

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Outline of the Formation of the Archdiocese of Hartford

July 2021

The Diocese of Hartford was established in 1843 and elevated to an Archdiocese in 1953.

- Prior to 1808, Connecticut was part of the Diocese of Baltimore, which comprised all U.S. territory east of the Mississippi River.
- In 1808, Connecticut became part of the newly created Diocese of Boston, which encompassed the whole of New England.
- In 1843, the Diocese of Hartford was created. The Diocese included all of Connecticut and Rhode Island. By special permission of the Holy See, Providence was made the official seat of the diocese, not Hartford.
- In 1872, the Diocese of Providence was created, separating Rhode Island from Connecticut. Hartford became the official seat of the Hartford diocese, which constituted the whole of Connecticut.
- In 1953, the Diocese of Hartford was elevated to an Archdiocese and the diocese of Bridgeport and Norwich were created.

Today, Connecticut continues as three dioceses:

- Archdiocese of Hartford (est. 1953) (Counties: Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven, CT)
- Diocese of Bridgeport (est. 1953) (Counties: Fairfield, CT)*
- Diocese of Norwich (est. 1953) (Counties: Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham, CT & Fishers Island, NY)*