

Catholic decline stabilizing in Brazil



By Tales Azzoni, Associated Press Writer | May 3, 2007

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.

ARTICLE TOOLS

- PRINTER FRIENDLY
- ☑ E-MAIL TO A FRIEND
- XML WORLD RSS FEED
- MOST E-MAILED
- SHARE ON DIGG
- SHARE ON FACEBOOK
- SAVE THIS ARTICLE powered by Del.icio.us

MORE:

Globe World stories Latest world news

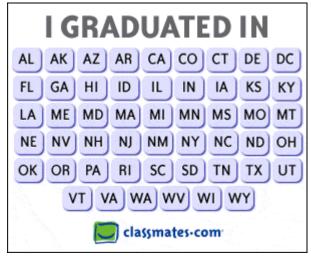
The study's coordinator, Marcelo Neri, said the number may be stabilizing due to the country's improved economy, adding people may be more likely to change religions during hard times.

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 This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.





Ads by Google

what's this?

Brazil Information Center

Companies and Trade Associations Strengthening ties with the U.S. www.brazilinfocenter.org

Farms and Lands in Brazil

Farm and Land for sale in Brazil Rural property, investment, realty www.farmsinbrazil.com

St Raphael Archangel

Patron of single people & healing Learn about Sarah & Tobias www.StRaphael.net

MORE:

Globe World stories | Latest world news | Globe front page | Boston.com

SIGN UP FOR: Globe Headlines e-mail | Breaking News Alerts

LATEST WORLD NEWS

BOSTON.COM'S MOST E-MAILED

- Wis. festival sells deep-fried testicles
- Hospitals' move to e-files spurs a labor shortage
- How a job can save your life
- What does \$456 billion buy?
- The fading allure of vitamins
- See full list of most e-mailed

SEARCH THE ARCHIVES



All Globe stories since 2003 are now FREE

- Yesterday
- Last 12 months
- More search options

ADVERTISEMENT

▶ Get 50% off Boston Globe home delivery.

Order now!

www.bostonglobe.com/articlelink

Mesothelioma Lawyer for those exposed to Asbestos.

Millions won!

http://www.weitzlux.com/



PRINTER FRIENDLY







MOST E-MAILED



Find a T.J. Maxx store near you



Save energy with myenergystar.com



Nova Scotia



Where Bargains Were Born



Find a Homegoods store near you



Search new & used car listings and special offers

feedback form | help | site index | globe archives | rss © 2007 The New York Times Company

Home delivery for as little as \$1.75 a week!

