



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

AT A GLANCE

- **Active and Thriving:** 580,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington
 - **Youth:** Nearly 31,000 students in over 100 Catholic schools
 - **Diversity:** Mass is celebrated in more than 20 languages weekly
 - **Vocations:** 74 seminarians as of April 2008, reflecting a steady increase
 - **Service:** Catholic Charities serves more than 100,000 people annually
 - **Relevance:** Located in the U.S. capital, the Archdiocese reflects the vibrant diversity of the American Catholic church overall
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Archdiocese of Washington Facts

- Currently led by Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, who was installed in June 2006
- Established in 1939 by Pope Pius XII
- 580,000 parishioners, a 45% increase since 1979 when Pope John Paul II visited Washington
- 140 parishes
- Total priests residing in the Archdiocese of Washington: 672
- Total number of archdiocesan seminarians (as of April 2008): 74
- Washington, DC, is home to national entities such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and is the location of three Catholic universities: The Catholic University of America, Georgetown University, and Trinity University

Catholic Education in the Archdiocese

- Total number of students: Almost 31,000
- Number of schools: Over 100
- Success: 99% of Catholic high school students graduate and 97% of Catholic high school graduates go on to college
- Seven campus ministry programs

Diversity

- Nearly one-third of local Catholics are of Hispanic descent; Hispanic ministry is offered at 35 locations
- An increasing number of African immigrants are part of our parish community, leading to additional Masses in French and Igbo
- Mass is celebrated in more than 20 languages weekly, up from seven in 1979
- Languages include French, Spanish, Italian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Haitian Creole, and more

Social Service

- Catholic Charities, which includes the Spanish Catholic Center, serves more than 100,000 people annually regardless of religion.
- Spanish Catholic Center (a division of Catholic Charities) provides medical/dental, legal aid, employment, job training and other services to nearly 40,000 immigrants annually
- Victory Housing operates 21 affordable communities with 1,200 rental units for seniors and families in Washington, DC, and suburban Maryland
- *Hunger to Hope:* An archdiocesan food drive in honor of Pope Benedict XVI