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Annual Reports

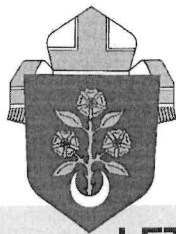
2024 Annual Report
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post 2025



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ANNUAL REPORT

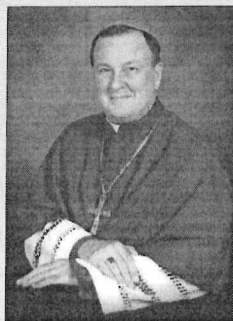
Archdiocese of Mobile

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

This edition of "The Catholic Week" contains the annual pastoral report compiled by the executive directors of archdiocesan ministries. This report reflects some of the grace-filled ways in which we—the laity, religious, and clergy—work to build up the Kingdom of God in the southern half of Alabama.

The Gospels record that at the Ascension, the Lord immediately, before being lifted from their sight, told His disciples to: "Go, therefore, and teach all nations" (Mt 18:19) that Great Commissioning was the last thing the Lord said to us. That is the foremost goal of the Church: to teach all nations. It is the foremost goal for all of us in the Archdiocese of Mobile.

We are all called by the Lord to do this and we participate in this work of the Church in many ways—some of us are directly involved in ministries either in archdiocesan or parish efforts—others support the ministries through prayer and devotion. Together, we foster the work of spreading the Good News and the salvation of souls.



The statistics in the box are a snapshot of the year 2024. These statistics vary each year, but an encouraging trend is that the number of people joining the Catholic Church continues to increase. This year, the number of people joining the Church at Easter was the highest we have recorded. This is most encouraging. Of particular note is the evidence that the practice of the faith is increasing among young men—this bodes well for the future. At the same time, we know that there are those who have become tepid in living the faith and even have discontinued in its practice. Impelled by the love of God, we must reach out to those we know and encourage them to return to God's priceless gifts of scripture and the Eucharist.

The 31 ministries, which are made possible by the Catholic Charities Appeal, continue their amazing grace-filled service of making God's love visible to the poor, elderly, imprisoned, pregnant, college students and many others.

Our parishes—and the clergy, religious, and laity who minister within them—are blessings to us all as parishioners. We are served through their ministries of word, worship and charity. It is noticeable and promising that the number of young people in parish religious education programs has increased.

The enrollment in our Catholic schools has slightly decreased. Much of this is due to changing demographics in our archdiocese. To help to make Catholic education available to as many families as possible, a study of Catholic schools is currently being conducted by a reputable national entity in which all Catholic schools in Baldwin County are participating. Likewise, another study of Catholic schools is currently being conducted by a reputable national entity in which all Catholic schools in Mobile County are participating. I am very optimistic that these studies will have a very positive impact.

I hope you will find this annual report interesting. I thank all of the people of our archdiocese for supporting the work of the family of God which is the Church. Let us pray the Lord will bless our efforts, for without Him, we can accomplish nothing.

+ Thomas J. Rodi

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Pilgrims from all three high schools in the Archdiocese of Mobile as well as 250 people from an archdiocesan-sponsored trip attended the March for Life in Washington.
- More than 200 college students in the Archdiocese of Mobile attended the annual SEEK conference by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students in St. Louis. There were more than 20,000 people in attendance.
- Seminarians from St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., visited Mobile and participated in Catholic Social Services' home repair program. CSS and the seminarians made minor home repairs on 10 homes for elderly/disabled homeowners.
- The Archdiocese of Mobile recognized Sister Mary Chabanel Finnegan, RSM and Sister Mary Teresa Cusack, RSM during Mass on World Day for Consecrated Life as they celebrated their 70th anniversary of entrance into their community.
- The 93rd annual Catholic Charities Appeal raised more than \$4.7 million for ministries throughout the archdiocese.
- Hundreds of young people from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Mobile took part in the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Conference in Orange Beach.
- More than 350 catechumens and candidates entered into full communion with the Catholic Church during Easter Vigils on March 30. It was the largest group since at least 2014.
- Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed the CHOOSE Act into law. Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi was among those who penned a letter supporting the school choice legislation.
- Archbishop Rodi celebrated his 75th birthday and submitted his required letter of retirement to the Vatican, which has not yet been accepted.
- Father Joseph Schultz was ordained to the priesthood and Deacon Rich Perkins was ordained a transitional deacon.
- The Archdiocese of Mobile's 17 permanent diaconate candidates were installed into the ministry of lector by Archbishop Rodi.
- The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage reached Mobile as hundreds took part in a Eucharistic procession from the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception to St. Mary Parish.
- "The Catholic Week," the official publication of the archdiocese, received four awards from the Catholic Media Association.
- Couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary were honored during Masses sponsored by the Archdiocese of Mobile's Office of Evangelization and Family Life.
- A new library to help permanent deacons continue their education was blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Rodi at 406 Government St.
- The annual Seminarian Summer Gala at Holy Spirit Hall in Battles Wharf raised more than \$181,000 for seminarian education.
- Archbishop Rodi celebrated the Blue Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in recognition of First Responders. He also celebrated a Red Mass for those in the legal profession and White Mass for those in the medical profession.
- The Toy Bowl raised more than \$100,000 for support of CYO activities.
- The archdiocese's Department of Multicultural Ministry sponsored a Mass in honor of Black Catholic History Month at Prince of Peace Parish in Mobile.
- The faithful took part in a Rosary procession through downtown Mobile on the Feast of Christ the King. Archbishop Rodi also awarded the Christ the King Medal to nominated volunteers from parishes throughout the archdiocese.
- Archbishop Rodi designated nine pilgrimage sites throughout the archdiocese to mark Jubilee 2025.

QUICK STATS

2024 2023

Catholic Population	107,870	107,870
Students in Catholic Schools	4,669	4,946
Students in Religious Education classes	2,949	2,618
Priests resident in the archdiocese	109	113
Seminarians	13	14

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms	1,094	1,084
Adult Baptisms	122	135
Received into Full Communion	250	171
First Eucharist	1,145	952
Confirmations	951	766
Marriages	276	311
Funerals	537	557
Background checks for Child Protection Program	1,424	1,470
Total number of background checks since 2002	33,484	32,060