

Map of the Archdiocese of Washington



A. Who We Are

History of the Archdiocese of Washington

Catholicism was brought to Maryland in 1634 when Jesuit Father Andrew White celebrated the first Mass held in the English-speaking colonies, on the shores of St. Clement's Island. Founded as a haven for Catholics and a place of religious toleration, Maryland was the site of the Religious Act of 1649, the first legislation a representative body ever enacted for religious freedom. Sadly, between 1690 and 1776, Catholics in Maryland suffered under oppressive penal laws, but they persevered and the Catholic faith flourished.

In 1789, Archbishop John Carroll, who was born in Upper Marlboro, was appointed the first bishop of the United States. That same year, Georgetown University, the nation's first Catholic college, was founded. The Archdiocese of Washington is also home to The Catholic University of America.

Originally part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the City of Washington was named a separate archdiocese by Pope Pius XII in 1939, under the direction of Baltimore Archbishop Michael J. Curley. Eight years later, Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle was named the first resident archbishop, and Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties joined Washington as part of the new archdiocese. Archbishop O'Boyle immediately began his pioneering work to desegregate Catholic schools and parishes, build new churches and establish new social service ministries. He was elevated to cardinal in 1967 and retired in 1973.

His successor, Archbishop William Baum, was elevated to cardinal in 1976. He was transferred to the Roman Curia four years later, where he served until 2001. While Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Baum was joined by the faithful of the archdiocese in welcoming Pope John Paul II on his first papal visit to the United States in 1979.

James Hickey was appointed Archbishop of Washington in 1980 and elevated to the College of Cardinals in 1988. Under Cardinal Hickey's leadership, the archdiocese greatly expanded service ministries, establishing programs such as Victory Housing, Birthing and Care and the Archdiocesan Health Care and Legal Networks. The archdiocese also grew in diversity, with Mass celebrated in over 20 languages, including Chinese, French, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

In November 2000, Cardinal Hickey retired. His successor, then-Newark Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, was installed in January 2001. Just six weeks later he was elevated to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal McCarrick emphasized vocations and ministry to diverse cultures, particularly the Hispanic community. He opened a new seminary for missionary priests of the archdiocese.

In May 2006, Pope Benedict XVI appointed then-Pittsburgh Bishop Donald W. Wuerl as Archbishop of Washington. He was installed on June 22, 2006. Known nationally for his catechetical and teaching ministry and for his efforts to strengthen Catholic education, he is active in the community, joining with civic and business leaders to promote education, service to the poor, pastoral assistance to refugees and immigrants, as well as interfaith understanding. He has made renewing sacramental life a priority, introducing a successful initiative on the Sacrament of Reconciliation that quickly became a model for other dioceses.

He also hosted Pope Benedict XVI during his historic visit to Washington, D.C. in April 2008. Pope Benedict celebrated Mass for nearly 50,000 people from around the nation at Nationals Park, visited the White House, met with the United States bishops and

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leaders of other faiths, and addressed Catholic educators.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl was among 24 new Cardinals created on November 20, 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI at a consistory at Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. He received San Pietro in Vincoli (Saint Peter in Chains) as his titular church.

Today, the Archdiocese of Washington is home to over 620,000 Catholics. Nearly 100 Catholic schools educate nearly 30,000 children while service agencies, including Catholic Charities and Victory Housing,

have made the archdiocese one of the largest private social service providers in the region. Adult Catholics are finding new educational and spiritual resources to deepen their faith. Parish-based programs, opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, evangelization efforts, and small faith communities are filling their hunger to know Christ.

Although diverse in nationality, Catholics of the Archdiocese of Washington share a common faith and a commitment to reflect Christ in the world through prayer, education, and service.

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Statistical Profile of the Archdiocese of Washington (2012)

Clergy and Religious

Cardinal Archbishop.....	1
Retired Cardinals.....	2
Auxiliary Bishops (including retired)	4
Abbot.....	1
Retired Abbot.....	1
Priests in Archdiocese	
Archdiocesan	290
Religious.....	373
Extern	137
Seminarians, Archdiocesan ..	71
Permanent Deacons	205
Religious Brothers	107
Religious Sisters.....	551

Parishes, Communities, Basilica

Parishes.....	140
Missions and Communities.....	9
Basilica.....	1

Charitable Institutions

Catholic Hospitals.....	3
Total Assisted.....	725,201
Health Care Centers	9
Total Assisted.....	43,707
Homes for Aged, Chronically Ill or Invalid.....	27
Total Assisted.....	2,545
Residential Care of Children ...	1
Total Assisted.....	260
Day Care Centers.....	5
Total Assisted.....	360
Specialized Homes	23
Total Assisted.....	22,234
Special Centers for Social Services.....	24
Total Assisted.....	393,000

Residential Care of Persons with Disabilities	6
Total Assisted	329

Education in the Archdiocese of Washington

Seminaries, Archdiocesan.....	3
Students.....	51
Seminaries, Religious	10
Students.....	141
Total Seminarians Studying in Archdiocese	212
Colleges and Universities	3
Total Students.....	26,277
High Schools	
Archdiocesan	2
Total Students.....	771
High Schools, Private.....	18
Total Students.....	9,438
Elementary/Pre-K	
Archdiocesan	65
Total Students.....	16,039
Elementary/PreK, Private	12
Total Students.....	1,872
Schools, Students with Disabilities	1
Total Students.....	61
Religious Education Program	
High School Students	3,459
Elementary Students.....	26,688
Total Students under Catholic Instruction	84,817
Teachers in the Archdiocese	
Priests (Full-time)	17
Brothers	9
Sisters.....	46
Lay Teachers.....	2,371

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Archbishop of Washington

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl



Ordained to the Priesthood
December 17, 1966

Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
January 6, 1986

Named Bishop of Pittsburgh
February 12, 1988

Named Archbishop of Washington
May 16, 2006

Installed as Archbishop of Washington
June 22, 2006

Elevated to the College of Cardinals
November 20, 2010

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Auxiliary Bishops of Washington



Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout
Titular Bishop of Leavenworth
Phone: 301-853-4520 Fax: 301-853-5346



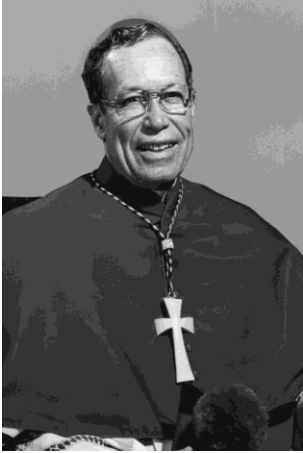
Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville
Titular Bishop of Kearney
Phone: 301-853- 4538



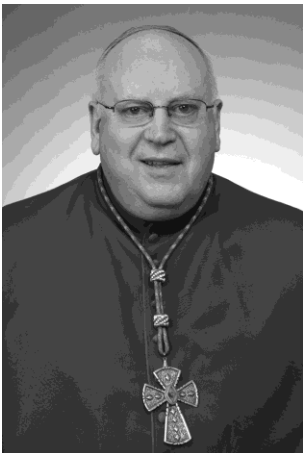
Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell
Titular Bishop of Ucles
Phone: 301-853-4563

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Former Auxiliary Bishops of Washington



Most Rev. Leonard Olivier, S.V.D.
Titular Bishop of Leges
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, Deceased



Most Rev. Francisco González, S.F.
Titular Bishop of Lamfua
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, Retired

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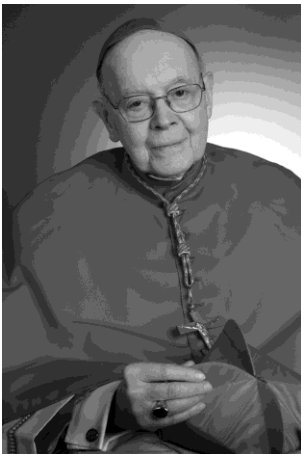
Former Archbishops of Washington



Most Rev. Michael J. Curley
First Archbishop
1939–1947



Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle
1948 -1973



William Cardinal Baum
1973-1980

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James Cardinal Hickey
1980-2000



Theodore Cardinal McCarrick
2001-2006