

Overview of Parish Report Contents

This report is designed to assist Parishes by giving them a snapshot of the general demographics of the geographic areas that draw the majority of their parishioners.

We recognize that every parish is different and that individuals choose their parish, regardless of distance. Therefore, to determine the primary area of interest for parishes, we sorted active parish members reported in ParishSoft by zip code and identified the zip codes that contained a significant percent of the entire Parish population. To enable the analysis, we chose two thresholds: “Core” (10% or greater of the active Parish population) and “Extended” (5% or greater of the active Parish population). Looking across the many parishes, these seem to capture a substantial portion of the parish populations and the zip codes that tend to matter to an individual parish. For some parishes, there are no zip codes that hold more than 10% of their registered families, so they have only “Extended” zip codes in this analysis.

We recognize that there are many data issues and potential flaws with the analytical approach. These include using projected data from the 2000 Census which are best estimates rather than actual numbers, the continued gyrations in our economy, and the faulty records and issues with ParishSoft data. We offer these estimates as a good starting point for your local planning efforts and recommend that your parish bring its greater local knowledge to adjust the information and form appropriate plans. In particular, the 2010 growth projections may be high given the recent economic situation and other emerging projections.

With this in mind, here is an explanation of each page in your Report.

Cover Page:

- Active/Registered Members, per Kenedy, 2007: This is the total number of Parishioners and Households reported as attending your parish per the numbers reported annually to the “Official Catholic Directory” also known as the Kenedy Directory. It is important to note that Parishes and their associated Missions are not counted separately in these numbers. Therefore, Mission parishes will have a large gap between the Kenedy and ParishSoft data.
- Active/registered Members, per ParishSoft, October 2008: The total number of Households stored as Active within the Primary Zip Codes for the individual parish. We understand that there may be more Parishioners stored in ParishSoft than reported in Kenedy due to double records, updated individual addresses and inactive members that haven’t been updated, etc or due to the fact that Kennedy includes Mission data with their Associated parish. The purpose of using ParishSoft data was to find those Zip Codes that attract the most Parishioners. You will see also the percent of all recorded parishioners that each Zip Code represents for the parish.

- **General Catholic Demographics:** This information shows the number of Catholics estimated to be within the Zip Code based on projections from U.S. Census data and the Pew Forum Survey as well as the number of Catholics known to be registered from that Zip Code for the entire Archdiocese. Please note that this is not necessarily Parish specific because the Catholics in that area may attend several different Churches. However, lower percents in the Ratio row reveal where there are more Catholics to be attracted in general. Also, you will see the projected growth of Catholics (not necessarily Active or registered) within each zip code. A negative percent would indicate a decreasing Catholic population. The “total” column from this Ratio is an average rather than a sum. Finally you will see the general composition of Catholics by ethnic/racial categories.

2008 Demographics:

This table presents the estimated number of Catholics from Racial/Ethnic Categories (“Catholic Data”), as well as the total number of each Racial/Ethnic there are within each Zip Code (“Total Population”). The % rows represent the percent that each Racial/Ethnic group makes out of the entire Catholic or entire overall population. (A Map will accompany this data to help you see visually your Primary Zip Codes, the number of parishioners represented by that zip code, and a breakdown of the Catholics by racial and the ethnic classifications).

2010 Demographics:

This table presents projected estimates of the number of Catholics from Racial/Ethnic categories in 2010 by Zip Code for a parish, as well as a picture of the overall population by those same Racial/Ethnic Categories. (See attached “2010 Parishioner Map”).

2008-2010 Demographic Change:

This table quantifies the actual change between the 2010 and 2008 Demographics by Zip Code for a parish., both by number and percent of the current 2008 estimates.

2008 Income and Age Data:

The first table presents the actual current statistics on income and other related items for all households in the U.S. Census (not just for Catholics) within the identified Zip Codes. Please note that this is not indicative of how the income for this zip code will look in two years due to this time of economic uncertainty. The second table shows the ages for the entire Zip Code population. These are represented as percents of the entire population in 2008 in 5 year range categories.

Key Sources

- U.S. 2000 Census Data with 2006 projections from Maptitude for Racial and Ethnic Demographics
- Georgia Department of Human Resources for records of live Hispanic Births
- Pew Forum U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, 2008 for estimates on the Percent of each demographic population is Catholic
- The Association of Religion Data Archives for Evangelical Congregation Membership Reports
- ParishSoft and Kennedy Directory for calculating the total known registered and active Catholic population
- EasiDemographic eBook for Income Demographic Data

Key Assumptions

- 1 Per Pew Forum, there tends to be an inverse relationship between white Catholics vs. Evangelicals in geographic areas, as well a trend of decreasing percentage of white Catholics as the population moves from urban to rural areas.
- 2 There is a reasonably constant ratio between the total Hispanic population (Undocumented and Documented) relative to county Hispanic live birth records.
- 3 There is relationship between county population born in Latin America and Undocumented Hispanics, as immigrants tend to congregate in the same area.
- 4 The majority of Hispanics primarily identify with one of two racial demographics: white or black, as opposed to American Indian or Asian American.
- 5 Since the Pew Georgia and National sample size were too small to subdivide Asian Americans, the Asian Catholic population in the USA is proportional to each person's country of origin. The difference in the percent of Catholics between Asian countries is significant enough to subdivide Asian Americans into several categories.
- 6 The proportion of demographic sub-groups (e.g. Koreans as percent of Asians) in relationship with each other remains stable between 2000 and 2010.
- 7 The proportion of Registered Catholics is in relationship to the total number of families registered within each zip code.