

Not Your Grandmother's Church, but Will It Be Your Grandkid's Church?

- Catholicism but Catholicisms is more accurate
- geographically local, cultural, part of the wider American cultural system
- "facts are not truth, though they are a **part** of it"
- nostalgia is the demonic paralysis we need to exorcise to ask and answer these questions

"Evidence is always partial. Facts are not truth, though they are part of it - information is not knowledge. And history is not the past - it is the method we have evolved of organizing our ignorance of the past. It's the record of what's left on the record. It is the multiplication of the evidence of fallible and biased witnesses, combined with incomplete accounts of actions not fully understood by the people who performed them. It's no more than the best we can do, and often it falls short of that." - Hilary Mantel

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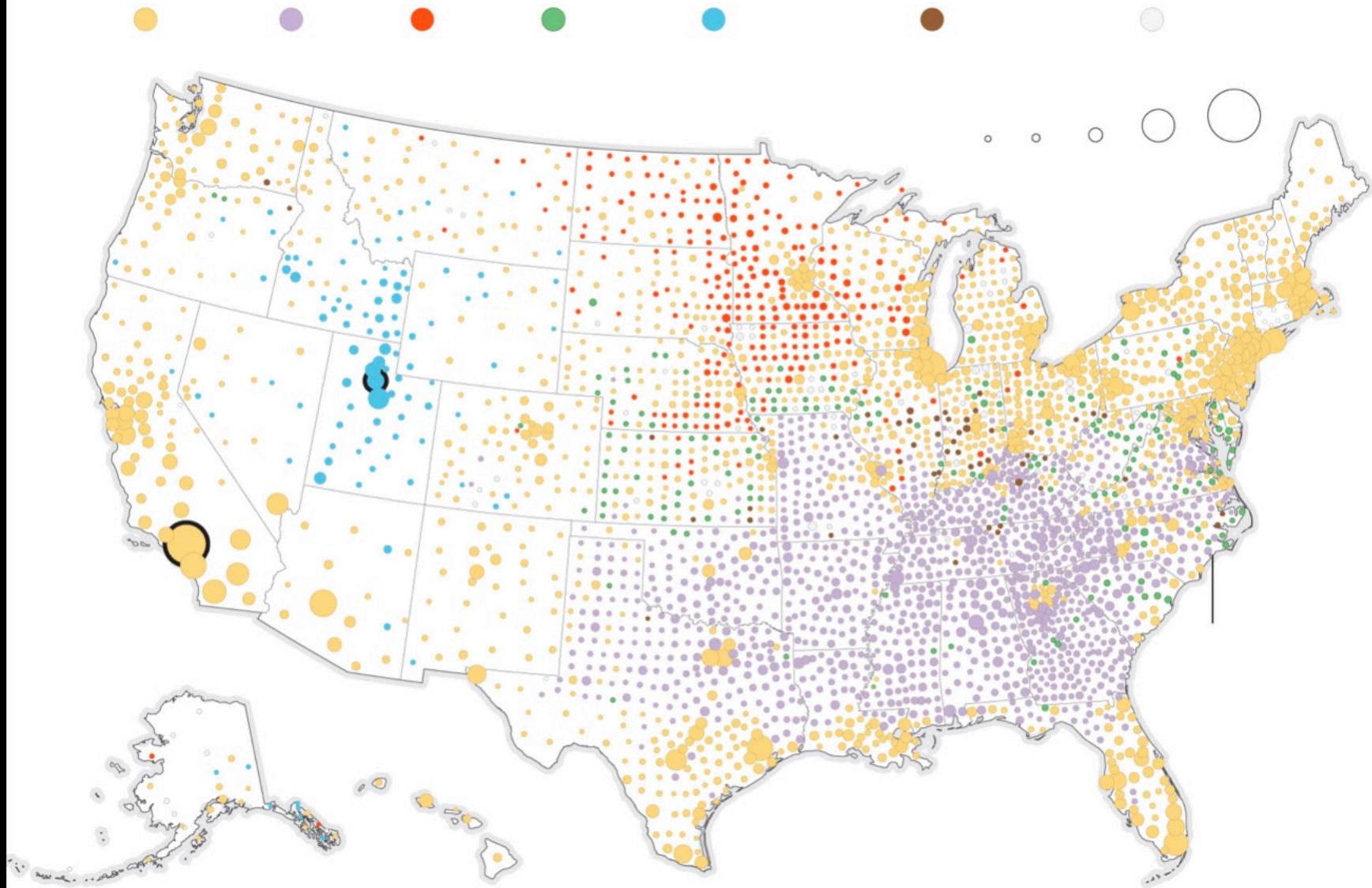
Changes in U.S. Catholic Church - today from 1985

- 16,000 parishes from 19,000
- 34,000 priests from 57,000
- 36,000 women religious from 115,000 (178,000 in 1965)
- Catholic Hospitals - 1 in 7 Americans
- General U.S. Trend - Decline in Northeast and Midwest; uptick in Carolinas, Texas, California, and Florida
- Less White majority, and among immigrants, a majority are Catholic

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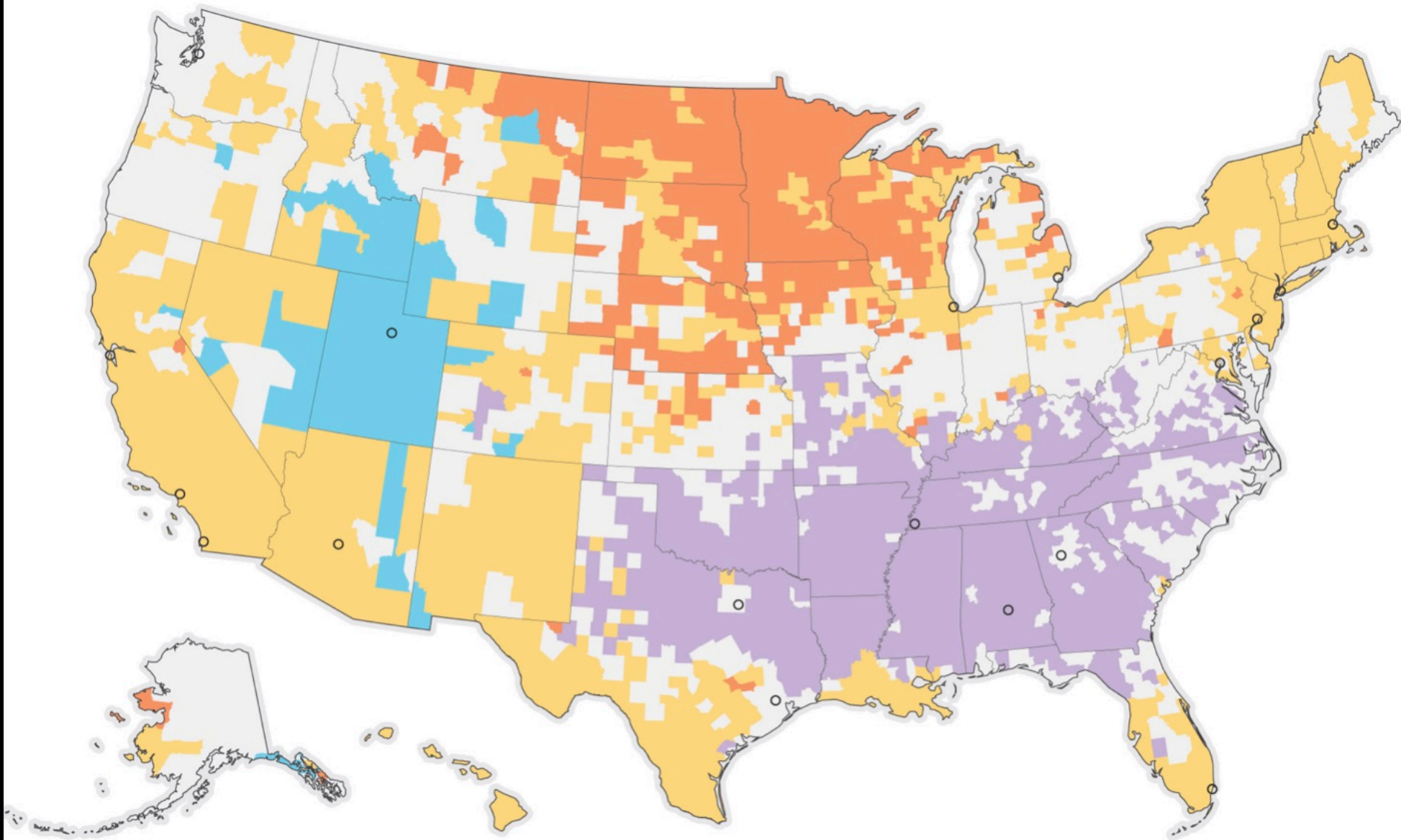
Changes in U.S. Catholic Church

- oldest ethnic group in the U.S. Catholic Church is White Catholics
- slowest growing ethnic group is White Catholics
- Among Catholics under 18, more than 50% are Latinx



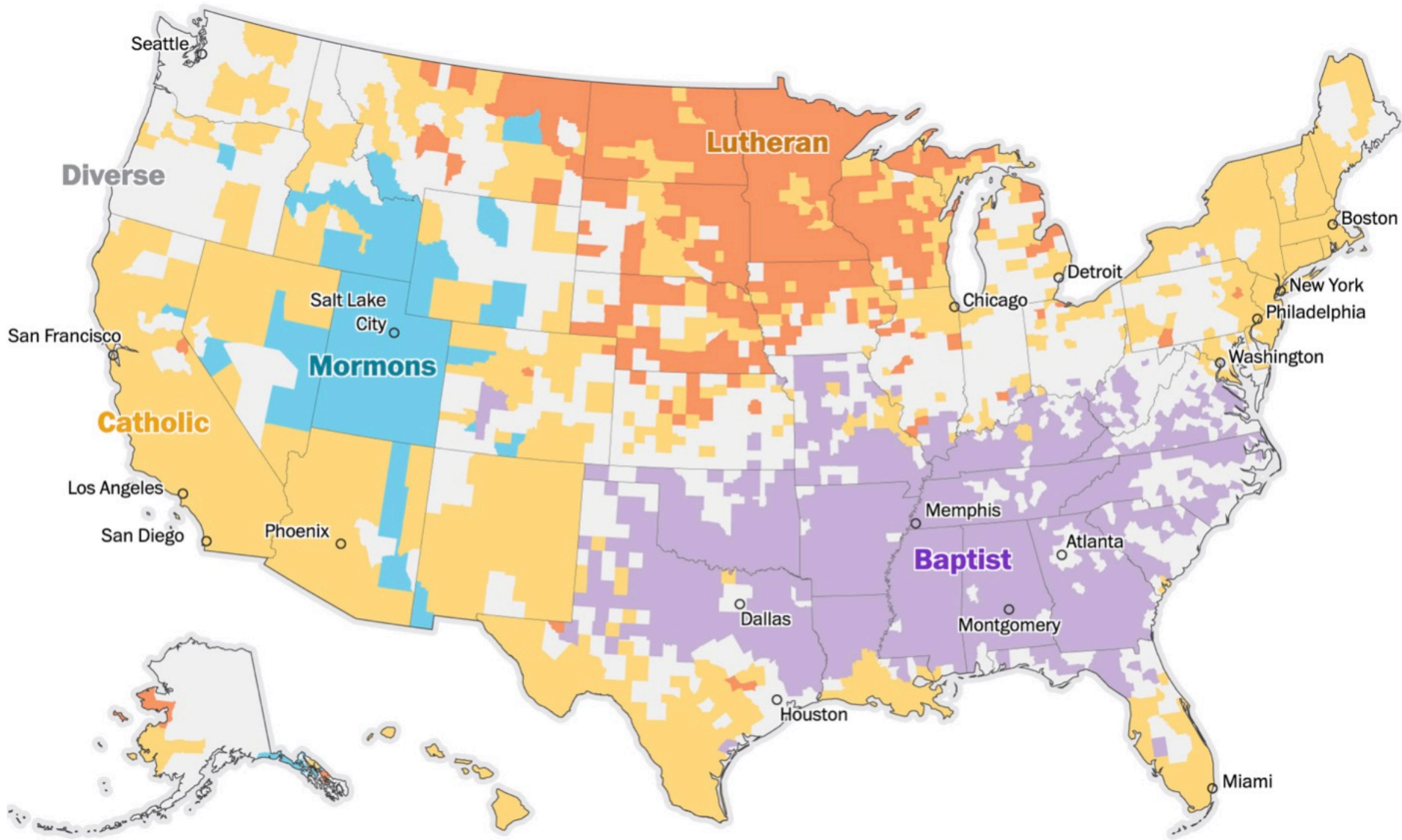
Main religious family by county

- Catholic
- Baptist
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Latter-day Saints
- Churches of Christ
- Other family



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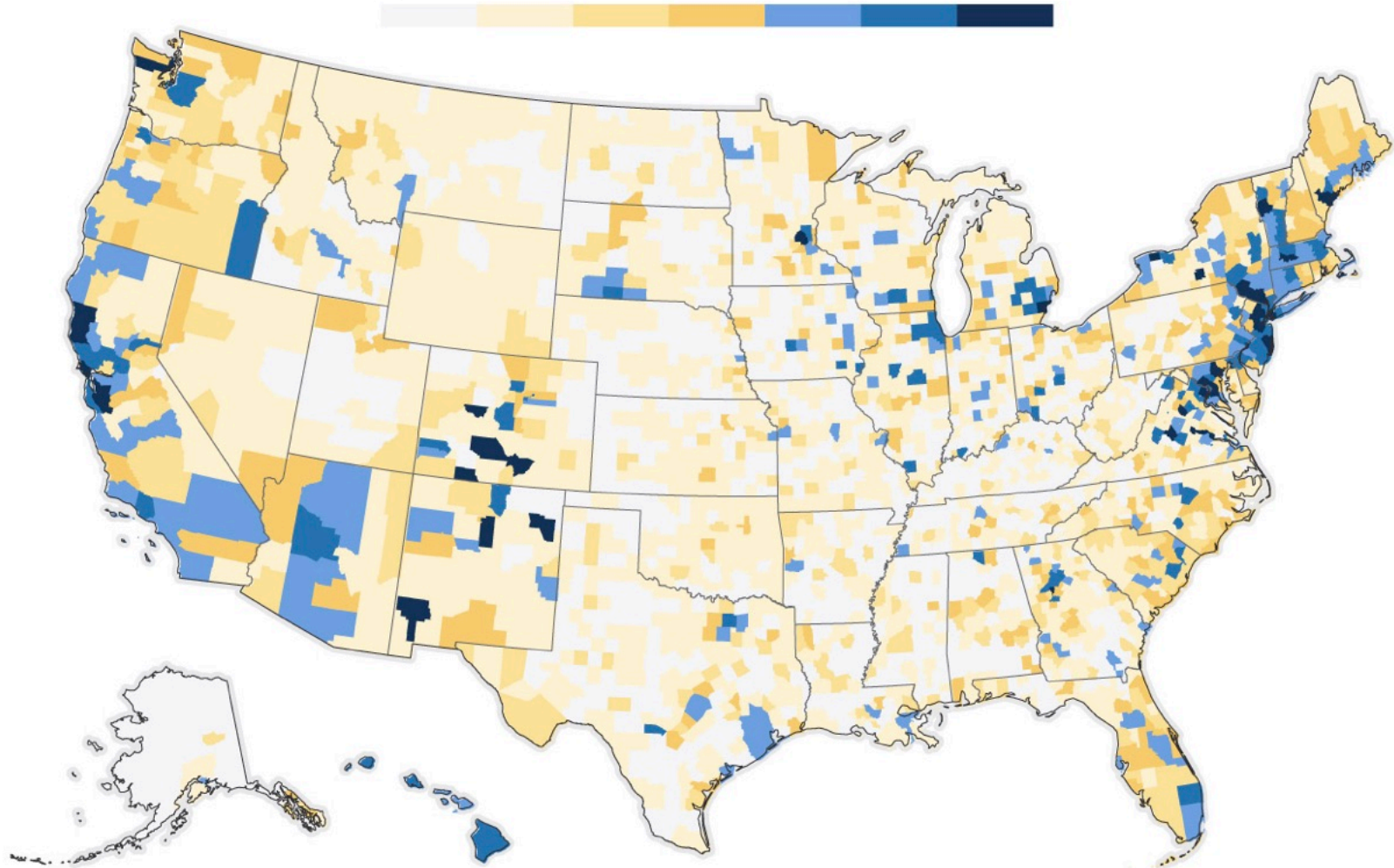


Source: 2020 U.S. Religion Census

DEPARTMENT OF DATA / THE WASHINGTON POST

Religious diversity if all Christian faiths are grouped together

◀ Less diverse More diverse ▶



Source: 2020 U.S. Religion Census

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Younger American Catholics

- (1) they are growingly diverse ethnically and culturally
- (2) they are more liberal or progressive on social issues than older American Catholics
- (3) there is likely a point-of-no-return on cultural shifts upon younger Americans, and likewise, American Catholics

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the American Catholic Church today and tomorrow

growingly unaffiliated or dis-affiliated with parishes - more than 1 way to be Catholic

trust and confidence in bishops is gone

sex abuse crisis has ripples that will not be seen for decades to come

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the American Catholic Church today and tomorrow

intercultural and multicultural - parishes are failing to respond and represent diversity of cultures

urban - urban - urban — rural America has been lost in so many ways

90% of U.S. GDP is in metropolitan areas (urban and suburban combined)

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the American Catholic Church today and tomorrow

Americans moved and the buildings didn't move with them

Buildings Serve People, Not People Serve Buildings

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present and future: Christian Practices

(1) things done together

(2) over time (thus repetitive in nature)

(3) in response and in light of God's presence

(4) in an attempt to address fundamental human needs

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present and future: Christian Practices

continuity in practices

where, how, when might change while the practices stay consistent

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present and future: Christian Practices

“The thing about American Catholicism is that it both exists and doesn't exist! What do I mean by that? I mean it exists in the sense that it's an *it*, something you and I can talk about, and we can identify elements of it and so forth. But it doesn't exist as some monolithic, unchanging thing. It's not as if any one person understands it and lives it out the same way all the time or in quite the same way as anyone else,” - Bill McNamara

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Discussion Questions

What are the practices in and around your faith you want to pass on to the next generation?

What are the practices from a younger generation you wish were included more in your religious environments?

According to Andrew Lester, HOPE is centered on the future tense. For the future you see in your family, your community, and your church, what is the shape or shade of hope for you?