Catholic Common Ground Initiative Meeting Murnion Lecture

Shaping Parish Life: Ongoing Influences of Vatican II and the Catholic Common Ground Initiative
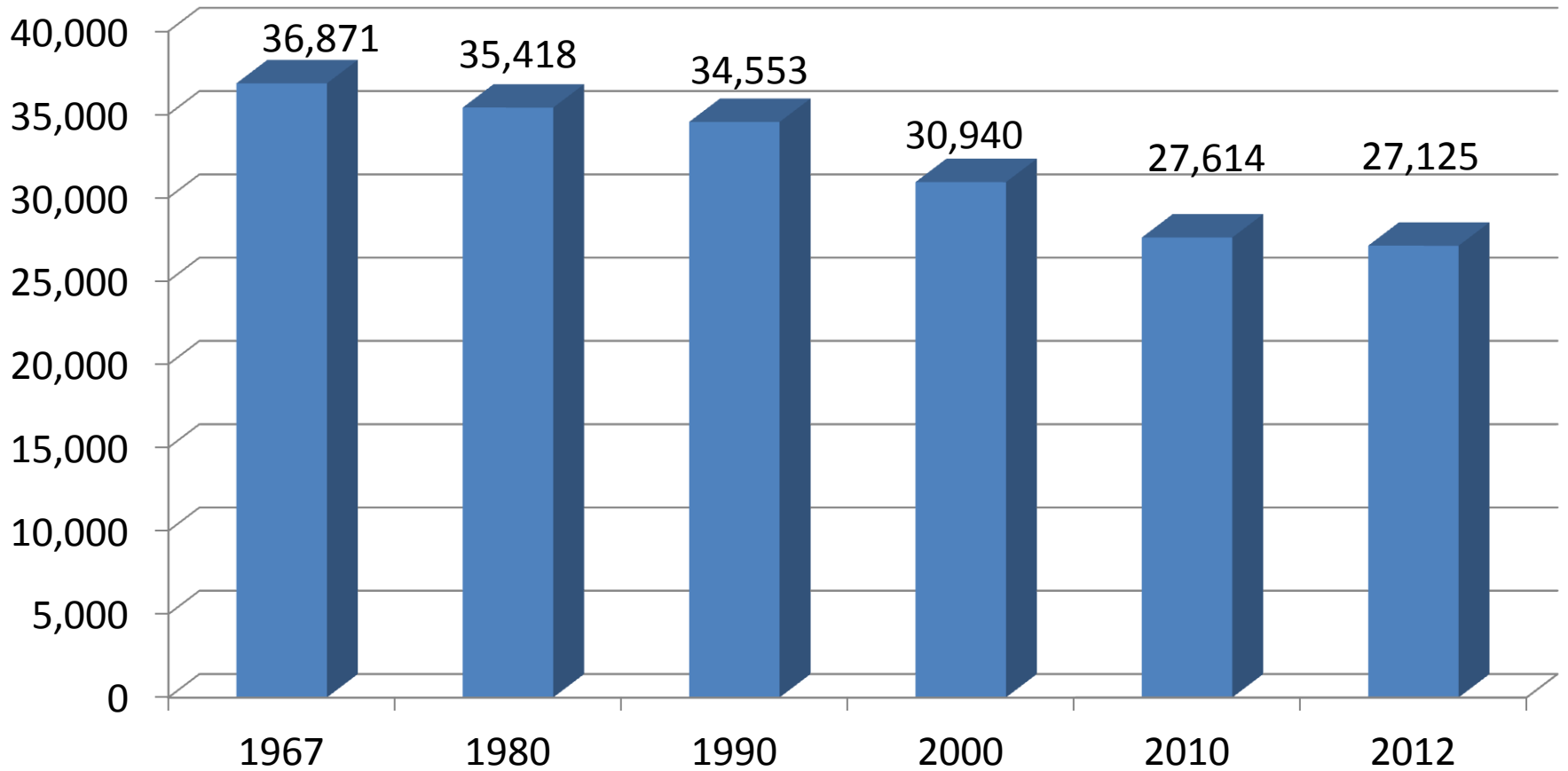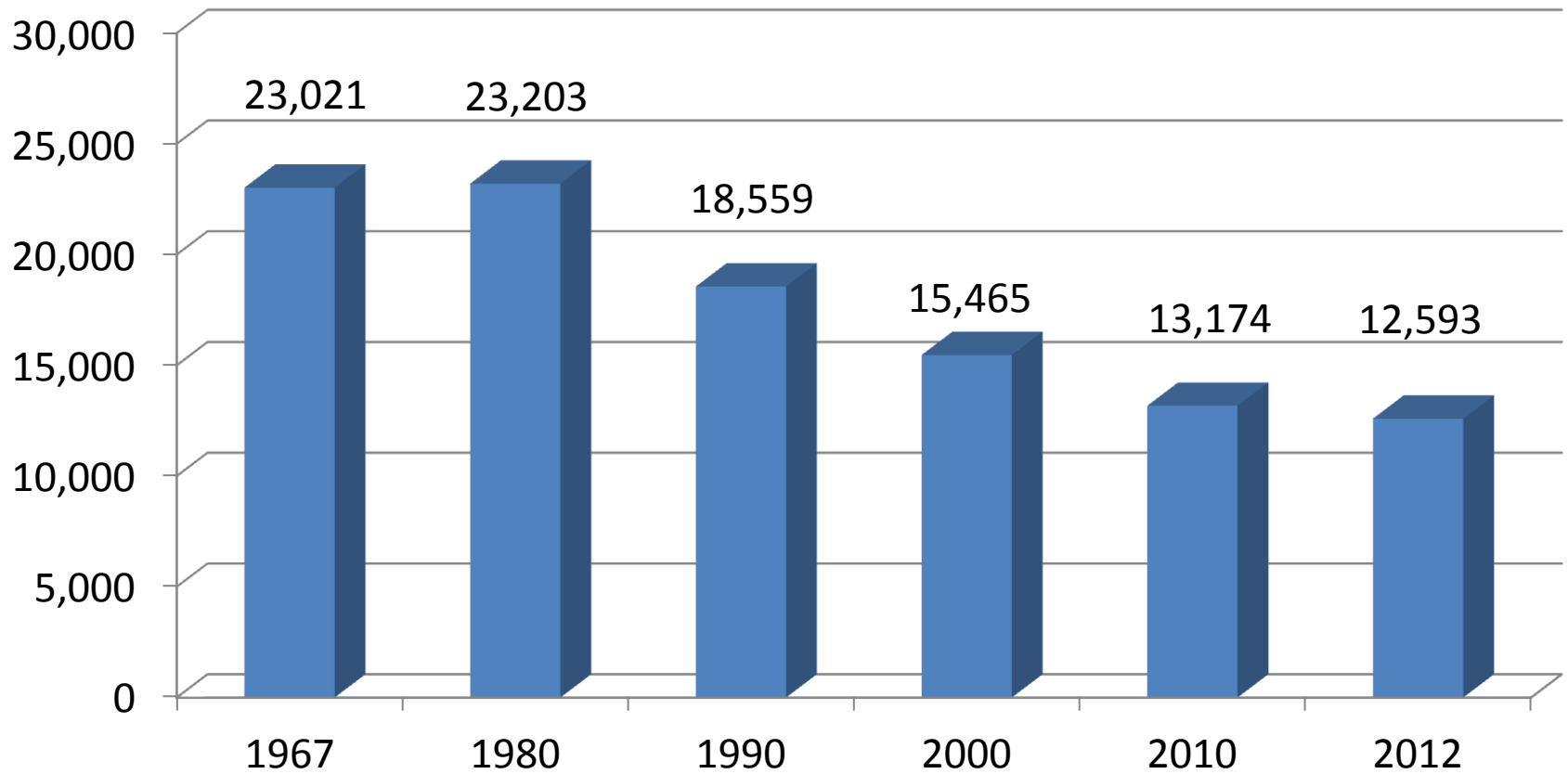
Sr. Katarina Schuth, O.S.F.

June 7, 2013

Personnel and Parish Statistics (1963-2012)

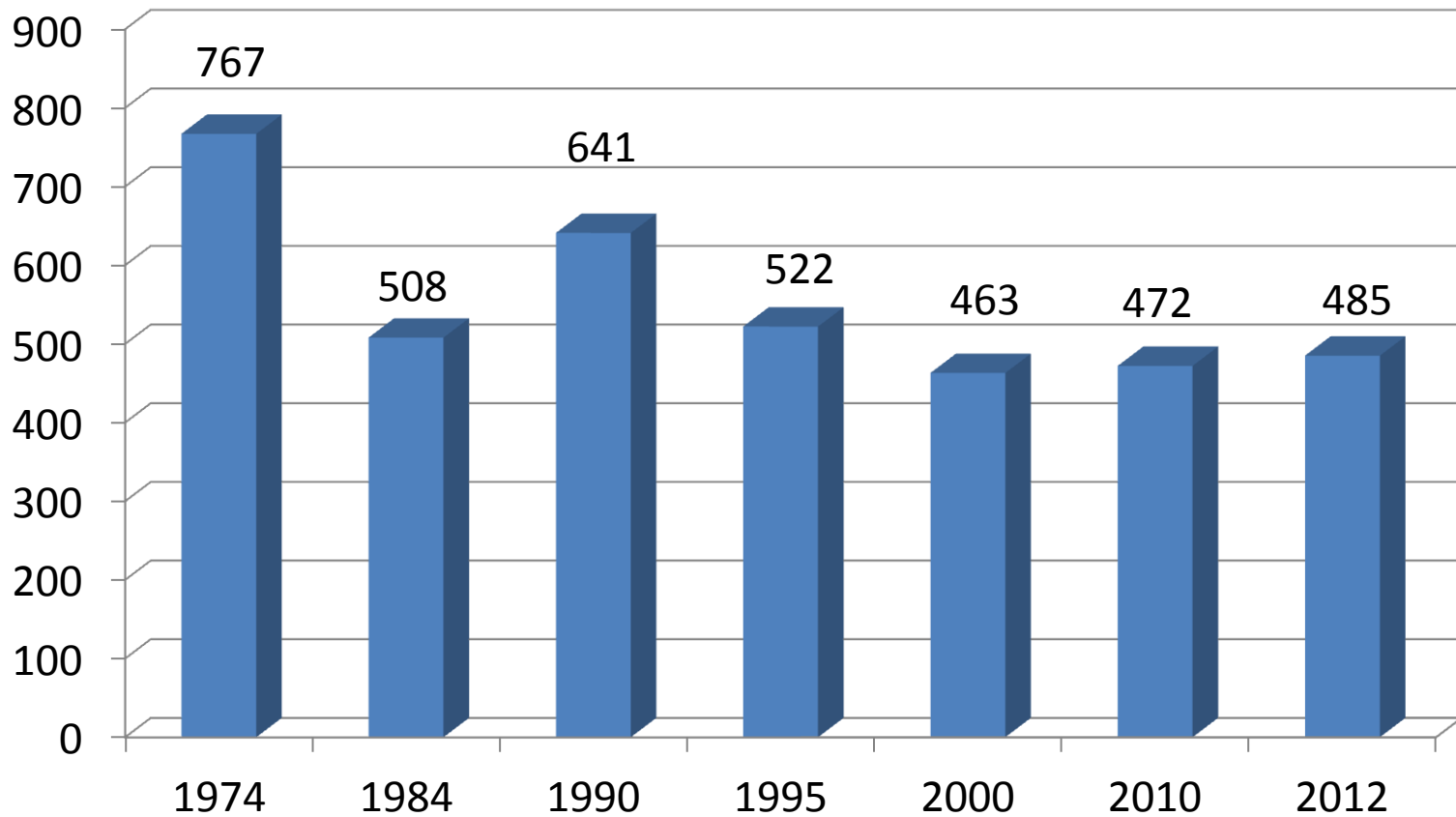|	**1963**	**2003**	**2012**
Priests	56,540	44,487	39,718
Sisters	177,154	74,698	55,045
Brothers	11,968	5,568	4,518
Catholics	43.9 m	66.4 m	68.2 m
Catholic Parishes	17,298	19,484	18,061
Catholics per Parish	2,538	3,408	3,776

Number of U.S. Diocesan Priests

Number of U.S. Religious Priests

Number of U.S. Ordinations
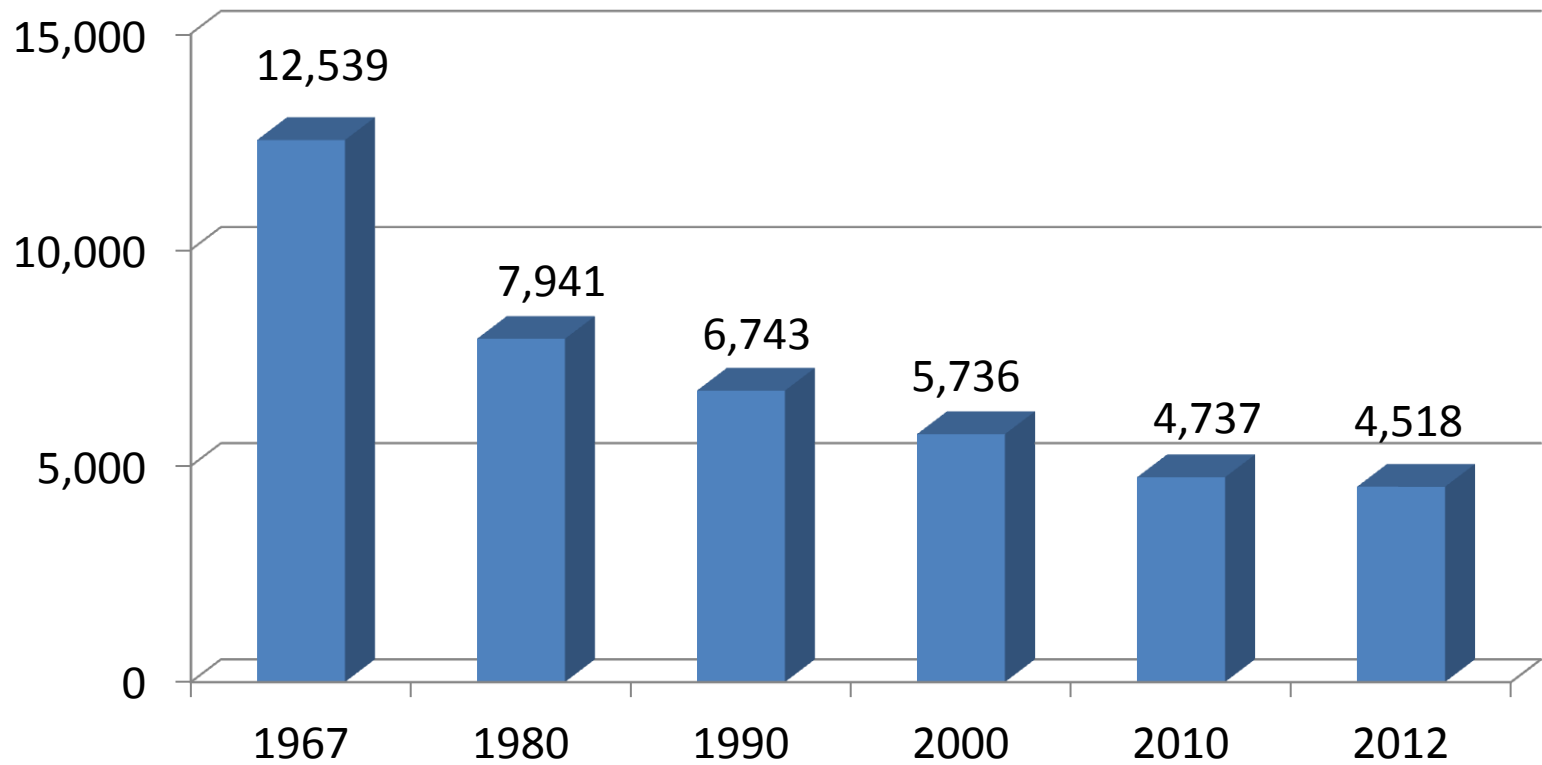
International Priests

- About 17 percent of priests serving in U.S. dioceses in 2004 were foreign-born, according to CARA research (87% diocesan)

- Some 30% of these men were educated in U.S seminaries; all others came already ordained and, in most cases, entered directly into ministry after only a brief orientation to American religious practices

Concern: Since most priests coming from other countries are unfamiliar with U.S. culture, language, and church practices it is difficult for some parishes to adjust to these pastors

Number of U.S. Sisters

Year	Number
1967	176,671
1980	126,517
1990	103,912
2000	81,161
2010	58,724
2012	55,045
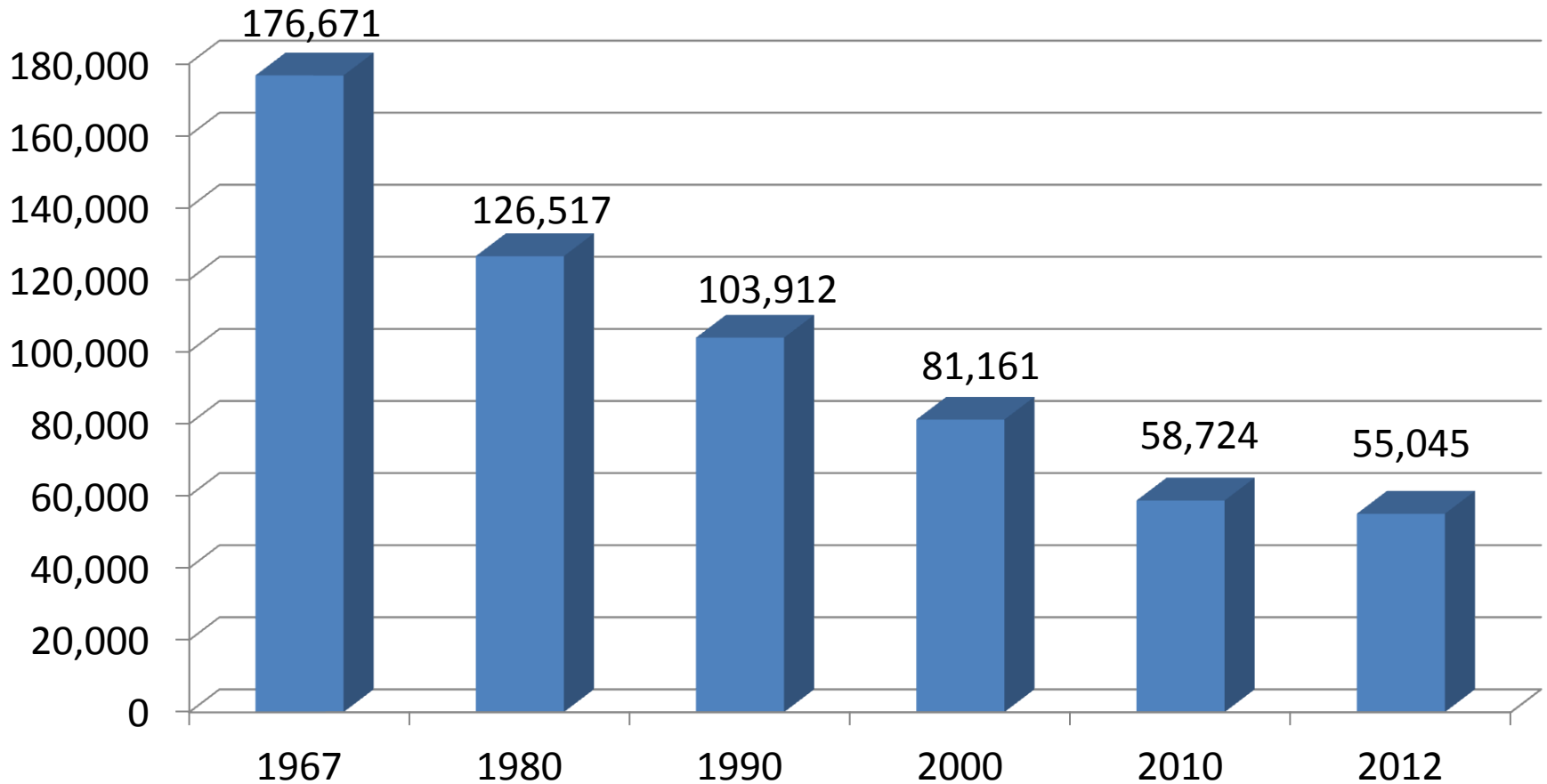
Number of U.S. Brothers

Further Personnel Statistics (1975-2012)

	1975	2000	2012
Permanent Deacons	900	12,862	17,816
Lay Ecclesial Ministers	5,000 (est.)	29,146 (1997)	37,929 (2010)
Lay Teachers *	104,827	150,561	152,018

 * In 1963 lay teachers numbered 62,677.

Number of U.S. Permanent Deacons
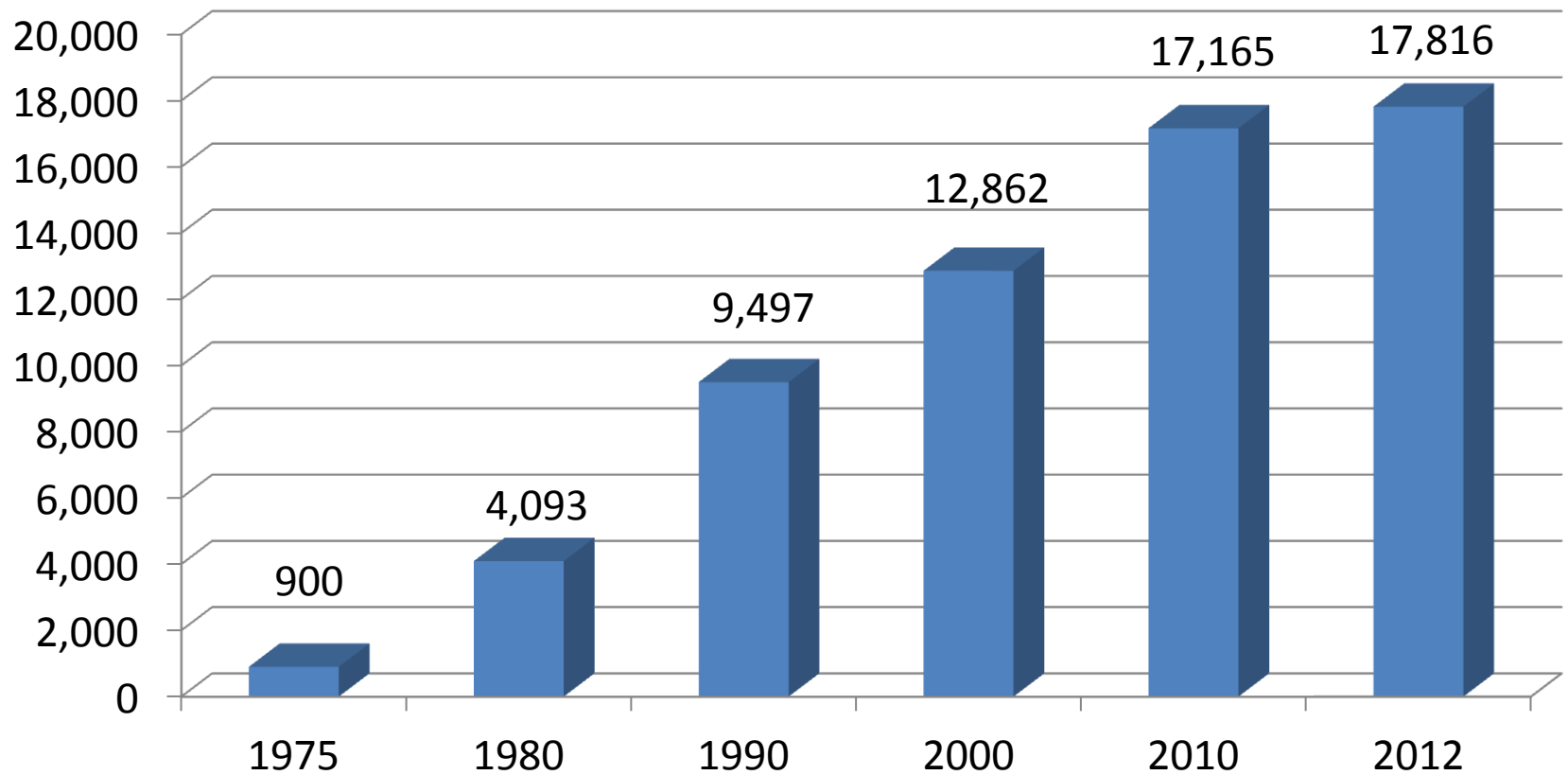
Number of U.S. Lay Ecclesial Ministers
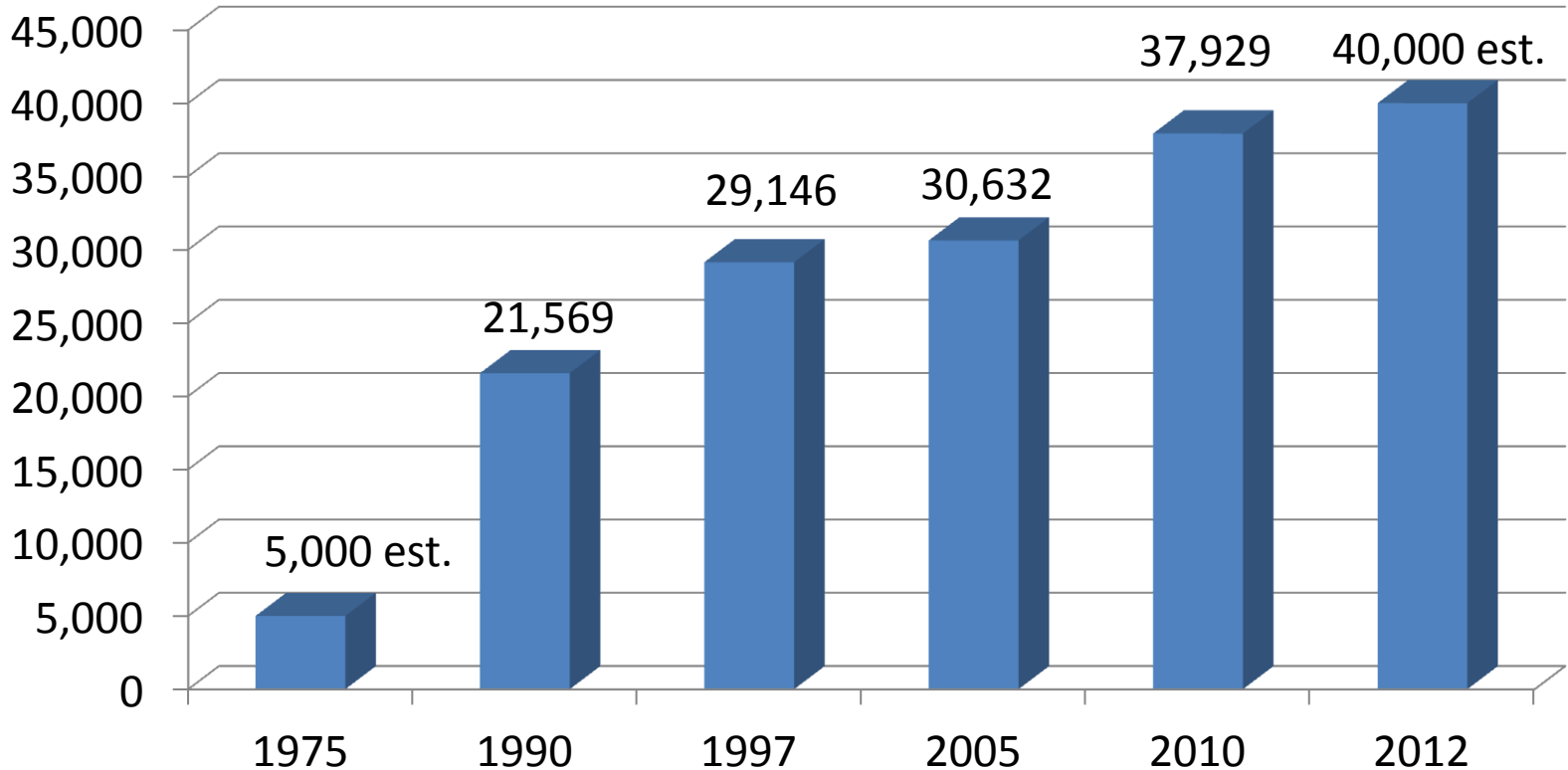
Source of 1990, 1997, and 2005 data: Lay Parish Ministers, David DeLambo, 2005; 2010 NALM data; 1975 and 2012 estimates

Ecclesial Status of Lay Parish Ministers

Ecclesial Status	1990	1997	2005	% Change 1990 – 2005
Religious Brothers	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	---
Religious Sisters	41%	28%	16%	- 25
Laywomen	44%	54%	64%	+20
Laymen	14%	17%	20%	+6
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	

DeLambo, David. Lay Parish Ministers. New York: National Pastoral Life Center, 2005, p. 45.

Lay Teachers (1963-2012)
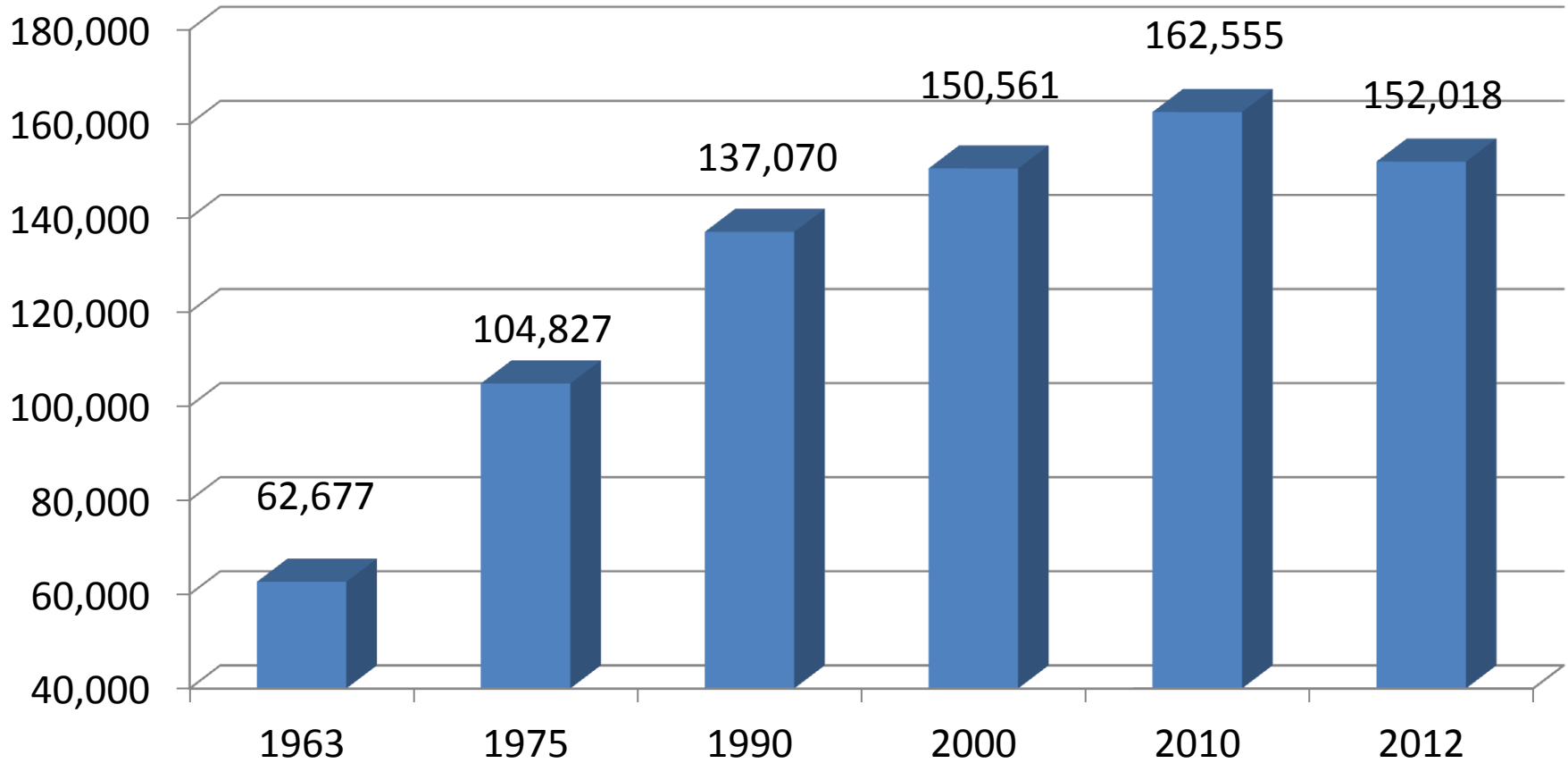
Parish Sizes

Type of Parish	Percent 2000	Percent 2010	# Registered Parishioners	# Registered Households
Mega Parishes	25%	33%	more than 3,000	more than 1,200
Corporate Parishes	25%	28%	1,200 – 3,000	550 – 1,200
Community Parishes	26%	24%	450 – 1,199	201 – 549
Family Parishes	24%	15%	fewer than 450	200 or fewer

From *National Parish Inventory of 2000 and 2010* (CARA)

U.S. Roman Rite <u>Parishes</u> Served by a Priest with Multiple Parishes

2005 – 44% (9,109 of 20,668)

2010 – between 50% and 60%

U.S. Roman Rite <u>Priests</u> Serving Multiple Parishes

2005 – 20% (4,408 of 22,302)

2010 – at least 30% of parish priests

Multicultural Composition of Parishioners in the United States

	% of All Catholics	Number*	% of Group Catholic
Hispanic	35%	24.0 mil.	56%
Asian	4-5%	3.5 mil.	20%
African/Afr. Am.	3%	2.9 mil.	10%
Native American	1%	0.7 mil.	17%
Anglo/Caucasian	56%	38.0 mil.	23%

*Numbers (in millions) are approximate for 2010

Strength of Catholic Identity by Generation, 2005

	Level of Identity %			Generational %	
	Low %	Medium %	High %	1987	2005
Total Catholics	29	46	24	100	100
Pre-Vatican II	**22**	45	**33**	31	17
Vatican II	31	44	25	47	35
Post-Vatican II	**27**	50	24	22	40
Millennials	**47**	46	**7**	0	9

Adapted from: *American Catholics Today*, D'Antonio, Davidson, Hoge, and Gautier. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (2007) pp. 11 and 21.

The Theme of Incarnation

Father Murnion spoke of being "preoccupied these days with the original mystery and continuing mystery of the Incarnation...the wonder of who He was, the love that bore him, and the consequences for who we are."

"The crucifixion is, of course, the ultimate expression of the Incarnation, the self-emptying of Jesus."

"The Incarnation inaugurated a divine-human dialogue that resonated from the depths of being—the being of God and our own being—and calls us into dialogue."

The Theme of Dialogue

"How curious and sad that 'dialogue' has become a divisive word among us! What a waste of a gift!"

"I find that the healthiest spirit—where fellowship in faith, hope, and charity is reflected in mutual challenge, support, and a sense of humor—is where the priests with their bishop candidly discuss the issues facing the church."

"Through dialogue, cooperation and collaboration at all levels of the Church is furthered, with the Pope, bishops, priests, staff, and parishioners."

The Importance of Parish

"The parish is for most Catholics the single most important part of the church."

"Besides defining and expressing the identity of the individual as sacred, relational, and responsible, parishes define the world in ways that will affect one's involvement with the world."

The Meaning of a Pastoral Parish

To be pastoral a parish must be

❖ "accountable to official teaching and norms but accommodating to local cultures and individual needs;

❖ attentive to the demands of personal piety and morality as well as to social morality and spirituality;

❖ authentic in its teaching and worship and very pragmatic in its programming."

The Meaning of Pastoring

"Pastoring requires constantly reaching out to those who are not part of the community and especially those who are most marginal, most distressed, most in need.

It means enabling parishioners to be missionary in their families, work, and communities— bringing the life, meaning and message of Jesus and his Gospel to all they do."

The Eucharist in Parish Life

Using the image of the Body of Christ for the Church, Fr. Murnion maintained that church design and worship practice should make clear

❖ "the relationship between word and sacrament, the congregation and the presider, the spiritual and physical, and material reality and action."

"Our gathering in the Eucharist and our going out to the poor are intrinsic to each other."

Organization of Parish Life: Planning

"Once I was accused of 'having an agenda.'

My reaction was to say: 'Noooooooooooo!'

Of course I have an agenda. Don't you worry about those who either profess they don't or **actually don't** have an agenda.

Doesn't having an agenda mean having a mission that is more than wishful thinking?"