-The See of Tucson was established by [Pope Pius IX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Pius_IX) as the [Apostolic Vicariate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostolic_Vicariate) of Arizona in 1868, taking its territory from the already existing [Diocese of Santa Fe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Santa_Fe).

- Tucson was canonically erected by [Pope Leo XIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Leo_XIII) as a diocese on May 8, 1897.

-The Diocese of Tucson gave up territory three times in the creation of other dioceses. First on March 3 1914 to establish the [Diocese of El Paso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_El_Paso). Then on Dec. 16 1939 to establish the [Diocese of Gallup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Gallup) and finally on June 28 1969 to establish the [Diocese of Phoenix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Phoenix).

-Today the Diocese of Tucson is comprised of approximately 43,000 square miles across Pinal, Pima, Cochise, Gila, Greenlee, Graham, Santa Cruz, La Paz and Yuma counties.

-The Diocese has a total of 78 parishes, 31 missions, 18 elementary schools and six high schools.

-There are 196 priests, 172 Permanent Deacons and approximately 134 Sisters working in the Diocese.

[Jean-Baptiste Salpointe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Baptiste_Salpointe), was the Vicar Apostolic and so is not considered the first Bishop of Tucson, but he served as [Coadjutor Archbishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coadjutor_Archbishop) of [Santa Fe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Santa_Fe) (Tucson and a vast area around Tucson known as the Pimeria Alta that originally was part of the Diocese of Santa Fe from April 12, 1884 to August 18, 1885.

[Peter Bourgade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Bourgade), also began as a Vicar Apostolic but was seated as the first Bishop of Tucson from May 10, 1897 – Jan. 7, 1899, after being Apostolic Vicar of Arizona (*see above*); later, Metropolitan Archbishop of [Santa Fe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Santa_Fe)  on Jan. 7, 1899 – until his death on death May 17, 1908.

[Henry Regis Granjon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Regis_Granjon) served from April 19, 1900 until his death on Nov. 9, 1922.

[Daniel James Gercke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_James_Gercke) served in Tucson from June 21, 1923 to Sept. 28, 1960.

[Francis Joseph Green](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Joseph_Green), a long time Arizona resident who served from Sep.t. 28, 1960 to his retirement on July 28, 1981. He had been [Auxiliary Bishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Bishop) of Tucson from May 29, 1953 to May 11, 1960 and was [Coadjutor Bishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coadjutor_Bishop) of Tucson from May 11, 1960 to Sept. 28, 1960.

[Manuel Duran Moreno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Duran_Moreno), the first Hispanic Bishop of Tucson, who served from Janu. 12, 1982 to March 7, 2003. He earlier served as  [Auxiliary Bishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Bishop) of the Archdiocese of [Los Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Los_Angeles) from Dec .20, 1976 to Jan.12, 1982.

[Gerald Frederick Kicanas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerald_Frederick_Kicanas), who served from March 7, 2003 to Oct. 3, 2017. Kicanas also served as Vice-President of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from Nov. 13, 2007 to Nov. 16, 2010; He was Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of from March 20, 1995 to Oct. 30, 2001, when he became Coadjutor Bishop of Tucson and served in that capacity from Oct. 30, 2001 to March 7, 2003.

Kicanas has been praised for his handling of the [sexual abuse crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_sex_abuse_cases) in his diocese, which had declared [bankruptcy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bankruptcy) due to [settlement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Settlement_%28litigation%29) costs.

On November 17, 2010, Cardinal [Francis George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_George) of Chicago, outgoing president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, appointed Kicanas chairman of the Board of Directors of [Catholic Relief Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Relief_Services%22%20%5Co%20%22Catholic%20Relief%20Services).

**Bishops:**

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**Diocese of Tucson**

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**Background information**