

2000 U.S. Census Data - Report 3

Vicariate: Chester County Vicariate

Cluster:

Cluster 52

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 80,663 55.0%	Millennial	2000	< 1	1,757	856	901	
		1999	1	1,743	885	858	
		1998	2	1,762	924	838	
		1997	3	1,832	911	921	
		1996	4	1,849	989	860	
		1995	5	1,978	994	984	
		1994	6	1,888	966	922	
		1993	7	1,955	988	967	
		1992	8	2,005	1,069	936	
		1991	9	2,068	1,102	966	
		1990	10	2,062	1,047	1,015	
		1989	11	2,157	1,103	1,054	
		1988	12	2,038	1,027	1,011	
		1987	13	1,985	1,043	942	
		1986	14	1,926	994	932	
		1985	15	1,944	995	949	
		1984	16	1,865	956	909	
		1983	17	1,892	973	919	
1982	18	2,188	977	1,211			
Vatican II 42,680 29.1%	Boomer	1981	19	2,508	1,061	1,447	
		1980	20	2,216	948	1,268	
		1979	21	2,252	962	1,290	
		1976-78	22-24	5,552	2,836	2,716	
		1971-75	25-29	8,925	4,601	4,324	
		1966-70	30-34	10,313	5,115	5,198	
Pre-Vatican II 23,412 16.0%	Post War	1961-65	35-39	12,003	5,895	6,108	
		1956-60	40-44	12,484	6,125	6,359	
		1951-55	45-49	11,713	5,707	6,006	
		1946-50	50-54	10,386	5,006	5,380	
G.I.	G.I.	1941-45	55-59	8,097	3,876	4,221	
		1939-40	60-61	2,452	1,222	1,230	
		1936-38	62-64	3,266	1,598	1,668	
		1934-35	65-66	2,030	947	1,083	
		1931-33	67-69	2,914	1,349	1,565	
Bef. 1916	Bef. 1916	1926-30	70-74	4,575	2,020	2,555	
		1921-25	75-79	3,633	1,508	2,125	
		1916-20	80-84	2,454	928	1,526	
		Bef. 1916	85+	2,088	523	1,565	
146,755	100%	146,755	100%	TOTALS	146,755	71,026	75,729

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.

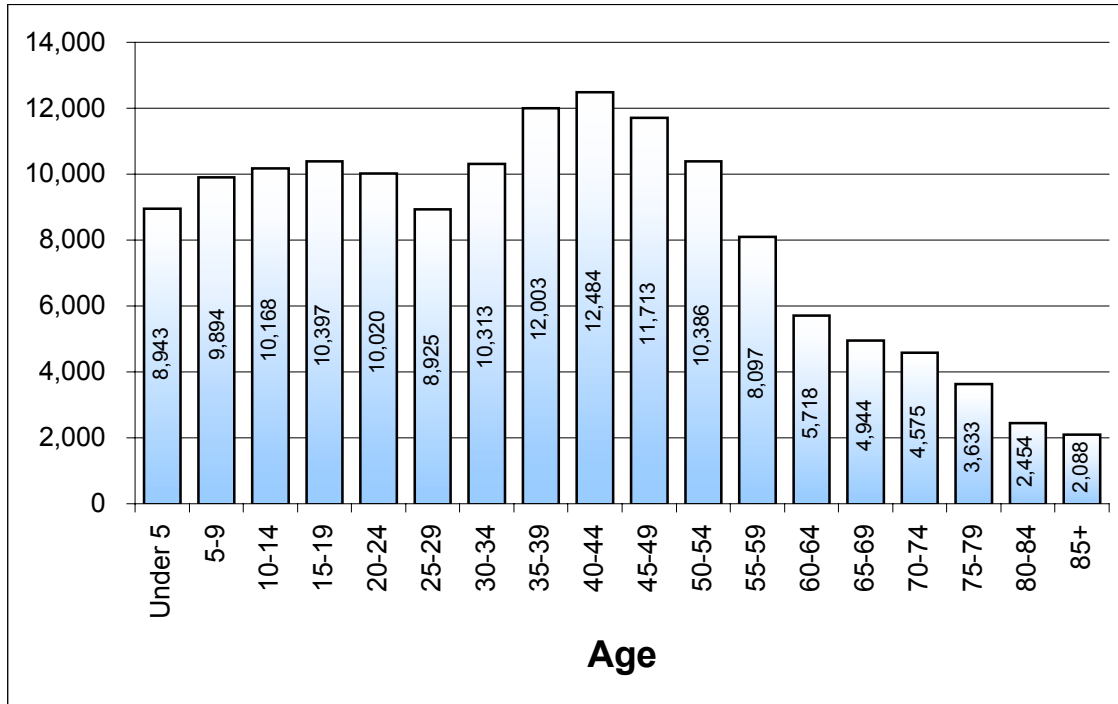
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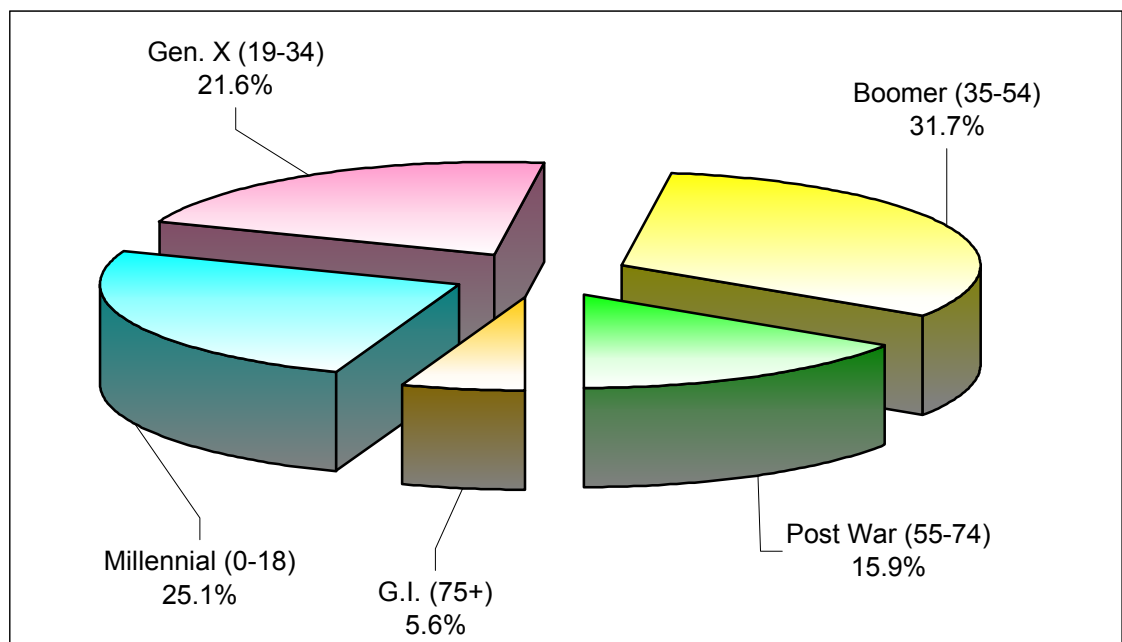
Cluster:

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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

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 20th 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:

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