



V ENCUENTRO

DISCÍPULOS MISIONEROS: TESTIGOS DEL AMOR DE DIOS
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE

REPORT



REGION 10 CATHOLIC POPULATION BY RACE / ETHNICITY

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL AND DIOCESAN ESTIMATES

Based on 2021 Survey Data and Census Estimates



V Encuentro Catholic Population Update for 2021

With the arrival of data from the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census, there has been widespread interest within the Church for an update on the V Encuentro Catholic population estimates that were published for 2016. Because the U.S. Census Bureau does not track religious affiliation, Catholic population estimates must rely on either sacramental records or large social surveys. With the increasing phenomena of religious switching and disaffiliation among the baptized, social surveys are seen by most sociologists today as the preferred way to develop estimates. The 2016 work for the V Encuentro was pioneering¹ in its development of a statistical model for the Catholic population at the diocesan level, based on several large social surveys that were conducted between 2013 and 2016, and taking into account variations in the demographics of religious affiliation by age, race/ethnicity, and geographic location.

The 2020 Census provides an important update on the underlying population in each diocese. However, it is clear from recent data on attendance at church services that the experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a far-reaching impact on the way Catholics live their faith. This begs the question whether it has also impacted their sense of religious identity and their faith commitment to a religious institution. In order to update the statistical model, it would be ideal to rely on a very large survey that employs best practices in establishing a representative sample of the U.S. population, such as the 2014 Religious Landscape Survey (RLS), which included over 35,000 responses. Unfortunately, no such survey data are currently available. However, the Pew Research Center and the Public Religion Research Institute both produced research from less robust 2021 surveys that showed a significant increase in the Catholic adult population, reversing the long-standing trend of decline.²

Did the Self-Identifying Catholic Population Grow in 2020-2021?

Both studies showed that this growth among Catholics took place in sharp contrast to a continuing decline in the Mainline and Evangelical Protestant populations. Although the size and quality of these two studies are not ideal, their close agreement on these data points lend credence that there may be something more than random fluctuations and sampling error here. A closer look at the Pew survey data, which were kindly made available to the V Encuentro research team, reveals:

- The population of older white Catholics experienced a large increase, especially among the 65+ population, which more than offset significant declines among younger white Catholics.

¹ See the full methodological explanation at: <https://vencuentro.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/VE-Statistical-Reports-Methodology-EN.pdf>.

² See <https://www.prrri.org/spotlight/prri-2021-american-values-atlas-religious-affiliation-updates-and-trends-white-christian-decline-slows-unaffiliated-growth-levels-off/> and <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/12/14/about-three-in-ten-u-s-adults-are-now-religiously-unaffiliated/>.

- In contrast, the Hispanic/Latino Catholic population saw roughly proportional losses across all age groups, continuing the trend of gradual disaffiliation over the last 30 years, offset by even faster growth in the overall Hispanic/Latino population, resulting in continued numeric growth.
- Declines in the Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and other Catholic populations did appear, but the differences from the 2014 RLS survey were within the statistical margin of error.

A Tentative Update to the V Encuentro Statistical Model

While it is not ideal to make broad changes to a national statistical model based on a survey with less than 4,000 responses, the shifts in the white and Hispanic/Latino Catholic populations did meet the standard of statistical significance. However, there were not sufficient data to attempt a full revision of the statistical model accounting for racial/ethnic, geographic, and age-related factors. Instead, the following was done:

- The statistical model from the 2016 V Encuentro analysis was incorporated as the starting point.
- The diocesan coefficients for Hispanic/Latino catholicity were multiplied by 0.95 (a 5% reduction).
- The dioceses were ranked according to the age profile of the underlying white, non-Hispanic population from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS 2021) by taking the geometric mean of their rankings in each of the four main age categories (18 to 29, 30 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65+). Coefficients were then applied to the original statistical model, ranging from 0.91 to 1.15, resulting in an overall 3.5% increase in white catholicity, in keeping with the 2021 Pew data.
- No changes were made in the model for the Black, Asian, and other Catholic populations.

Making Sense of the New Data

An important question for the V Encuentro research team in this analysis is: does the change in the white Catholic population make sense? The clear external factor that could have played into the trend reversal was the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the white Catholic population has a much older profile than other Catholic racial/ethnic groups and most other Christian denominations, it does make sense that those who may have been most at risk of Covid-19 would do some religious introspection and perhaps return to identifying with the faith of their younger years. This begs the question: will that change last? That is unknown. It is certainly possible that the proportion of white Catholics will soon revert to the historical trendline, reversing the apparent gains seen in 2021. In any case, the trend among younger white Catholics continues to be one of significant disaffiliation. If the overall trends continue, the future Catholic Church in the United States will be smaller and more diverse.

The new diocesan-level Catholic population tables should therefore be taken with a degree of caution. The underlying Census data and the comparative data from 2016 are both shown in

order to help in that process. Keep in mind that the Catholic numbers do not represent people who attend Mass regularly—it is just those who would have identified themselves as Catholic if asked in 2021. They may or may not continue to do so today or next year. Some dioceses may show a large increase in their white Catholic population; that is due to the fact that they have a substantial elderly population that at least at the national level was more likely to identify as Catholic in 2021. That may or may not have been true locally.

Similarly, given the rapid increase in the Asian population throughout the country, some dioceses may see significantly larger numbers in their table for “Asian/Native Am./Other” Catholics. However, if the reality was that a sizeable Chinese or Japanese population arrived, it would have a far smaller impact in the shape of the local Catholic community than if those who arrived had been of Filipino origin.

The bottom line is that the new data provide an essential reference point for pastoral leaders as they develop programs and activities to serve the Church in their area. It is important to take stock of the changes revealed in the Census 2020 data. However, such leaders should understand that these numbers represent a snapshot in time, and the community they are called to serve will continue to change in its demographic composition and numerical size as the years pass. May God bless their efforts!

EPISOCPAL REGION 10

Episcopal Region X Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	16,610,608	16,195,943	-2.5%	1,898,000	1,771,000	-6.7%	10.9%	20.6%
Hispanic/Latino	11,505,289	12,572,602	9.3%	6,096,000	6,315,000	3.6%	50.2%	73.3%
Black/African American	4,316,365	4,624,802	7.1%	220,000	235,000	6.8%	5.1%	2.7%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	2,342,143	3,147,124	34.4%	217,000	291,000	34.1%	9.2%	3.4%
Total***	34,774,405	36,540,471	5.1%	8,432,000	8,611,000	2.1%	23.6%	

* The surveys on which the Catholic population are based were not large enough to generate reliable estimates of the Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and "Other" Catholic populations separately, so they are grouped together here.

** Overall population estimates are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) for each corresponding year.

*** The Catholic Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding errors. Round numbers are used because these are statistical estimates, not actual population counts.

Diocese of Amarillo
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	247,902	230,221	-7.1%	35,000	31,000	-11.4%	13.5%	26.5%
Hispanic/Latino	149,510	160,746	7.5%	82,000	83,000	1.2%	51.6%	70.9%
Black/African American	22,618	24,096	6.5%	1,200	1,300	8.3%	5.4%	1.1%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	17,999	22,045	22.5%	1,700	2,100	23.5%	9.5%	1.8%
Total***	438,029	437,108	-0.2%	119,000	117,000	-1.7%	26.8%	

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Diocese of Austin
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	1,770,322	1,854,524	4.8%	213,000	207,000	-2.8%	11.2%	27.0%
Hispanic/Latino	954,097	1,099,865	15.3%	471,000	515,000	9.3%	46.8%	67.1%
Black/African American	343,533	389,384	13.3%	17,000	19,000	11.8%	4.9%	2.5%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	211,996	314,112	48.2%	18,000	27,000	50.0%	8.6%	3.5%
Total***	3,279,948	3,657,885	11.5%	719,000	768,000	6.8%	21.0%	

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Diocese of Beaumont
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	324,842	298,184	-8.2%	46,000	41,000	-10.9%	13.7%	41.8%
Hispanic/Latino	82,129	99,012	20.6%	41,000	47,000	14.6%	47.5%	48.0%
Black/African American	121,919	113,473	-6.9%	6,500	6,000	-7.7%	5.3%	6.1%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	18,356	31,451	71.3%	1,900	3,500	84.2%	11.1%	3.6%
Total***	547,246	542,120	-0.9%	96,000	98,000	2.1%	18.1%	

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Diocese of Brownsville
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	105,347	90,000	-14.6%	14,500	12,000	-17.2%	13.3%	1.7%
Hispanic/Latino	1,233,595	1,267,351	2.7%	698,000	682,000	-2.3%	53.8%	97.8%
Black/African American	4,482	7,588	69.3%	400	700	75.0%	9.2%	0.1%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	14,359	17,447	21.5%	2,100	2,500	19.0%	14.3%	0.4%
Total***	1,357,783	1,382,386	1.8%	716,000	697,000	-2.7%	50.4%	

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Diocese of Corpus Christi
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	175,080	162,367	-7.3%	26,000	23,000	-11.5%	14.2%	10.3%
Hispanic/Latino	387,191	381,681	-1.4%	212,000	198,000	-6.6%	51.9%	88.4%
Black/African American	21,736	19,509	-10.2%	1,200	1,100	-8.3%	5.6%	0.5%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	13,052	19,567	49.9%	1,600	2,400	50.0%	12.3%	1.1%
Total***	597,059	583,124	-2.3%	241,000	224,000	-7.1%	38.4%	

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Diocese of Dallas
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	1,775,540	1,753,811	-1.2%	232,000	212,000	-8.6%	12.1%	20.8%
Hispanic/Latino	1,298,571	1,427,644	9.9%	692,000	722,000	4.3%	50.6%	70.7%
Black/African American	753,956	829,535	10.0%	38,000	41,000	7.9%	4.9%	4.0%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	360,739	487,910	35.3%	33,000	45,000	36.4%	9.2%	4.4%
Total***	4,188,806	4,498,900	7.4%	995,000	1,021,000	2.6%	22.7%	

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Diocese of El Paso
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	126,049	117,317	-6.9%	17,000	14,000	-17.6%	11.9%	3.2%
Hispanic/Latino	730,180	759,493	4.0%	426,000	421,000	-1.2%	55.4%	95.0%
Black/African American	29,482	31,702	7.5%	5,000	5,000	0.0%	15.8%	1.1%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	19,278	22,261	15.5%	2,200	2,500	13.6%	11.2%	0.6%
Total***	904,989	930,773	2.8%	449,000	443,000	-1.3%	47.6%	

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Diocese of Fort Worth
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	2,086,823	2,081,089	-0.3%	270,000	252,000	-6.7%	12.1%	31.5%
Hispanic/Latino	881,293	1,013,004	14.9%	450,000	491,000	9.1%	48.5%	61.5%
Black/African American	463,025	554,253	19.7%	20,500	25,000	22.0%	4.5%	3.1%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	248,816	345,717	38.9%	22,000	31,000	40.9%	9.0%	3.9%
Total***	3,679,957	3,994,063	8.5%	762,000	799,000	4.9%	20.0%	

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**Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity**

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	2,539,070	2,429,184	-4.3%	324,000	290,000	-10.5%	11.9%	16.1%
Hispanic/Latino	2,495,682	2,777,219	11.3%	1,297,000	1,371,000	5.7%	49.4%	76.1%
Black/African American	1,194,590	1,301,537	9.0%	61,000	66,000	8.2%	5.1%	3.7%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	598,075	747,882	25.0%	59,000	74,000	25.4%	9.9%	4.1%
Total***	6,827,417	7,255,822	6.3%	1,741,000	1,802,000	3.5%	24.8%	

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Diocese of Laredo
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	21,492	19,826	-7.8%	1,900	1,600	-15.8%	8.1%	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino	341,707	338,081	-1.1%	206,000	193,000	-6.3%	57.1%	98.5%
Black/African American	1,692	1,439	-15.0%	100	75	-25.0%	5.2%	0.0%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	2,250	5,375	138.9%	500	1,200	140.0%	22.3%	0.6%
Total***	367,141	364,721	-0.7%	208,000	196,000	-5.8%	53.7%	

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Diocese of Little Rock
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	2,174,281	2,060,889	-5.2%	156,000	151,000	-3.2%	7.3%	49.0%
Hispanic/Latino	214,942	248,372	15.6%	103,000	113,000	9.7%	45.5%	36.7%
Black/African American	495,340	484,367	-2.2%	26,000	26,000	0.0%	5.4%	8.4%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	103,685	232,263	124.0%	8,000	18,000	125.0%	7.7%	5.8%
Total***	2,988,248	3,025,891	1.3%	293,000	308,000	5.1%	10.2%	

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Diocese of Lubbock
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	262,947	243,560	-7.4%	36,000	32,000	-11.1%	13.1%	21.5%
Hispanic/Latino	205,033	214,902	4.8%	113,000	113,000	0.0%	52.6%	75.8%
Black/African American	31,481	31,431	-0.2%	1,800	1,800	0.0%	5.7%	1.2%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	14,453	18,912	30.9%	1,400	1,800	28.6%	9.5%	1.2%
Total***	513,914	508,805	-1.0%	153,000	149,000	-2.6%	29.3%	

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	1,463,734	1,429,361	-2.3%	115,000	105,000	-8.7%	7.3%	38.2%
Hispanic/Latino	269,528	311,012	15.4%	123,000	135,000	9.8%	43.4%	49.1%
Black/African American	214,540	223,926	4.4%	10,000	11,000	10.0%	4.9%	4.0%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	244,178	283,515	16.1%	20,500	24,000	17.1%	8.5%	8.7%
Total***	2,191,980	2,247,814	2.5%	269,000	275,000	2.2%	12.2%	

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Diocese of San Angelo
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	398,658	378,729	-5.0%	55,000	49,000	-10.9%	12.9%	22.1%
Hispanic/Latino	328,933	355,441	8.1%	165,000	169,000	2.4%	47.5%	76.1%
Black/African American	45,355	44,356	-2.2%	2,100	2,100	0.0%	4.7%	0.9%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	19,855	28,560	43.8%	1,800	2,500	38.9%	8.8%	1.1%
Total***	792,801	807,086	1.8%	224,000	222,000	-0.9%	27.5%	

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**Archdiocese of San Antonio
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity**

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	925,712	907,173	-2.0%	117,000	106,000	-9.4%	11.7%	11.4%
Hispanic/Latino	1,462,834	1,585,740	8.4%	778,000	801,000	3.0%	50.5%	86.1%
Black/African American	180,467	192,551	6.7%	8,500	9,000	5.9%	4.7%	1.0%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	88,731	127,723	43.9%	9,500	13,000	36.8%	10.2%	1.4%
Total***	2,657,744	2,813,187	5.8%	913,000	930,000	1.9%	33.1%	

* The surveys on which the Catholic population are based were not large enough to generate reliable estimates of the Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and "Other" Catholic populations separately, so they are grouped together here.

** Overall population estimates are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) for each corresponding year.

*** The Catholic Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding errors. Round numbers are used because these are statistical estimates, not actual population counts.

Diocese of Tulsa
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	1,130,896	1,081,318	-4.4%	91,000	88,000	-3.3%	8.1%	45.4%
Hispanic/Latino	135,312	156,256	15.5%	61,000	67,000	9.8%	42.9%	34.5%
Black/African American	130,477	135,108	3.5%	6,000	6,500	8.3%	4.8%	3.4%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	334,896	366,143	9.3%	30,000	33,000	10.0%	9.0%	17.0%
Total***	1,731,581	1,738,825	0.4%	188,000	194,000	3.2%	11.2%	

* The surveys on which the Catholic population are based were not large enough to generate reliable estimates of the Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and "Other" Catholic populations separately, so they are grouped together here.

** Overall population estimates are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) for each corresponding year.

*** The Catholic Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding errors. Round numbers are used because these are statistical estimates, not actual population counts.

Diocese of Tyler
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated Population in 2021	% Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	Estimated Catholics in 2021	% Change	% Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	933,587	915,953	-1.9%	127,000	133,000	4.7%	14.5%	48.2%
Hispanic/Latino	217,654	246,002	13.0%	117,000	125,000	6.8%	50.8%	45.3%
Black/African American	232,118	211,926	-8.7%	12,500	12,000	-4.0%	5.7%	4.3%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	26,002	64,522	148.1%	2,600	6,500	150.0%	10.1%	2.4%
Total***	1,409,361	1,438,403	2.1%	259,000	276,000	6.6%	19.2%	

* The surveys on which the Catholic population are based were not large enough to generate reliable estimates of the Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and "Other" Catholic populations separately, so they are grouped together here.

** Overall population estimates are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) for each corresponding year.

*** The Catholic Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding errors. Round numbers are used because these are statistical estimates, not actual population counts.

Diocese of Victoria
Overall Population and Catholic Population Estimates
for 2016 and 2021 by Race / Ethnicity

Racial/Ethnic Group	Census Estimated Population in 2016**	Census Estimated % Population in 2021	Estimated Change	Estimated Catholics in 2016	% Catholics in 2021	% Change	% of Catholic	% of Catholics
White, non-Hispanic	148,326	142,437	-4.0%	21,500	22,000	2.3%	15.4%	23.9%
Hispanic/Latino	117,098	130,781	11.7%	64,000	68,000	6.3%	52.0%	73.9%
Black/African American	29,554	28,621	-3.2%	1,500	1,400	-6.7%	4.9%	1.5%
Asian/Native Am./Other*	5,423	11,719	116.1%	650	1,400	115.4%	11.9%	1.5%
Total***	300,401	313,558	4.4%	87,000	92,000	5.7%	29.3%	

* The surveys on which the Catholic population are based were not large enough to generate reliable estimates of the Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, and "Other" Catholic populations separately, so they are grouped together here.

** Overall population estimates are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Surveys (ACS) for each corresponding year.

*** The Catholic Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding errors. Round numbers are used because these are statistical estimates, not actual population counts.