

# CHA's Ecclesiology and Spiritual Renewal Program for Health Care Leaders

## Participant Guide

APRIL 19 – 24, 2026





## THE SHARED STATEMENT OF IDENTITY *for* THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY

*We are the people of Catholic health care*, a ministry of the church, continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. As provider, employer, advocate, citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace. We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

### **AS THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE, WE COMMIT TO:**

- ✦ Promote and Defend Human Dignity
- ✦ Attend to the Whole Person
- ✦ Care for Poor and Vulnerable Persons
- ✦ Promote the Common Good
- ✦ Act on Behalf of Justice
- ✦ Steward Resources
- ✦ Serve as a Ministry of the Church



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate  
Human Flourishing.<sup>SM</sup>*

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to CHA's Ecclesiology and Spiritual Renewal Program for Health Care Leaders. This weeklong experience offers a unique perspective on the Catholic health ministry and the Church's global work.

Through advanced readings, experiences of prayer and ritual, onsite presentations, visits with representatives of offices of the Vatican/Holy See and experiencing the sacred sites of Rome and Assisi, we hope you will:

- Come to a deeper understanding of a personal call to serve in the health care ministry
- Explore the relationship between personal spirituality, organizational spirituality and the capacity to lead others in the healing ministry
- Understand what it means to be a ministry of the Church
- Gain greater insight into the spirit, structure and functioning of the Roman Catholic Church
- Experience community with other leaders of Catholic health care and develop lasting relationships
- Return home renewed and empowered to lead your organization and colleagues to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ

This book will serve as a helpful guide for your experience, offering important details about our time together. We encourage you to become familiar with its contents and to bring it with you to Rome.

Advanced readings and a digital copy of this guide can be accessed by utilizing the QR code on this page.

We look forward to seeing you in Rome,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diarmuid Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diarmuid Rooney  
Vice President, Sponsorship and Mission Services





## Program Highlights

The following are tentative highlights of the program. A full agenda will be available when you arrive at the program. If you have any questions about the schedule, contact Lori Ashmore-Ruppel at [lashmore-ruppel@chausa.org](mailto:lashmore-ruppel@chausa.org).

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RATING GUIDE



#### LEISURELY

Easy pace, little walking and few stairs



#### MODERATE

Moderate pace, greater distances covered, walking over uneven surfaces, stair climbing and embarking and disembarking motor coaches



#### CHALLENGING

Vigorous pace, frequent movement, extensive walking over uneven surfaces, hiking, stair climbing where elevators are not available, embarking and disembarking motor coaches

# *Tentative Program Highlights*

*Program content, presenters and times are approximate and subject to change.*

## SUNDAY, APRIL 19

3:00 – 9:00 P.M.



**Welcome and Orientation**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Opening Eucharist**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Opening Session**, for Registered Participants

**Reception and Dinner**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

## MONDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.



**Buffet Breakfast**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Morning Sessions**, for Registered Participants

**Buffet Lunch**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Afternoon Free Time**

**Enjoy Dinner and an Evening on Your Own**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**  
**6:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.**



**Assisi Pilgrimage with Breakfast**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Lunch and Free Time in Assisi on Your Own**

**Return to Rome**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**  
**6:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.**



**Buffet Breakfast**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Tentative Papal General Audience**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Enjoy Lunch on Your Own and Afternoon Free Time** (approx. 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

**Integration Session**, for Registered Participants

**Private Tour of Sistine Chapel and Parts of the Vatican Museum followed by a light dinner at the museum**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23**  
**6:30 A.M. – 9:30 P.M.**



**Buffet Breakfast**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Mass at St. Peter's Basilica**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Meetings with Dicastery Officials**, for Registered Participants

**Enjoy Lunch on Your Own and Afternoon Free Time** (approx. Noon – 6:00 p.m.)

**Reception and Dinner at Casina Valadier**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**  
**8:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**



**Buffet Breakfast**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Closing Session**, for Registered Participants

**Prayer Service and Commissioning**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests

**Closing Luncheon**, for Registered Participants and Registered Guests



## Attire Guide

### Helpful Tips by Day

Please note that dress for the program is “smart casual” unless otherwise noted for specific events.

### Sunday, April 19

**Welcome, General Orientation and Opening Eucharist** – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

**Program Opening** – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants.

**Reception and Dinner** – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

#### ► Smart Casual Dress

##### *For Men:*

- Business casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. No shorts or blue jeans, please.
- Business casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts. Shirts with no collars are appropriate only if they are not T-shirts.
- Appropriate footwear – dress shoes and shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, especially with required walking on uneven pavement and up and down stairs, etc. Please do not wear flip-flops of any kind.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

##### *For Women:*

- Business casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends.
- Dresses and skirts are appropriate, **but please remember your knees and shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Business casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts, are appropriate, as are sweaters, jackets, etc. **Please remember your shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.
- Appropriate footwear – low-heeled dress shoes, shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, as are low-heeled sandals. Please do not wear flip-flop sandals of any kind. Remember we will often be walking on uneven pavement, up and down stairs, etc.

## Monday, April 20

**Morning Program** – Smart casual – This event is for registered participants.

**Lunch and Presentation** – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.

## Tuesday, April 21

**Assisi** – Comfortable/casual dress

This event, for participants and registered guests, will involve strenuous walking on uneven pavement and stairs and exposure to the elements for the majority of the day. Please bring hand sanitizer, hats, sun block or umbrellas as required. It is generally cooler and foggy in the morning, so you might consider bringing a lightweight jacket. **Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter all holy sites.**

### ► **Comfortable/casual dress**

**For Men:**

- Business or casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. Jeans and “cargo pants” are also appropriate. No shorts, please.
- Casual shirts include collared shirts or button-down shirts. Shirts with no collars are appropriate only if they are not T-shirts.
- Appropriate footwear – comfortable shoes, including tennis shoes, sneakers, athletic shoes and shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, especially with required walking on uneven pavement and up and down stairs, etc. Please do not wear flip-flops of any kind.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

**For Women:**

- Casual pants, including all cotton, wool and blends. Jeans and Capri-length pants are appropriate. No shorts are permitted.
- Dresses are appropriate, **but please remember your knees and shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Skirts are appropriate, but again, they must cover the knee.
- Casual shirts, including collared shirts or button-down shirts, are appropriate, as are sweaters, jackets, etc. **Please remember your shoulders must be covered to enter any holy site.**
- Low-heeled shoes, tennis shoes, sneakers, athletic shoes, shoes with rubber soles are appropriate, as are low-heeled sandals. Please do not wear flip-flop sandals of any kind. Remember that we will often be walking on uneven pavement, up and down stairs, etc.
- Please do not wear apparel items with slogans.

## Wednesday, April 22

### **Papal General Audience** – Comfortable/casual dress

This event, for registered participants and registered guests, will involve strenuous walking on uneven pavement and stairs and exposure to the elements for the majority of the day. Please bring hats and sun block or umbrellas as required. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter holy sites.***

### **Debriefing and Integration** – Smart casual

This event for registered participants takes place in the Ludovisi at the Westin Excelsior.

### **Private tour of Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum** – Smart casual

This event, for registered participants and registered guests, will involve walking on uneven pavement and stairs. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter the Sistine Chapel.***

## Thursday, April 23

### **St. Peter's Basilica** – Professional dress

This event is for registered participants and registered guests. ***Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered in order to enter St. Peter's Basilica for Mass.***

### **Dicastery Meetings** – Professional dress

This event, for registered participants, will involve walking on uneven pavement and stairs.

### **Dinner at Casina Valadier** – Professional dress

This event is for registered participants and registered guests. Please note: Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor welcome reception prior to dinner.

#### ► **Professional dress**

##### ***For Men:***

- Suit, dress shirt and tie.
- Dress slacks, sport coat, dress shirt and tie.
- Dress shoes – rubber-soled shoes are appropriate.

##### ***For Women:***

- Suit with skirt or slacks with coordinating top.
- Skirt or dress slacks with coordinating top, with or without a jacket/sweater/blazer.
- Dress with or without a jacket/sweater.
- Dress shoes – uneven pavement and stairs, so low-heeled and rubber soles appropriate.

## Friday, April 24

### Closing Program – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants.

### Prayer Service and Commissioning – Smart casual

For registered participants and all guests, this event will include moderate walking on uneven pavement. *Remember to keep shoulders and knees covered to enter holy sites.* Please consider sun block, hats or umbrellas as needed.

### Closing Lunch – Smart casual

This event is for registered participants and registered guests.





## Faculty Biographies



**Lori Ashmore-Ruppel,**  
**MAPS**

**Lori Ashmore-Ruppel** serves as senior director, mission services, management at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Lori's responsibilities encompass advancing the department's work through research, writing and managing major departmental programs and projects. In her tenure with CHA, Lori has also served as director, sponsor services, and as a research associate. In these capacities, her focus was on the planning and facilitation of the Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care and research in the domains of ethics, mission, and formation.

Lori received her master's degree in pastoral studies from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis and a graduate certificate in non-profit leadership and management from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. She has a bachelor's degree in human services from Fontbonne University in St. Louis.



**Nathaniel Blanton Hibner,**  
**Ph.D.**

**Nathaniel Blanton Hibner** is director of ethics for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. In this role, he provides research and suggested implementation of the church's moral tradition for CHA member organizations in areas of clinical and organizational ethics. Together with CHA's senior director of theology and ethics, Nate creates educational and formational programming on moral theology and its relationship to current topics for the Catholic health ministry.

Prior to joining CHA in 2017, he attended the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, where he researched organizational ethics, bioethics and Catholic health care ethics. He also taught an undergraduate course on Foundations in Health Care Ethics. He is currently finishing his dissertation for the joint Ph.D. in health care ethics and moral theology at Saint Louis University. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and theology and a master's degree in theological studies from Boston College. He also has a master's degree in health care ethics from Saint Louis University.



**Sr. Teresa Maya** serves as senior director, theology and sponsorship at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Prior to joining CHA, she held the role of congregational leader for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio from 2014 to 2022. From 2016 to 2019, she served as the president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

**Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, Ph.D.**

She held leadership roles with CHRISTUS Health, fostering strong relationships between sponsors and governance leaders. Originally from Mexico, she joined the Sisters of Charity and took her vows in 1998. Prior to her leadership roles, she was a principal at the congregation's schools in Mexico. Sr. Teresa holds a doctor of philosophy in history from El Colegio de Mexico, a master of arts in systematic theology from the Graduate Theological Union, and a bachelor of arts from Yale University.

As a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Sr. Teresa has extensive experience as a teacher, history professor, administrator, leader, facilitator, and speaker. She is committed to forming ministers who aim to transform both the Church and society. Passionate about lifelong learning and the future of consecrated life, Sr. Teresa has facilitated and consulted with various religious congregations.



**Diarmuid Rooney,  
M.S.Psych., M.T.S.,  
D.Soc.Admin**

**Diarmuid Rooney** serves as vice president, sponsorship and mission services at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. In this role he serves as a spokesperson for CHA on sponsorship and mission issues, in conjunction with the president and chief executive officer, and maintains effective relationships with other national organizations and CHA members.

Prior to joining CHA in 2018, Diarmuid served for eight years as vice president, formation and communication technology, at the Ministry Leadership Center in Sacramento, California. The Ministry Leadership Center was established in 2004 to expand and enrich executive health care leaders' commitment to the Catholic tradition's mission, vision and values. His key focus was co-designing and facilitating innovative leadership formation programs that transformed leaders personally and professionally, enabling them to deliver cultural transformation for their organizations. Previously, Diarmuid was regional director of mission formation for Providence St. Joseph Health & Services in Oregon (16,000 associates).

He holds master's degrees in theology, from the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, and in clinical psychotherapy, from the University College Dublin, School of Medicine. Diarmuid is particularly interested in how these disciplines impact the culture of spirituality in the workplace. He also holds degrees in business and social administration (University College Dublin) and philosophy and politics (University College Dublin) and is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, The Honor Society of Jesuit Institutions of Higher Education.



**Sr. Patricia Murray,  
IBVM**

**Sr. Pat Murray** has given her life to improving the situations of others – first in Ireland, where she was born, and later throughout the world. She studied at the University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, obtaining several degrees, including doctor of ministry. She worked first as a secondary school teacher and principal, a peace education officer for the whole of Ireland, a director of the Loreto education office, and a university lecturer and frequent conference speaker.

As a member of the general council of her religious community for eight years, she empowered her sisters to lead in numerous ministries in more than 20 countries on all continents. She later became the executive director of solidarity with South Sudan, which established a new missionary paradigm of religious life with men and women religious living and working together to help the South Sudanese people build a peaceful and just society. Sr. Pat served as the executive secretary of the International Union of Superiors General from 2014 to 2025.



**Dr. Claudio Mario Betti,  
Director**

**Dr. Claudio Betti**, based in Rome, is currently a director at Australian Catholic University, bringing experience from previous roles at CUA/ACU, Catholic University of America, Seraphicum and Catholic University of America/Australian Catholic University Rome Campus. Dr. Betti also serves as director of special operations for the Community of Sant'Egidio and has been a member of the community since 1971. He holds a PHD in history at Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza'. With a robust skill set that includes grant writing, research, marketing, international relations, conflict resolution and more, Dr. Betti contributes valuable insights to the industry.

### **The Community of Sant'Egidio**

Sant'Egidio is a Christian community born in 1968, right after the second Vatican Council. An initiative of Andrea Riccardi, it was born in a secondary school in the center of Rome. With the years, it has become a network of communities in more than 70 countries of the world. The Community pays attention to the periphery and peripheral people, gathering men and women of all ages and conditions, united by a fraternal tie through the listening of the Gospel and the voluntary and free commitment to the poor and peace. Prayer, poor and peace are its fundamental points of reference.



Sunday, April 19

## General Orientation



*As we open our time of pilgrimage together, the prayer leader will guide us with an introduction and opening prayer. After watching a brief video, you will be invited to shared reflection and closing in prayer together with the following:*

God of all,  
We thank you and praise you for the glorious gift of your spirit in the world.  
We rejoice in your call to serve in this ministry of health care.  
Send us your spirit of wisdom and discernment.  
Give us ears to hear and eyes to see you in our ministry and time together.  
Give us humility to name where we fall short of your glory.  
Be with us, and fill us with joy as we extend our hands in love.  
Let our light shine in the name of your son,  
Jesus, our brother in healing.

AMEN.



To access Shared Statement of Identity video, utilize this QR code.

## **Program Opening**

### **Promote and Defend Human Dignity**

Imaginative prayer, sometimes called Ignatian Contemplation, refers to the process of using one's imagination to place yourself within a scripture story. We use our senses to prayerfully imagine ourselves into the experience. Through imagining, we dig deeper into the story so that God may communicate with us in a more personal way.

Settle yourself into a presence of prayer and prepare to listen to the Gospel of Matthew. As you listen, pay attention to the details that stand out to you. If there is a character that stands out, put yourself in their shoes: What do you see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Let the story envelope you, letting your heart open to receive whatever message God might be trying to communicate.

*After sharing, we will close in prayer together:*

Christ has no body but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassionately on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body but yours.

AMEN.







Monday, April 20

## **Act on Behalf of Justice**

*Throughout today we will reflect together on the ways we are called to “Act on Behalf of Justice.” Not only is it an essential component of Jesus’ life and ministry, but of our own work in Catholic health care. Our morning prayer will invite us to use Lectio Divina (see opposite page) to reflect on a quote from Pope Francis. After the reading, you will be invited to consider questions for reflection.*

# An Invitation to Lectio Divina

## LISTENING WITH THE EAR OF THE HEART

Rooted in the Christian monastic tradition, *Lectio Divina* is a way of awakening our hearts and coming to an experiential awareness of God. Latin for “divine reading,” it is the process of discerning a word of revelation from God through Scripture directly to the individual. Less interested in a historical or linguistic study of the text, *Lectio Divina* is focused on coming in contact and relationship with Christ in and through the Scriptures.

The prayer of *Lectio Divina* begins with cultivating the ability to listen deeply and to hear “with the ear of our hearts,” as St. Benedict taught. In order to hear someone speaking softly, we must learn to be silent. *Lectio Divina* requires that we quiet down in order to hear God’s word to us. This gentle listening is an awareness and openness to the presence of God through the revelation of the Scriptures.

“Seek in reading and you will find in meditation;  
knock in prayer and it will be opened to you in contemplation.”

— JOHN OF THE CROSS

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Once you have selected a passage from Sacred Scripture, settle yourself into presence and begin the four-fold movement:

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### LECTIO

The first step is to read the text slowly and attentively, listening for a word or phrase that is God’s word for us this day. Releasing preconceived notions and expectations of the text, we read with an open imagination. As we rid ourselves of our own bias, we become able to hear the still, small voice of God that will speak to us personally.

### ORATIO

The third step in *Lectio Divina* is *oratio*, verbal prayer, in which we dialogue with God. *Oratio* is a loving conversation with the One who has called us into being by love. The discussion may be silent, aloud or written.

*\*Although the four movements are spoken of as steps, Lectio Divina isn't always a linear process, and may fold in and over itself. Be open to the work of the Spirit and patient with your prayer.*

### MEDITATIO

After one, two or more readings, a word, phrase or passage presents itself to us. As this word captures our spirit and imagination, we hold it gently in meditation. Through *meditatio* we allow this word to become God’s word for us, which touches and affects us at our deepest levels.

### CONTEMPLATIO

*Contemplatio* is the last movement of *Lectio Divina*. As our dialogue with God comes to an end, we simply rest in the sacred stillness. As in all loving relationships, there comes a moment when words are unnecessary and being in the presence of the other is enough. In this moment of still quiet, we let go of our own words and enjoy the experience of being in the presence of the God who loves us.















Wednesday, April 22

## Promote the Common Good

### Opening Prayer, Wednesday Morning

*We will open our day with prayer en route to the papal audience.*

### Prayer on Wednesday Afternoon

*“That parable [of the Good Samaritan] constantly challenges us to think about our own lives. It troubles our dormant or distracted consciences, and warns us about the risk of a complacent faith that is satisfied with the outward observance of the law but incapable of feeling and acting with the same merciful compassion as God. [...] Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers.” - 13 July 2025, Homily of Pope Leo XIV, Castel Gandolfo*

How are you allowing the lives of others to touch your heart, so that you might be authentically neighborly?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord, our God:

Open our hearts, that we may embrace a richer understanding of your Holy Word and of Catholic social tradition — its teaching, thought and practice.

Deepen our appreciation for the common good, give us a vision of how justice and peace, love and truth, can come together harmoniously in the ministries we serve.

Be with us, O Holy One, that everything we do here may hasten the fullness of your reign. We pray in your holy name.

AMEN.













Friday, April 24

## **Attend to the Whole Person**

One of the distinctive features of Catholic health care is our belief that every person is, in this life, an inseparable unity of body, mind and spirit. This morning we will listen to an excerpt from Luke's Gospel, then use the remaining time for personal reflection. We will close together with the prayer below.

*As we prepare to pray, consider how you attend to your own "whole person."*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." And the leprosy left him immediately. Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The report about him spread all the more, and great crowds assembled to listen to him and to be cured of their ailments, but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.

The gospel of the Lord.

## **Closing Prayer:**

**All:** Giver of all,  
We thank you for your presence among us these past days.  
We have listened to and been challenged by the words of your prophets  
– those found in scripture and those found in this community  
– colleagues with whom we share the journey of Catholic health care.  
As we prepare to depart from this space,  
bless our travels and keep us mindful of what you have revealed to us.  
May the learnings gleaned together continue to ruminate within us,  
and may our conversations continue to bear fruit in our ministries.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.













## Resources

### Pacro Dei Principi Grand Hotel and Spa, Rome



**Via Gerolamo Frescobaldi, 5  
Rome, 00189 Italy  
Phone: 39-06-854421**

- Check in: 3:00 p.m.
- Check out: 10:00 a.m.

#### Key Amenities

- High-speed internet access
  - Guest rooms: free wifi
  - Lobby and public areas: wireless
  - Meeting rooms: wireless, wired
- Fitness center
- Outdoor Pool, Mon-Thu €30 per person/day, Fri-Sun €48 per person/day
- Prince Spa with indoor pool

#### Property Details

- Seven floors, 162 rooms,
- Eighteen meeting rooms

#### Hotel Services and Amenities

- All public areas nonsmoking
- Car rental nearby
- Concierge desk
- Evening turndown service
- Foreign exchange nearby
- Full daily breakfast
- Housekeeping service daily
- Laundry and dry cleaning service
- Courtesy newspaper
- Room service
- Safe in room

#### Business Services

- Business center
- Copier
- Fax

## Restaurants and Lounges

Restaurants at the Parco dei Principi:

**Pauline Borghese Restaurant** – *lunch and dinner*

**La Pomme Bar & Lounge** – *lunch*



Restaurants near the Parco dei Principi:

**Mirabelle Restaurant**

**Carpaccio Beef Restaurant**

**San Marco Pizzeria**

**Vladimiro Restaurant**

**Girarrosto Fiorentino Restaurant**

**Girarrosto Toscano Restaurant**

**Piccolo Mondo Restaurant**

**Cesarina Restaurant**

**Sapori Sardi Restaurant**

**Ristorante Il Boncompagni**

## Attractions and Landmarks

- Spanish Steps
- Roman Forum and Palatine Hill
- Colosseum
- Villa Borghese Art Gallery and Garden
- Palazzo Barberini
- Saint Peter Church
- MAXXI, National Museum of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art
- French Academy in Rome
- The Baths of Diocletian



*This handout offers a listing of some places of worship in Rome you may wish to visit. Please consult their websites for information and worship schedules.*

## **St. Patrick's Catholic American Parish in Rome**

Via Boncompagni, 31  
00187 Roma

<https://stpatricksamericanrome.org/>

United by Catholic faith and English language, the community at St. Patrick's celebrates and lives together the faith of Saints Peter and Paul founded in this holy city of Rome. They welcome those who come to Rome as pilgrims and tourists seeking to grow in their Catholic faith celebrated in language and ways familiar to them. They reach out to those in our city who depend on others for the compassion that leads to human dignity and opportunity. They join in ecumenical collaboration with those of other Christian traditions to know and live our gospel faith most fully.



## Great Synagogue of Rome

Lungotevere Cenci 15

00186 Roma

[www.romaebraica.it](http://www.romaebraica.it)

The Main Synagogue is a place of worship for Roman Jews on the banks of the Tiber, near Isola Tiberina. It is a large building that supports an aluminum-coated pavilion cupola. It dates back to the early 20th century and was designed by the architects Armani and Costa.



## Islamic Cultural Center of Italy - Grand Mosque of Rome

Viale Della Moschea, 85

00197 Roma

[www.facebook.com/centroislamicoculturale](http://www.facebook.com/centroislamicoculturale)

The Islamic Cultural Center of Italy, which oversees the Grand Mosque of Rome, remains the only Muslim entity officially recognized by the Italian Republic, granted legal status by Presidential Decree No. 712 on December 21, 1974.



## Rome Baptist Church

Piazza di San Lorenzo in Lucina 35  
00186 Roma

[www.romebaptist.org](http://www.romebaptist.org)

Founded in 1963 by the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Missionary Board, the Rome Baptist Church is located in a 16th-century building in a piazza just off the Via del Corso.



## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Scotland

Via Venti Settembre 7  
00187 Rome

*Halfway between the Piazza della Repubblica and Palazzo del Quirinale*

[www.presbyterianchurchrome.org](http://www.presbyterianchurchrome.org)

St Andrew's Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland in Rome, belonging to the Church's Presbytery of Europe. The congregation began in the early 1860s with a small group of Scots and American Presbyterians who met in the neighborhood of the Spanish Steps.



## St. Paul's Within the Walls

Via Napoli 58  
00184 Roma

*St. Paul's is on the corner of Via Nazionale and Via Napoli*

[www.stpaulsrome.it](http://www.stpaulsrome.it)

St Paul's Within the Walls American Episcopal Church of Rome, built in 1873, was the first non-Roman Catholic church to be built inside the walls of Rome. It now houses a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural congregation and is home of the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center.



# The Catholic Church At A Glance

## February 2026

*Figures are for 2025 and episcopal appointments announced through January 2026*

### Laity

There are **68,737,788** Catholics in the United States (20% of the U.S. population) and **1.390 billion** Catholics worldwide.

### New Church Members

- Infant Baptisms: **480,289**
- Adult Baptisms: **34,552**
- Received into Full Communion: **55,453**

### Dioceses and Archdioceses

In the United States, there are **194** archdioceses/dioceses, the Archdiocese of the Ministry Services, USA, and the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter:

- **144** Latin Catholic dioceses
- **33** Latin Catholic archdioceses
- **16** Eastern Catholic dioceses
- **2** Eastern Catholic archdioceses
- **1** Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
- **1** Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter

### Clergy and Religious

#### U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

#### Cardinals

There are **17 U.S. Cardinals**

**Three** Cardinals currently lead U.S. archdioceses

- *Cardinal Blase J. Cupich* - Chicago
- *Cardinal Robert W. McElroy* - Washington, D.C.
- *Cardinal Joseph William Tobin, CSsR* - Newark, New Jersey

**Two** U.S. Cardinals are not currently diocesan bishops

- *Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell* - Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life
- *Cardinal James M. Harvey* - Archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls

**Eleven** U.S. Cardinals are retired

- *Cardinal Raymond L. Burke* - Patron of the Order of Malta
- *Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo* - Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston
- *Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan* - Archbishop Emeritus of New York
- *Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory* - Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C.
- *Cardinal Roger M. Mahony* - Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles
- *Cardinal Adam J. Maida* - Archbishop Emeritus of Detroit
- *Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien* - Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore
- *Cardinal Sean O'Malley* - Archbishop Emeritus of Boston
- *Cardinal Justin F. Rigali* - Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia
- *Cardinal James F. Stafford* - Major Penitentiary Emeritus
- *Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl* - Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C.

## **Bishops**

There are **440** active and retired Catholic bishops in the United States:

Active Bishops:

- **3** Cardinal Archbishops
- **31** Archbishops
- **159** Diocesan Bishops
- **75** Auxiliary Bishops

Retired Bishops:

- **11** retired Cardinals
- **20** retired Archbishops
- **91** retired Diocesan Bishops
- **50** retired Auxiliary Bishops

## **Priests**

There are **34,156** diocesan and religious-order priests in the United States.

- **23,692** diocesan priests
- **10,464** religious-order priests (Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans, etc.)

## **Seminarians**

There are **3,603** seminarians enrolled in the United States.

- **2,766** enrolled in diocesan seminaries
- **837** enrolled in religious-order seminaries

## **Permanent Deacons**

There are **19,290** men who are ordained as permanent deacons in the United States. A permanent deacon is a man, either married or single, who is ordained to the order of deacons, the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. They assist priests in administrative and pastoral roles.

## **Vowed Religious**

Sisters: **33,997**

Brothers: **3,314**

## **Catholic Education**

Total Catholic elementary and high school enrollment: **1,710,270** students

Elementary Schools: **4,686** schools educating **1,164,141** students

High Schools: **1,264** schools educating **546,129** students

Colleges and Universities: **224** institutions educating **725,740** students

Non-residential Schools for the Disabled: **45** schools educating **3,986** students

Public School Students Receiving Religious Education:

Elementary School students: **1,627,390**

High School students: **452,428**

## **Catholic Health Care**

Hospitals: **659** Catholic hospitals treated **80,920,603** patients

Other Health Care Centers: **554** centers treated **5,125,194** patients

Specialized Homes: **1,166** homes **560,479** residents

Residential Care of Children: **367** locations assisted **26,659** residents

## **Social Services**

Last year, Catholic Charities agencies nationwide served more than 15 million of our at-risk neighbors - people without homes, those who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are hungry or malnourished, elderly persons who are isolated, vulnerable migrants and refugees on the move, families recovering from natural disasters, pregnant women and new mothers in need, and persons with disabilities who have inadequate care. The membership of CCUSA is made up of 168 diocesan Catholic Charities agencies.

## **Food and Nutrition:**

Millions visit Catholic Charities agencies for a warm meal and food to feed their families. This critical need often serves as the first step in accessing other essential services.

- **968** Food pantries supported
- **12.5** million kids' meals provided at childcare, after school and via summer lunch
- **58,900** Families assisted with SNAP benefits

### **Disaster Services:**

For more than 60 years, Catholic Charities has assisted survivors in their recovery from natural disasters.

- **100,000** people received disaster recovery assistance
- **59** new disasters CCUSA responded to in 2024
- **\$9** million disaster aid distributed

### **Affordable Housing:**

Catholic Charities agencies are among the nation's largest providers of affordable housing as well as emergency and temporary housing. Catholic Charities owns/operates over 38,000 units of permanent housing.

- Over **600,000** clients accessed homelessness services
- **12,283** seniors housed

### **Social Enterprise and Workforce Development:**

Employees of social enterprises make significant gains toward economic self-sufficiency and stability in housing and income while decreasing their reliance on government benefits.

- **\$36.6** million annual revenue from social enterprise
- **2,300** professional certificates/credentials earned
- **28,000** people served through social enterprise

### **Integrated Health:**

Catholic Charities agencies serve the most vulnerable of our society by finding new treatment platforms and service models.

- Over **600,000** people received behavioral health and wellness services
- Over **8,000** Catholic Charities wellness and behavioral staff
- **12,820** clients connected to primary care providers

The Catholic Charities network has served migrants in need for more than 100 years. Catholic Charities agencies offer migrants and any other community members in need — regardless of race, religion or political affiliation — a variety of assistance, including food pantries and other essential services. In recent years, federal, state and local governments have asked some Catholic Charities agencies, especially those at or near the U.S.-Mexico border, to assist migrants whom the federal government has processed and released with pending immigration court proceedings. These agencies have provided basic care — such as food, clothing and a place to sleep for a night or two. Some Catholic Charities agencies also offer legal assistance to migrants as they navigate our complicated immigration legal system.

*The information in this section was found at the following resources:*

*The Official Catholic Directory 2025 P.J. Kenedy & Sons, Berkeley Heights, NJ.*

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 2026.*

*Catholic Charities USA 2024 - [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)*

2025

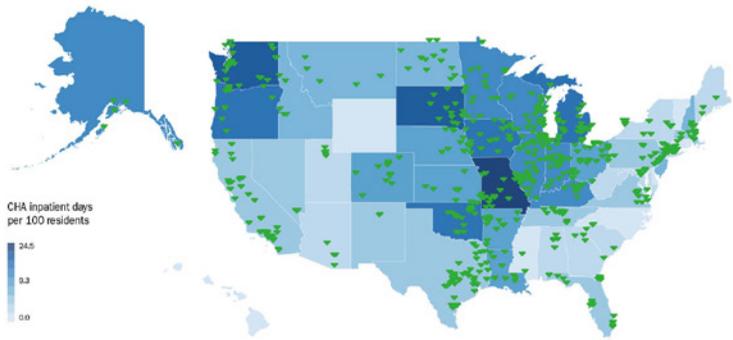
# U.S. Catholic Health Care

*The nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care providers*

Caring for people and communities across the United States, with special attention to those who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

## COAST TO COAST

HOSPITAL LOCATIONS AND WHERE THEIR PATIENTS RESIDE



HOSPITALS†



74% URBAN

26% RURAL

**659**  
HOSPITALS†

**131**  
Critical Access  
Hospitals\*

**229**  
Trauma Centers\*

**234**  
Hospitals Providing  
Palliative Care\*

**273**  
Hospitals with  
Obstetrics Services\*

**3,447**  
PICU/NICU beds\*

**290**  
Hospitals offering  
Mental Health  
Services

EVERY DAY

MORE THAN  
**1 IN 7**  
PATIENTS

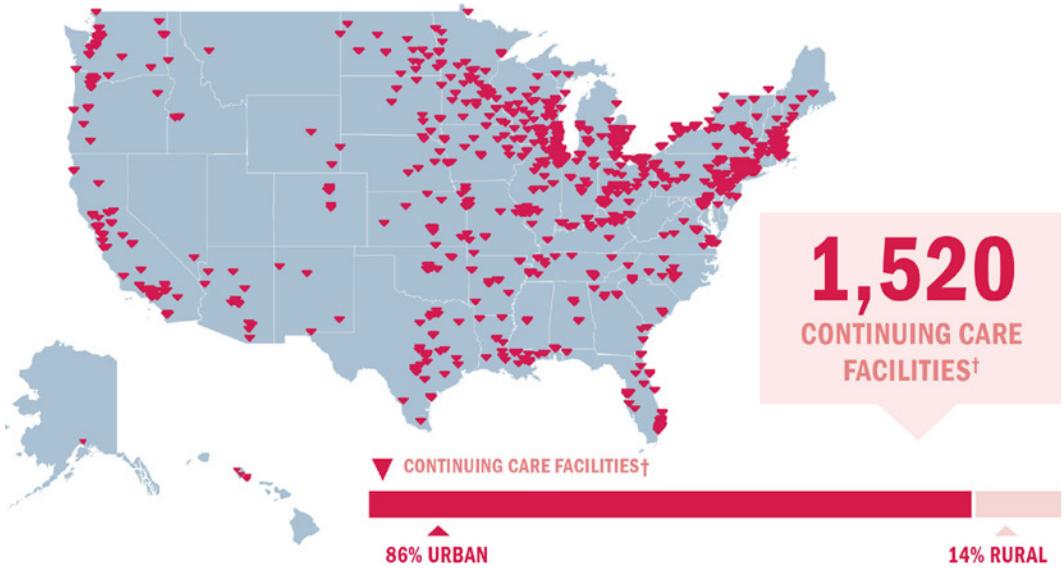
are cared for in a  
Catholic hospital.\*



**CATHOLIC  
HOSPITAL  
EMPLOYEES**

**497,697**  
Full-Time Employees\*

**219,808**  
Part-Time Workers\*



## NEARLY 4.5 MILLION ADMISSIONS

to Catholic hospitals during a one-year period and 921,405 Medicaid discharges\*



— Nearly —  
**99 MILLION**  
Outpatient  
Visits\*



— Nearly —  
**19 MILLION**  
Emergency Room  
Visits\*



— Nearly —  
**450,000 BABIES**  
were born in a  
Catholic Hospital\*



— Nearly —  
**76%**  
of Catholic Hospitals  
provided at least one  
Telehealth Service

\*2023 AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SURVEY †THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES



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## Index of Common Terms

### A

#### **Apostle/Apostolic/Disciple**

Literally “one sent.” Normally this refers to the 12 men chosen by Christ to be the bearers of his teachings to the world. Apostolic generally refers back to the 12 apostles. In the church it characterizes certain documents, appointments or structures initiated by the pope or the Holy See. Disciple is one who follows the teachings of Jesus.

#### **Apostolate**

The ministry or work of an apostle. In Catholic usage, a term covering all kinds and areas of work and endeavors for the service of God and the church and the good of people.

#### **Apostolic Camera**

A “chamber” or office in the Roman Curia headed by the Chamberlain (Camerlengo) of the Holy Roman Church, whose chief responsibility is the administration of the church during the interim between the death of a pope and the election of a successor. Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo is currently Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church.

#### **Apostolic Constitution**

This is a solemn, papal document with legislative authority, dealing with important matters of faith or church life affecting the whole church or a sizable part of it. An apostolic constitution was used to promulgate the revised Code of Canon Law in 1983.

#### **Apostolic Exhortation**

This is a papal document that, while not legislative in nature, promotes church teaching. Examples include exhortations issued by the pope following a synod of bishops.

#### **Apostolic Letter**

An apostolic letter is a papal letter usually sent to a particular group of persons, for example, a group of bishops, rather than to the entire church. It is not a legislative text.

**Apostolic Nunciature**

The offices of the Holy Father's representative or ambassador to the church in a country and then to the government in that country.

**Apostolic Succession**

The handing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles to the church through their successors, the bishops.

**Archbishop**

Title given automatically to bishops who govern archdioceses.

**Archdiocese**

The chief diocese of an ecclesiastical province.

**Auxiliary Bishop**

A bishop assigned to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese, to assist a diocesan bishop.

**B****Basilica**

A church to which special privileges are attached. It is a title of honor given to various kinds of churches.

**Beatification**

Final step toward canonization of a saint.

**Bishop**

The chief priest of a diocese. Bishops are responsible for the pastoral care of their dioceses. In addition, bishops have a responsibility to act in council with other bishops to guide the church.

**C****Canon Law**

The codified body of general laws governing the church.

**Canon**

Greek for rule, norm, standard, measure. Designates the Canon of Sacred Scripture, the list of books recognized by the church as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Also refers to individual laws with the Code of Canon Law.

**Canonization**

A declaration by the pope that a person who died a martyr or practiced Christian virtue to a heroic degree is in heaven and is worthy of honor and imitation by the faithful. Verification of miracles is required for canonization (except in the case of martyrs).

**Cardinal**

Cardinals are appointed by the pope and constitute a kind of senate of the church, and aid the pope as his chief counselors.

**Catechesis**

Religious instruction and formation for persons preparing for baptism (catechumens) and for the faithful in various stages of spiritual development.

**Cathedral**

The major church in an archdiocese or diocese. It is the seat of the local bishop.

**Catholic**

Greek word for universal. First used in the title Catholic Church in a letter written by St. Ignatius of Antioch to the Christians of Smyrna about 107 A.D.

**Chancellor**

The chief archivist of a diocese's official records. Also a notary and secretary of the diocesan curia or administrative office.

**Charisms**

Gifts or graces given by God to persons for the good of others and the church.

**Church**

The people of God spread throughout the world; the local church is that of a particular locality, such as a diocese. The church embraces all its members—on earth, in heaven, in purgatory.

**Clergy**

Collective term referring to male persons who have been ordained as deacons, priests or bishops.

**College of Cardinals**

The College of Cardinals is made up of the cardinals of the church, who advise the pope, assist in the central administration of the church, head the various curial offices and congregations, administer the Holy See during a vacancy, and elect a new pope. The term "cardinal" is Latin for "hinge," indicating the importance of this role in guiding the Universal Church.

**Collegiality**

The shared responsibility and authority that the whole college of bishops, headed by the pope, has for the teaching, sanctification and government of the church.

**Contemplative**

A religious man or woman who devotes his or her entire life in the cloister to prayer and reflection.

## **D**

### **Deacon/Diaconate**

The diaconate is the first order or grade in ordained ministry. Any man who is to be ordained to the priesthood must first be ordained as a transitional deacon. Deacons serve in the ministry of liturgy, of the word and of charity. The permanent diaconate is for men who do not plan to become ordained priests. The program is open to both married and unmarried men.

### **Dean/Vicar**

The title of a priest appointed by the bishop to aid him in administering the parishes within a certain vicinity, called a “deanery.” The function of a dean involves promotion, coordination and supervision of the common pastoral activity within the deanery or vicariate.

### **Dicastery**

A general term used to refer to the various departments that make up the Roman Curia or administrative offices of the Vatican. The term refers to the various congregations, pontifical councils, tribunals and other offices that are part of the Vatican’s administrative structure.

### **Diocesan Curia**

The personnel and offices assisting the bishop in directing the pastoral activity, administration and exercise of judicial power of the diocese.

### **Diocese**

A particular church; a fully organized ecclesiastical jurisdiction under the pastoral direction of a bishop as local ordinary.

## **E**

### **Eastern-rite (Oriental) Church**

Term used to describe the Catholic churches which developed in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. They have their own distinctive liturgical and organizational systems. Each is considered equal to the Latin rite within the church.

### **Ecclesiastical**

Refers to official structures or legal and organizational aspects of the church.

### **Ecumenical Council**

A council called by the pope of all bishops of the church. These councils are usually called to discuss specific matters of interest to the church.

### **Ecumenism/Interdenominational/Ecumenical Movement**

A movement for spiritual understanding and unity among Christians and their churches. The term is also extended to apply to efforts toward greater understanding and cooperation between Christians and members of other faiths.

**Encyclical**

A pastoral letter addressed by the pope to the whole church.

**Eschatology**

Doctrine concerning the last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell, and the final state of perfection of the people and the Kingdom of God at the end of the world.

**Exarch/Exarchy**

A church jurisdiction, similar to a diocese, established for Eastern-rite Catholics living outside their native land. The head of an exarchy, usually a bishop, is an exarch.

**Excommunication**

A penalty of censure by which a baptized person is excluded from the Communion of the faithful for committing and remaining obstinate in certain serious offenses specified in canon law. Even though excommunicated, a person still is responsible for fulfillment of the normal obligations of a Catholic.

**G****God**

The infinitely perfect Supreme Being, uncaused and absolutely self-sufficient, eternal, the creator and final end of all things. The one God subsists in three equal persons, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Grace**

A free gift of God to human beings, grace is a created sharing in the life of God. It is given through the merits of Christ and is communicated by the Holy Spirit. It is necessary for salvation.

**H****Hierarchy**

In general, the term refers to the ordered body of clergy, divided into bishops, priests and deacons. In Catholic practice, the term refers to the bishops of the world or of a particular region.

**Holy See**

The diocese of the pope, Rome. The pope himself or the various officials and bodies of the church's central administration—the Roman Curia—which act in the name and by authority of the pope.

**Humanae Vitae**

A 1968 encyclical by Pope Paul VI on married love and procreation.

**I****IHS**

In Greek, the first three letters of the name of Jesus.

## **Intercommunion**

The agreement or practice of two ecclesial communities by which each admits members of the other communion to its sacraments.

## **J**

### **Jesus**

Jesus Christ is the person called Jesus of Nazareth. Christian faithful recognized him as the incarnation of God and as the Christ, the Anointed One, who was crucified on a cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. As the Son of God, he is known as the Second Person of the Trinity. The name of Jesus derives from the Aramaic and Hebrew and Yeshua and Joshua, meaning Yahweh is salvation.

### **Juridic Person**

Roughly the equivalent of a civil law corporation, having both rights and obligations. It is established either automatically by canon law or by decree of the competent ecclesiastical authority. Its connection to the church lies in an ongoing relationship with the local bishop(s), without whose approval it cannot be considered Catholic. The most common examples of public juridic persons established by law are dioceses, religious institutes, and the Holy See. (See Code of Canon Law, cc. 113123.). A common example of public juridic persons established by decree are the ones established for health care in the United States.

## **K**

### **Keys, Power of the**

Spiritual authority and jurisdiction in the church, symbolized by the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Christ promised the “keys” to St. Peter as the leader of the church.

## **L**

### **Laicization**

The process by which an ordained man is relieved of his obligations and is returned to the status of a lay person.

### **Layman/Laywoman/Layperson**

Any church member who is neither ordained nor a member of a religious order. When the Second Vatican Council spoke of the laity, it used the term in this more common meaning.

### **Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)**

Organization of major superiors who represent more than 90 percent of the active women religious in the United States.

**Liturgy**

The public and official prayer and rites of the church. Derived from Greek, it refers to “the work of the people.” Its aim is to bind the faithful to God, and thus, it is the communal gesture of praise and glorification of God, whose unbounded love heals the world and is offered universally.

**M****Magisterium**

The official teaching office of the church.

**Mass**

The common name for the eucharistic liturgy of the Catholic Church. Synonyms: Eucharist, celebration of the liturgy, Eucharistic celebration, sacrifice of the Mass, Lord’s Supper.

**Metropolitan**

The archbishop of an archdiocese in a province. He has limited supervisory powers and influence over the other dioceses and bishops in the province.

**Military Ordinariate (Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.)**

Nonterritorial diocese for American Catholics and their dependents who are in the military or affiliated with the armed forces.

**Mitre**

A headdress worn at some liturgical functions by bishops, abbots and, in certain cases, other ecclesiastics.

**Monastery**

An autonomous community house of a religious order, which may or may not be a monastic order. The term is used more specifically to refer to a community house of men or women religious in which they lead a contemplative life separate from the world.

**Monsignor**

An honorary ecclesiastical title granted by the pope to some diocesan priests. In the United States, the title is given to the vicar general of a diocese. In Europe, the title is also given to bishops.

**N****Newman Apostolate**

An apostolate to the community of college and university Catholics, now commonly known as “campus ministry.”

## **O**

### **Ordain/Ordination**

The proper terms in Catholic usage for references to the conferral of the sacrament of holy orders on a deacon, priest or bishop.

### **Order/Congregation/Society**

Religious order is a title loosely applied to all religious groups of men and women. A society is a body of clerics, regular or secular, organized for the purpose of performing an apostolic work. Congregation is any group bound together by common rules.

### **Ordinary**

Diocesan bishops, religious superiors and certain other diocesan authorities with jurisdiction over the clergy in a specific geographical area, or the members of a religious order.

## **P**

### **Papal Infallibility**

The end result of divine assistance given to the pope, wherefore he is prevented from the possibility and liability of error in teachings on faith or morals.

### **Papal Representatives**

The three types of representatives of the Roman Pontiff are:

1. Legate - An individual appointed by the pope to be his personal representative to a nation, international conference or local church. The legate may be chosen from the local clergy of a country.
2. Apostolic Pro-Nuncio - In the United States, the papal representative is sent by the pope to both the local church and to the government. Although he holds the title of ambassador, in U.S. law he is not accorded the special privilege of being the dean of the diplomatic corps. In countries where he is dean of the diplomatic corps, his title is Apostolic Nuncio.
3. Permanent Observer to the United Nations - The Apostolic See maintains permanent legates below the ambassadorial level to several world organizations. Since the papal legate does not enjoy the right to vote within the organization, his title at the United Nations is that of Observer.

### **Parish**

A specific community of the Christian faithful within a diocese, which has its own church building and is under the authority of a pastor who is responsible for providing them with ministerial service. Most parishes are formed on a geographic basis, but they may be formed along national or ethnic lines.

### **Pontiff/Pontifical**

In the pre-Christian Roman Empire, “pontiff” referred to a high priest. The title was later used to refer to the bishop of Rome, the pope. The term may be rooted in the Latin for “bridge builder.” Pontifical has to do with the pope.

### **Presbyteral Council**

Also known as the priests’ council, this is the principal consultative body mandated by the Code of Canon Law to advise the diocesan bishop in matters of pastoral governance. It consists of bishops and priests serving the diocese.

### **Primacy**

Papal primacy refers to the pope’s authority over the whole church.

### **Province**

A territory comprising of one archdiocese, called the metropolitan see, and one or more dioceses called suffragan sees. The head of an archdiocese, an archbishop, has metropolitan rights and responsibilities over the province. Also a term for a division of a religious order under the jurisdiction of a provincial superior.

## **R**

### **Religious Priest/Diocesan Priest**

Religious priests are professed members of a religious order or institute. Religious priests live according to the rule of their respective orders. In pastoral ministry, they are under the jurisdiction of their local bishop, as well as the superiors of their order. Diocesan priests are under the direction of their local bishop. They commit to service within their local diocese.

### **Roman Curia**

The official collective name for the administrative agencies and courts, and their officials, who assist the pope in governing the church. Members are appointed and granted authority by the pope.

### **Rome, Diocese of**

The City of Rome is the diocese of the pope, as the bishop of Rome.

## **S**

### **Sacrament**

An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

### **Second Vatican Council**

A major meeting of the bishops of the world convened by Pope John XXIII to bring about a renewal of the church for the second half of the 20th century. It ran from 1962 to 1965 and produced important documents in liturgy, ecumenism and communications among other areas. It is the most recent example of an ecumenical council.

**Secular Institutes**

Societies of men and women living in the world who dedicate themselves to observe the evangelical counsels and to carry on apostolic works suitable to their talents and opportunities in everyday life.

**See**

Another name for diocese or archdiocese. The Diocese of Rome is often referred to as the Holy See, the seat of the bishop of Rome.

**Shrine**

Erected to encourage private devotions to a saint, it usually contains a picture, statue or other religious feature capable of inspiring devotions.

**Sponsorship**

Sponsorship is a structured relationship through which the sponsor, in the name of the church, directs and influences a ministry that meets an apostolic need and furthers the mission of Jesus.

**Superior**

The head of a religious order or congregation. He or she may be the head of a province or an individual house.

**Synod**

A gathering of designated officials and representatives of a church, with legislative and policymaking powers.

**T****Theologate**

An institution which provides the last four years of study for candidates for priesthood.

**Theology**

The study of God and religion, deriving from and based on the data of divine revelation, organized and systematized according to some kind of scientific method.

**Titular Sees**

Dioceses where the church once flourished but which later died out. Bishops without a territorial or residential diocese of their own, e.g., auxiliary bishops, are given titular sees.

**Tribunal**

A tribunal (court) is the name given to the person or persons who exercise the church's judicial powers.

## **U**

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

Episcopal conference of U.S. bishops. The membership is comprised of diocesan bishops and their auxiliary bishops. The conference decides matters of ecclesiastical law and issues policy statements on political and social issues.

## **V**

### **Vatican Congregation**

A Vatican body which is responsible for an important area in the life of the church, such as worship and sacraments, the clergy, and saints' causes.

## **W**

### **Witness, Christian**

Practical testimony or evidence given by Christians of their faith in all circumstances of life – by prayer and general conduct, through good example and good works, etc., being and acting in accordance with Christian belief, and actual practice of the Christian faith.

## **Z**

### **Zucchetto**

Skull cap worn by the pope (white), bishops (purple) and Cardinals (red).

*The Glossary of Terms is excerpted from the USCCB website  
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/comm/catholic-church-statistics.html>*

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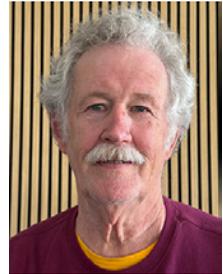
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