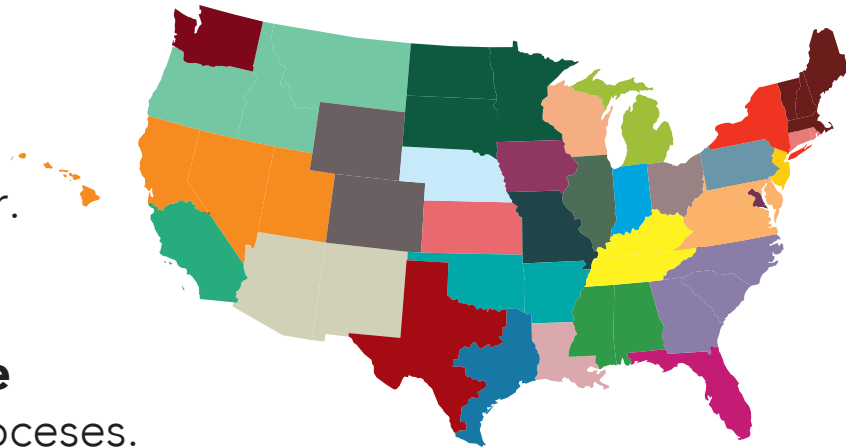


# Who Is a Metropolitan?

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



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



A province has one **archdiocese** plus one or more 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 involving bishops pertaining to sexual abuse in the Church.

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