

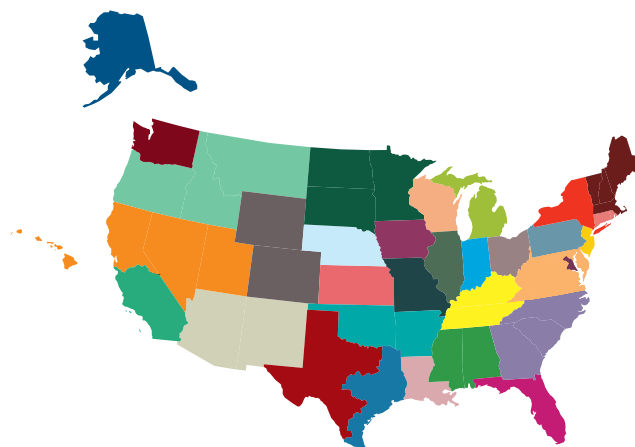


CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE
REPORTING SERVICE

What Is a Metropolitan?

The Catholic Church in the United States has **32 provinces**.

Each province is made of **dioceses** that are grouped together.



A province has one **archdiocese** plus several dioceses.

The other dioceses in the province are referred to as **suffragan dioceses**.



The archbishop of the archdiocese, also known as the **metropolitan**, presides over the province.

With the **new law** set down in *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*, a metropolitan may be authorized by the Holy See to undertake responsibilities for investigating reports pertaining to sexual abuse in the Church.



Note: This explanation does not include Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States.