

Map of the Archdiocese of Washington



History of the Archdiocese of Washington

The history of the Catholic Church can be traced back to the first settlers of the colony of Maryland. Jesuit Father Andrew White celebrated the first Mass held in the English-speaking colonies, on the-shores of St. Clement's Island, in modern day St Mary's County, in 1634. Fr White and two companions had traveled with the original founders of Maryland on the *Ark* and the *Dove*.

Maryland was founded by the Lords of Baltimore as a haven for religious toleration. In 1649, the Legislature passed the Maryland Toleration Act, the first legislation enacted for religious freedom in America. With the expulsion of King James II from England during the Glorious Revolution in 1689, all colonies in the New World came under the jurisdiction of the crown. Religious freedom as it been in Maryland for most of the seventeenth century was abolished. Catholics were barred from public office and harassed by the courts and other legal authorities. In 1704, all Catholic chapels and schools were ordered closed by the Maryland Council.

Two years later in 1706 after lobbying from prominent Catholics in England, Queen Anne gave permission for Mass to be offered in private homes in Maryland. This action allowed for the continuance of the Catholic faith privately. The use of private house chapels instead a freestanding churches defined the life of the priests and lay people in Maryland for nearly a century. Commonly referred to as the circuit rides, priests would spend their time traveling between one or more private homes and chapels. Many of these private chapels continued to exist after the establishment of the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1789 and several

became the sites of parishes that still exist today within the Archdiocese of Washington.

John Carroll, a Jesuit priest who was born in Upper Marlboro, was appointed the first Bishop of Baltimore. Carroll also was the first Bishop of the United States and initially oversaw all the Catholic priests and churches in the fledgling nation. In 1808 Pope Pius VII created the Dioceses of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Bardstown, Kentucky and at the same time raised Baltimore to a metropolitan see with Carroll as Archbishop. More dioceses would be created throughout the nineteenth century as the United States expanded west.

The Jesuits had five large estates in Maryland with four of the five located within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Washington. Three of these plantations are the sites of modern-day Archdiocesan parishes. It has been estimated that the Jesuits owned as many as 500 enslaved men, women and children in Maryland by 1820 making them one of the largest slaveholders in the United States. The Manors incurred increasing debt in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and to counteract that financial loss, the Jesuits began to sell portions of lands and small groups of enslaved persons.

In 1838, the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus sold their remaining 272 enslaved men, women and children for \$115,000. This equates to just under three million dollars today by one calculation. The money was used to settle the pension debt with the Archbishop of Baltimore, who had received a stipend from the Manors since the time of John Carroll, pay off the debts incurred during a building campaign at Georgetown University, and to support the training of new Jesuits.

A. Who We Are

The Archdiocese of Washington was created in 1939 from part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Originally encompassing only the City of Washington. Michael Curley, the sitting Archbishop of Baltimore became by decree of Pope Pius XII the Archbishop of Baltimore-Washington in 1939. Eight years later after Curley's death, then Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle was named the first resident Archbishop of Washington. At this time Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland, joined the city of Washington to create the new archdiocese.

At the time of his appointment the new Archbishop O'Boyle, a native of Scranton, PA, had served as the Director of Catholic War Relief Services since 1941. He came to a new diocese with little administrative structure and also built or established nearly 40 parishes in his time as Archbishop. His first initiative was to desegregate all Catholic schools and parishes, which he did quietly and persistently over eight years. O'Boyle worked closely with the Catholic Interracial Council of Washington and in 1963 created the Office of Urban Renewal to assist in justice work within the city. Because of his work, he was invited to give the invocation at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington. Patrick O'Boyle was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 1967.

The turmoil that world saw in 1968 was particularly felt in the Archdiocese. The April 4th assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was followed by days of rioting that left large sections of the city of Washington destroyed. Cardinal O'Boyle dedicated the whole of the Annual Archdiocesan Appeal for that year to assist in rebuilding the city. On July 25th Pope Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Humanae*

Vitae. The controversy that followed culminated in the open descent of more than 50 priests and theologians within the Archdiocese with the canonical case that affirmed O'Boyle's handling of the matter only resolved in 1971. O'Boyle retired in 1973.

Bishop William W. Baum, of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau succeeded Cardinal O'Boyle in 1973 and was named Cardinal in 1976. Baum continued the social and racial justice efforts begun by creating the Secretariat of Black Catholic and the Secretariat of Spanish Catholics in 1974 to look to the temporal and spiritual needs of these populations. He welcomed Pope John Paul II on his first papal visit to the United States in 1979. Cardinal Baum was transferred to the Roman Curia in 1980, where he served until retirement in 2001.

James A. Hickey, a Michigan native who served as Rector of the North American College, was appointed Archbishop of Washington in 1980 and elevated to the College of Cardinals in 1988. Under Cardinal Hickey's leadership the internal structure of the Archdiocese was reorganized. He created the first formalized policies, most prominently the first policies for Child Protection and Safe Environment in 1986, and established a permanent home for the offices of the Archdiocese on Eastern Avenue in Hyattsville.

All of the social services organizations in the Archdiocese had been reorganized under the umbrella of Associated Catholic Charities in 1978. Cardinal Hickey took advantage of this realignment to further expand services where the city needed them most. Hickey invited Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity to the Archdiocese where they founded Gift of Peace convent to care for terminal patients

Who We Are

with AIDS. In addition, Cardinal Hickey founded the Archdiocesan Health Care Network (1983) and Archdiocesan Legal Network (1989), which provide access to legal and health services for those in need. The archdiocese also grew in diversity his tenure, 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 and served until his retirement in 2006.

In May 2006 Pope Benedict XVI appointed then-Pittsburgh Bishop Donald W. Wuerl as Archbishop of Washington. Wuerl was known for his catechetical and teaching ministry and for his efforts to strengthen Catholic education. He introduced a successful initiative on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, “The Light is On,” that quickly became a model for other dioceses. He hosted Pope Benedict XVI during his historic visit to Washington, D.C. in April 2008 where the Holy Father celebrated Mass for nearly 50,000 people at Nationals Park. Two years later Archbishop Wuerl was created a cardinal. In 2011, Cardinal Wuerl opened the Saint John Paul II Seminary for the Archdiocese of Washington. In September 2015 Cardinal Wuerl hosted Pope Francis during his apostolic visit to Washington.

The Archdiocese of Washington marked its 75th anniversary in 2014 and in the same year held its first Archdiocesan Synod. The statutes and recommendations were based on more than 15,000 suggestions collected from the faithful through the listening sessions. Anniversary celebrations also included a Mass on St.

Clement’s Island, as well as at the restored brick chapel in St. Mary’s County.

On April 4, 2019, Pope Francis appointed Wilton Gregory to be the seventh Archbishop of Washington. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 9, 1973, and has previously served as auxiliary bishop of Chicago, bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, and archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Archbishop Gregory has served in many leading roles in the U.S. church, including president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and as member of the USCCB’s Executive and Administrative Committees, the Administrative Board, the Committee on Doctrine, and the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on International Policy. He has written extensively on church issues, including pastoral statements on the death penalty, euthanasia/physician-assisted suicide and has published numerous articles on the subject of liturgy, particularly in the African-American community.

Today, the Archdiocese of Washington is home to over 655,000 Catholics. Its 92 Catholic schools educate approximately 27,000 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. Catholics are finding new opportunities to deepen their faith through parish formation, evangelization efforts, and small faith communities. 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.

A. Who We Are

Statistical Profile of the Archdiocese of Washington

(Data drawn from 2018 Official Catholic Directory)

Personnel

Retired Cardinal Archbishop	1
Auxiliary Bishops (including retired)	4
Number of Diocesan Priests	282
Religious Priests in Diocese	460
Extern Priests in Diocese	143
Permanent Deacons in Diocese	268
Religious Brothers	182
Religious Sisters	468

Parishes

Parishes	139
Missions and Communities	9
Basilica	1

Charitable Institutions

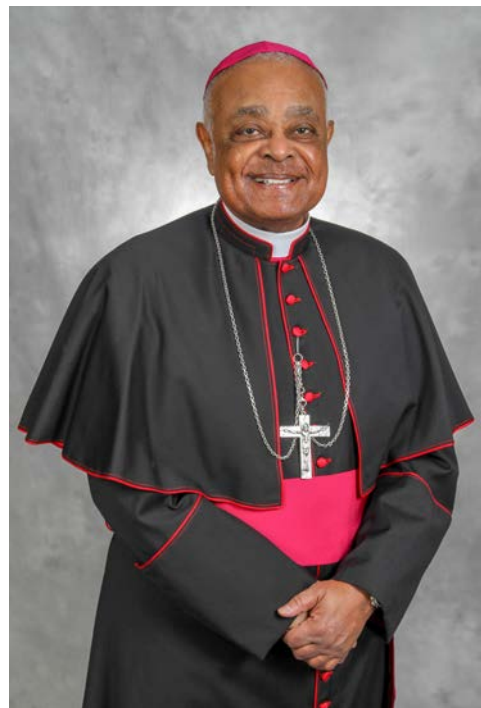
Catholic Hospitals	4
Total Assisted	722,617
Health Care Centers	68
Total Assisted	1,087,364
Homes for the Aged	31
Total Assisted	3,400
Day Care Center	4
Total Assisted	276
Specialized Homes	24
Total Assisted	2,092
Special Centers for Social Services	65
Total Assisted	203,677
Residential Care of Disabled	7
Total Assisted	83

Educational

Seminaries, Diocesan	3
Students from This Diocese	61
Students from Other Diocese	106
Diocesan Students in Other Seminaries	17
Seminaries, Religious	11
Students Religious	146
Total Seminarians	224
Colleges and Universities	3
Total Students	26,701
High Schools, Diocesan and Parish	2
Total Students	750
High Schools, Private	17
Total Students	9,246
Total Students	14,256
Elementary Schools, Private	12
Total Students	1,967
Non-residential Schools for the Disabled	1
Total Students	35
Catechesis/Religious Education:	
High School Students	2,053
Elementary Students	22,123
Total Students under Catholic Instruction	77,355
Teachers in the Diocese:	
Brothers	46
Sisters	40
Lay Teachers	2,493

Who We Are

Archbishop of Washington His Excellency Wilton Gregory



Ordained to the Priesthood
May 9, 1973

Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
December 13, 1983

Installed Seventh Bishop of Belleville
February 10, 1994

Installed Sixth Archbishop of Atlanta
January 17, 2005

Named Seventh Archbishop of Washington
April 4, 2019

Installed Archbishop of Washington
May 21, 2019

A. Who We Are

Auxiliary Bishops of Washington



Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville
Titular Bishop of Kearney



Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Titular Bishop of Ucres



Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher
Titular Bishop of Tronto



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

Former Archbishops of Washington



Most Rev. Michael J. Curley
1939-1947



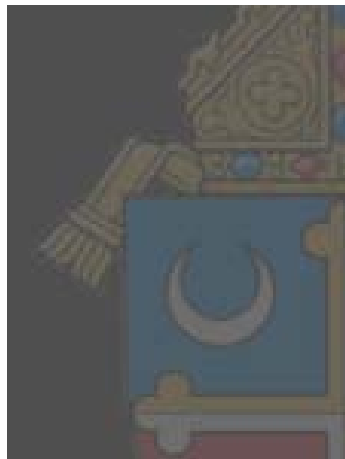
Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle
1948 -1973



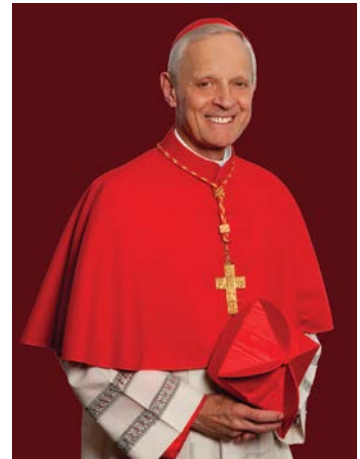
William Cardinal Baum
1973-1980



James Cardinal Hickey
1980-2000



Theodore E. McCarrick
2001-2006



Donald Cardinal Wuerl
2006-2019