

Exploring Differences in Diocesan Ordination Rates

Based on a procedure devised by the late Rev. John Klein of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and using data from *The Official Catholic Directory*, CARA periodically reviews the proportion of ordinations to the diocesan priesthood relative to the latest reported total Catholic population of each diocese. Only dioceses that have had at least five ordinations during the reporting period are included.

The reviews have been done four times, for ordination years 1993-95, 1996-99, 2000-02, and 2003-06, with *The CARA Report*

subsequently listing the top 20 dioceses in terms of both the ordinand-to-Catholic ratio and the greatest absolute number of new priests. For the years 2003 to 2006, six dioceses with a total of almost 450,000 Catholics had no ordinations and another eight dioceses with almost 1.4 million Catholics had only one each.

Two dioceses were on all four top-20 lists covering the past 13 years (Fargo and Lincoln), five more appeared three times (Atlanta, Bismarck, Omaha, Peoria, and Wichita), and another 16 appeared twice. ■

TOP 20 DIOCESES BY ORDINAND-TO-CATHOLIC RATIO

(From *The Official Catholic Directory* for 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007)

Archdiocese or Diocese	Ordained 2003-2006	Total Catholics	Catholics per Ordinand
Alexandria, LA	12	48,050	4,004
Steubenville, OH	7	225,742	5,592
Fargo, ND	13	86,129	6,625
Savannah, GA	12	82,249	6,854
Jackson, MS	7	50,357	7,194
Lincoln, NE	13	93,989	7,230
Tulsa, OK	7	56,000	8,000
Wheeling-Charleston, WV	9	72,110	8,012
Cheyenne, WY	6	49,038	8,173
Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO	7	64,714	9,245
Kalamazoo, MI	11	105,644	9,604
Tyler, TX	6	58,318	9,720
Gaylord, MI	6	65,942	10,990
Birmingham, AL	7	83,717	11,960
Beaumont, TX	6	74,893	12,482
Bismarck, ND	5	62,666	12,533
Duluth, MN	5	64,678	12,935
Peoria, IL	13	168,173	12,936
Covington, KY	7	92,250	13,179
Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL	5	66,145	13,229
Nationwide	1,463	64,427,240	44,038

TOP 20 DIOCESES BY TOTAL ORDINATIONS OVER FOUR YEARS

(From *The Official Catholic Directory* for 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007)

Archdiocese or Diocese	Ordained 2003-2006	Total Catholics	Catholics per Ordinand
Chicago, IL	61	2,342,000	38,393
Newark, NJ	52	1,318,557	25,357
Washington, DC	34	582,448	17,131
St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN	33	625,000	18,939
New York, NY	29	2,554,454	88,085
Denver, CO	27	398,250	14,750
Rockford, IL	27	435,505	16,130
Boston, MA	25	1,871,667	74,867
Cincinnati, OH	22	487,127	22,142
Philadelphia, PA	21	1,458,642	69,459
Detroit, MI	21	1,478,231	70,392
Baltimore, MD	19	510,215	26,853
Cleveland, OH	19	779,937	41,049
Orange, CA	19	1,165,826	61,359
Los Angeles, CA	19	4,212,887	221,731
Nationwide	1,463	64,427,240	44,038