

2000 U.S. Census Data - Report 3

Vicariate: Bucks County Vicariate

Cluster:

Cluster 31

1. Detailed Age Breakdown for ALL People Living Within Cluster Boundaries

Church Trends	Generational/ Age Cohorts	Birth Year	Age	Population Count			
				Total	Male	Female	
Post-Vatican II 47,820 50.6%	Millennial	2000	< 1	1,002	522	480	
		1999	1	1,033	547	486	
		1998	2	954	473	481	
		1997	3	1,085	552	533	
		1996	4	1,135	584	551	
		1995	5	1,164	619	545	
		1994	6	1,147	550	597	
		1993	7	1,243	622	621	
		1992	8	1,291	657	634	
		1991	9	1,363	700	663	
		1990	10	1,391	742	649	
		1989	11	1,432	759	673	
		1988	12	1,356	717	639	
		1987	13	1,388	721	667	
		1986	14	1,425	753	672	
		1985	15	1,352	665	687	
		1984	16	1,403	700	703	
		1983	17	1,435	708	727	
1982	18	1,149	637	512			
Vatican II 27,819 29.4%	Gen. X	1981	19	998	498	500	
		1980	20	835	433	402	
		1979	21	843	443	400	
		1976-78	22-24	2,814	1,416	1,398	
		1971-75	25-29	5,118	2,565	2,553	
		1966-70	30-34	5,934	2,956	2,978	
Vatican II 27,819 29.4%	Boomer	1961-65	35-39	7,530	3,639	3,891	
		1956-60	40-44	8,084	3,959	4,125	
		1951-55	45-49	7,387	3,667	3,720	
Pre-Vatican II 18,846 19.9%	Post War	1946-50	50-54	6,745	3,293	3,452	
		1941-45	55-59	5,603	2,648	2,955	
		1939-40	60-61	1,912	921	991	
		1936-38	62-64	2,688	1,291	1,397	
	1934-35	65-66	1,546	728	818		
	1931-33	67-69	2,292	1,100	1,192		
	1926-30	70-74	3,595	1,671	1,924		
G.I.	1921-25	75-79	3,046	1,265	1,781		
	1916-20	80-84	1,949	716	1,233		
	Bef. 1916	85+	1,818	481	1,337		
94,485	100%	94,485	100%	TOTALS	94,485	45,918	48,567

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1; (August 2001).

Notes:

- (a) Data are calculated by assigning each census block to a geography and aggregating all data for that geography.
- (b) Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.
- (c) Age reported as of April 1, 2000; Birth Year calculated by approximation.

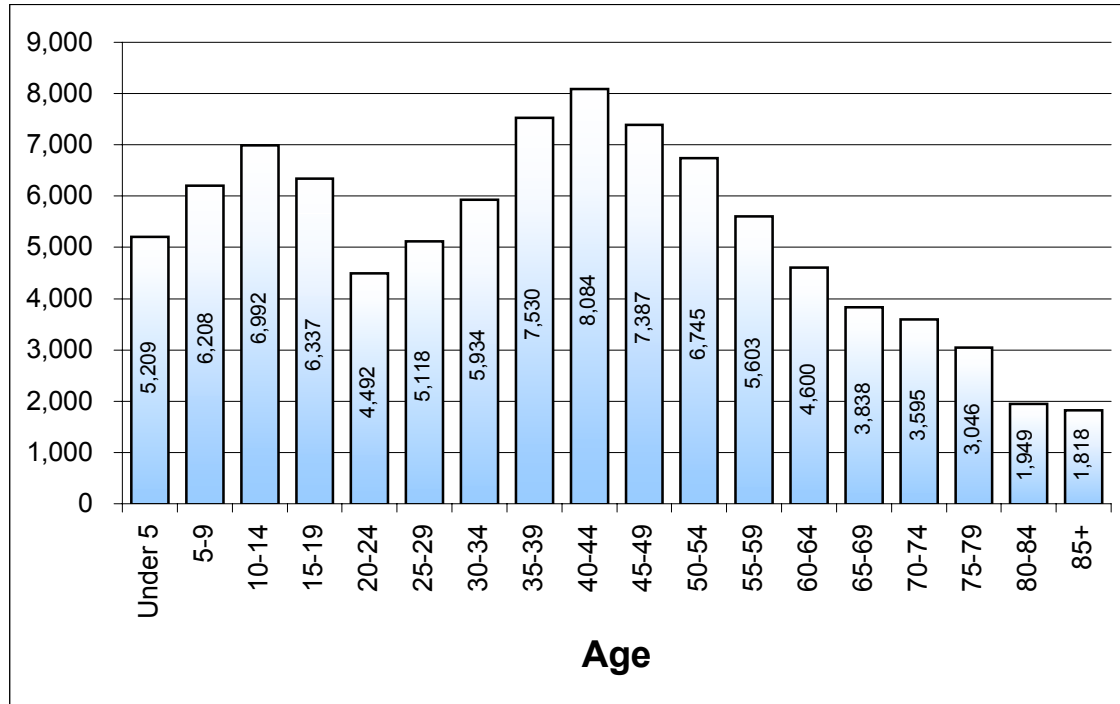
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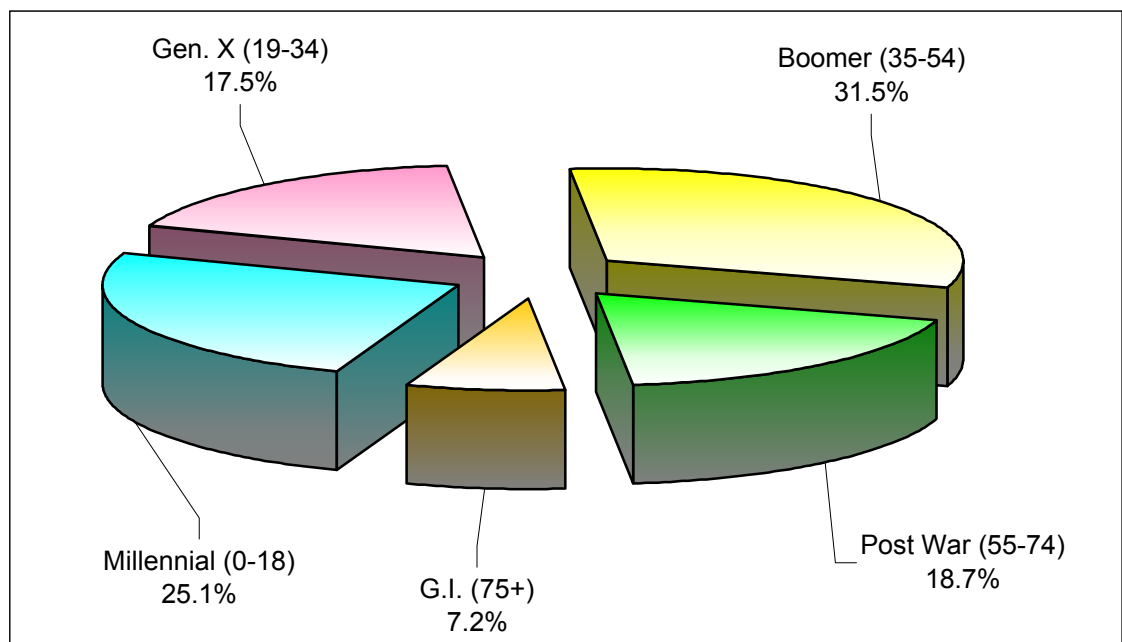
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2. Five-Year Age Categories for ALL People Living Within Cluster Boundaries



3. Generational Cohorts (Age) for ALL People Living Within Cluster Boundaries



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Pastoral leaders need to help people of every age and generation understand and appreciate the different gifts that each of them brings to the life of the parish. Age affects the way people think and act in two ways:

- First, there is a **“life cycle experience”** of doing similar things at similar ages. We start out as children, we go to school, start working, leave home and frequently get married, have children, get older, retire, and die.
- Second, there is a **“generational cohort effect”** which causes a group of people who have grown up (turned 18) around the same time to think and behave in ways that are different than their parents or their children.

Because of their ages, people differ not only in life cycle experience (some are buying houses and having babies while others are retiring and selling their houses), but also in the characteristics of their generation (some are attracted by institutions and are interested in preserving order; some are more interested in the individual and developing their own support networks).

This report describes the age of *all* the people living within the geographical territory, not just the Catholic people. It also associates the age of the people with their generation.

Characteristics of Generational Cohorts in the U.S. in 2000

G. I. Generation (age 75+) - Born 1901-1925. Age 18 between 1919-1943. *Heros*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Civic Values and Building ⌘ Expanding Affluence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Institutions Over Individuals ⌘ Conserving Values |
|--|--|

This “building generation” survived the Depression and fought World War II. They then created many of the social and religious institutions of the 20th century.

Post War Generation (age 55-74) - Born 1926-1945. Age 18 between 1944-1963. *Artisans*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Loyalty to Order and Establishment ⌘ Negotiators, Adaptive ⌘ Compromise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Avoid Risk ⌘ Fine-tune change ⌘ Preserve Values |
|---|---|

Sometimes called the “Silent Generation” because they conformed to the world that their elder GI’s built.

Those born before 1940 can also be seen as the **“pre Vatican II Council” generations**. The Catholic people were frequently city dwellers who experienced many forms of anti Catholicism which they combated by forming into “Catholic ghetto(s) comprised of Catholic neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, newspapers and social groups . . . Pre Vatican II Catholics grew up with Latin Masses, novenas, Benedictions, priests facing the altar (not the people) and Gregorian chant.”

Boomer Generation (age 35-54) - Born 1946-1965. Age 18 between 1964 -1983. *Prophets*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Focused on Individual Development ⌘ Idealism ⌘ Start Change & Break From Past | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Individuals Over Institutions ⌘ Liberal Values ⌘ Risk Takers |
|---|--|

This generation grew up in the turbulent 1960's and 1970's and rebelled against most things established by the GI generation.

Those born between 1941 and 1960 are also known as the “**Vatican II generation.**” They grew up in the pre Vatican II Church but, in their childhood through early adult years, the changes called for in Vatican II were implemented in their parishes just as the social movements of the 1960's plunged society into turmoil. This generation is most likely to have mixed feeling about authority (vs. making up their own mind) and institutional commitment (vs. personal spirituality).

Generation X (age 19-34) - Born 1966-1981. Age 18 between 1984 -1999. *Nomads*

Z	Emphasis on Autonomy	Z	Reactive, Pragmatic and Creative
Z	Sustaining Values	Z	Self-forming Networks

This generation grew up during a period of high divorce rates, relatively low value placed on children, and serious social problems. This pragmatic group is pessimistic and interested in issues of identity. They are less likely to make long term commitments.

Millennial Generation (age 18 and younger) - Born 1982-present. Age 18 between 2000 - ? .

Identified by some authors as the next “GI” type generation. They may be expected to be a confident, achievement oriented group, more interested in building community and institutions than the generations immediately before them.

Those born since 1961 can also be recognized as “**post Vatican II Council**” generations. They have always had Mass in the language of the people. Their religious education was more likely to be conducted by lay persons, not priests or sisters. They have been encouraged to take responsibility for their own faith journeys. They are least likely to depend on Church authority and most likely to think of their faith in personal, not institutional, terms.

Note: The dividing lines between generations are rough approximations. The divisions in this report have been selected to accommodate the Census data available and approximate generational groups identified by various authors.

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