



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

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The Diocese of Kalamazoo

Statistics:

- 46 Parishes
- 13 Missions (parishes without a resident priest)
- 22 Catholic Schools (17 elementary; 2 Middle Schools; 3 High schools)
- 75 Priests
- 201 Sisters
- 45 Deacons
- 2,700 Catholic School Students
- 3 Catholic Hospitals
- 12 Seminarians and 1 Aspirant
- 101,888 Catholics; 11% of the population
- General Population: 953,355

Geographic Area:

The Diocese of Kalamazoo spans nine counties in Southwest Michigan that covers 5,337 miles: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph.

History of the Diocese of Kalamazoo:

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo was founded on July 21, 1971. The Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Five Michigan bishops, the National Council of Catholic Bishop and the Holy Father reviewed a three-year study of existing boundaries and suggestions of realignment of or development of new dioceses in Michigan. This resulted in the creation of two new dioceses in Michigan: The Diocese of Gaylord and the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

On July 21, 1971, the Apostolic Delegate of the United States, Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, read the Executive Decree, creating the Diocese of Kalamazoo. John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, then ordained Paul V. Donovan as the first bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo

The newly created diocese encompassed 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch.