


Search

Headline, Ekonomi, Perdagangan, Perbankan **Nasional,** Hukum, Politik, Pendidikan **Industri,** Teknologi, Otomotif **Internasional** **Kesehatan,** Olahraga, Lingkungan **Jasa,** Hiburan, Ragam, Opini 

[Home](#) [Kategori](#) [Sumber Berita](#) [About Bataviase](#)

Home

Brazils Roman Catholics shrink as secular rise

10 Oct 2011

Nasional **The Jakarta Post**

Bradley Brooks

ASSOCIATED PRESS/SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Bruno Maragato went through the Roman Catholic Churchs rites like so many others before him in this most Catholic of nations baptism, first communion, confirmation.

But his next step was not part of the Vatican plan and, in fact, feeds a worrying trend for Catholic leaders. At age 16, Maragato left Christianity altogether.

"The religion didnt stick with me," said Maragato, now a 24-year-old journalism student.

A new study by Brazils top research institute finds Magaratos views represent a sea change among a younger generation of Brazilians and present a fresh challenge for church leaders already struggling to hold on to parishioners across Latin America.

At the start of the last decade, millions of Brazilian Catholics joined flashy Pentecostal congregations expanding in the worlds biggest Catholic country. Now, Brazils Getulio Vargas Foundation finds, the countrys Catholics are still leaving the church and at a higher rate than ever, but many younger parishioners, like Maragato, are simply becoming nonreligious.

Experts say this new twist poses a more potent threat to Catholic leaders than earlier losses. Now, the church isnt just competing against the Pentecostals, but courting people who have decided organized religion has no part in their lives.

"Its the most important phenomenon in this study, the abandonment of religion and the Catholics," said Fernando Altemeyer, a theologian at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo. "A considerable part of the Brazilian youth today are agnostic."

What raises the stakes for the Vatican is that church leaders have been viewing Brazil and other Latin American nations as bulwarks against losses in Europe and the US, where sex abuse scandals have inspired many to leave the church. About half of the worlds Catholics reside in Latin America.

The loss of young Catholics in particular means the church is giving up its chance for rejuvenation in the region.

The number of people under the age of 20 in Brazil who say they follow no religion is growing three times more quickly than those 50 and older. That mirrors a similar trend in the number of people leaving the Catholic Church.

The study, based on 200,000 interviews conducted for Brazils 2010 census, shows the Catholic share of the population hit its lowest level since census figures tracked religion beginning in 1872, bottoming out at 68 percent last year.

Understanding exactly why Brazil is losing Catholics at such a high rate is a topic that still needs more study, Altemeyer said. But one reason could be that in recent years the countrys seen an economic boom like no other nation has in Latin America. Since 2003, more than 40 million Brazilians have joined the middle class.

"As the economy has improved, people have more access to cinema, theater, to just take a trip," said Silvia Fernandes, a sociologist at the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro who focuses on those who switch religions. "So were seeing that people no longer need to goto church for social reasons if they have these other options."

Altemeyer said the ability of the previously impoverished to acquire goods like TVs and computers means even more distraction.

Marcelo Neri, the author of the study, also said he thinks the Catholic decline was sparked by a "female revolution".

The foundation study discovered that Catholic women, instead of giving up entirely on religion, are largely going to traditional Protestant denominations such as the Presbyterians or Methodists, which are viewed by many as less patriarchal.

Experts say the changes have accelerated as many women turn away from the Vaticans

Ga bakal rugi kalo pake AXIS!

SMSan ke semua operator? Bisa gratis pake AXIS! axisworld.co.id

Pake perdana AXIS sekarang!

Gratis 1000 menit nelpon ke semua AXIS! Lihat infonya di si <http://axisworld.co.id/home>

CIMB Niaga bagi hadiah gratis!

Wujudkan mimpi miliki gadget terbaru dari CIMB NIAGAdisini! www.facebook.com/CIMBInidonesia



Indonesia Dalam Kata

tahanan **tim** Hukum masyarakat **Bendera r u m a h** Bendera **Ketua kepala Bendera Remisi Warta makanan Bendera Uga memberikan kemerdekaan RI** Quran **Ketua petugas** Tadarus **p u k u l w a r g a** Presiden **U m u m** Kasus **p u a s a** kepala **a c a r a** **Bendera Nasional** **Bogor korupsi** Agus **upacara** **Pemerintah** Pendidikan anggota **Bendera**

Artikel Terkait

- Reserve ratio may rise to record high **/The Jakarta Post/**
- India is more likely to balance Chinas strategic rise **/The Jakarta Post/**
- COMPANIES LINKED TO STATE RISE IN FIRST DAY OF LAOS STOCK MARKET

prohibitive views on contraception and abortion, which remains illegal in nearly all cases in Brazil.

"The Catholic Church is literally losing its future, and the loss of women and young people is the most important driver of the fall," Neri said.

The decline marks a massive change from just 30 years ago, when nearly 90 percent of Brazilians called themselves Catholic, according to census figures.

Mexico is poised to take Brazils place as the worlds top Catholic nation, although the church is also losing members there. According to Mexicos census, 84 percent of the population was Catholic in 2010.

An explosion of Pentecostal churches, many of them founded by US evangelicals, triggered the losses in Brazil in the 1990s. About half of Brazilian Pentecostals are estimated to have come from the Catholic Church.

As the countrys economy suffered from hyperinflation and other woes, Pentecostal churches aggressively recruited in the slums and poor outskirts of Brazils cities, offering nuts-and-bolts self-improvement advice as well as ministry.

Since 2003, however, the Pentecostal growth has barely ticked up, from 12.5 percent to 12.8 percent of the population, the study found. Yet the Catholic Church has continued to lose parishioners.

Church leaders have pulled out all the stops to reverse the trend, with little success so far.

Brazil was the first nation outside of Europe that Pope Benedict XVI visited during a five-day tour in 2007 largely aimed at stopping losses in Latin America. During the . trip, the pope canonized Brazils first native-born saint.

Pope Benedict also announced in August during the churchs World Youth Day, which drew 1.5 million people to Spain, that the next version of the summit would be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2013. The pope is expected to attend.

For lifelong Catholic Leila Ribeiro, the churchs misfortunes mark a break from generations of church tradition.

The 32-year-old was leaving a recent, half-empty Sunday Mass in Sao Paulos cavernous Metropolitan Cathedral, where she was one of the few younger people attending. All around her, elderly women chatted and caught up.i was brought up with the notion that religion is passed from mother to child, but I fear for what will happen to the church in this generation," she said, looking toward her son.

"If the Catholic faith isnt spread within the family, how will it grow?"

Entitas terkait

Ringkasan Artikel Ini

Jumlah kata di Artikel : 1065
Jumlah kata di Summary : 0
Ratio : 0,000

*Ringkasan berita ini dibuat otomatis dengan bantuan mesin. Saran atau masukan dibutuhkan untuk keperluan pengembangan perangkat ini dan dapat dialamatkan ke tech at mediatrac net.

Pendapat Anda

Pendapat anda mengenai ringkasan artikel ini : Baik Buruk

MARKET

/The Jakarta Post/

- Waters rise, so do coal prices
/The Jakarta Post/
- PROPERTY PRICES RISE IN DECEMBER AT THE SLOWEST PACE IN A YEAR
/The Jakarta Post/

Artikel Lainnya

- CHELSEA TERTARIK Klub Liga Primer Chelsea menjadi yang terdepan untuk menggaet bintang muda Santos Neymar (kiri). Klub milik Roman Abramovich itu siap
/Media Indonesia/
- Mesir Jadi Tuan Roman Putaran Baru Perundingan
/Suara Karya/
- Roman Gonzalez Tundukkan Rosas
/Pikiran Rakyat/
- 1933 Roman Polanski Lahir
/Media Indonesia/
- 1967 Si Times New Roman Meninggal
/Media Indonesia/

Artikel dari Sosial Media

Kategori

Ekonomi	Internasional	Olahraga	Perdagangan
Headline	Jasa	Opini	Politik
Hiburan	Kesehatan	Otomotif	Ragam
Hukum	Lingkungan	Pendidikan	Teknologi
Industri	Nasional	Perbankan	



Contact
Site Policy

(c) 2009 Bataviase