

**DIOCESE OF
BROOKLYN**
SERVING BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

Press Kit 2021

Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn
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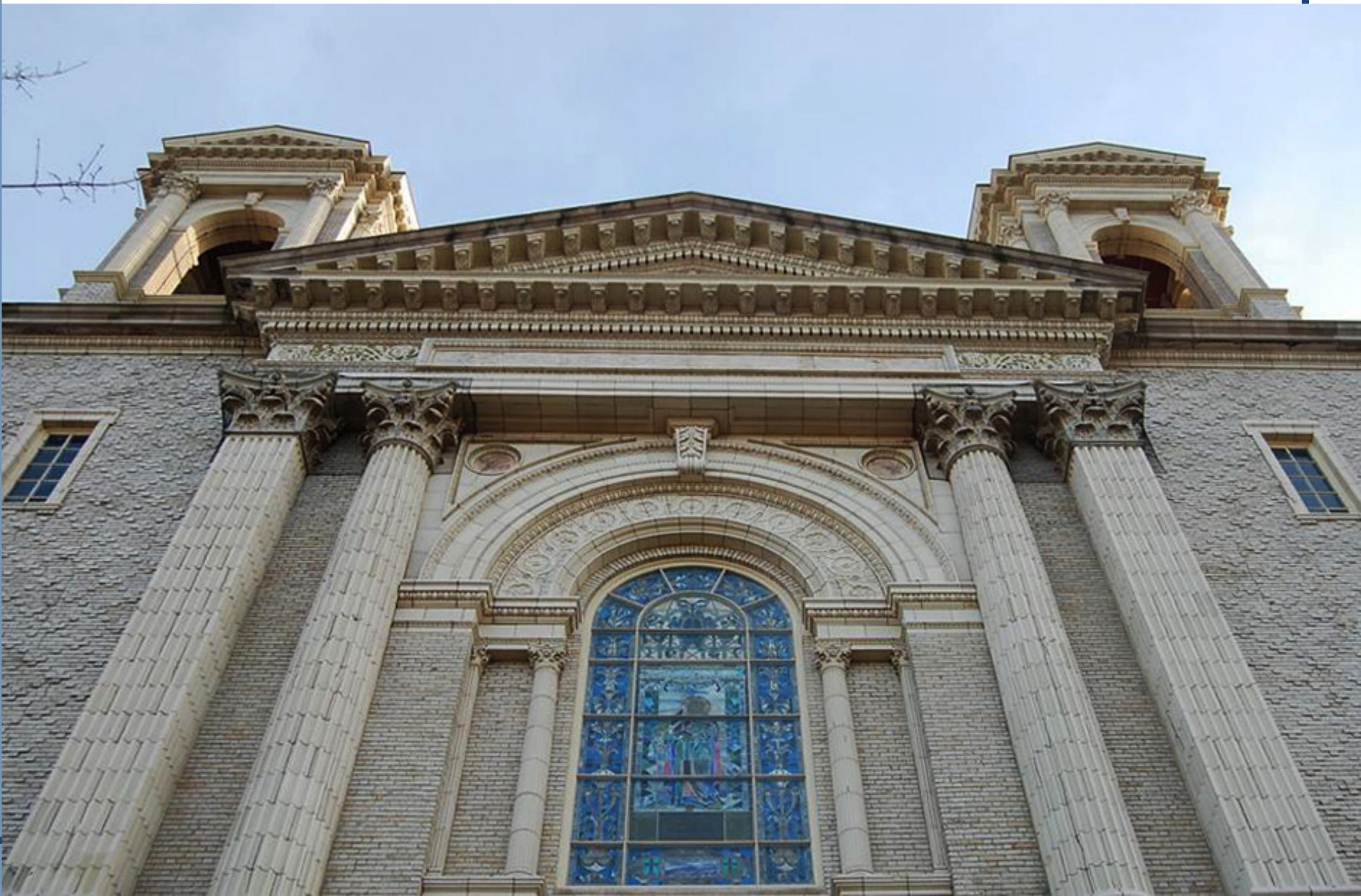
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 BQDiocesePress



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About Us

“The interaction of disparate cultures, the vehemence of the ideals that led the immigrants here, the opportunity offered by a new life, all gave America a flavor and a character that make it as unmistakable and as remarkable to people today as it was to Alexis de Tocqueville in the early part of the nineteenth century.”

– John F. Kennedy, *A Nation of Immigrants*

This quote aptly captures the history and essence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. Founded in 1853, the Diocese of Brooklyn sought to address the needs of the more than five million Irish Catholic immigrants who, tired and poor, arrived at the port of New York in search of a better life, many of whom settled in Brooklyn and Queens. Today, the Diocese of Brooklyn continues its vibrant and diverse history, home again to an immigrant population, this time Hispanics.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn serves the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. It is presided by the seventh and current Bishop of Brooklyn, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, a champion of immigrant rights.

The boroughs' combined population stands at more than 4.9 million, of which 1.5 million identify themselves as Catholics. The diocesan cathedral is the Cathedral Basilica of St. James in downtown Brooklyn. The Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Prospect Heights was elevated in February 2013 by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and was dedicated on May 13, 2014, by Bishop DiMarzio. The faces of the people in the pews of St. Joseph's reflect the diversity of the many cultures that call the Diocese of Brooklyn home. It is also among the largest churches in Brooklyn and Queens.

Due to its multicultural and diverse populations, Masses are regularly held in 33 different languages across the Diocese, throughout 177 parishes in over 200 churches. Its 26 ethnic ministries promote cultural events and provide an opportunity for immigrants to belong to the larger community while preserving and sharing their uniqueness and traditions.



Bishop Robert J. Brennan,

Bishop-Designate of Brooklyn

Bishop Robert J. Brennan was born June 7, 1962, to Robert and Patricia Brennan in the Bronx, New York. The oldest of five children, Bishop Brennan has two brothers and two sisters, 14 nieces and nephews, and three great-nephews and niece.

He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York, where his parents still reside. Bishop Brennan attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School in Lindenhurst, and St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, West Islip, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and computer science from St. John's University, Queens, New York.

Bishop Brennan studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York. Bishop John McGann ordained him a priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, on May 27, 1989. His first priestly assignment was to the Church of St. Patrick in Smithtown, NY. In 1994, he was appointed Secretary to the Bishop, working in this capacity for three bishops: Bishops John

McGann, James McHugh, and William Murphy. He resided at St. Agnes Cathedral and served at the parish during those years.

In 2002, he was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. In 2010 he was appointed pastor of the Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Long Beach, NY. On July 25, 2012, he was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Leaving his position as pastor in Long Beach at that time, he resided in the parish of Our Lady of Peace in Lynbrook.

On January 31, 2019, Bishop Brennan was appointed 12th Bishop of Columbus, and he was installed as Bishop of Columbus March 29, 2019. During his time in Columbus, he has been actively involved in the work of the Catholic community in central and south-central Ohio, including serving on the boards the Catholic Foundation, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, and Cristo Rey Columbus Catholic High School. He also has been a board member and the Vice Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.

At the national level, Bishop Brennan has served with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a member of the Committee for Catholic Education, the Administrative Committee, and the Priorities and Plans Committee.

Bishop Brennan's greatest strength lies in parish pastoral activity. As the Bishop of Columbus, he travels regularly in order to meet and engage people from every part of the 23 counties of the Diocese of Columbus, learning about their lives, both their everyday activities and their faith commitment. He has also enjoyed learning about the many parishes and schools here; the many facets of the ethnic and geographic cultures of the Diocese; and the vibrancy of the many missionary movements in Columbus, particularly the participation of young people.

The hallmark of Bishop Brennan's time in Columbus has been the initiation of the Diocesan-wide *Real Presence, Real Future* evangelization and planning initiative. *Real Presence, Real Future* is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers, and all the faithful. Through listening to the needs and ideas of our people, this process that Bishop Brennan started will help determine the best path forward to increase the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus in the 21st century.



Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio,

Bishop of Brooklyn

 BishopDiMarzio
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Born in Newark, New Jersey, on June 16, 1944, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, attended the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, New Jersey, was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Newark in 1970, and named Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II in 1986.

From 1985 to 1991, he served as executive director of the Office of Migration and Refugee Services at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Bishop DiMarzio was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Newark in 1996, where he served as Vicar for Human Services and executive director for their Catholic Charities agency. In 1980, Bishop DiMarzio earned a Masters in Social Work from Fordham University, and a Ph.D. in Social Work Research and Policy in 1985 from Rutgers University.

In July of 1999, Bishop DiMarzio was appointed as the Sixth Bishop of Camden, New Jersey, and served there until October 2003, when he was installed as the Seventh Bishop of Brooklyn.

Bishop DiMarzio has spent his ministry of over 40 years in the areas of immigration assistance and refugee resettlement services. He has served as both an advocate for refugees and immigrant concerns in political forums and as the initiator and administrator of programs to assist refugees and immigrants within the U.S. and throughout the world.

Bishop DiMarzio currently serves as chairman of the board of the Center for Migration Studies. Currently, he is a member of the boards of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), the USCCB Migration Committee, and the Migration Policy Institute. Bishop DiMarzio is also a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. Previously, the Bishop chaired the boards of the Migration Committee of the USCCB, CLINIC, the Finance Committee of Catholic Relief Services, and the Migration Policy Institute. From 2003 to 2005, Bishop DiMarzio served as the U.S. representative to the Global Commission on International Migration, a United Nations-sponsored commission.

Bishop DiMarzio served as a consultant for the John Jay Report, a 2004 independent study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Using surveys completed by Roman Catholic dioceses, researchers analyzed "the nature and scope of the problem of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests and deacons in the United States." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the study.



Current Statistics

Total Catholic Population: **1,316,791**

Total Population: **4,813,761**

Number of Parishes – **177**

- **147** under direction of diocesan clergy
- **21** under direction of religious priests

Diocesan Priests of the diocese active in the diocese – **692**

- **454** Diocesan Priests of the Diocese
- **164** Religious Priests
- **74** Extern Priests

Total Seminarians – **50**

Deacons - **220**

- **217** Permanent
- **3** Transitional

Brothers – **74**

Sisters – **539**

Auxiliary Bishops- **5**

Retired Bishops- **2**



Education

Elementary Schools – **70**

- **21,067** students

High Schools – **17**

- **11,605** students

Colleges and Universities - **3**

- **23,741** students

Religious Education

- **2,110** High School Students
- **25,770** Pre-K through 8th Grade

Total Students Under Catholic Instruction

- **84,433**

Full Time Academic Teachers in Diocese

- **3** Priests
- **14** Sisters
- **1,581** Paid Lay Teachers

Vital

- **6,362** Infant Baptisms (up to age 7)
- **488** Minor Baptisms (ages 7-17)
- **349** Adult Baptisms (18 and over)
- **305** Received into Full Communion
- **5,507** First Communions
- **6,115** Confirmations
- **1,021** Catholic Marriages

Welfare

- **50** Special Centers for Social Services and Assistance
- **27** Medical Centers
- **18,794** In Patients and Out Patients Assisted Annually
- **15** Day Care Centers
- **29** Homes for the Aged, Chronically Ill, or Invalid
- **5,499** Deaths

As reported in the January 2021 Diocesan Statistical Overview.

