



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

DIVERSITY 2008

- Nearly one-third of Catholics are of Hispanic descent; Hispanic ministry is offered at 35 locations, with 50 masses in Spanish weekly
 - 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, Chinese, Portuguese and more
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The Archdiocese is a melting pot of Catholics from all over the world, with Hispanics making up the largest minority group. Parishes, schools and the archdiocese have made huge progress in meeting the unique needs that a diverse Catholic community presents, from holding Mass in different languages to expanding ministry to Hispanics.

- Mass is held in more than 20 languages weekly, including French (increasingly serving African immigrants), German, Italian, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Polish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Igbo (Nigerian, pronounced ee-boo) and Tagalog (Filipino, pronounced ta-goll'-a).
- An increasing number of parishes are bi-lingual or multilingual, including St. Camillus in Silver Spring; St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Riverdale Park; St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg; and Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC.

Examples of Diversity

- **A growing African Catholic community**, particularly from Nigeria and West African nations such as Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, led to the addition of French-language Masses in parishes such as St. Camillus in Silver Spring and St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg. Their numbers are also growing at St. Matthias in Lanham and St. Mary in Landover Hills.
- **There is a thriving Haitian and French-speaking African population** at Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC.
- **The Asian Catholic community is growing.** There is a fast-growing Filipino community at St. Columba in Oxon Hill; a Korean community at St. Andrew Kim in Olney; Vietnamese Catholics at Our Lady of Vietnam in Silver Spring; and young Chinese Catholics at Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission in Rockville.
- **Sacred Heart School** in the District of Columbia is one of the first Catholic elementary schools in the nation to have a dual-language program (in English and Spanish). Some subjects are taught only in English and others, only in Spanish through sixth grade.
- **Hispanic ministry** is available at 35 sites around the Archdiocese; this ranges from holding Mass in Spanish up to five times a week to providing social services to Hispanics and teaching religious education in Spanish.
- **Our clergy has diversified** to meet the needs of the Catholic community. Fifty of the Archdiocese's approximately 200 active priests serve the Hispanic community. Thirty-eight of those are Hispanic. There are 21 bilingual deacons serving the Archdiocese.