



# Memo

**Date:** September 16, 2019

**To:** All Clergy and Religious, Bulletin Editors, Parish/School Communications, Social Action Ministers, and Intercultural Ministers

**From:** Kat Doyle, Director of Justice & Peace Ministries; Office of Life, Dignity and Justice

**Re:** Archdiocese of Atlanta is a US Census Complete Count Diocese

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Bishop Joel Konzen recently signed a Resolution creating a Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta Census 2020 Complete Count Committee Campaign to plan and conduct local education initiatives, publicity and promotional activities to increase parish community awareness and participation in the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census is fast approaching and parishes can play a key role in this important effort. The U.S. Constitution requires a complete count of the nation's population every 10 years. Census data impacts decisions at the national, state, tribal and local levels—from congressional representation to the annual allocation of more than \$675 billion. These resources are essential to the well-being of all of our neighbors, supporting schools, hospitals, emergency services, and more.

Complete Count Committee Parishes educate their communities about the 2020 Census and encourage households to fill out their census forms. They help make sure that everyone living in the United States is counted once, and only once, and in the right place, including reaching hard-to-count members in the community. Parishes in communities that have historically been undercounted have the opportunity to help ensure that much needed and deserved federal funds reach them.

A Census Bureau Representative will work with your parish and we will provide resources that make it easy to help, including social media posts; handouts and posters; and e-mail, bulletin and newsletter content. For more information or to participate in the Complete Count Committee Campaign, please contact me at [kdoyle@archatl.com](mailto:kdoyle@archatl.com). A copy and a [photo](#) of the signed Resolution are attached.



***A RESOLUTION CREATING A ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA  
CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN TO PLAN AND  
CONDUCT LOCAL EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONAL  
ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE PARISH COMMUNITY AWARENESS  
AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS***

**WHEREAS**, the social teaching of the Catholic Church is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America has performed a nationwide census every ten years since 1790, with the last census being in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, accurate census information is critical to planning for the future social and human needs of the State of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the more informed that residents become about the 2020 census operations, the better their understanding of the census process becomes, thus increasing their willingness to participate in the 2020 Census; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release responses furnished by any individual, or on behalf of an individual, or release information to any governmental agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, law enforcement agencies or welfare agencies. In addition, per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, census data is protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit this data; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Complete Count Committee Campaign will be to support the social teaching of the Catholic Church concerning state and federally funded programs that promote human dignity and to assist the State of Georgia in obtaining the most accurate and complete population count for Census 2020 by increasing the number of responses through focused, structured parish outreach programs. The Campaign will utilize the local knowledge, expertise and influence of the parishes to design and implement census awareness programs targeted to each participating parish community.

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the current Diocesan Administrator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta that:

1. A Census 2020 Complete Count Committee Campaign is hereby established to support the social teaching of the Catholic Church concerning state and federally funded programs that promote human dignity and to assist the State of Georgia in obtaining the most accurate and complete population count for Census 2020.
2. The Campaign shall be implemented and managed by the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Justice and Peace Ministries in the Office of Life, Dignity and Justice; working in concert with other archdiocesan offices and organizations, as well as census bureau officials, as appropriate and necessary. The Campaign will include preparing public service announcements for various forms of traditional and social media and materials for general information.
3. The Campaign shall include the organization of pastor-approved Parish Complete Count Committees focused on working with committee members and census bureau officials to enhance and increase the response rate to the Census 2020. The Parish Complete Count Committees will support parish response strategies and techniques through planning and conducting local educational initiatives, and distributing posters, flyers and handouts for use by the parishes and others within the State of Georgia. All materials to be distributed and information to be communicated shall be forwarded to Justice and Peace Ministries for approval by the Archdiocesan Office of Communications prior to use.
4. The Campaign shall run from August 2019 through and including June 2020 at which time the Campaign, having run its course, shall dissolve, unless extended by the current Archbishop or Administrator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta. No resolution dissolving or rescinding the Campaign is necessary.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2019.**



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*Most Reverend Joel M. Konzen, S.M. – Diocesan Administrator / Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta*