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.