


SUBSCRIBE TODAY

 Subscriber Services

Columbus, GA
 Sunny 80°F
 Hi/Low: 79°/54°

Search Ledger-Enquirer.com Archives for _____

[Sign in t](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Columbus Connect](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Apartments](#)
- [Shop Local](#)
- [All Classifieds](#)
- [Create an Ad](#)
- [Find an Ad](#)
- [Garage Sales](#)
- [Home Delivery \(888\) 323-1222](#)

Find a Job

Keywords:

e.g., registered nurse

Location:

City, State or Zip

[careerbuilder.com](#)

News

- [Local](#)
- [Crime | Courts](#)
- [Obituaries](#)

Sports

Entertainment

Army Life

Business

Living

- [Dear Abby](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Faith & Spirit](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Travel](#)

Opinion | Letters

- [Columnists](#)
- [Sound Off](#)

ONLINE EXTRAS

Blogs

Buy Photos

Discussion Boards

[Living > Faith & Spirit](#)

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Faith & Spirit

Posted on Fri, May. 04, 2007

[email](#) [print](#)

[AIM](#) [del.icio.us](#) [Digg it](#)

Catholic decline stabilizing in Brazil

By *TALES AZZONI* - Associated Press Writer

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL -- 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.

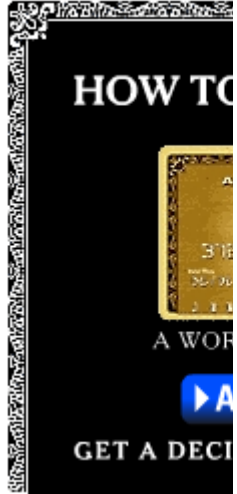
While in 2003, the number fell only a fraction to 73.8 percent, said the foundation, an academic institution that also conducts surveys.

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.



Her Magazine
Maps & Directions
Photos Video
Newspaper Ads Online
Past Articles
RSS Headlines
Weddings, Engagements
Yellow Pages

SITE SERVICES

Advertise
Ad Rates
Ad Guidelines
Contact Us
Ledger Sections

Ads by Google**[The Church Jesus Built](#)**

Free Book: What happened to the church Jesus began? Where's it now?
www.gnmagazine.org/church/?S=2

[Do Jews Believe in Jesus?](#)

This, and more on religion, kabbala spirituality and ancient history.
www.aish.com

[Heretics in Christianity](#)

Who is a heretic in the Bible?
www.bjnewlife.org

REAL Cities
 Visit other Real Cities sites

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#)
[About Ledger-Enquirer.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#)
[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Copyright](#)