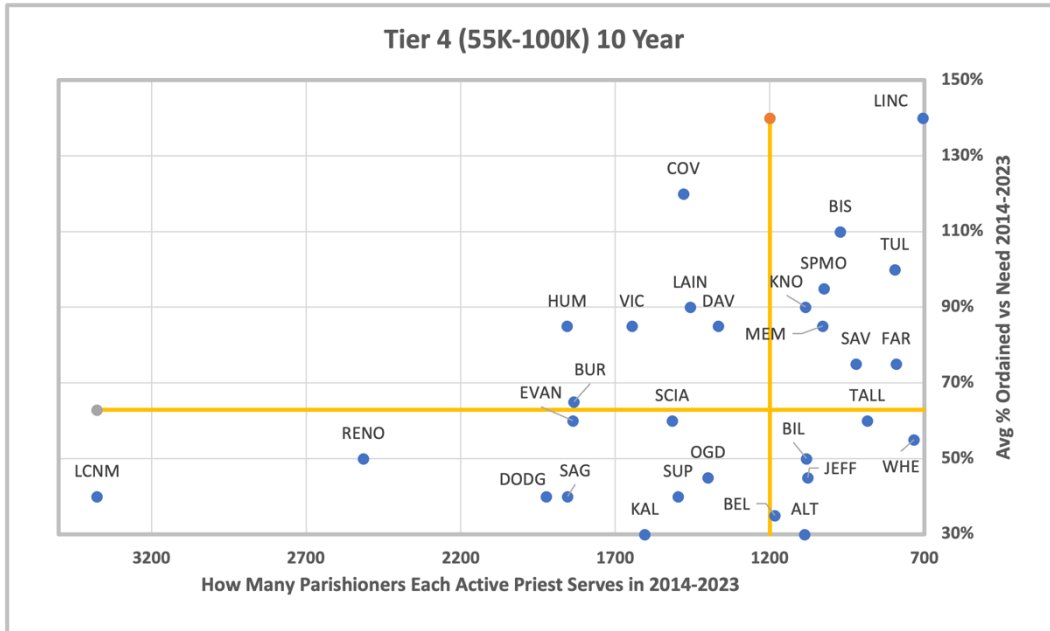
\* See formulas for calculations in the appendix.

<b>(ARCH)DIOCESE</b>	<b>Diocese Abbrev.</b>	<b>Parishioners Each Active Priest Serves 2014-2023</b>	<b>Seminarian Average 2014-2023</b>	<b>Seminarians Needed 2023**</b>	<b>% of Total Seminarians 2014-2023 vs. Need**</b>	<b>Priestly Ordination Avg 2014-2023</b>	<b>Priestly Ordinations Needed 2023*</b>	<b>On Avg % Ordained vs Need 2014-2023</b>
Jackson, Mississippi	JACK	787	8	22	36%	2	2	75%
Amarillo, Texas	AMTX	1,159	4	22	17%	1	2	20%
Duluth, Minnesota	DUL	941	11	22	49%	3	2	110%
Lexington, Kentucky	LEX	836	9	22	38%	2	2	65%
Salina, Kansas	SAL	837	11	22	47%	1	2	45%
Alexandria, Louisiana	ALEX	610	10	22	44%	2	2	65%
Baker, Oregon	BAKE	834	4	11	29%	1	1	40%
Shreveport, Louisiana	AMA	1,188	7	11	57%	1	1	90%
Crookston, Minnesota	CROO	943	6	11	46%	1	1	80%
Steubenville, Ohio	STEU	707	8	22	32%	2	2	65%
Great Falls-Billings, Montana	BILL	709	3	22	9%	1	2	25%
Anchorage-Juneau, Alaska	ANCH	945	5	11	39%	1	1	30%
Rapid City, South Dakota	RCSD	719	8	11	65%	1	1	70%
Fairbanks, Alaska	FAIR	783	3	11	20%	1	1	20%

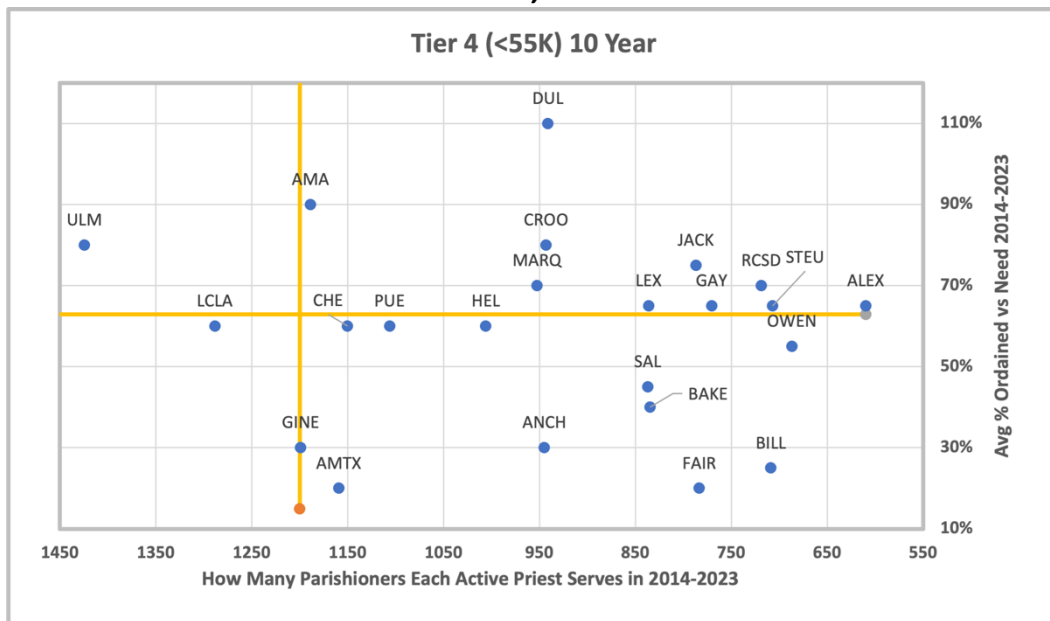
\* See formulas for calculations in the appendix.



**Tier 4**  
**10-Year Quadrant Analysis**  
**55,000-100,000**



**Tier 4**  
**<55,000**





## Tier 4– 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
Burlington, Vermont	308	268	207	207	194	184	128	147	164	148	-43.3%
Las Cruces, New Mexico	298	302	315	313	247	286	180	191	211	215	69.2%
Lafayette, Indiana	406	403	373	337	358	328	241	317	292	289	-29.3%
Lincoln, Nebraska	386	395	375	352	383	293	293	330	400	184	-50.7%
Covington, Kentucky	370	388	352	348	335	340	286	212	269	245	-33.3%
Reno, Nevada	276	230	205	250	250	250	13	13	205	198	-32.0%
Davenport, Iowa	388	436	367	355	336	314	271	210	238	241	-34.0%
Saginaw, Michigan	311	287	313	311	276	214	157	146	150	134	-51.0%
Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida	257	256	288	224	227	214	168	204	198	202	-38.4%
Savannah, Georgia	356	364	311	352	343	318	275	334	387	373	2.5%
Sioux City, Iowa	421	444	431	384	340	293	251	269	254	246	-38.3%
Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana	253	249	327	327	256	216	182	150	200	182	-10.8%
Knoxville, Tennessee	248	245	278	250	276	267	201	240	264	279	0.7%
Jefferson City, Missouri	412	442	397	401	395	320	307	248	262	268	-29.3%
Beaumont, Texas	169	178	180	193	157	171	190	104	182	232	23.9%
Belleville, Illinois	380	247	327	214	325	298	1,014	197	235	191	-48.9%
Fargo, North Dakota	293	349	262	282	252	242	233	203	236	199	-33.6%
Ogdensburg, New York	292	239	225	230	191	176	143	110	127	122	-45.8%
Victoria, Texas	363	340	348	363	312	317	292	259	255	272	9.7%

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Evansville, Indiana	370	312	352	325	347	297	281	264	277	262	-22.2%
Kalamazoo, Michigan	256	269	247	275	253	242	162	159	202	167	1.5%
Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania	371	400	401	293	307	290	197	204	201	200	-32.8%
Memphis, Tennessee	260	610	254	274	262	205	156	256	227	206	-22.5%
Springfield- Cape Girardeau, Missouri	241	475	230	263	257	301	228	184	267	166	-28.3%
Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia	214	1,090	207	251	229	201	137	174	187	178	-3.1%
Bismarck North Dakota	287	257	248	264	260	237	228	215	201	188	-36.5%
Tulsa, Oklahoma	341	328	288	306	317	306	458	316	305	286	-10.2%
Biloxi, Mississippi	241	235	251	233	222	190	173	174	158	160	-30.0%
Dodge City, Kansas	185	181	197	156	181	159	150	112	127	97	-55.3%
Superior, Wisconsin	217	227	189	195	166	191	114	754	119	122	-29.4%
Lake Charles, Louisiana	272	305	276	271	303	272	254	172	230	171	-17.0%
Owensboro, Kentucky	316	332	236	303	278	272	217	179	197	194	-39.9%
Pueblo, Colorado	130	204	193	193	157	181	145	128	122	137	-10.6%
Marquette, Michigan	214	205	189	222	201	175	148	132	140	147	-40.1%
Helena, Montana	179	187	145	152	195	194	132	146	138	135	-29.4%
New Ulm, Minnesota	210	210	231	215	195	173	143	141	133	124	-28.9%
Cheyenne, Wyoming	180	203	177	187	177	161	96	152	122	123	-17.0%
Grand Island, Nebraska	240	229	245	195	203	248	191	200	167	178	-23.3%
Gaylord, Michigan	251	240	224	226	239	200	145	187	185	171	-16.0%

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Jackson, Mississippi	196	155	202	194	232	201	183	175	141	117	-34.6%
Amarillo, Texas	291	206	218	239	151	127	214	134	165	160	-36.6%
Duluth, Minnesota	189	207	209	158	190	180	145	144	145	139	-7.7%
Lexington, Kentucky	182	171	168	208	208	206	154	138	140	134	-12.4%
Salina, Kansas	320	304	271	248	277	273	190	216	186	216	-26.0%
Alexandria, Louisiana	142	151	165	163	178	158	163	150	121	108	-23.8%
Baker, Oregon	149	152	125	136	136	119	101	89	104	92	-36.3%
Shreveport, Louisiana	145	115	133	147	149	149	128	80	89	141	21.7%
Crookston, Minnesota	168	159	136	461	172	192	125	145	84	84	-47.5%
Steubenville, Ohio	147	137	156	145	99	105	96	94	98	103	-13.8%
Great Falls-Billings, Montana	73	84	93	61	79	60	72	68	72	74	38.6%
Anchorage-Juneau, Alaska	49	76	89	139	111	90	75	59	58	62	176.6%
Rapid City, South Dakota	116	119	114	135	104	96	92	72	76	70	-29.4%
Fairbanks, Alaska*	34	34	41	33	28	19	130	20	29	23	-48.7%

\* See formulas for calculations in the 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** —  $((\text{Total Active Priests})/(\text{Total Catholics in Diocese}/\text{Total Parishes in Diocese}))*1000$

**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).