

The Mirror

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DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD - CAPE GIRARDEAU

May 28, 2004

Parishes, Missions in diocese by county

Diocese at a glance

Awareness key to unity and increased mission of church

By Julie Pettyjohn
Springfield

Why should parishioners read the "Diocese at a Glance," in this issue of *The Mirror*? Who will benefit? What good will come from reading these pages of numbers and graphs?

These were questions addressed to Bp. John J. Leibrecht regarding this issue's published study on the diocese conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in Georgetown University.

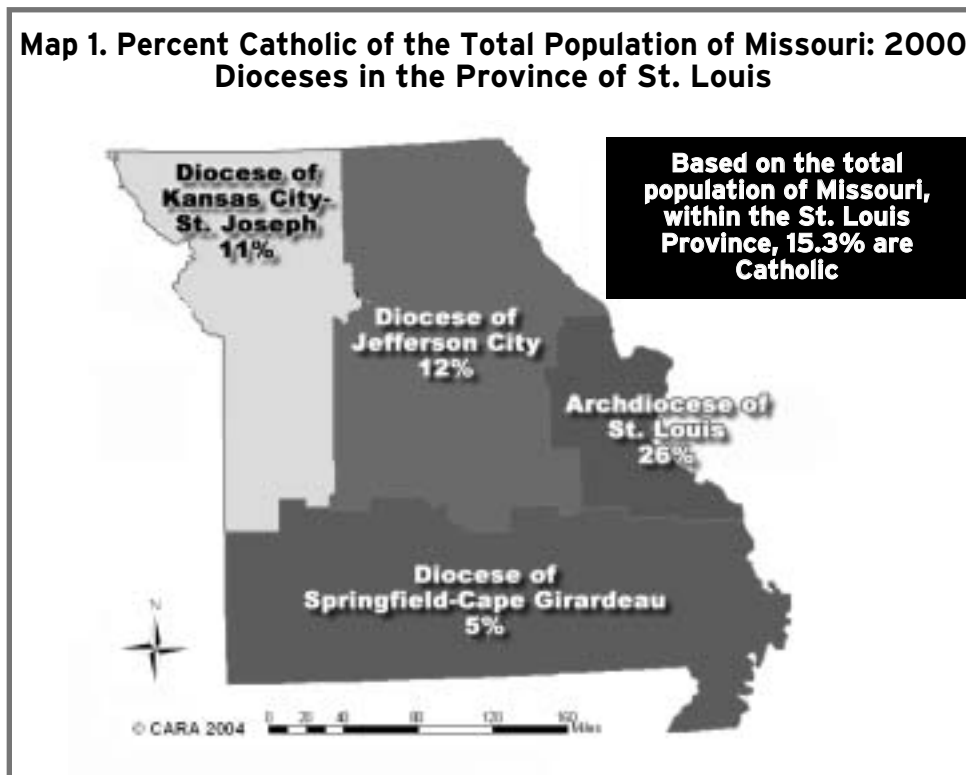
"Why? To help people understand the church to which they belong, in their own parish and beyond," answered Bp. Leibrecht. And awareness, said the bishop, means more unity and possibly more common effort. Awareness calls the church to live its mission.

Some parishioners may be aware of the needs of their parish and neighboring parishes, but may not be aware of the needs of parishes farther away within the diocese, he said. This study can help change that.

In the May 21 issue of *The Mirror*, the bishop wrote: "With the year 2000 as their basis for statistical information, CARA reports on our population, race and ethnicity, age structure, urban and rural areas, costs of owned and rented housing, household income, and areas of poverty in southern Missouri. The study concludes with several challenges for our diocese in light of information in the report."

After the Second Vatican Council, the idea was formed that if the church were to move forward, available statis-

Map 1. Percent Catholic of the Total Population of Missouri: 2000
Dioceses in the Province of St. Louis



tics would be helpful. Thus, CARA was formed. This year the center celebrates its 40th anniversary of applied research.

In autumn 2003, Bp. Leibrecht learned of CARA'S fairly new study for individual dioceses called "Diocese at a Glance." The bishop saw the study as a tool to improve the ministries of our diocese. He also saw the opportunity the study may bring to initiate new programs to meet the needs of the church and the larger communities.

"I am in awe at how much can develop out of information when we take it to heart and do something about it," Bp. Leibrecht said. "I have high hopes about what will come out of this study."

The bishop said that parishioners already possess a desire to reach out and help those in need. "Our church is really something," Bp. Leibrecht said fondly. "We belong to one another. But unless we are aware of one another and (our) needs, the help can't come."

The bishop recalled one example of a thriving ministry which first began by awareness and one telephone call. A few years ago, Bp. Leibrecht was discussing the state of poverty in Howell County with Fr. Sherman B. Wall, OMI, pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Willow

Springs. Fr. Wall then brought that concern to the attention of a few parishioners. Before long Missourians United to Combat Hunger (MUNCH) was started. The idea for a food pantry began in one Catholic parish and grew to become an ecumenical program—now the largest in Howell County. Bp. Leibrecht said other ministries throughout the diocese have similar beginnings, initially because of new awareness.

Bp. Leibrecht added that the information from the CARA study will complement the history book, now being written and will be available in autumn 2005 for the diocese's 50th anniversary. The history, he said, will tell us where we have been. The statistical report will help us meet challenges for the future.

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BARRY County

Cassville: St. Edward
Monett: St. Lawrence
Pulaskifield: SS. Peter and Paul
Shell Knob: Holy Family

BARTON County

Lamar: St. Mary

BOLLINGER County

Glennon: St. Anthony*
Leopold: St. John

BUTLER County

Poplar Bluff: Sacred Heart

CAPE GIRARDEAU County

Cape Girardeau:
Cathedral of St. Mary
Old St. Vincent (Chapel)
St. Vincent de Paul

Jackson: Immaculate Conception

CARTER County

Grandin: St. Anne*
Van Buren: St. George*

CEDAR County

El Dorado Springs: St. Elizabeth
Stockton: St. Peter, Apostle*

CHRISTIAN County

Billings: St. Joseph
Nixa: (New parish)
Ozark: St. Joseph the Worker

DADE County

Greenfield: St. Patrick*

DALLAS County

Buffalo: St. William

DENT County

Montauk: St. Jude (Chapel)
Salem: Sacred Heart

DOUGLAS County

Ava: St. Leo the Great*

DUNKLIN County

Glennonville: St. Teresa
Kennett: St. Cecilia
Malden: St. Ann

GREENE County

Springfield: Cathedral of St. Agnes
Holy Trinity
Immaculate Conception
Sacred Heart
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Joseph

HOWELL County

Mountain View: St. John Vianney
West Plains: St. Mary
White Church: St. Joseph*
Willow Springs: Sacred Heart

IRON County

Ironton: Ste. Marie du Lac
Viburnum: St. Philip Benizi*

JASPER County

Carthage: St. Ann
Joplin: St. Mary
St. Peter

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Data sources

Data on the size and distribution of the Catholic population is from *Churches and Church Membership: 2000*, collected by the Association of Statisticians for American Religious Bodies (ASARB), and published by the Glenmary Research Center in 2002.

This report uses data on characteristics of the total population, according to the 2000 census. Data on total population size, race and ethnicity, age, urban and rural areas, and housing are from the census "short form" and represent data on 100 percent of the population. These data are available from Summary File 1 at www.census.gov.

Data on income and poverty for the total population are from the census "long form" which was distributed to a sample of about one in six households. These data have been weighted by the Census Bureau to represent the total population, and are available from Summary File 3 at www.census.gov.



The Mirror and The Mirror On-Line will be produced every-other-week during the summer. Publication dates are June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, Aug. 6 & 20. Weekly publication will resume Sept. 3.

Diocese at a glance

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Established in 1956, the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau was created when the area governed by the Province of St. Louis experienced a complete realignment with respect to its diocesan boundaries. The diocese covers 25,719 square miles, and includes 39 counties across the southern edge of the state of Missouri. It borders each of the other three dioceses in the Province of St. Louis, as well as the Diocese of Little Rock to its south, the Dioceses of Wichita and Tulsa to the west, and the Dioceses of Belleville, Owensboro, and Memphis to its east.

As shown in Map 1 (p.1), the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is one of four dioceses in the Province of St. Louis and the state of Missouri. Large differences exist among the four dioceses with respect to the concentration of Catholics within the total population. The proportion Catholic ranges from a high of 26 percent in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to a low of 5 percent in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

Just as the total population is not evenly distributed throughout the state, neither is the Catholic population evenly distributed throughout the province. Nearly two-thirds of Catholics in the province live in the Archdiocese of St. Louis itself. The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has an additional 19 percent of the Catholic population, while about one in 10 Catholics in the province live in the Diocese of Jefferson City. In terms of Catholic population size, the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is the smallest diocese in the province, with roughly 59,000 Catholics. These Catholics residing in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau constitute about 7 percent of all Catholics in the state of Missouri and the

Province of St. Louis.

Map 2 (p. 3) illustrates in greater detail the geographic boundaries of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, including the 39 counties that make up the diocese. In most of the counties of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, less than 5 percent of the total population is Catholic and in many counties the proportion Catholic is less than 3 percent.

Scott County and Cape Girardeau County, bordering the Diocese of Belleville in Illinois, have the largest proportion Catholic in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau (about 16 percent and 15 percent, respectively). Directly west of Cape Girardeau County, Bollinger County has the next largest proportion of its population that is Catholic, about 8 percent.

Four counties in the western side of the diocese have a larger concentration of Catholics than the 5 percent seen for the diocese overall. In Barry County 7 percent of the total population is Catholic, followed by Greene County and Lawrence County (about 6 percent each) and Jasper County (5 percent).

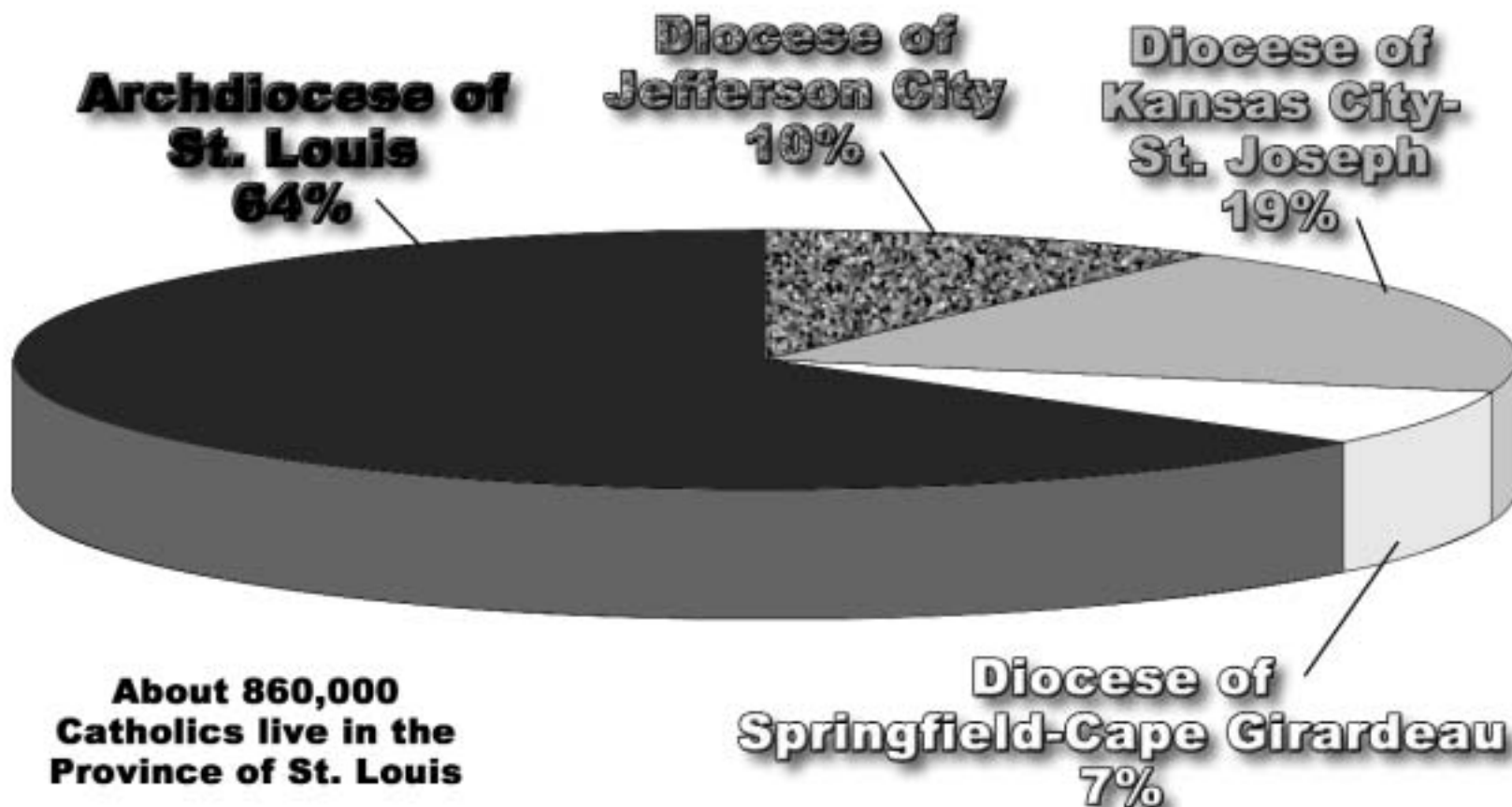
Scott City and the city of Cape Girardeau are located in the respective counties of Scott and Cape Girardeau, and are home to the largest concentration of Catholics in the diocese. The city of Springfield is located in Greene County. Reflecting a pattern seen in other parts of the country, it is common to find relatively larger concentrations of Catholics near urban areas.

As mentioned previously, most areas of the Diocese of Springfield-

Cape Girardeau do not have a large Catholic presence. In fact, in more than half of all counties (20 of the 39) fewer than one in 35 people is Catholic. In several counties (Shannon, Dade, Dallas, Ozark, Pemiscot, Reynolds) the proportion Catholic is even lower, at approximately 1 percent.

Even though the Catholics in some areas of the diocese are widely dispersed, it is important to explore all areas and all people to gain a larger understanding of the total population in which the Catholic Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau operates. The following sections highlight important socio-economic characteristics of the total population (Catholic and non-Catholic) living in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. ©TM

Figure 1.
Percentage distribution, by diocese, of Catholics in the Province of St. Louis: 2000



Census characteristics of the total population of diocese

Exploring the characteristics of the total population (Catholic and non-Catholic) in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and its counties provides important insight into characteristics of the community in which the Catholic Church in the diocese ministers. A greater understanding of the population living in the diocese allows both church leaders and lay Catholics to recognize and comprehend community disparities or similarities that may exist between populations or geographies of the diocese.

Utilizing data from the 2000 census, the following sections explore re-

cently available data on race, ethnicity, age, urban and rural areas, homeowners and renters, income, and poverty for the total population living in the diocese.

Population size and change: 1990-2000

According to the 2000 census, there were just over 1.2 million people living in the 39 counties that constitute the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. One in five residents lives in Greene County, which includes the city of Springfield. The remainder of the total population is dispersed throughout the counties of the diocese.

Since 1990, the total population of the diocese has increased by 16 percent, or 166,473 people. This is slightly faster than the growth in the total US population overall, which increased by 13 percent over this same time period.

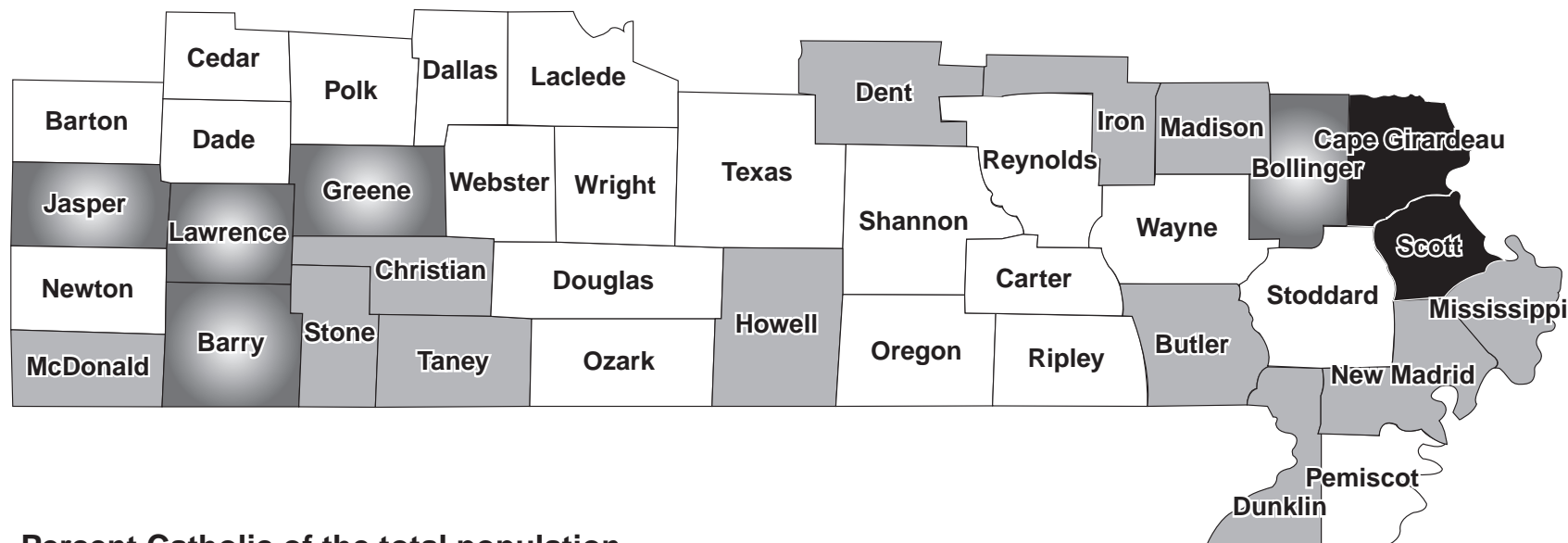
Certain counties of the diocese experienced a larger percentage increase than others, while some counties even saw declines in the size of their populations. As seen in Table 1 on the next page and on Map 3 (p.5), the areas of greatest population growth in percentage terms occurred in Christian County (66 percent), Taney County (55 percent), and Stone County (50 percent). All three of these counties

border one another to the south of Greene County and the city of Springfield. Conversely, counties in the far southeastern corner of the diocese experienced an overall population loss.

The Hispanic population has grown over the previous decade at a faster pace than the total population in many areas of the US, including most of the 39 counties that make up the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. The majority of Hispanics identify as Catholic, and in many areas of the country, growth in the Catholic population has been fueled by growth in the

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**Map 2. Percent Catholic of the Total Population: 2000
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau**



Percent Catholic of the total population

- Less than 3%
- 3% to 4.9%
- 5% to 14.9%
- 15% or more

Based on the total population of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, 5% is Catholic



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Census characteristics of the total population

From Page 3

Hispanic population. In response to a growing Hispanic presence, local parishes may experience a demand for more Masses celebrated in Spanish and a greater need for Spanish-speaking clergy to minister to this vital and important Catholic population.

Although the Hispanic population in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has more than doubled in size between the 1990 and 2000 cen-

suses, as a share of the total population Hispanics are still a relatively small minority (just 2 percent) within the larger total population.

However, in certain counties of the diocese, the magnitude of Hispanic population growth has been quite large. The counties with the largest growth in their Hispanic population are all located in the far southwestern corner of the diocese. In McDonald County the Hispanic population in

2000 was more than 20 times its size in 1990 (nearly 2,000 people compared with just 92 people ten years earlier). Barry County saw an increase of more than eight-fold, while Jasper County experienced an increase that was nearly six-fold. Jasper County also had the largest numeric gain in its number of Hispanics, followed closely by Greene County.

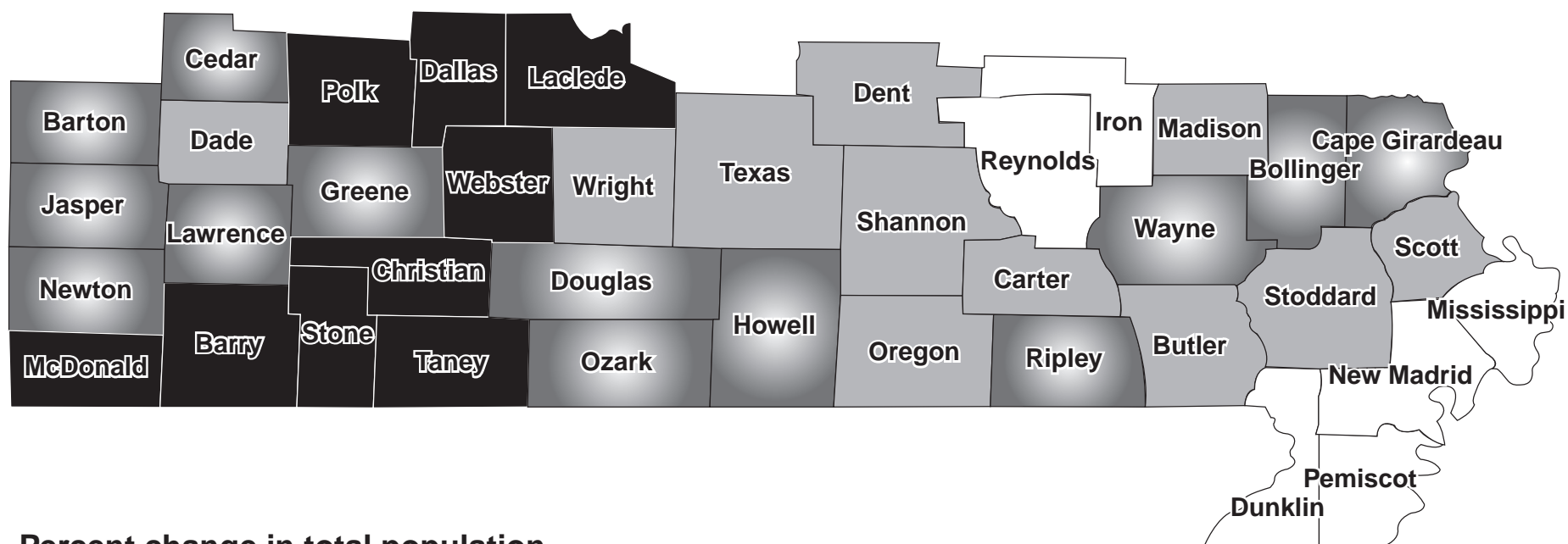
If current growth trends of the Hispanic population and total popula-

tion persist, the Hispanic presence relative to non-Hispanics in many counties of the diocese will continue to increase. Their presence will be increasingly felt in Catholic parishes across the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, as the sacramental and spiritual needs of Hispanic Catholics grow. The diocese is likely to experience both cultural and linguistic challenges as its parishes respond to the needs of this growing Hispanic population. ©TM

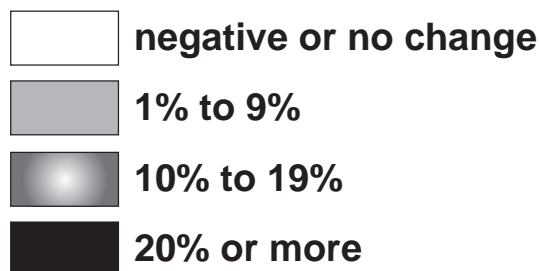
Table 1. Total and Hispanic Population Change: 1990 - 2000

County	Total Population				Hispanic Population			
	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change		1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	
Barry County	27,547	34,010	6,463	23%	184	1,713	1,529	831%
Barton County	11,312	12,541	1,229	11%	54	119	65	120%
Bollinger County	10,619	12,029	1,410	13%	57	68	11	19%
Butler County	38,765	40,867	2,102	5%	192	412	220	115%
Cape Girardeau County	61,633	68,693	7,060	11%	393	624	231	59%
Carter County	5,515	5,941	426	8%	85	72	-13	-15%
Cedar County	12,093	13,733	1,640	14%	66	153	87	132%
Christian County	32,644	54,285	21,641	66%	356	714	358	101%
Dade County	7,449	7,923	474	6%	40	67	27	68%
Dallas County	12,646	15,661	3,015	24%	65	147	82	126%
Dent County	13,702	14,927	1,225	9%	105	112	7	7%
Douglas County	11,876	13,084	1,208	10%	36	110	74	206%
Dunklin County	33,112	33,155	43	0%	179	824	645	360%
Greene County	207,949	240,391	32,442	16%	1,645	4,434	2,789	170%
Howell County	31,447	37,238	5,791	18%	158	450	292	185%
Iron County	10,726	10,697	-29	0%	41	62	21	51%
Jasper County	90,465	104,686	14,221	16%	529	3,615	3,086	583%
Laclede County	27,158	32,513	5,355	20%	117	401	284	243%
Lawrence County	30,236	35,204	4,968	16%	255	1,195	940	369%
Madison County	11,127	11,800	673	6%	54	66	12	22%
McDonald County	16,938	21,681	4,743	28%	92	2,030	1,938	2,107%
Mississippi County	14,442	13,427	-1,015	-7%	55	129	74	135%
New Madrid County	20,928	19,760	-1,168	-6%	71	183	112	158%
Newton County	44,445	52,636	8,191	18%	331	1,147	816	247%
Oregon County	9,470	10,344	874	9%	43	113	70	163%
Ozark County	8,598	9,542	944	11%	22	90	68	309%
Pemiscot County	21,921	20,047	-1,874	-9%	91	315	224	246%
Polk County	21,826	26,992	5,166	24%	244	350	106	43%
Reynolds County	6,661	6,689	28	0%	33	55	22	67%
Ripley County	12,303	13,509	1,206	10%	47	132	85	181%
Scott County	39,376	40,422	1,046	3%	196	448	252	129%
Shannon County	7,613	8,324	711	9%	20	77	57	285%
Stoddard County	28,895	29,705	810	3%	118	231	113	96%
Stone County	19,078	28,658	9,580	50%	79	298	219	277%
Taney County	25,561	39,703	14,142	55%	159	962	803	505%
Texas County	21,476	23,003	1,527	7%	73	221	148	203%
Wayne County	11,543	13,259	1,716	15%	30	65	35	117%
Webster County	23,753	31,045	7,292	31%	118	400	282	239%
Wright County	16,758	17,955	1,197	7%	94	139	45	48%
Diocesan Total	1,059,606	1,226,079	166,473	16%	6,527	22,743	16,216	248%

**Map 3. Percent Change in Size of the Total Population: 2000
Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau**



Percent change in total population



The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau experienced a 15.7% increase in total population between 1990 and 2000



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Race and ethnicity

As Figure 2 (right) highlights, the total population in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is less racially and ethnically diverse than the total population of either the Province of St. Louis or the US overall. African-Americans/Blacks make up 3 percent of the total population, while Hispanics constitute 2 percent of the population. An additional 3 percent of the population is identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, multi-racial, or some other race.

Although these particular minority populations are not large relative to the total population, neither are they insignificant. Indeed, as was discussed in the previous section, Hispanics tend to identify as Catholic at a higher rate than the total population. For the Catholic community in the Diocese of

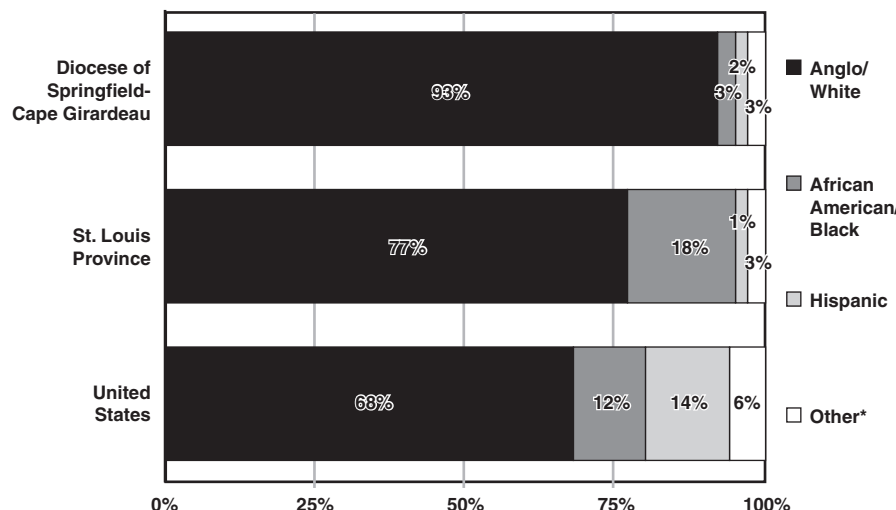
Springfield-Cape Girardeau, this small minority has a growing and significant presence.

Age structure of the population

For the Catholic population, age and the life course are typically associated with various sacraments, such as baptism, confirmation, marriage, or holy orders. Allocating resources to Catholic schools or to parish religious education is of greater importance to young Catholic families, while older Catholics may have other needs related to retirement or bereavement counseling.

One standard measure of the age composition of a population is a dependency ratio, which relates the number of youth (under age 18) or elderly (people aged 65 or older) per 100 peo-

Figure 2. Race and Ethnic Composition of the Total Population: 2000



*Note: Hispanics may be of any race. In this figure, Anglo/White, African-American/Black, and Other refer to non-Hispanics. *Other includes people identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaska native, native Hawaiian, people reporting two or more races, and those reporting some other race.*

Race and ethnicity

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ple in the “working ages” of 18 to 64. Although not all youth or older people are dependents, nor are all people aged 18 to 64 working, this is a standard measure by which comparisons can be made, and approximates the level of support that workers must provide to non-workers.

Figure 3 (right) presents the youth and elderly dependency ratios in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, St. Louis Province, and the US. Of these three, the diocese has a larger elderly dependency ratio than either the St. Louis Province or the US, indicating that a greater proportion of its population is in the older age groups. In other words, the diocese has a slightly “older” population than the age structure of the province or the US overall. The youth dependency ratio in the diocese is the same as that for both the province and the US.

Strictly due to its relatively larger older population, the diocese has a larger overall dependency ratio than either the province or the US as a whole.

For every 100 people of working age (between ages 18 and 64) there are 67 people who are in the non-typical working ages of 0-17 or 65 and older. The “sandwich generation” in the diocese has a relative larger responsibility placed upon them, as they may be in a situation of caring for young children and aging parents at the same time.

Urban and rural areas

Fifty-three percent of the total population living in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau reside in rural areas. Although a majority (51 percent or more) of the population in 31 of the 39 counties in the diocese live in rural areas, there is still variation in the share of the population living in urban and rural areas across the diocese.

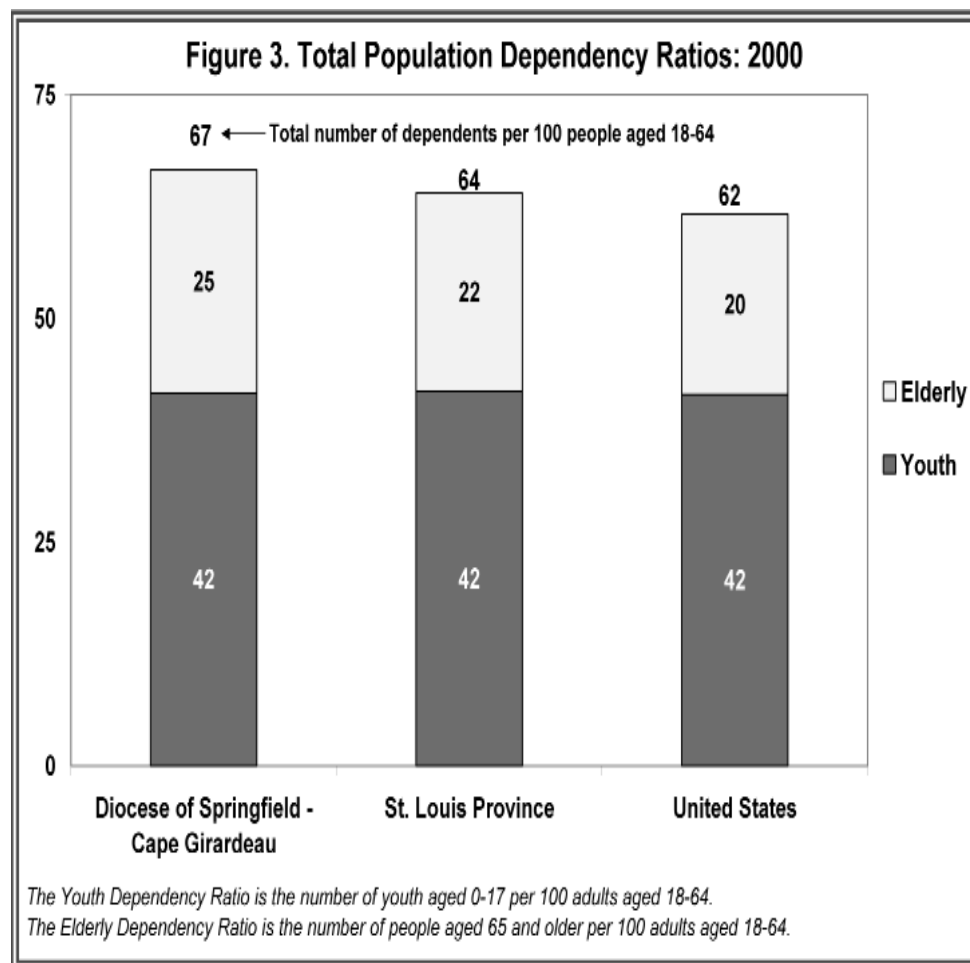
Not surprisingly, just 18 percent of the population in Greene County, 25 percent in Jasper County, and 32 per-

cent in Cape Girardeau County live in rural areas. These are counties dominated by cities and urban areas (see Map 4 below).

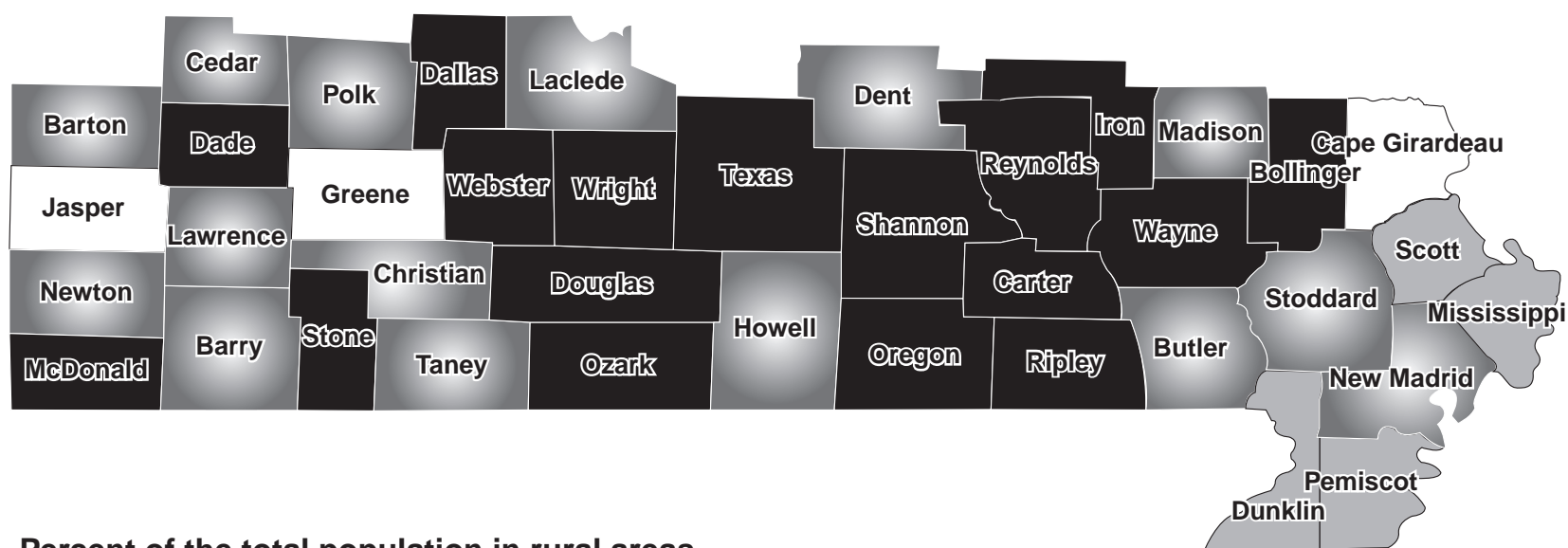
Jasper County and Greene County were highlighted earlier as areas in which large growth in the Hispanic population has occurred. Cities often attract more recent immigrants, as they seek out employment as well as familiar cultural communities or immigrant networks and services.

Contrasted with these fairly urban and suburban counties, there are 17 counties with three-quarters or more of their population living in rural areas. These counties are primarily localized in the middle part of the diocese, and share in common the absence of a large city or urban area.

In ten of these 17 counties, a full 100 percent of the population lives in rural communities. This can be a challenge for Catholic ministry and parishes, as people may need to travel long distances for Mass or celebrate a Communion service without the presence of clergy to offer a full Mass. ©TM



Map 4. Percent of the Population Living in Rural Areas: 2000
Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau



Percent of the total population in rural areas

- 33% or less
- 34% to 50%
- 51% to 74%
- 75% or more

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has 53% of its population living in rural areas



Housing: owned and rented homes

The ability to buy a home requires a certain amount of financial stability, both in the past as well as in expectations for the future. Home ownership often results in increased financial security as well as stability. People in rented housing tend to be more transitory than people in owned homes, and this can affect several facets of a person's

life. Children in families with owned homes may not change schools as often as children in rented housing. For Catholics, people in owned homes may be more likely to register with and maintain a longer association with their local parish.

Table 2 (below) shows the variations across counties of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in the dis-

tribution of rented and owned homes, while Figure 4 (p. 8) illustrates the overall distribution of rented and owned housing units (apartments, houses, or other) in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, St. Louis Province, and the US.

As seen in Figure 4 (p. 8), about seven in 10 occupied housing units in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Gi-

rardeau and the province are owned by the people who live in them. For the US as a whole, the proportion of housing units that are owned is slightly lower (66 percent). The people in the diocese and province are slightly more likely than those in the US overall to own the homes they live in.

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Table 2. Rented and Owned Homes in the Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau: 2000

County	Renter-Occupied Housing Units			Owner-Occupied Housing Units		
	Number	Percent	Median Rent	Number	Percent	Median Home Value
Barry County	3,253	24%	\$276	10,145	76%	\$69,500
Barton County	1,302	27%	\$242	3,593	73%	\$58,600
Bollinger County	844	18%	\$273	3,732	82%	\$61,900
Butler County	5,193	31%	\$276	11,525	69%	\$58,100
Cape Girardeau County	8,530	32%	\$325	18,450	68%	\$91,800
Carter County	553	23%	\$177	1,825	77%	\$50,200
Cedar County	1,234	22%	\$243	4,451	78%	\$61,600
Christian County	4,916	24%	\$365	15,509	76%	\$96,100
Dade County	680	21%	\$224	2,522	79%	\$63,600
Dallas County	1,256	21%	\$232	4,774	79%	\$70,200
Dent County	1,548	26%	\$261	4,434	74%	\$62,400
Douglas County	1,090	21%	\$272	4,111	79%	\$67,700
Dunklin County	4,570	34%	\$244	8,841	66%	\$45,500
Greene County	35,575	36%	\$373	62,284	64%	\$88,200
Howell County	3,908	26%	\$263	10,854	74%	\$66,300
Iron County	1,011	24%	\$243	3,186	76%	\$53,500
Jasper County	13,676	33%	\$332	27,736	67%	\$67,200
Laclede County	3,473	27%	\$256	9,287	73%	\$70,400
Lawrence County	3,491	26%	\$317	10,077	74%	\$68,500
Madison County	1,130	24%	\$258	3,581	76%	\$54,900
McDonald County	2,311	28%	\$321	5,802	72%	\$58,100
Mississippi County	1,963	36%	\$233	3,420	64%	\$45,200
New Madrid County	2,653	34%	\$240	5,171	66%	\$44,000
Newton County	4,709	23%	\$303	15,431	77%	\$73,500
Oregon County	927	22%	\$230	3,336	78%	\$53,600
Ozark County	728	18%	\$251	3,222	82%	\$63,300
Pemiscot County	3,270	42%	\$252	4,585	58%	\$41,200
Polk County	2,681	27%	\$317	7,236	73%	\$77,600
Reynolds County	622	23%	\$234	2,099	77%	\$52,100
Ripley County	1,191	22%	\$215	4,225	78%	\$46,500
Scott County	4,794	31%	\$310	10,832	69%	\$63,000
Shannon County	674	20%	\$219	2,645	80%	\$46,800
Stoddard County	3,341	28%	\$276	8,723	72%	\$56,800
Stone County	2,228	19%	\$384	9,594	81%	\$90,900
Taney County	5,031	31%	\$400	11,127	69%	\$81,000
Texas County	2,193	23%	\$207	7,185	77%	\$62,300
Wayne County	1,211	22%	\$242	4,340	78%	\$41,200
Webster County	2,438	22%	\$287	8,635	78%	\$81,900
Wright County	1,903	27%	\$232	5,178	73%	\$65,600

Housing: owned and rented homes

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Table 2 (p. 7) illustrates, however, that this relatively high proportion of owner-occupied homes has substantial variation across the diocese. Indeed, the rate of owner-occupied housing ranges from a low of 58 percent in Pemiscot

County, to a high of 82 percent in Ozark County. Stone County also has a relatively high proportion of its housing that is owner-occupied (81 percent).

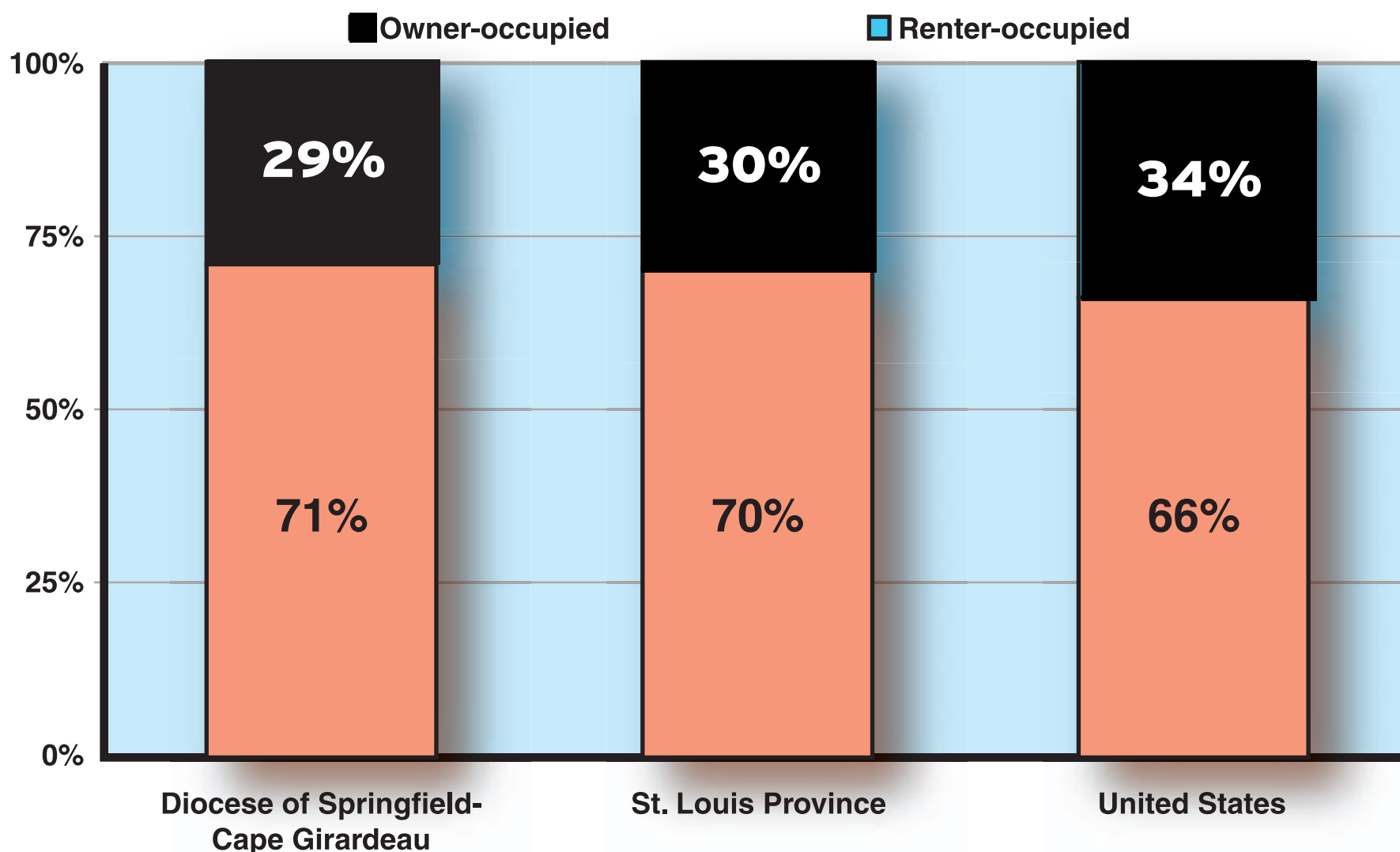
Housing in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau also varies widely in the median value of owned homes and the median price of monthly rent

(Table 2, p. 7). The median monthly rent for housing ranges from a high of \$400 in Taney County to less than half of that (\$177 per month) in Carter County. The median rent in 27 of the 39 counties is between \$200 and \$300.

Median home values also vary in a similar pattern across the counties.

Indeed, median home values range from \$96,100 (Christian County) to \$41,200 (Pemiscot County and Wayne County). Eight counties have a median home value that is greater than \$80,000, while seven counties have a median home value that is less than \$50,000. ©TM

Figure 4. Housing Units, by Type of Occupant: 2000



Household income

Household and family income can affect one's ability to pursue educational opportunities, buy a home, and adequately feed or clothe family members. Income is also a primary factor for determining the poverty status of a person or family.

Median household income refers to the dollar figure at which half of all households have an income below and half have an income above this point. Map 5 (p. 9, top) displays the median household income within each county for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Gi-

rardeau. Three counties have a median household income of \$35,000 or more. Christian County has the largest median income (\$38,085), followed by Cape Girardeau County (\$36,458) and Newton County (\$35,041). It is not surprising that the counties with the highest median income contain cities. It is in these urban and suburban areas that living costs and wages are higher.

More than one-quarter of the counties that make up the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau have a median household income that is less than \$25,000. Shannon County has

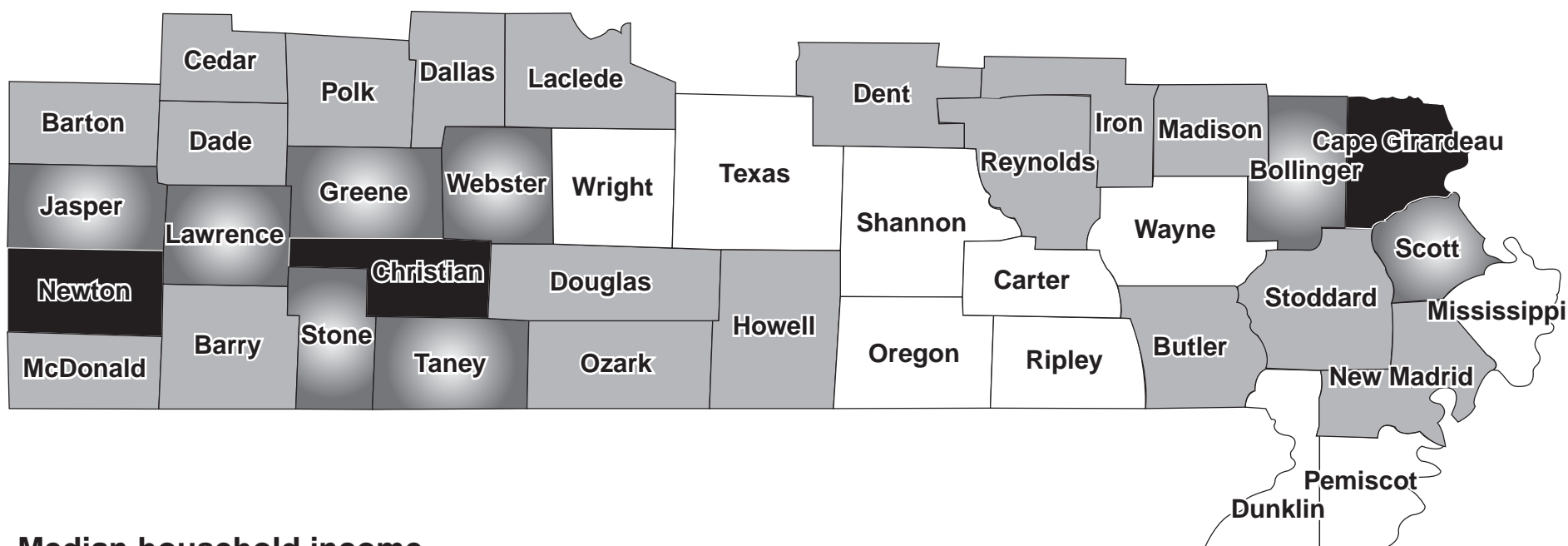
the lowest median household income of any county in the diocese (\$20,878), followed by Pemiscot County (\$21,911) and Oregon County (\$22,761). Pemiscot County was highlighted earlier for having the highest rental-housing rate and for the lowest median home value.

The median income of a population provides a single dollar amount, but does not disclose the share of the population at the highest and lowest income tiers. Examining the income distribution of an area can reveal the existence of a "middle class," or show

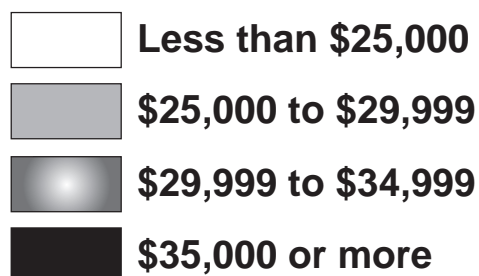
if the area includes large numbers of households that are relatively wealthy or large numbers that are relatively poor.

Figure 5 (far right, p. 9) presents the income distribution for all households in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, as well as households in which the head of the household (the person completing the census questionnaire for the household) identifies as Anglo/White, African-American/Black, or Hispanic.

Map 5. Median Household Income of All Households: 2000 Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



Median household income



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Household income

From Page 8

For all households in the diocese, 41 percent have an annual income that is less than \$25,000. An additional 34 percent have incomes between \$25,000 and \$49,999, while the remaining 25 percent have a household annual income that is \$50,000 or more.

Since the great majority (93 percent) of the population in the diocese identified as Anglo/White on the 2000 census, it is not unexpected that the household income distribution for this group is very similar to the distribution seen for the diocese as a whole. Again, for households headed by a person identifying as Anglo/White, 25 percent are in the upper income tier, earning \$50,000 or more.

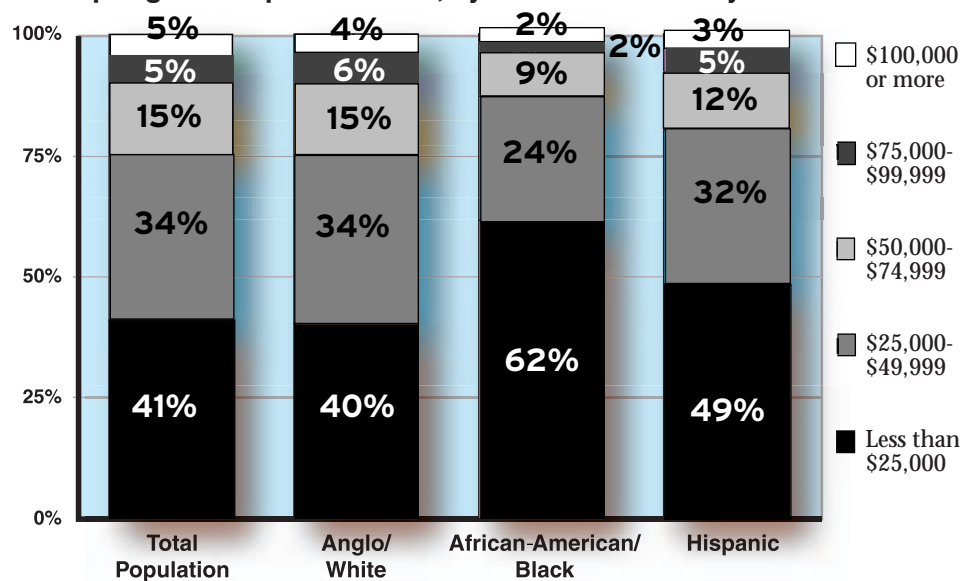
Households headed by an African-American/Black individual show a very different income distribution.

Nearly two-thirds of these households (62 percent) have an annual household income that is less than \$25,000. Just 13 percent of African-American/Black-headed households have an annual income that is \$50,000 or more. Twenty-four percent of households fall into the middle income range of earnings between \$25,000 and \$49,999 each year.

The income distribution of households headed by people of Hispanic origin is in the middle of the previous two race/ethnic groups. About half of all households (49 percent) have incomes that are less than \$25,000, which is higher than the percentage seen for Anglo/White households, but lower than the percentage seen for African-American/Black households.

The proportion of Hispanic-headed households in the middle income range of \$25,000 to \$49,999 (32 per-

Figure 5. Household Income Distribution in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, by Race and Ethnicity: 2000



cent) is very similar to that of Anglo/White households. One in five Hispanic-headed households have incomes of \$50,000 or more.

Racial disparities in household income are not unique to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and persist in many areas of the US. ©TM

Poverty

The total income of a family or individual is directly related to that family's or individual's poverty status. The population living in poverty represents the extreme end of the low incomes shown in Figure 5 (p. 9).

Whether or not a person is considered to be living in poverty depends on factors other than income, however. Family size and the age of family members are also factored into a determination of whether a family (and all of its members) is considered to be poor. These family characteristics are combined with total family income to determine the poverty threshold income level (poverty line) for a particular family. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children under the age of 18 was \$16,895. All families with a total gross family income that was less than \$16,895 would be considered to be living in poverty.

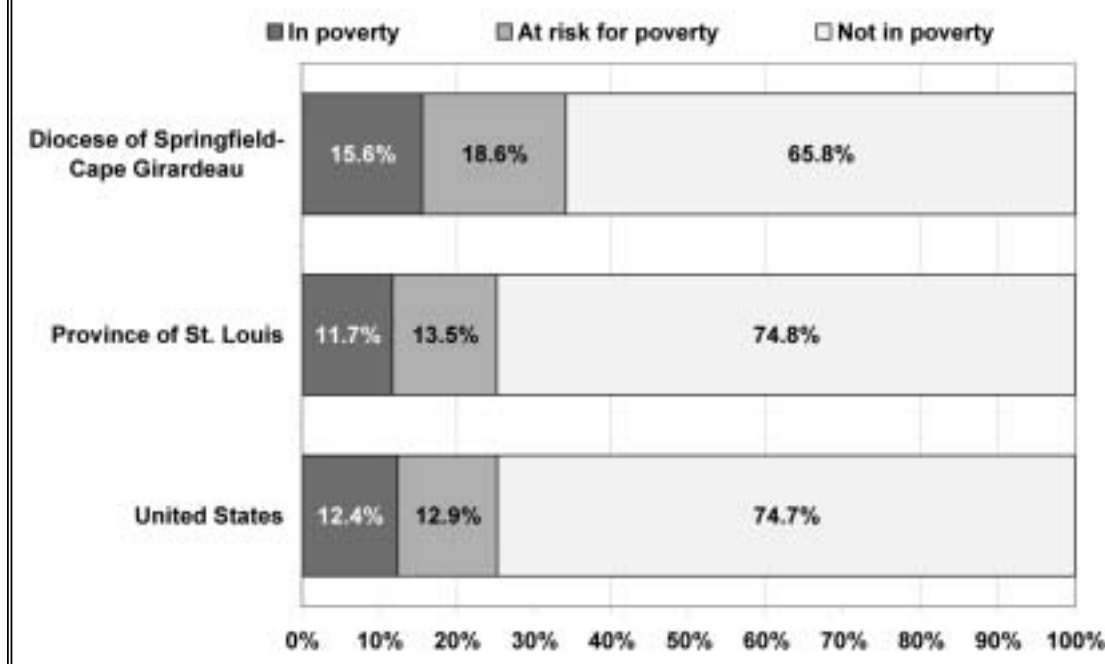
Poverty affects many aspects of an individual's and a family's life, from nutrition and health to education and occupation opportunities. Movement in and out of poverty can be a regular occurrence, particularly when recurrent unemployment is a major factor in the poverty status of a family. Charitable organizations, including the Catholic Church, are often called upon to assist the population living in poverty,

through social service ministry, food donations, and temporary shelter.

For this reason, Figure 6 (right) presents the distribution of the population into three categories: in poverty, at risk for poverty, and not in poverty. Family members who are part of a family with incomes below the poverty line are categorized as living in poverty, while the population with incomes between 100 percent and 175 percent of the poverty threshold income level are deemed to be "at risk" for poverty. People in the at-risk group may live month-to-month and a single catastrophic incident such as a serious illness, death of the primary earner, or loss of employment, may push this population into poverty.

As seen in Figure 6, almost 16 percent of the population in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau lives in poverty. This translates to a proportion of about one in every six people. An additional 18.6 percent of the population can be considered "at risk" for poverty, while two-thirds of the population (65.8 percent) are considered to be not in poverty. The poverty profile of the total population living in the Diocese of Springfield-

Figure 6. Distribution of the Total Population in Poverty, At Risk for Poverty, and Not in Poverty: 2000



Cape Girardeau shows relatively larger poverty rates and proportions at risk for poverty than either the Province of St. Louis or the US as a whole.

Both the Province of St. Louis and the US show a combined proportion of about one in four people who are either in poverty or at-risk for poverty. Conversely, about 75 percent of the populations in these geographies are considered to not be in poverty.

Map 6 (below) shows the percent of the population living in poverty, according to the 2000 Census. Counties in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Gi-

ardeau have wide variations in the proportion of their population living in poverty, from a high of 30 percent in Pemiscot County to a low of just 9 percent in Christian County. Although these areas have great differences in the cost of living as well, an annual gross income of \$16,895 or less for a family of four in Pemiscot County is still quite low, even after accounting for the differences in the cost of living. Combined with the other indicators in this report, Pemiscot County is often found at the economically poorer end of the spectrum among the counties that make up the diocese.

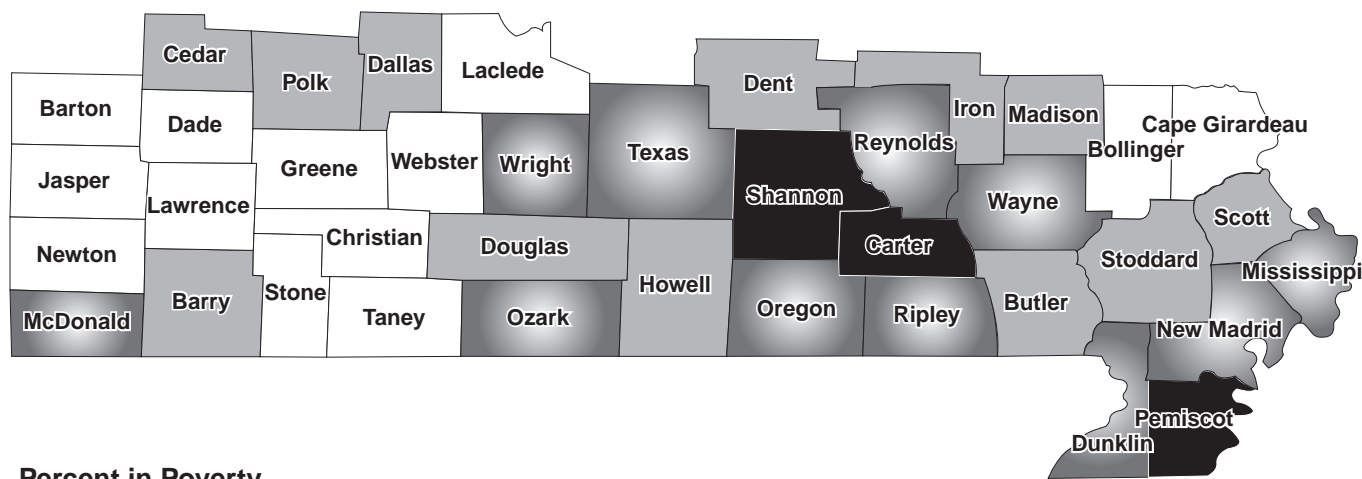
Shannon County also has a relatively high proportion of its total population living in poverty (27 percent), and is followed by Carter County (25 percent).

Thirteen of the 39 counties have poverty rates that are below the average for the diocese overall (15.6 percent). In addition, there are only four counties with a poverty rate that is less than the national rate of 12.4 percent: Christian County (already highlighted with just 9.4 percent), Cape Girardeau County (11.1 percent), Newton County (11.6 percent), and Greene County (12.1 percent).

The differences in poverty rates between the counties in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau may be a result of underlying differences in local economies, job availability, urban and rural residency (and the associated cost of living), educational attainment differences, as well as differences in the social safety net offered by local governments.

Catholic parishes in these different areas will have different needs to address in the local community, with respect to Catholics as well as non-Catholics. Poverty affects all members of a community to one degree or another, including social, religious, and commercial organizations. Poverty is best understood at the local level where residents and organizations assist one another in addressing those needs.

Map 6. Percent of the Total Population Living in Poverty: 2000
Diocese of Springfield - Cape Girardeau



Percent in Poverty

- Less than 15%
- 15% to 19.9%
- 20% to 24.9%
- 25% or more

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has 15.6% of its population living in poverty

Summary of findings

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, located along the southern border of the state of Missouri, is one of four dioceses in the Province of St. Louis. Below are highlights of the Catholic population and of the seven census characteristics explored in this "Diocese at a Glance."

Catholic population

- The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is the smallest diocese population-wise in the Province of St. Louis; roughly 7 percent of Missouri Catholics live within the diocesan boundaries.
- About 59,000 Catholics live in the 39 counties that make up the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, accounting for about 5 percent of the total population living in the diocesan boundaries.
- In several counties of the diocese, only 1 percent of the population identifies as Catholic.

Total population size and change

- Between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, the total population (Catholic and non-Catholic) in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau increased by 16 percent, while the Hispanic population more than doubled in size, growing by 248 percent.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the counties located south of the city of Springfield, including Taney County, and Stone County, and McDonald County (south of Joplin), grew by a disproportionately large amount (between 66 percent and 50 percent overall).
- The Hispanic population grew most rapidly in the western edge of the Diocese, particularly in McDonald County (10-fold increase), Barry County (eight-fold increase), and Jasper County (six-fold increase).

Race and ethnicity

- Ninety-three percent of people in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau identify as Anglo/White, while three percent identify as African-American/Black, and two percent of the population identify as being of Hispanic origin.

Population age structure

- In the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, there are 42 youth under the age of 18 and 25 people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 18 to 64. The elderly dependency ratio is slightly higher than is the case for the US as a whole.
- The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has a slightly older age structure than either the Province of St. Louis or the US overall.

Urban and rural areas

- About 53 percent of the total population in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau lives in rural areas.
- In 31 of the 39 counties a majori-

ty (51 percent or more) of people live in rural areas.

Housing occupancy and cost

- About seven in ten houses (detached homes, mobile homes, condos, etc.) in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are owner-occupied. Renters occupy the remainder (29 percent).
- Taney County has the highest median rent (\$400 per month), while Christian County has the highest median home value (\$96,100).
- Carter County has the lowest median rent (\$177), while Pemiscot and Wayne Counties have the lowest median home value (\$41,200).

Household income

- The counties of Christian, Cape Girardeau, and Newton have the highest median household incomes, all above \$35,000 per year.
- More than one-quarter of counties that make up the diocese have a median household income of less than \$25,000; Shannon County has the lowest median income (\$20,878).
- Of all households in the diocese, 41 percent have a total annual income that is less than \$25,000. For the African-American population, this proportion is 62 percent, and for the Anglo/White population, this proportion is 40 percent. Hispanic households are in the middle range, with 49 percent.
- Twenty-five percent of Anglo/White households have an annual income of \$50,000 or greater, compared with just 13 percent of African-American/Black households and 20 percent of Hispanic-headed households.

Poverty

- Almost one in six people in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau lives in poverty, compared with just over one in ten in the US as a whole.
- Thirteen counties have poverty rates that are below the 15.6 percent diocesan average, while four counties have a poverty rate that is less than the national average of 12.4 percent. Christian County has the lowest poverty rate in the diocese, at 9.4 percent.
- In Pemiscot County, nearly one in three people (30 percent) live in poverty. This is the highest proportion in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and is followed by Shannon County (27 percent) and Carter County (25 percent).

Challenges for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Because the proportion Catholic in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau (5 percent) is lower than that for the US population as a whole (23 percent), parishes in the diocese are challenged to instill and maintain Catholic culture in an atmosphere that may not be conducive to those efforts. Below are some additional

challenges facing parishes and the diocese as a whole.

- The low percentage Catholic in a culture that is predominantly Protestant means that parishes will be called to celebrate more Catholic to non-Catholic marriages. As a result, parishes may need to provide RCIA preparation to young adults raised in Protestant faiths. Parishes are challenged to respond to proselytization from other Christian groups by increasing their own evangelization and outreach efforts into the community.
- The rapid growth of the Hispanic population will challenge parishes (particularly those located in the counties of McDonald, Jasper, and Barry) to provide more Spanish Masses and outreach to Hispanics moving into the area.
- The older age structure of the diocese relative to the age structure of the US population as a whole means that parishes are more likely to experience a need for various elderly outreach programs, including social programs, and retirement or bereavement counseling.
- Because more than half of the total population lives in rural areas of the diocese, parishes are challenged to find ways to respond to the needs of rural parishioners who may also be older and who may have difficulty coming to Mass or participating in parish activities.
- Poverty rates in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau vary dramatically among the 39 counties that make up the diocese. Catholic parishes in wealthier areas of the diocese are challenged to be good stewards of their time, talent, and treasure in responding to the needs of poorer parishes in the diocese. All Catholic parishes in the diocese are challenged to reach out in charity to the poor that live among them.

Definitions of terms

Race and ethnicity

Hispanics may be of any race. In this report, the terms Anglo/White, African-American/Black, and Other refer to non-Hispanics reporting one of these racial groups. Due to small numbers, people reporting races other than these three are classified as "Other."

Household and family income

Household income includes income from all members sharing living space, regardless of their relationship to one another. Family income refers only to people sharing living quarters who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. In order to provide the most comprehensive view, this report uses

data on household income.

Poverty

Poverty status is determined by the Federal Office of Management and Budget, and is based on a matrix incorporating total family income, total number of family members, and the number of family members under the age of 18. Additionally, unrelated individuals and two-person families are further differentiated by whether the householder is aged 65 or older. The resulting poverty thresholds (the dividing line for classifying a family as poor) do not vary by state or region within the US, but are updated annually to reflect changes in the overall cost of living.

Poverty status is determined for all people for whom income data was collected, with the following exceptions: institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under the age of 18. These people are excluded from poverty calculations.

Data sources

Data on the size and distribution of the Catholic population is from *Churches and Church Membership: 2000*, collected by the Association of Statisticians for American Religious Bodies (ASARB), and published by the Glenmary Research Center in 2002.

This report uses data on characteristics of the total population, according to the 2000 census. Data on total population size, race and ethnicity, age, urban and rural areas, and housing are from the census "short form" and represent data on 100 percent of the population. These data are available from Summary File 1 at www.census.gov.

Data on income and poverty for the total population are from the census "long form" which was distributed to a sample of about one in six households. These data have been weighted by the Census Bureau to represent the total population, and are available from Summary File 3 at www.census.gov. ©TM

Diocese at a Glance

**Center for Applied Research
in the Apostolate**

CARA was founded by Catholic leaders in 1964 to put social science research tools at the service of the Catholic Church in the U.S. For information on CARA and its mission of research, analysis and planning, contact:

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+

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ON THE WEB

The Mirror On-Line will return with the June 11 edition.

www.the-mirror.org

Pentecost: Unity in diversity

Pentecost Sunday
On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church as promised by Christ. Pentecost derives its name from the Feast of Weeks, an ancient Jewish festival celebrated fifty days after the Passover (Exodus 23:16). It was marked by the offering of the first fruits to God in gratitude for God's blessing.

However, Pentecost is more than just a celebration remembering the past. It is a celebration of the birthday of the church, a celebration of Christ's gift of his Spirit given to the church (John 20:19-23). Furthermore, Pentecost is a celebration of the Spirit that came like a great wind (Acts 2:1-11). After evening prayer today, the Easter candle, the symbol of the light of the risen Lord, is moved from its place of honor near the ambo to a spot near the baptismal font, thus bringing the season of Easter to an end, entering Ordinary Time.

If Pentecost was the birthday of the church, then it was a birthing out of human frailty, the apostles having locked themselves up in the Upper Room. The descent of the Holy Spirit gave them courage, and they burst into the public square, fearlessly proclaiming the Good News.

In our own way, we are like the pre-Pentecost apostles, huddled together in fear. The coming of the Holy Spirit brought a sense of unity to those fractured apostles. More importantly, it brought one faith, one baptism, and one God. God's Spirit spoke one commonly understood word that was heard in a diversity of languages. The church was endowed with unity and universality. The lives of all, in their unique individualities and in all of their diversities, could be shared in the one Christ, the one bread, the one cup, and in the one church. Let our prayer on this Pentecost be that the Holy Spirit

LIVING THE WORD

May 30 - June 10

Fr. Bobby Manso



it would come upon us and renew our troubled world.

Feast of the Visitation

As we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth on May 31, we are struck by the tremendous meaning behind the image of a simple young woman visiting with her older cousin (Luke 1:39-56). On the surface, this is simply an account of a natural act of kindness. However, it has a deeper meaning. Elizabeth, who was thought to be barren, is seen as a symbol of Old Testament Israel. From her would come the last of the prophets. Mary, in her youth, is the image of a new beginning who said 'yes' to God. Mary opened the way to the world's salvation. Between these two women, we see the seam in the fabric of time between the old and the new covenants. In imitation of Mary and Elizabeth, let us put away ambitious thoughts, for it is with the lowly and those in need of mercy that we will find God.

Memorial: St. Justin

June 1 is the Memorial of Justin, a second century martyr. A layman and an apologist, Justin is best known for his earliest descriptions of the eucharistic celebration.

Memorial: St. Charles Lawanga & Companions

June 3 is the Memorial of St. Charles Lwanga and his 21 Ugandan companions. Known as the protomartyrs of black Africa, Charles and his companions were martyred because

they would not give in to King Mwanaga of Uganda's unreasonable demands.

Memorial: St. Boniface

June 5 is the Memorial of St. Boniface, bishop and martyr. Born in England around the year 673, Boniface became a monk and founded the abbey of Fulda. He served as a bishop of Mainz and was martyred in 754 at Dokkum, in Frisia, along with 30 companions. Boniface is known as the "Apostle of Germany."

Trinity Sunday: June 6

Even though we re-entered Ordinary Time on Mon., May 31, today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, which takes precedence over the Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Celebration of Trinity Sunday began in the 11th century. As early as 1030, a feast in honor of the triune God was celebrated in the western church on the Sunday after Pentecost. In 1334 Pope John XXII made Trinity Sunday a Feast of the universal church.

Today we celebrate God's compelling love. Our celebration of today's feast finds us professing this unexplainable truth of God: three persons in one God. This is a mysterious truth of God. God lives and moves in relationship with us. God is relational.

God is all-wise (Proverbs 8:22-31) and God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-5). The crucifixion of Jesus Christ illustrates God's infinite and unconditional love for us. God is revealed as a creator. God is revealed as a teacher and

redeemer. God is revealed as a sustainer and sanctifier. In the Spirit, God guides and teaches us, leading us to the fullness of God's kingdom (John 16:12-15). We come to know, love, and serve God through God's self-revelation.

Memorial: St. Barnabas

June 11 is the Memorial of St. Barnabas. Chosen as one of the Twelve, Barnabas fulfilled the command of Jesus by preaching the Good News in Antioch (Matthew 10:7-13; 11:21-26; 13:1-3). A companion and co-worker of Paul, the Apostle, Barnabas attended the Council of Jerusalem. Barnabas died as a martyr in the first century in Cyprus. ©TM

Catholic Social Teaching

Applying Gospel Values to the Social Issues of our Day

What:

An eight-week course

When:

Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m.
June 2 - July 21, 2004

Where:

Pallotti Center
601 S. Jefferson, Springfield

Instructor:

Don Emge
Director of Social Ministry
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Cost:

Materials fee of \$20 will cover books and materials.

For information, call (417) 866-0841, demge@diocspfdcape.org

DDF Report

As of May 21, 50 parishes have reported 4,862 DDF pledges totaling \$882,273 or 48 percent of the \$1,840,000 goal.

Parishes, Missions in diocese by county

From Page 1

Webb City: Sacred Heart
LACLEDE County

Conway: Sacred Heart
Lebanon: St. Francis de Sales

LAWRENCE County

Aurora: Holy Trinity
Mount Vernon: St. Susanne
Pierce City: St. Mary
Verona: Sacred Heart

MCDONALD County

Noel: Nativity of Our Lord*

MADISON County

Fredericktown: St. Michael

MISSISSIPPI County

Charleston: St. Henry

NEW MADRID County

New Madrid:
Immaculate Conception

Portageville: St. Eustachius
NEWTON County

Neosho: St. Canera
Sarcoxie: St. Agnes
Seneca: St. Mary

OREGON County

Thayer: Sacred Heart*

OZARK County

Gainesville: St. William*

PEMISCOT County

Caruthersville: Sacred Heart

POLK County

Bolivar: Sacred Heart
Humansville:

St. Catherine of Siena*

REYNOLDS County

Bunker: Christ the King*
Lesterville:

Our Lady of Sorrows*

RIPLEY County

Doniphan: St. Benedict
SCOTT County

Benton: St. Denis
Chaffee: St. Ambrose
Kelso: St. Augustine
New Hamburg: St. Lawrence
Oran: Guardian Angel
Scott City: St. Joseph
Sikeston: St. Francis Xavier

SHANNON County

Eminence: St. Sylvester*

STODDARD County

Advance: St. Joseph
Dexter: Sacred Heart

STONE County

Kimberling City:
Our Lady of the Cove

TANEY County

Branson:
Our Lady of the Lake

Forsyth:

Our Lady of the Ozarks

TEXAS County

Cabool: St. Michael*
Houston: St. Mark
Licking: St. John the Baptist*
Roby: St. Vincent de Paul*

WAYNE County

Piedmont:
St. Catherine of Siena
Williamsville:

Our Lady of Sorrows*

WEBSTER County

Marshfield: Holy Trinity

WRIGHT County

Mansfield: Immaculate
Heart of Mary
Mountain Grove:
Sacred Heart

*Indicates Mission

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