Catholic Driving Tour

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Faith Engaged!
Sharing Christ's Message since 1559
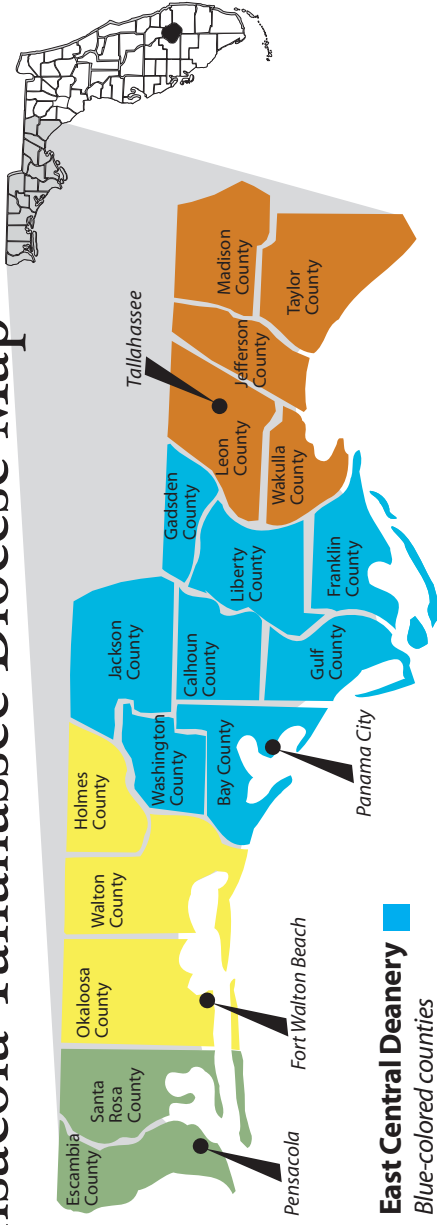
Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese Map

Tallahassee

Panama City

Fort Walton Beach

Pensacola

Northwest and Southwest Deaneries
Green-colored counties

Includes all of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and the cities of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, Gulf Breeze, Barrineau Park, Cantonment and Milton. *See pages 2 thru 8.*

West Central Deanery
Yellow-colored counties

Includes all of Okaloosa, Walton and Holmes counties and the cities of Bonifay, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Freeport, Mary Esther, Niceville and Santa Rosa Beach. *See pages 9 thru 11.*

East Central Deanery
Blue-colored counties

Includes all of Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties, and the cities of Panama City, Apalachicola, Bayou George, Blountstown, Cap San Blas, Chipley, Fountain, Marianna, Mexico Beach, Panama City Beach, Port St. Joe, Sunny Hills and Wewahitchka. *See pages 12 thru15.*

Eastern Deanery
Orange-colored counties

Includes all of Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties, and the cities of Tallahassee, Lanark Village, Chattahoochee, Crawfordville, Madison, Monticello, Perry, Quincy and Woodville. *See pages 16 thru 19.*

CATHOLIC
DRIVING TOUR

A driving tour of Catholic points of interest in northwest Florida

T he Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee has the distinction of having grown from roots that extend back to 1559 and the landing of Tristan de Luna in the Pensacola area. As the weary Spanish settlers alit on the sugar-white sands for the first time, they thanked God for a safe voyage, and as Catholics have done here ever since, expressed their thanks through the celebration of the Eucharist.

Since that first Mass in 1559 in what is now the continental United States, the Catholic Church of northwest Florida has grown to embrace parishes and missions, Catholic schools and organizations, and nearly 70,000 Catholic people in 18 counties. From the "Cross on the Beach," erected by the Knights of Columbus on Pensacola Beach to commemorate that first Mass, to Mission San Luis in Tallahassee, where hundreds of native Americans joined with Franciscan friars in 1656 to spread the faith throughout the Big Bend area, and beyond, for 450 years Catholic people have spread the Gospel and celebrated the Eucharist, giving thanks to God for the bountiful blessings he continues to bestow on us.
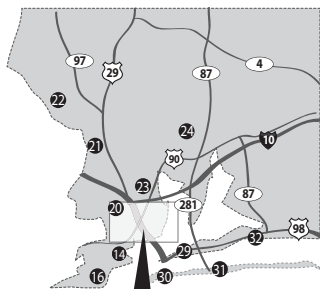
We invite you to explore the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, and to celebrate with us our heritage of being a Eucharistic community, "Sharing Christ's message since 1559."
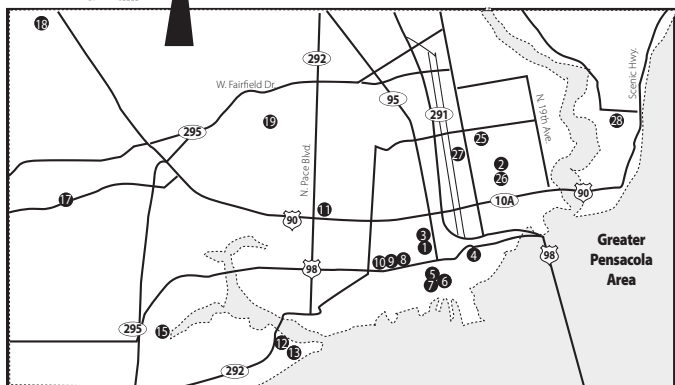
Most Rev. John H. Ricard, SSJ
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Cover photo by D.J. Zemenick

To the best of our knowledge, this is the current footprint of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Some parishes came before these listed, and for various reasons, they either closed or merged with other parishes. This brochure is not meant to be used as a historical document, but rather as a means to travel through and learn about the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. While considerable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please notify us via e-mail at faithengaged@ptdiocese.org with corrections or additions.

Southwest and Northwest Deaneries

Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, Pensacola Beach, Barrineau Park, Cantonment, Milton

1. St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 1781
19 N. Palafox Street, Pensacola

Dating back to Don Tristan de Luna's landing in 1559, St. Michael the Archangel Parish is the oldest canonically established parish in the Province of Miami. Because of multiple fires and storms, the parish has built and rebuilt the church numerous times. The Victorian 1886 St. Michael the Archangel Church sits on the corner of Palafox and Chase streets. From this one parish sprang numerous churches in northwest Florida. Appropriately, St. Michael the Archangel is called Mater Ecclesia. Parish office, 850-438-4985. www.stmichael.ptdiocese.org

2. Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1905
1212 E. Moreno Street, Pensacola

Local Catholics built Sacred Heart Catholic Church in 1905 on the corner of 9th Avenue and Jackson Street. The parish moved Sacred Heart Church and School to 12th Avenue and East Moreno Street. In 1967, the Spanish-style Sacred Heart Church was built. When the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee formed in 1975, Sacred Heart Church became Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Cathedral office, 850-438-3131. www.shc.ptdiocese.org

3. St. Michael Interparochial School, founded 1860

601 North Palafox, Pensacola

Because of the interruption of the Civil War, St. Michael Academy officially began in 1871. Both the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Sisters of Mercy operated the school on different occasions. In 1912, it moved into a new building for first grade through high school. In 1939, it was the first grade school in Florida to be awarded accreditation from the state. In 1941, the high school portion ceased to exist when Central Catholic High School of Pensacola - later renamed Pensacola Catholic High - opened. In 1961, St. Michael Elementary School moved to North Palafox Street and became St. Michael Interparochial School. The school closed in 2008.

4. St. Michael Cemetery, 1790

6 N. Alcaniz Street, Pensacola

Pensacola residents used the burial grounds on what were the outskirts of the colonial city. Today it sits near the edge of downtown Pensacola. The St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation of Pensacola, Inc., owns it. Foundation, 850-436-4643. www.stmichaelscemetery.org

5. St. Joseph Parish and School, 1892

140 W. Government Street, Pensacola

St. Joseph was built for the Creoles and blacks in the Diocese of Mobile, to which Pensacola belonged in 1892. St. Katharine Drexel of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament provided money for the current church. The parish opened St. Joseph's Colored School, St. Joseph Creole School and St. Joseph Boarding School and Orphanage, which have since closed. St. Joseph Catholic Church enjoys a diverse congregation today. The parish remodeled the church in the 1950s and again after it sustained heavy storm damage in 2004. Parish office, 850-436-6461. www.stjosephchurchpensacola.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14395

6. Our Lady of Angels Hospital, 1946

133 Intendencia Street, Pensacola

In 1946, there was not a hospital in the Pensacola area that would accept indigent African-American maternity cases until the establishment of Our Lady of Angels Hospital. The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis staffed this facility, which was located behind St. Joseph Catholic Church. It closed in 1964, having served its purpose.

7. St. Joseph Clinic, 1948
131 West Intendencia Street, Pensacola

The St. Joseph Clinic opened in 1948 under the care of Our Lady of Angels Hospital. Today it continues to offer medical care to the poor and homeless community every week. Clinic, 850-434-8162.

8. Monsignor James Amos Pastoral Center, 2003
11 N. "B" Street, Pensacola

The Pastoral Center sits on the property previously occupied by St. Stephen Catholic School. Open to visitors, it houses the offices of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and the Interfaith Housing Coalition. Office, 850-435-3500. www.ptdiocese.org

9. St. Stephen Parish and School, 1922
900 W. Garden Street, Pensacola

From its beginning in a white-frame church in 1922, the parish has always maintained a constant flow of parishioners. The parish built the current building in 1954. The school closed in June 1973. Parish office, 850-432-9362. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14399

10. Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida main office
1000 West Garden Street, Pensacola

This office oversees the Catholic Charities offices in Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, Panama City and Tallahassee. The regional offices offer counseling and adoption services, refugee and immigration services and emergency assistance and case management. Office, 850-436-6410.
www.catholiccharitiesnwfl.org

11. St. Joseph Cemetery
Corner of N. Pace and Jackson Street, Pensacola

St. Joseph Parish, which was traditionally a parish for Creole and black families, established the cemetery in 1899.

12. St. Thomas More Parish and School, 1954
510 Bayshore Drive , Pensacola

The parish celebrated its first Mass in 1954 at Warrington Junior High School. They erected the church in 1956 and remodeled it in 2004. The parish school was closed in 1977 when the building was converted to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish. Parish office, 850-456-2543. www.saintthomasmore.net/index.htm

13. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, 1977

3295 Barrancas Avenue, Pensacola

Located next to St. Thomas More, this parish serves the Catholic Vietnamese community of Pensacola. Parish office, 850-455-2712. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=19158

14. St. John the Evangelist Parish and School, 1851

303 S. Navy Boulevard, Pensacola

In 1850, the Secretary of the Navy approved the construction of a Catholic church on the Navy reservation. In 1874, the Sisters of St. Joseph established St. John Academy. In 1878, the Sisters of Mercy arrived to begin 130 years of educating the children at St. John. In 1931, the parish moved to the current site. They built their present church in 1973. In 2008, the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco began their mission at the school. Parish office, 850-455-0356. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14394

15. St. John Catholic Cemetery, 1851

Old Corry Field Road, Pensacola

At the same time that parishioners had to move St. John the Evangelist Church off the Navy reservation, they also moved the cemetery to its present location.

16. Holy Spirit Parish, 1955

10650 Gulf Beach Highway, Pensacola

In 1955, a parishioner offered the use of his former night club for free in which to host Mass. A fire damaged 80 percent of the church in 1997, and in 1998 the parish built its current church. It has continued to grow since its beginning. Parish office, 850-492-0837. www.holyspiritpensacola.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14389

17. Little Flower Parish and School, 1945

6495 Lillian Highway, Pensacola

The parish formed in 1945 in the old Myrtle Grove Women's Clubhouse. A converted barn and house served as the first church and rectory. That same year, the parish opened Little Flower Catholic School. In 1948, it purchased WWII barracks to convert into the church and school. The parish dedicated a new multi-use building in 2008. Parish office, 850-455-5641. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14388

18. St. Anne Parish Bellview, 1936
5200 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola

In 1919, Bellview Catholics celebrated their first Mass in their own town at "Union Church," a community building for various Christian denominations. In 1977, the congregation began construction on the current Swiss-style church. Parish office, 850-456-5966.
www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14391

19. Pensacola Catholic High School, 1941
3043 West Scott Street, Pensacola

The revitalized Elk's Club Building on the comer of Garden and Baylen Streets housed all Catholic secondary students in Pensacola in 1941. Along with the all-important accreditation, scientific, library, classroom and office equipment were transferred from the former St. Michael High School. A centralized Catholic high school in Pensacola was a priority; locating it within the reach of all bus lines offered an opportunity to every Catholic high school student. In 1958, the school moved to its present location. School office, 850-436-6400. www.pensacolachs.org

20. St. Mary Parish, 1943
401 Van Pelt Lane, Pensacola

St. Mary Parish began in 1943 in Brent, which Pensacola has since incorporated into its city limits. The parish eventually moved its location to Van Pelt Lane, where they built a more expansive church in 1985. Parish office, 850-478-2797. http://parishesonline. com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14396

21. St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 1945
303 Rocky Avenue, Cantonment

By combining the predominately white parish of Santa Maria and the predominately African-American parish of Our Lady of Fatima, St. Jude Thaddeus Parish formed in 1966. It was the first completely integrated parish in the area. Parish office, 850-968-6189. www.stjudecantonment.wetpaint.com

22. St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, 1921
Route 196W, Barrineau Park Road

With the influx of Germans and Hungarians who came to work in the nearby sawmills, parishioners formed St. Elizabeth Parish in 1921. Parish office, 850-968-6189. www.stjudecantonment. wetpaint.com

23. Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 1969
9945 Hillview Drive, Pensacola

The parish celebrated Mass for three years in the Ferry Pass Middle School Cafeteria. They then built a church on a 20-acre tract close to the University of West Florida in 1972. This parish hosts an active Catholic campus ministry program. Parish office, 850-477-3221. www.nativityofourlordcc.org

24. St. Rose of Lima Parish, 1958
6451 Park Avenue, Milton

St. Rose of Lima Parish attributes its beginnings to St. Ann Church in nearby Bagdad, which parishioners erected in 1883. When the parish began to overflow, they closed St. Ann and erected St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Milton in 1957. Parish office, 850-623-3600. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14423

25. Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 1942
1300 E. Hayes Street, Pensacola

The cemetery occupies 40 acres in the East Hill section of Pensacola. The diocese purchased it in 1914 in anticipation of future needs, and it was developed as a cemetery for Catholic burials in 1942. Today the cemetery serves the needs of the entire Pensacola Christian community. Office, 850-432-0878. http://holycrosspensacola.com

26. Old Pensacola Hospital, 1915
5151 N. 9th Avenue, Pensacola

In 1915, Father Thomas Kennedy of Sacred Heart Parish worked with a rabbi, doctors and businessmen to establish a hospital on 12th Avenue in the East Hill neighborhood of Pensacola. The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul staffed the hospital. In 1949, it became Sacred Heart Hospital. After 50 years in the original building, the hospital relocated in 1965 to a new building at 9th Avenue and Brent Lane, across from Cordova Mall. Sacred Heart is the oldest Catholic hospital in Florida. www.sacred-heart.org

27. St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 1940
1804 N. Davis Highway, Pensacola

St. Anthony of Padua Parish was staffed by the Franciscan Friars of the St. Louis Province of the Sacred Heart in Missouri, who wanted to work among African-Americans. Although the parish remains open, the school closed in 1984. The former school building now houses the Catholic Charities Family Outreach Center. Parish office. Parish office, 850-436-6422. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14393

28. St. Paul Parish and School, 1963
1700 Conway Drive, Pensacola

In 1963, the diocese divided Sacred Heart Parish to create St. Paul Parish. On March 8, 1964, the parish broke ground for a church and school. In 2007, it added onto the school, and in August of 2008, Bishop John H. Ricard dedicated the new St. Paul Catholic Church. Parish office, 850-434-2551. www.stpaulcatholic.net/church

29. St. Ann Parish, 1949
100 Daniel Drive, Gulf Breeze

St. Ann Parish in Gulf Breeze opened on June 5, 1949. Today the parish includes a 1,200-seat church, chapel, Discovery School, parish hall and family life center. This parish served as a disaster recovery center after Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Parish office, 850-932-2859. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/org.asp?p=1&ID=19161

30. Pensacola Beach Cross, 1957
Fort Pickens Road, Gulf dunes

This 10-foot, cast concrete cross on Pensacola Beach along the south side of Fort Pickens Road commemorates the first Catholic Mass celebrated in 1559 in what is now the United States. The Knights of Columbus erected it.

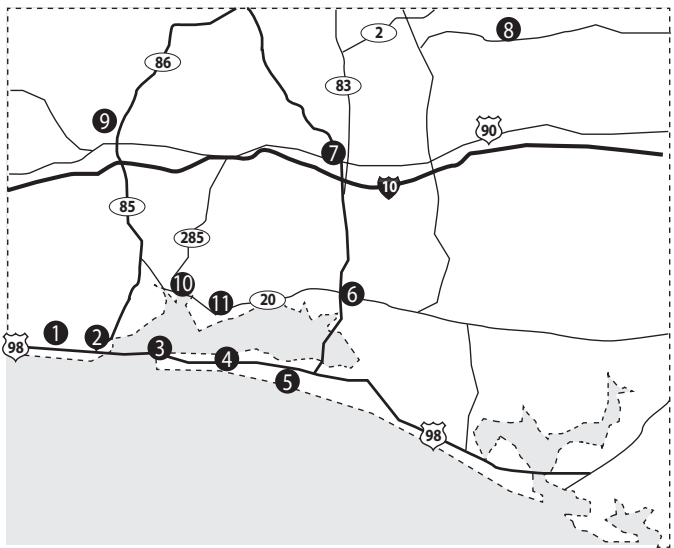## 31. Our Lady of the Assumption Mission, 1979
920 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach

Once called St. James the Greater Mission, this mission on Santa Rosa Island spent its earliest days in the Holiday Inn Hotel. The diocese canonically changed the name to Our Lady of the Assumption Mission on August 15, 1984. In 1999, the mission moved into a new church. The mission rebuilt it in 2004 and 2005 due to hurricane damage. Mission office, 850-932-2859. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=21326

32. St. Sylvester Parish, 1979
6464 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze

Formed in 1979, the parish celebrated Mass in a country club and at the pastor's house before it moved east and across Highway 98 from the original site. On July 13, 2008, Bishop John H. Ricard dedicated a new, larger church. Parish office, 850-939-3020. www.parishesonline.com/Scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14435

West Central Deanery

Bonifay, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Freeport, Miramar Beach, Niceville, Santa Rosa Beach, Mary Esther

1. St. Peter Parish, 1975
100 Francis Street, Mary Esther

A Pensacola businessman, John Kelly, donated the land for the parish in 1974 in honor of his parents, Peter and Molly Kelly. The church was dedicated in 1979, and in 1980, the parish acquired a parish office and religious education classrooms. In 1998, the parish renovated the church. Parish office, 850-581-2556. www. parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/org.asp?p=1&ID=14421

2. St. Mary Parish and School, 1914
110 St. Mary Avenue, S.W., Fort Walton Beach

Before the establishment of a church in Fort Walton Beach, the local Catholic community took a six-hour boat ride once a month to St. Joseph Church in Pensacola. It took a priest on vacation to what was then known as Camp Walton in 1914 to finally organize a Mass for residents of the area within their own town limits. St. Mary Catholic School opened in 1946. The parish now includes a renovated church, school and a new family life center, dedicated in 2008. Parish office, 850-243-3742.
www.saintmarychurchfwb.org

3. Corpus Christi Parish, 1977
307 Beach Drive, Destin

When the parish was officially established on Oct. 25, 1977, the congregation celebrated Mass in a parishioner's residence. Eventually, the parish hosted Mass in the religious education building until they built a church in 1983. Parish office, 850-654-5422. http://www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14415

4. Resurrection Parish, 1981
259 Miramar Beach Drive, Destin

Bishop Rene Gracida, founding bishop of this diocese, celebrated Mass in 1981 at Faith Assembly Church, establishing a mission at Miramar Beach. The same day, a local parishioner donated six acres of land on which to build a church. They built the church in 1986, and in 2001, the parish built a new church. They purchased a new rectory off parish grounds in 2003, and the old rectory became office space. Parish office, 850-837-0357.
www.rcc-destin.org

5. St. Rita Parish, 1982
137 Moll Drive, Santa Rosa Beach

Four years after the diocese established the parish, Father Eugene Casserly, pastor, distributed literature that advertised St. Rita Parish in order to invite "fallen away" Catholics to the parish. The current church was dedicated in 2001. The parish also operates a pre-school. Parish office, 850-267-2558.
www.saintritaparish.org

6. Christ the King Mission, 1984
15542 U.S. Highway 331 S, Freeport

Established first in the First Methodist Church of Freeport, Christ the King eventually found its home in an abandoned gas station/oyster house. The mission's earliest parishioners worked to beautify the building. The mission dedicated a new church in 1987. Mission office, 850-267-2558.
http://freewebs.com/ctkmission

7. St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, 1931
247 US Highway 333 N, DeFuniak Springs

When more and more Catholics began settling in the area in the 1930s, local businesses, particularly realtors, realized the need for churches. These realtors donated land, materials and labor to help build sanctuaries, including St. Margaret of Scotland Parish. In 1981, the parish celebrated its golden jubilee with the dedication of a new church building. Parish office, 850-892-9247.
www.stmargaret.ptdiocese.org

8. Blessed Trinity Parish, 1979
2331 Highway 177A, Bonifay

Bonifay residents had planned their first Mass in the town in a Quaker's dancing studio. In the early hours of the morning on the day of the planned Mass, however, the studio burned. Soon after, 46 families attended Mass in a parishioner's living room. The parish built the current church in 1979. Parish office, 850-547-3735. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14409

9. Our Lady of Victory Parish, 1955
550 Adams Drive, Crestview

The parish first hosted Mass in a funeral home and then in a laundromat. In 1955, they built a church. Bishop Ricard dedicated the remodeled version of this church in 2008. Parish office, 850-682-4622. http://olv-crestview.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14413
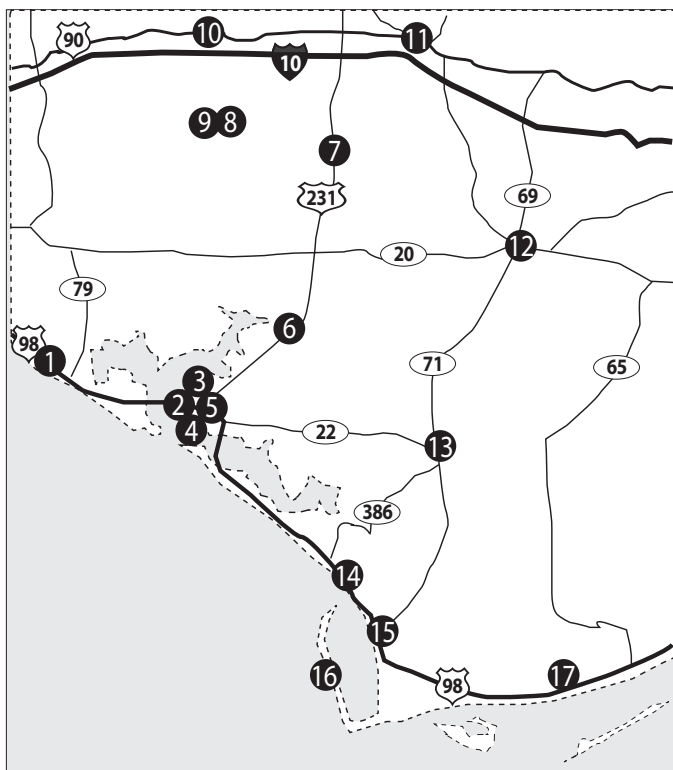
10. Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 1959
1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville

Before parishioners built the parish, Mass had not been celebrated in Niceville. St. Mary Parish in Fort Walton Beach assisted with the cost to build the church. The parish moved into Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church on Easter Sunday, 1960. Parish office, 850-678-7813. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14426

11. Christ Our Redeemer Parish, 1987
1028 White Point Road, Niceville

The newest parish in the diocese, Christ Our Redeemer hosted Mass for years in their multi-celebrational center before dedicating a new church in 2008. Parish office, 850-897-7797. http://corcatholic.org

East Central Deanery

Apalachicola, Bayou George, Blountstown, Cape San Blas, Chipley, Fountain, Marianna, Mexico Beach, Panama City, Panama City Beach, Port St. Joe, Sunny Hills, Wewahitchka

1. St. Bernadette Parish and School, 1956

1214 Moylan Road, Panama City Beach

In the early days of the parish, a priest celebrated Mass in a theater on the beach before they built their own church in 1959. The parish has grown to include a school as well as a child development center. Parish office, 850-234-3266. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14429

2. St. John the Evangelist Parish and School, 1945

1008 Fortune Avenue, Panama City

The parish began for shipyard workers in a recreation hall. When the priest said Mass on Sunday morning, the hall still smelled of cigarette smoke from the previous night's parties. The parish built the current church in 1991. Parish office, 850-763-1821. http://www.stjohn-panamacity.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14428

3. Catholic Cemetery
Frankford Avenue, one block south of Hwy. 98, Panama City

This cemetery was the burial spot of many prominent Catholic residents in Panama City.

4. Sts. Peter and Paul Mission, 1976
1003 East Avenue, Panama City

In 1979, the diocese bought a church for the Vietnamese community in Panama City. In 1997, the mission built a new church, which they occupy today. In 2007, they broke ground for a new parish hall. Mission office, 850-872-0601.

5. St. Dominic Parish, 1890
3308 East 15th Street, Panama City

Because there was no Catholic church in the later 1800s in present-day Panama City, Lt. Commander Francis Henry Sheppard invited missionaries to travel by boat twice a year from St. Michael Church in Pensacola to his home to say Mass. He then donated four lots of land to diocese. Ten years later, he witnessed the erection of St. Andrew Catholic Church, which later became St. Dominic Church. The parish built the church on the current location in 1981. Parish office, 850-785-4574. www.stdominic. ptdiocese.org/

6. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 1982
5622 Julie Drive, Highway 231, Bayou George

In 1985, parishioners helped to erect the church by building the interior framing and drywall, installing the insulation and painting the drywalls. In 1988, the 2,650-square foot parish house was dedicated. The parish built an education building in 1997, and they plan to build a family life center. Parish office, 850-769-5067. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14407

7. Our Lady Queen of Peace Mission, 1972
18005 Lazy Lane, Fountain

One particular priest who said Mass in Blountstown, 31 miles from Fountain, bought a bus and hired a driver to pick up Fountain residents before they acquired their own mission. They built the current church in 1973 and a parish hall in 2007. Mission office, 850-769-5067. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/ HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=19159

8. St. Theresa Parish, 1972
2071 Sunny Hills Blvd., Sunny Hills

Deltona Corporation, land developers, donated eight and one half acres to the parish on which to build a church. Msgr. Francis Szczykutowicz came to the parish in 1985 to serve as the first permanent pastor. Parish office, 850-773-3406. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14434

9. Memorial Park Calvary Cemetery, 1982
1917 Gap Blvd., Sunny Hills

In 1982, 4.82 acres was deeded to St. Theresa Parish to use as a Catholic cemetery. The donors were members of St. Theresa Church.

10. St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 1968
1640 Main Street, Chipley

The parish first began meeting in a storefront church in downtown Chipley, then they moved to a small metal highway building. On Christmas in 1995, parishioners celebrated Mass in their new church. Parish office, 850-482-3734. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14412

11. St. Anne Parish, 1947
3009 Fifth Street, Marianna

The only permanent Catholics in the area were the Miltons. A priest occasionally traveled to say Mass in their home. Since no Catholic church existed in Marianna until 1947, visiting priests regularly offered Mass at the Milton residence for over 30 years. They built the church in 1948. Parish office, 850-482-3734. www.stannemarianna.org

12. St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1972
16498 SW Gaskin Street, Blountstown

Before the parish built a church in 1985, parishioners attended Mass in an old train station, various homes, a funeral home chapel and a trailer. Parish office, 850-674-4482. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14408

13. St. Lawrence Mission, 1978
788 N. Highway 71, Wewahitchka

Parishioners attended Mass in a funeral home, vacant grocery store and dilapidated trailer before they got their own church in 1989. Mission office, 850-636-5787.

14. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, 1980
1500 15th Street, Mexico Beach

Parishioners first attended Mass at the mission in a trailer before they built a church in 1985 on four acres of land. Mission office, 850-648-3006. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=21356

15. St. Joseph Parish, 1920
202 20th Street, Port St. Joe

A priest from Apalachicola traveled to Port St. Joe once a month to say Mass in a parishioner's home. Because the roads between the two cities were horse paths, the priest rode a Cadillac mounted on railroad wheels in order to ride the railroad tracks. They built the current church in 1957. Parish office, 850-229-1417. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14431
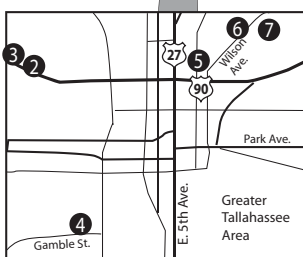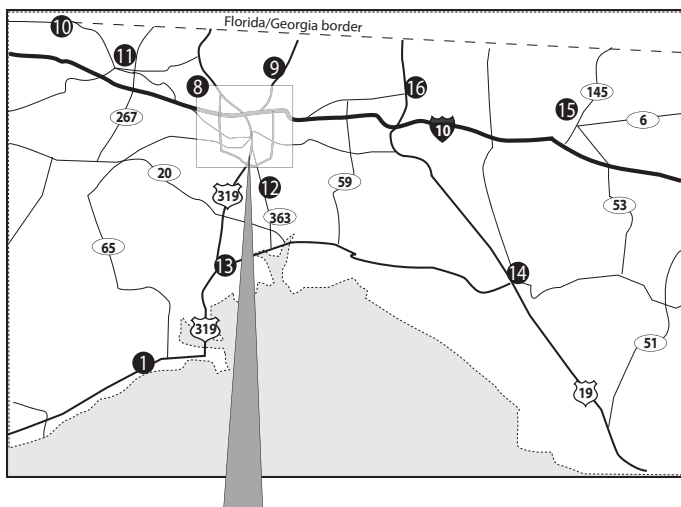
16. San Blas Mission
Near entrance of state park, Port St. Joe

This mission is only open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In English, the name translates to St. Blaise. Mission office, 850-227-1417.

17. St. Patrick Parish and School, 1851
27 Sixth Street, Apalachicola

The parish began building a frame church in 1851, but before they finished, a hurricane destroyed it. The pastor traveled from Apalachicola to New Orleans to beg for funds. One year later, the parish rebuilt. In 1901, the corner stone of St. Patrick Parochial School was laid, which closed about 50 years later. In 1929, Father Michael J. Keyes and his parishioners, who included 100 families, completed the construction of the current Italian Romanesque-style St. Patrick Church. In 1920, Holy Family Church became a mission to serve the African-Americans in the area, and the Sisters of the Holy Family Order operated a school. By 1974, the school had closed and the current pastor sold the building. Holy Family Mission also eventually closed, merging with St. Patrick. Parish office, 850-653-9453. www.stpatricksmass.com

Eastern Deanery

Tallahassee, Lanark Village, Chattahoochee, Crawfordville, Madison, Monticello, Perry, Quincy, Woodville

1. Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1960
2653 Highway 98 Gulf Terrace, Lanark Village

St. Joe Paper Company donated one tract of 11 acres on which to build a church. The diocese purchased three additional acres in hope of future growth. They built a new building in 1960, which is the current church. Parish office, 850-697-3669. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14418

2. Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 1967
900 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee

Although the parish wasn't formed until 1967, some people believe that this parish began in the 1930s when a group of young women attending then-Florida State College for Women began the Newman Club in which to practice their faith. It became the Co-Cathedral in 1975. The parish hosts an active Catholic Student Union serving Florida State University. Co-Cathedral office, 850-222-9630. www.cocathedral.ptdiocese.org

3. Mission San Luis, 1655
Overlooks Ocala and Mission Roads on Highway 90, Tallahassee

This was the garrison for Spanish troops when they established missions to convert the Apalachee Indians to Christianity. The establishment date of the fort is not known, but the Spanish included it among their mission lists as early as 1655. When the English overtook the region in 1703, they left only mission San Luis standing. The mission is now owned by the Friends of San Luis, Inc. 850-487-3655. www.missionsanluis.org

4. St. Eugene Chapel, 1952
701 Gamble Street, Tallahassee

The chapel was established to serve the African-American Catholic community of Florida A & M University. It is a vibrant community serving a diverse population today. Parish office, 850-222-6482. http://steugenechapel.org

5. John Paul II Catholic High School, 2001
5100 Terrebonne Drive, Tallahassee

Opened in 2001, it is the mission of John Paul II Catholic High to provide an affordable college preparatory curriculum within a Christ-centered Catholic environment. This mission encompasses the education of the whole person, spirit, mind and body, within the tradition of the Catholic Church. It is surrounded by oak trees on 37 acres of land. School office, 850-201-5744. www.JPIICHS.org

6. Blessed Sacrament Parish, 1845
624 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee

Established in 1845, this is the second oldest parish in the diocese. The parish worshiped together for one year in a church they built while also serving missions in Lake City, Madison, Monticello, St. Marks, Newport, Quincy and Chattahoochee. Then flames engulfed the structure, sparing only the bell and a few small objects. The parish built the current church in 1979. Parish office, 850-222-1321. www.bsc.ptdiocese.org

7. Trinity Catholic School, 1952
706 East Brevard Street, Tallahassee

Opened as Blessed Sacrament School in 1952 with three Dominican sisters and one lay teacher, it was the first Catholic school in Tallahassee in 80 years. In the 1970s, the emphasis of the school became multi-parish, encompassing the three parishes in Tallahassee at the time: Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Good Shepherd Parish and Blessed Sacrament. Hence, the name changed to Trinity Catholic School. The school has since become a ministry only of Blessed Sacrament Parish, although children from other parishes attend. School office, 850-222-0444. www.trinityknights.org

8. St. Louis Parish, 1979
3640 Fred George Road, Tallahassee

In the first month as a parish, parishioners celebrated Mass at Talquin Electric. They then moved to Capitol Cinema, where they used the screen for slide presentations and the lighting effects for special Masses. They completed the current church in 1984, and broke ground for a family life center in 2007. Parish office, 850-562-5140. www.stlouis.ptdiocese.org

9. Good Shepherd Parish, 1973
4665 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee

Good Shepherd's vast geographic boundary first included all of Leon County that lay north of Interstate 10, which was under construction at the time. It was an area 30 miles wide, reaching to the Georgia state border. This church was the first construction Bishop Rene Gracida approved in the new Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, which formed in 1975. In 1986, the parish built a new church. Bishop John Ricard dedicated the new parish center and church expansion in 2000. Parish office, 850-893-1837. www.goodshepherdparish.org

10. Holy Cross Parish, 1972
4034 Memorial Blue Star Highway, Chattahoochee

Priests originally visited the area from Tallahassee to administer sacraments to patients at Florida State Hospital, a mental health facility. They built a church for nearby residents in 1972. Parish office, 850-663-4610. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14411

11. St. Thomas the Apostle, 1951
27 Shadow Street and Highway 90, Quincy

Parishioners first attended Mass in the American Legion Hall. They then built the current church in 1957. In 1982, the parish built a parish hall. This parish was one of the first of many active Hispanic ministries in the diocese. Parish office, 850-627-2350. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14432

12. St. Stephen the Proto Martyr Mission, 1979
1997 Natural Bridge Road, Woodville

Because of the vision of a convert to Catholicism, a visiting priest celebrated the first Mass in Woodville on Jan. 20, 1979. Ironically, it was held in Woodville Primitive Baptist Church and was an ecumenical event among a population of both Protestants and Catholics: the first reader was Methodist; the second reader was Baptist; the gifts bearers were Methodist. Mission office, 850-421-9094. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14436

13. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 1975
3609 Coastal Highway, Crawfordville

In order to see how many Catholics in the area would gather for Mass, a priest organized a celebration in Florida Power Company's office space. The numbers were large, so the parish moved to a funeral home before they built their own church in 1981. Parish office, 8500926-1797. www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14422

14. Immaculate Conception Parish, 1914
2750 South Byron Butler Parkway, Perry

After the Burton Swartz Mill began manufacturing lumber in the winter of 1914 in Perry, a number of Louisiana Cajuns migrated to the area, bringing with them Catholicism. The first manager of the mill married a Catholic, whose family encouraged him to contact a priest in Tallahassee to offer Mass for Catholic employees. The parish built its current church in 1918. They would repair it twice as a result of hurricanes. Parish office, 850-584-3169. http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14430

15. St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1907
186 N.W. Sumter Street, Madison

At first, the congregation could not get anyone to sell them a plot on which to build a church. Finally, one man, in need of ready cash, sold a piece of property to a private party, who then transferred it to the Catholic church. It included a residence, a remodeled Methodist church and two large lots. They renovated the church in 1984. Parish office, 850-973-2428. www.stvdepaul.org

16. St. Margaret Parish, 1914
East U.S. Highway 90, Monticello

Begun as a mission, the congregation secured two lots near the Methodist Church on which to build a sanctuary. The Methodists, however, offered to secure more valuable properties further away from their own congregation, which the Catholics accepted. In 1974, the parish built a new church on 15 acres of land. Parish office, 850-973-2428. www.stvdepaul.org

A brief history of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

From the first seeds of faith planted by Spanish settlers in 1559, through occupation by Spain, Great Britain and France to the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee of today, the Catholic faithful of northwest Florida have celebrated their heritage of being a Eucharistic Community.

1559: First Mass offered August 15 by Dominican priests accompanying Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano. Settlement abandoned two years later due to hurricanes.

1674: Bishop of Santiago de Cuba visits present day Madison, Leon and Jefferson counties to confirm Indian converts.

1693: Spain resettles Pensacola.

1719: French assume control of Pensacola.

1763: British occupy Pensacola following the Treaty of Paris.

1781: Spain recaptures Pensacola, St. Michael the Archangel Parish is established.

1791: The bishop of Barcelona visits Pensacola and finds 245 Catholics among the 572 residents.

1795: East and West Florida become part of the new Diocese of New Orleans.

1829: The Diocese of Mobile is established, including Alabama and Florida. Bishop Michael Portier travels from Pensacola through Tallahassee to St. Augustine to strengthen the Church across north Florida.

1850: Counties east of the Apalachicola River become part of the new Diocese of Savannah.

1861: The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul care for wounded soldiers during the Civil War at the request of a Confederate general.

1870: The Diocese of St. Augustine is established, and includes all counties east of the Apalachicola River.

1927: Bishop Thomas J. Toolen became Sixth Bishop of Mobile and guided the Church in Alabama and northwest Florida for more than 40 years, traveling extensively by automobile and establishing numerous parishes, schools and institutions.

1958: The Diocese of Miami is established to include 16 counties in south Florida.

1967: In May, Sacred Heart Church, Pensacola, was dedicated by Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile. In September, St. Thomas More Church near the campus of Florida State University, Tallahassee, was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley of St. Augustine.

1968: In June, the Diocese of Miami was raised to Archdiocese and the province of Miami was established to include all of the Dioceses of Florida. At the same time, the new dioceses of St. Petersburg and Orlando were created. The 10 counties of northwest Florida formerly a part of the Diocese of Mobile were transferred now to the Diocese of St. Augustine.

1975: The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee was established. On November 6, Bishop Rene H. Gracida, former Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, was installed as First Bishop. Sacred Heart Church, Pensacola, was named the Cathedral and St. Thomas More Church, Tallahassee, the Co-Cathedral. The new diocese was placed under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel, St. Thomas More and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

1983: With the transfer of Bishop Gracida to the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, Bishop J. Keith Symons is named Second Bishop of the diocese.

1984: In October, the new dioceses of Palm Beach and Venice were established in south Florida. The state of Florida now numbers seven dioceses.

1990: Bishop Symons is transferred to the Diocese of Palm Beach. Monsignor James Amos serves as administrator of the diocese for one year.

1991: Bishop John M. Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, is appointed the Third Bishop of the diocese.

1995: Bishop Smith is transferred to Trenton, New Jersey. Monsignor Amos again serves as diocesan administrator.

1997: Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, is named Fourth Bishop of the diocese.

Today, the Catholic population is most numerous in the western section of the diocese where 40 percent of the total population lives. The remaining 60 percent are nearly equally divided in the areas of Fort Walton Beach, Panama City and Tallahassee. There are few Catholic households in the seven vast rural counties along the 200 mile stretch of highway from the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Pensacola to the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Tallahassee.

The traditional industries that drove the development of northwest Florida – paper and agriculture – no longer function as the region's major economic engines. During the last two decades, the region's economy has come to depend on retail, construction, real estate, financial and business services, military and defense and tourism growth. There are seven military based in the diocese: Naval Air Station-Pensacola, Eglin Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field (Air Force), NAS Corry Station, NAS Whiting Field, and NAS Saufley. NAS-Pensacola is known as the "cradle of naval aviation" and Eglin AFB is the largest United States Air Force Base in the world.

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For a complete timeline of the history of the Church in northwest Florida, log on to http://www.ptdiocese. org/about-us/history.shtml.

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Prayer for Travelers

through the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

St. Michael, the Archangel, protect us both body and soul from all evil, and from anyone who would approach us with malicious intent. Protect us, our health and well-being, and our cars, as we travel about.

St. Thomas More, inspire us through your example of steadfastness of purpose as we seek to learn from our heritage of faith, that we might extend ourselves in works of charity and mercy to better share Christ's message.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, teach us through your example of devotion to the Word of God and the Eucharist, that we may always seek to serve those in need with kindness, patience, good sense and courtesy.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, guide, protect and inspire us as we seek to engage more deeply in our faith. Help us to appreciate the legacy of faith left by those who traveled these paths before us. Help us commit to ensuring that this legacy of faith, for which so many in northwest Florida have sacrificed, will flourish and endure.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
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