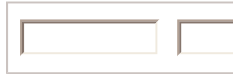




May 14, 2007 4:56pm



Home | U.S. | World | Politics | SciTech | Health | Entertainment | Business | Travel | Opinion | Strange

News | Sports | Blogs | Interactives | Mobile | Video

CBS Evening News [Watch Now] | The Early Show | 48 Hours Mystery | 60 Minutes | CBS News Sunday Morning | Face The Nation

SEARCH

Stories

> SEARCH

• Show Search Options • Search Tips

WORLD: AMERICAS

E-MAIL PRINT DELICIOUS DIGG THIS STORY SPHERE

AnswerTips™ enabled (What's this?)

Catholic Decline Stabilizing In Brazil

Catholic Decline Stabilizing In Brazil, A New Study Says

- > [World Main Page](#)
- > [War On Terror](#)
- > [Iraq: After Saddam](#)
- > [Reporter's Notebook](#)
- > [Letter From London](#)
- > [Letter From Asia](#)
- > [Diplomatic Dispatches](#)
- > [Africa News](#)
- > [Asia News](#)
- > [South Pacific News](#)
- > [Canada News](#)
- > [Europe News](#)
- > [Americas News](#)
- > [Middle East News](#)
- > [Audible.com Downloads](#)
- > [World Video](#)

SAO PAULO, Brazil, May. 3, 2007

(AP) A steep decline in the number of Brazilian Catholics may be stabilizing after decades of losses, according to a survey released just days before Pope Benedict XVI's arrival in the world's largest Roman Catholic country.

The percentage of Catholics stayed about the same from 2000 to 2003, reversing a trend in which millions of Brazilians abandoned the faith, according to an analysis of government statistics released Wednesday by the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

Brazilians claiming to be Catholic dropped to 73.9 percent in 2000, from 88.9 percent in 1980, census figures show. The South American country has a population of 187 million.

While in 2003, the number fell only a fraction to 73.8 percent, said the foundation, an academic institution that also conducts surveys.

The study's coordinator, Marcelo Neri, said the number may be stabilizing due to the country's improved economy, adding people may be more likely to change religions during hard times.

But Silvia Fernandes, a sociologist with Rio de Janeiro's Federal Rural University, said it will be impossible to verify the foundation's numbers until the results of Brazil's 2010 census are available.

"We have had the same trend for the past 40 years," Fernandes said. "It's unlikely we would see such a sudden change."

The pope arrives in Brazil next Wednesday.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

E-MAIL PRINT DELICIOUS DIGG THIS STORY SPHERE

INSIDE AP - LATIN AMERICA

Drug Cartels Target Military In High-Ranking Mexico Intel Official Slain

"This wa
speaker sys
it still ren
thanks t
sound and s

Review by Tom S
Copyright Rol

Learn more s

SoundD
Purchase by



STORIES
• Chipping Away A

Mexico

Mexican Drug Gangs Target Military As President Tries To Regain Territory Lost To Cartels

- [Rancher's Trial Begins In Nun Slaying](#)
- [Venezuela Denies Chavez Pope's Target](#)
- [More](#)

- [Holocaust Surviv](#)
- [Postal Rates Go I](#)
- [Mitt Romney War](#)
- [Alaskan Cruise S](#)

TOP STORIES



Terror Group Warns U.S. Over Missing GIs

"Do Not Look For Them," Al Qaeda Front Group Says Of 3 Missing Soldiers

- [Bush Takes Aim At Greenhouse Gases](#)
- [Chrysler Sold For \\$7.4 Billion](#)
- [States Seek Sex-Offender Data From MySpace](#)
- [More](#)

Most



WORLD VIDEOS

- [Road Bomb Kill](#)
- [Insurgents Fire](#)
- [Penguin Travel](#)
- [Beckham, Rowl](#)

TOP VIDEOS

- [91-Year-Old As](#)
- [Road Bomb Kill](#)
- [Penguin Travel](#)
- [Insurgents Fire](#)

[Back To Top](#)

Advert

SEARCH

Stories

• [Show Search Options](#) • [Search Tips](#)

Wireless Alerts: [CBS News To Go](#) **E-Mail Sign-Up:** [Breaking News](#) | [Today On CBS News](#) | [60 Minutes](#) | [48 Hours](#) | [The Early Show](#) | [CBS Su](#)

Recommended Sites: [CBS Corporation](#) | [The ShowBuzz](#) | [CBS.com](#) | [CBS SportsLine](#) | [CWTV.com](#) | [ETOnline.com](#) | [The INSIDER](#) | [CBS Sto](#)
[Site Map](#) | [Video Site Map](#) | [RSS News Feeds](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [CBS Bios](#) | [Internships](#)



© MMVII, CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.