



CENSUS 2010: A VITAL CIVIC — AND FAITHFUL — OBLIGATION

Weekly Bulletin Inserts

Suggested weekly bulletin inserts leading up to National Census Day, April 1, 2010.

Fill out your census form!

You should be receiving your census form in Mid-March. Please fill it out and return by April 1, 2010, National Census Day.

Fill out your census form!

Census information provides population statistics that impact on our representation in the United States House of Representatives. The statistics are also used to help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds will be spent locally each year on hospitals, roads, schools, low income family support, senior centers, social services, public works projects and so much more.

Fill out your census form!

The Diocese of Pittsburgh and local parishes use census information to get a clear picture of our changing neighborhoods. The census helps determine how to best serve the poor and needy among us, our needs in educating our children and caring for our sick, even our needs in evangelization by giving us a better picture of our neighborhoods. Many times, the groups undercounted in the census are the same groups that the Church serves in its charitable and outreach ministries. Without an accurate count, it can be difficult to help these people get the assistance they need.

Fill out your census form!

The census cannot be used to track down illegal immigrants. Or people who haven't paid their taxes. Or people with legal troubles of any kind. The Census Bureau which conducts the census does not involve police, immigration authorities, the Internal Revenue Service or the FBI. The goal is to accurately count the people who are living in the United States. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share individual information with any government agency.

Fill out your census form!

The census guarantees your privacy and confidentiality. Individual census records are not shared with anyone and can never be published in any form. Your neighbor can't see it. Your congressional representative can't see it, your senator can't see it, the president can't see it. Census questionnaires can't be used in a court of law and are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Fill out your census form!

Archbishop Jose Gomes of San Antonio, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity, gives this reason for filling out your census form: "The U.S. census is a useful tool for learning about God's people, who and where they are, and many other facts that shed light on their lives, possibilities and struggles. A Church that seeks to evangelize is characterized by outreach. The U.S. census gives us important information to do that."