

Catholic Hispanic Presence in Virginia and the U.S. (updated on 2/10/12):

Overall Contributions of Hispanics, Immigrants, and the Church's Teaching in Immigration

- See [US Hispanic Bishops' Letter](#), Know Your [Rights](#), a Bilingual [Mass for Immigrants](#) & more [Church teaching](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month](#): generations of Latinos have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society
- Hispanics have served in the U.S. Armed Forces from the [American Revolution to Afghanistan](#)
- [Immigrants](#) learn English, pay taxes, and provide a net gain to the U.S. economy ([Read more](#)).
- In VA, [undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy substantially, and "pay taxes too."](#)

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, in Virginia:

- 564,000 Latinos live in VA, 62% live in northern VA (About 7% of the total population)
- 1/2 are foreign born, 1/2 are US Born
- Ave. age of Foreign born Latinos: 35; Ave. age of U.S. born Latinos: 14
- Half of all Latino children under 18 are born in the US, first generation
- Primarily: [Mexican](#), [Salvadoran](#), and [Puerto Rican](#); yet all countries in [Latin America](#), & [Spain](#) are represented.
- In VA, 75% of Latino families speak Spanish at home; the U.S. has the world's second-largest Spanish-speaking population; and [Spanish language media is faring better](#) than its mainstream counterparts.

Our Catholic Latino Presence in the Diocese of Richmond:

- About 218,000 Hispanics in the diocese of Richmond
- More than half of all registered Latino parishioners in our diocese are young adults (18-39)
- In 2000, 6% of total registered parishioners in the Diocese of Richmond were Latino.
- In 2010, 11% of total registered parishioners are Latinos/as.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) estimates that 70% of Hispanics in the U.S. are Catholic, based on the [Hispanic Churches in American Public Life](#) report from 2000. The percentage of Catholics among foreign-born Hispanics is higher. The same is probably true of Hispanics in Virginia.

Hispanics, Social Mobility, and Poverty in VA:

- Driven by a mixture of population growth educational strides, and a single-year surge of 24% in college enrollment, the number of Hispanic 18 to 24-year-olds attending college in the United States hit an all-time high of 12.2 million in October 2010, according to a [recent study by Pew Hispanic Center](#).
- Growing middle class (50% of Latino families own homes)
- In 2010, 18% of Latinos dropped out of High School (12% non-Hispanic Blacks, 5%, Whites, & 4% Asians)
- 56% Foreign born Hispanic adults are uninsured (17% U.S. born Hispanics; 15% non-Hispanic Blacks; 8% Whites)
- 20% Hispanic children uninsured (7% non-Hispanic Blacks, 4% non-Hispanic Whites)

Hispanics & Household Wealth in the U.S.: [66% drop in household wealth since start of Great Recession in 2005](#)

In the United States, household wealth among Hispanics fell from \$18,359 in 2005 to \$6,325 in 2009. The percentage drop—66%—was the largest for any racial or ethnic group; 53% decline among black households and 16% decline among white households (PEW Research Center). [The median wealth of white households is 18 times that of Hispanic households and 20 times that of black households](#). These lopsided wealth ratios are the largest in the quarter century since the government first published such data, and roughly twice the size of the ratios that had prevailed between these three groups for the two decades prior to the Great Recession.

Deportations: So far, one million immigrants have been deported during the Obama Administration. In 2010, ICE deported 393,000 people. At \$12,500 per person, the cost to remove them was about [\\$5 billion](#). The USCCB's [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign continues to urge for humane immigration policy reform. The Catholic Bishops of Birmingham and Mobile Alabama have courageously [brought a challenge](#) to the recently enacted state immigrant law. According to Archbishop José H. Gomez, "[In the Catholic Church and in the eyes of God, no one is a stranger or an alien.](#)"

Landmark Case ending school segregation in CA: 1947 Mendez V Westminster, set precedent for Brown V. Board of Education (adjudicated 7 years later); supported with NAACP amicus brief written by Thurgood Marshall and signed into law by CA Governor Earl Warren who would soon head the Supreme Court and decide Brown v. Board.

Additional Sources:

- UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service: <http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/publications/hispanics-virginia>
- PEW Hispanic Research Center: <http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=VA>
- We Walk by Faith (Diocese of Richmond), Parish Annual Reports(Diocese of Richmond), Diocesan Office of Pastoral Planning
- Ruiz-Mantilla, Jesús. "Más 'speak spanish' que en España: EE UU ya es el segundo país en hispanohablantes. - En 2050 puede ser el primero, por delante de México - Un informe del Cervantes retrata esta revolución idiomática" [El País on the Web](#) 6 Oct. 2008. Cultura. 30 July. 2011 <http://www.elpais.com/articulo/cultura/speak/spanish/Espana/elpepucul/20081006elpepucul_1/Tes>.

CATHOLIC CHURCH STATEMENTS ON RACISM: SELECTED READINGS

All humanity is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Genesis 1:26).

"Open up, open up, clear the way, remove all the obstacles from the way of my people." (Is, 57:14)

STATEMENTS FROM OUR HOLY FATHERS:

"Before God, all men and women have the same dignity, whatever their nation, culture, or religion [and] On the basis of our shared human dignity the Catholic Church 'condemns as foreign to the mind of Christ any kind of discrimination whatsoever between people, or harassment of them, done by reason of race or color, class or religion.'" – Pope Benedict XVI (20th [World Youth Day, Cologne, Germany 2005](#))

As the new millennium approaches, there remains another great challenge facing this community . . . [and] the whole country: to put an end to every form of racism, a plague which [is] one of the most persistent and destructive evils of the nation. – Blessed John Paul II ([Trans World Dome, St. Louis, U.S.A. 1999](#))

PASTORAL LETTERS

["Created in God's Image: a Pastoral Letter on the Sin of Racism and a Call to Conversion." \(2003\)](#)

Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek, Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, IN

[The Many Faces of our Church: A Letter to our Catholic Faithful Regarding our Cultural Diversity](#), Ibid.

[Dwell In My Love: A Pastoral Letter on Racism \(2001\)](#)

Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, 33rd Anniv. of the Death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We are called not only to a radical conversion of heart but a transformation of socially sinful structures as well."

"Jesus transcends, challenges, and transforms everything that divides the human community...He calls us back to a communion with one another, a unity, which reflects the communion of God's own Trinitarian life."

[Brothers and Sisters to Us, An executive Study 25 years Later \(2004\)](#)

"There are ninety-one bishops still alive who deliberated and voted on that document at that time. This pastoral letter continues to bear a message of great insight and vision that continues to speak to the circumstances of our time. The letter proves to be the most direct statement of the nation's bishops attacking racist practices in our nation and ecclesial community."

[Brothers and Sisters to Us, U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism \(1979\)](#)

[Pacem in Terris](#) has a few points about racism.

LINKING RACISM AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE

[Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good;](#)

[Pobreza Y Racismo: Amenazas superpuestas contra el bien común \(2008\)](#), [Catholic Charities USA](#)

Addressing Poverty: [Catholic Teaching on Economic Life](#)

Pastoral letters from Popes, US Bishops, and other important documents, including "Economic Justice for All."