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Catholic numbers dropping in Brazil

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Cristo Redentor statue in Rio de Janeiro

The Catholic population in Brazil is dropping, with numbers gathered between 2003 and 2009 showing it at the lowest recorded in 140 years of statistical research, reports the Vatican Insider.

Between 2003 and 2009, Catholics have gone from 73.7 to 68.4 percent of the population, said the data coming from the "New Map of Religions" published by "Foundation Getulio Vargas" and released in a note by the Misna agency.

Among boys between 10 and 19 years of age, the index dropped the most, going from 74.1 to 67.4 percent. Rio is the region with the lowest number of Catholics (49 percent) followed by Roraima (46 percent).

"The changes that before occurred in over 100 years, now take place in 10 years. If this decrease of 1% per annum is maintained, the Catholic population will be less than half in 20 years" said Marcelo Neri, head of research.

FULL STORY

[Brazil, the Catholics decline after 140 years](#) (Vatican Insider)

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A new study has found that children born to co-habiting couples fare even worse than children from divorced families, said a Catholic News Service report on the *National Catholic Reporter*.

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