

# 2000 U.S. Census Data - Report 3

Vicariate: Chester County Vicariate

Cluster:

**Cluster 41**

## 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 42,324 58.0%	Millennial 22,187 30.4%	2000	< 1	1,083	565	518	
		1999	1	1,036	539	497	
		1998	2	1,061	571	490	
		1997	3	1,083	553	530	
		1996	4	1,100	587	513	
		1995	5	1,095	555	540	
		1994	6	1,250	660	590	
		1993	7	1,252	645	607	
		1992	8	1,204	628	576	
		1991	9	1,334	664	670	
		1990	10	1,282	634	648	
		1989	11	1,247	673	574	
		1988	12	1,286	689	597	
		1987	13	1,193	600	593	
		1986	14	1,175	595	580	
		1985	15	1,142	590	552	
		1984	16	1,145	592	553	
		1983	17	1,144	594	550	
1982	18	1,075	581	494			
Vatican II 20,468 28.0%	Gen. X 13,641 18.7%	1981	19	1,007	498	509	
		1980	20	965	504	461	
		1979	21	1,020	574	446	
		1976-78	22-24	2,170	1,190	980	
		1971-75	25-29	3,481	1,855	1,626	
		1966-70	30-34	4,998	2,504	2,494	
Vatican II 20,468 28.0%	Boomer 23,535 32.2%	1961-65	35-39	6,496	3,196	3,300	
		1956-60	40-44	6,821	3,458	3,363	
		1951-55	45-49	5,620	2,866	2,754	
Pre-Vatican II 10,229 14.0%	Post War 9,811 13.4%	1946-50	50-54	4,598	2,333	2,265	
		1941-45	55-59	3,429	1,744	1,685	
		1939-40	60-61	1,078	557	521	
		1936-38	62-64	1,376	684	692	
	1934-35	65-66	824	411	413		
	1931-33	67-69	1,234	551	683		
	1926-30	70-74	1,870	863	1,007		
G.I. 3,847 5.3%	G.I. 3,847 5.3%	1921-25	75-79	1,667	724	943	
		1916-20	80-84	1,126	437	689	
		Bef. 1916	85+	1,054	295	759	
<b>73,021</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>73,021</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>73,021</b>	<b>36,759</b>	<b>36,262</b>

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.

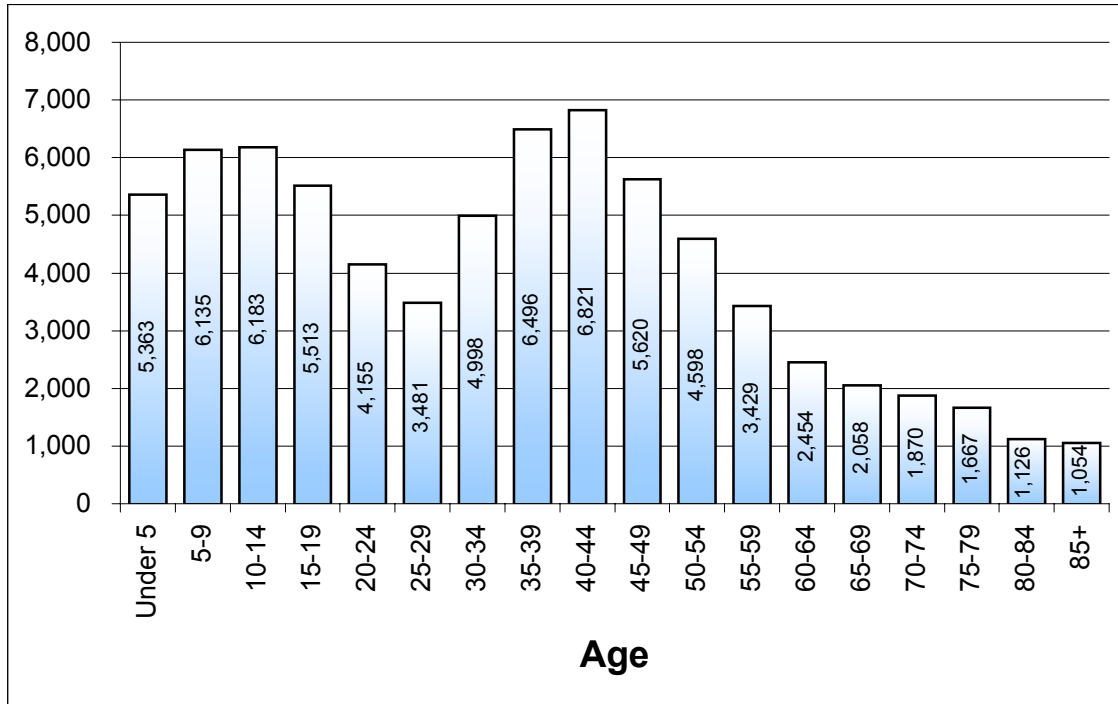
# 2000 U.S. Census Data - Report 3

Vicariate: Chester County Vicariate

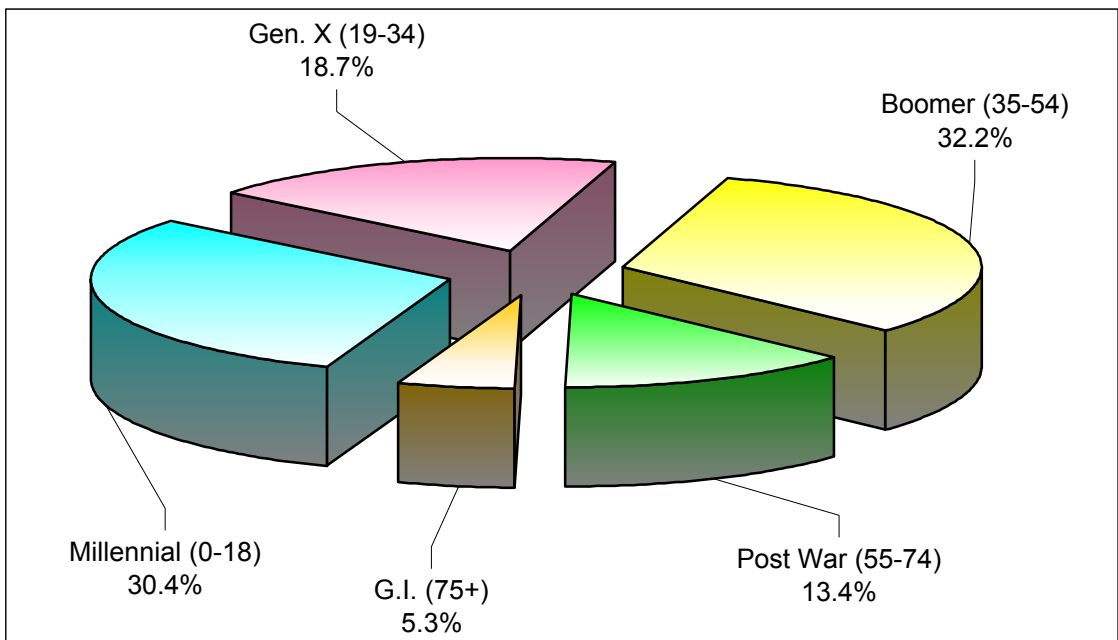
Cluster:

**Cluster 41**

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



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



# 2000 U.S. CENSUS DATA - REPORT 3

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*

Z Civic Values and Building	Z Institutions Over Individuals
Z Expanding Affluence	Z 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 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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

*Artisans*

Z Loyalty to Order and Establishment	Z Avoid Risk
Z Negotiators, Adaptive	Z Fine-tune change
Z Compromise	Z 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*

Z Focused on Individual Development	Z Individuals Over Institutions
Z Idealism	Z Liberal Values
Z Start Change & Break From Past	Z 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.

References:

Bedyna, Mary E. RSM and Paul M. Perl. **Young Catholics in the Context of Other Catholic Generations: Living With Diversity, Seeking Service , Waiting to be Welcomed**, CARA Working Paper Number 1 (Washington: CARA), 2000.

D’Antonio, William V. , James D. Davidson, Dean R. Hoge and Katherine Meyer. **American Catholics: Gender, Generation and Commitment** (Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press), 2001.

Mannheim, Karl. 1952. “The Problem of Generations” In Melissa Hardy (ed.) **Studying Aging and Social Change : Conceptual and Methodological Issues. Chapter 2.** (London: Sage Publications, Inc), 1977.

Ryder, Norman B.1965. “The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change.” In Melissa Hardy (ed.) **Studying Aging and Social Change : Conceptual and Methodological Issues. Chapter 2.** (London: Sage Publications, Inc), 1977.

Strauss, William and Neil Howe. **Generations: The History of America’s Future, 1584 to 2069** (New York: William Morrow and Co. Inc.), 1991.