

Stats¹ (Center for Applied Research into the Apostolate-Georgetown University)

<https://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/>

1. US Bishops closed 3000 US parishes over the past 30 years—Most of these (84 % or 2533) closed in the past 20 years *
 - a. 1970 – 18, 224 parishes
 - b. 1990 - 19,620 parishes
 - c. 2000 - 19,236 parishes
 - d. 2020 16,703 **—(3544 no resident priest=21.2%).**
- This is an underestimate as it does not account for the number of new parishes that were opened in the past 30 years. To my knowledge these numbers are not publicly available

Often the preponderance of closures affected small, socially conscious parish communities that served low-income neighborhoods in urban and inner ring suburbs.

2. Worldwide “Parishes” increase
 - a. 1970 - 191,398 (39,431 no resident priest= 20.6%)
 - b. 1990 – 218,805 (57,664 no resident priest= 26.4%)
 - c. 2000 – 218,196 (55,729 no resident priest= 25.5%)
 - d. 2020- 223,777 **(44,569- no resident priest= 19.9%)**
3. US - priest statistics. **[decline of 40 percent over 50 years]**
 - a. 1970— 59,192 (37 % religious order = 21,920). **90 % in active ministry**
 - b. 2000- 45,699 (33% religious order = 15,092) **74 % in active ministry**
 - c. 2020 35,513 (29% religious order = 10,308) **65 % in active ministry**

Graduate level seminarians relatively stable approximately 3400-3600 per year between 2000-2015

4. Worldwide- priest statistics **[decline of 1.35 %] over 50 years]**
 - a. 1970 – 419,728
 - b. 1990 – 403,173
 - c. 2000 – 405,178
 - d. 2018 - 414, 065

(Graduate level seminarians relatively stable around 56 000-58,000 /year from 2000-2018 with 56,345 in 2018)

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1. Worldwide-- Catholic population **[increase of 103% over 50 years--DOUBLED]**
 - a. 1970- 653.6 million
 - b. 1990 – 928.5 million
 - c. 2000 – 1.045 billion
 - d. 2018 - 1.329 billion
2. US - Catholic population **[increase of 41 percent over 50 years]**

¹ All stats from Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. “Frequently Requested Church Statistics,” Georgetown University. <https://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/>

- a. 1970- 47.9 million (*71% attend Mass monthly/54% weekly*)
 - b. 2000- 59.9 million (*48.9 % attend Mass monthly/ 30.8 % weekly*)
 - c. 2020- 67.7 million (*49.5 % attend Mass monthly/23.4% weekly in 2015*)
 - i. (*down from 68.1 million in 2015*)
3. US Catholics who no longer self-identify as Catholic
- a. 1970 3.5 million = **7% of all Catholics** (former + present)²
 - b. 2000 11.7 million = 16 % of all Catholics
 - c. 2020 29.5 million = **30% of all Catholics**
4. U.S. - Permanent Deacons- US
- a. 1970 n/a
 - b. 2000 12,378
 - c. 2020 18,036
5. Worldwide - Permanent Deacons
- a. 1970 n/a
 - b. 2000 27,824
 - c. 2018 46, 813
6. Lay ecclesial ministers in parish ministry
- a. 1970— none
 - b. 1990 21,569
 - c. 2015 39,651

Big Picture— US

1. **Over past 50 years US Catholic population increased by 41 percent** (47.9 m in 1970 to 67.7 m in 2020) while total number of US **priests in the US decreased by 40 percent.** (59,192 in 1970- 35,513 in 2020).
2. **Over past 50 years, US weekly Mass attendance declined by 50 percent** (53% 1970 to 23.4% 2020.) Yet monthly Mass attendance over the past 20 years has been relatively stable at **48-49 percent**)
3. **The number US Catholics who self identify as no longer Catholic increased to 30 percent of total in 2020** compared to just 7 percent of total in 1970.

Big Picture—Worldwide

1. **Catholics worldwide increased by 103 percent** over the past 50 years (653.6m in 1970— 1.329b in 2018) while there **was no appreciable increase in the number of priests** (419,728 in 1970—414,065 in 2018—decline of 1.35%)

² (former = 3.5 million plus present = 47.9 million)