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| Weird and Random Catholic Facts… |
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| There are 219,714 Catholic parishes in 168 countriesAs of 2008, there were 1.166 billion Catholics worldwideAbout 300 priests serve in the Archdiocese of the Military.There are 140 Catholic churches in MontrealThere are 4,100 priests in Korea*Who is God* was the most searched for query in Google in 2007There were 1.31 billion Catholics in 2006, the latest census data, a 1.4% increase from 2005Cincture - Rope belt with three knots worn by Franciscan monks.  The knots represent the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.3,500,000 teachers in 250,000 Catholic schools worldwide teach 42,000,000 pupilsSaint Dismas was the good thief crucified with JesusAs of December, 2007, the Vatican has diplomatic relations with 176 countriesThere are more Catholics in the U. S. Congress than any other religion Archdiocese of New York has 2.5MM parishioners, 410 parishes, 279 schools, and extends 108 milesZucchetto is the name of a Catholic cleric's skullcap

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| bullet | Pope - white |
| bullet | Cardinal - scarlet |
| bullet | Bishop - purple |
| bullet | Priest - black |

Citizens of the Catholic country Monaco are not allowed to gamble within Monaco, a country known for its casinos.  Monegasques pay no income tax.Feeling pent-up in the Vatican, Pope John Paul II snuck out to ski and hike in the Italian Alps over 100 times before being discovered by a 10-year-old boy who pointed at Pope John Paul II and shouted, "The pope!  The pope!"In 2005, there were 1.12 billion Catholics, up 1.5% from 2004.  There were 406,411 priests, +.01%/520 priests,  Asia (+3.8%) and Africa (+3.6%) registered the greatest increases in vocations while Europe and the Americas showed a decline in vocations of -.05% and Oceania decreased -1.8%.  Africa has 20.3% of the world's priests, Europe has 48.8%, Americas 30% and Oceanea 1%.Peruvian bishops caution the faithful that Confession cannot be heard over the internet citing *Canon Law*964 which requires the physical presence of both the penitent and confessorIndult is special permission[**Saint Vitus**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintVitus.htm) is the Patron Saint Against OversleepingSunday night Mass is the most popular Mass time for Australian Catholics aged 16-29Catholics are 25% of the United States' military[**Saint Médard**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintMedard.htm)is the Patron Saint Against Bad Weather[**Saint Matilda**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintMatilda.htm) is the Patron Saint of Misbehaving ChildrenIn 2002, 938 Catholics became martyrsAlbania is 13% CatholicCroatia is 88% CatholicGermany is 34% CatholicHoly Land is 2% CatholicItaly is 83% CatholicIvory Coast is 16.5% CatholicJapan is 1.5% CatholicMalta is 99% Catholic.South Korea is 8% CatholicSpain is 95% CatholicSweden is 2% CatholicTajikistan is 2%  CatholicOur Lady of Altagracia is the Patron Saint of the Dominican RepublicSaint Fiacre, an Irish-born monk, is the Patron Saint of Gardening.  Saint Fiacre healed the sick with herbs from his garden and grew food for the poor3% of Iraq is Roman Catholic.  The Catholic Church has been in Iraq for 400 years.The pope's license plate number is SCV 1Charles Carroll was the only Catholic to sign the United States Declaration of IndependenceSaint Gianna Beretta Molla -Patron saint of working mothers85% of the Philippines is Roman CatholicIn 2000 there were 801,185 nuns worldwide compared to 968,526 in 1975In 2003 there were 73,316nuns in the U. S. compared to 179,954 in 1965According to the 2002 census, Buncrana was named the most Catholic town in the Republic of Ireland at 94.3%.  The Republic of Ireland was 88.4% Catholic in 2002.September 2003 U. S. Catholic school enrollmentwas 2,484,252 studentsVatican has 900 citizens and 3,000 employeesSimony is the purchase or sale of sacred or spiritual things and was halted by[**Pope Nicholas II**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/PopeNicholasII.htm) in 105926 persons: One bishop, 20 priests, 4 religious, and a Catholic lay person weremartyred during 2005\*United States Catholic 2002 Statistics:66.4 million U. S. Catholics - 23% of U. S. population208 U. S. archdioceses and dioceses29,715 U. S. diocesan priests14,772 U. S. priests in religious orders449 new U. S. priests74,698 U. S. sisters5,568 U. S. brothers14,106 U. S. deacons226 Catholic orphanages serving 714,253 youngsters241,727 new marriages1,605,490 infant baptisms81,043 adult baptisms897,635 First Communions637,705 Confirmations686,651 Catholic high school students1,900,000 Catholic elementary students585 Catholic hospitals serving 84,000,000  patients\*The number of U. S. Catholic clergy declined during 1981-2001 from 58,534 to 45,713 while the U. S. Catholic population grew by 14,000,000/27%.Saint Monica wasSaint Augustine's mother40 is the mystical number signifying penance.

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| bullet | Flood - 40 days and 40 nights |
| bullet | Israelites condemed to roam the desert - 40 years |
| bullet | Moses fasted on Mount Sinai - 40 days |
| bullet | Elias - fasted for 40 days and 40 nights |
| bullet | Jesus - fasted for 40 days in the desert |
| bullet | Saint Francis of Assisi - fasted for 40 days after which he received the stigmata |

Chrism Mass. This Mass celebrates the first Eucharist shared with the Apostles by which Jesus asked for priestly vocations.  Priests renew their vows at a Chrism MassFrom November, 1964, Catholics could eat meat on FridayOld St. Peter's Church (16 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10007), where Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was baptized and made her First Holy Communion, is the oldest Catholic parish in New York StateWhat makes for an authentic Catholic Church catechism?  The Pope's introductory letter[**Saint Gertrude of Nivelles**](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintg14.htm)is the Patron Saint of Cats[**Saint Roch**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintRoch.htm) is the Patron Saint of DogsDiocese of Brooklyn has 1.8 million CatholicsFides is the Vatican's missionary news service\*Worldwide 2001 Catholic Statistics:1,060,840,000 Catholics, a gain of 15,783,000 from year 2000Europe - 280,589,00, a gain of 455,000 from year 2000Oceana - 8,320,000, a gain of 511,000 from year 2000Africa - 135,660,000, a gain of 5,642,000 from year 2000Asia - 108,168,000, a gain of 866,000 from year 2000Americas - 528,103,000, a gain of 8,712,000 from year 2000Worldwide 2002 Catholic Statistics:1.07 billion Catholics62.4% in the Americas40.5% in Europe26.8% in Oceania16.5% in Africa3% in Asia\* |  | The Catholic Church owns about 237,000 acres in AmericaU. S. Catholicsm grew by 1.5% in 2009 with 68 million Catholics - more than any other U. S. religion.Savannah, once the capital of Georgia, was begun by Englishman James Oglethorpe and a 1732 Royal Charter as a colony which did not accept Catholics, rum, or slavesPope Benedict XVI is wearing a saturnoThe hat Pope Benedict XVI is wearing has been nicknamed saturno/Saturn Hat because it resembles the rings around the planet Saturn.Magna Carta, signed by King John of England in 1215, removed the king's power over the ChurchMississippi is the most religious state in the U. S. and Vermonters are the least religious*Augustiner,*the oldest and considered the best beer in Munich, Germany, was first brewed by Augustinian monks in 1328There are 8,847 Roman Catholic schools in FranceNeed a prescription, laboratory test, x-ray or ultrasound at the Vatican?  That'll be 75 cents, please.The Vatican consists of 108 acresJesuit Father José Gabriel Funes, Director of the Vatican Observatory, states that there may be intelligent life on other planets, and they would be God's children tooThere are 2.2 million Catholics in PakistanWhich countries have themost Catholics?  Brazil, Mexico and the United States.The United States has moreCatholic colleges and universities than any other country:  213.The first Mass in the English-speaking American colonies was held on Saint Clement's Island in Maryland on March 25, 1634, and was the beginning of the Archdiocese of WashingtonLooking for a spouse?  Pray to Saint Raphael, the Patron Saint of Happy Meetings, advises the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: "You were sent by God to guide young Tobias in choosing a good and virtuous spouse. Please help me in this important choice which will affect my whole future."Prayer For the Choice of a Good Spouse"Saint Raphael, you were sent by God to guide young Tobias in choosing a good and virtuous spouse. Please help me in this important choice which will affect my whole future. You not only directed Tobias in finding a wife, but you also gave him guidelines which should be foremost in every Christian marriage: *Pray together before making important decisions.*  Amen"What did Catholic mobster Al Capone's business card list as his occupation?  "Used Car Salesman."The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops settles between one-fourth and one third of allrefugees into the United StatesIn 2002, 56,236 annulmentswere approved worldwide, 30,968 of which were in North America From 1982 to 1984, 80% of American annulmentsappealed to the Vatican Rota were reversedSent by King Charles of Spain in 1769, Franciscan Friar Junipero Serra founded San Diego de Alcala, the first Californian missionThere were 24 missionaries martyred in 2006White Mass is said for physiciansPope John Paul II's favorite movie was *Life is Beautiful*Spain has a population of 41 million, 94% of whom are Catholic.  Spain has 22,670 Catholic parishes with 27,730 priests.Poland has 9,990 parishes and 28,000 priestsOn January 14, 1506, Pope Julius II purchased *Laocoon,*the first artwork acquired by the Vatican Museums,from a Roman vineyard. According to Greek mythology, Laocoon was a priest who tried to convince Troy not to accept the Greek gift of a hollow horse.Marconi began Vatican Radiounder Pope Pius XI[**Saint Maximillian Mary Kolbe**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintMaximillianMaryKolbe.htm) is the Patron Saint Against Drug AddictionScotland is 16% Roman CatholicPolka Masses are popular in MinnesotaBetween 43% and 48% of Catholics attend Mass every Sunday in the Archdiocese of TorontoThere are 195 U. S. dioceses and eparcies (Eastern rite churches)An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed.In 2003, 100,345 Catholics went to prison for their faithDiocese of St. Joseph of Irkutsk in Siberia is the largest diocese with 10 million square kilometers.  The Diocese of St. Joseph of Irkutsk has 100 parishes serving 50,000 Catholics.Delores Hart, film actress who appeared in 1957 Elvis film *Loving You*, became a nunIn Antioch, Syria, the disciples first took the name "Christians."In 2000 there were 46,092 marriage annulments granted out of 56,236 ordinary processes worldwideMadonna della Strada (Our Lady of the Street) is them atron saint of Rome's street sweepers and taxi driversThe Eucharist lasts about 15 minutes after being consumed.  Food, drink, smoking  etcetera should wait during this time as we Catholics reflect. (There is a one hour fast before receiving Communion)Saint Clare is the Patron Saint of Television.60% of Slovakia is Roman Catholic17.3% of the world'spopulation is Roman CatholicIn 2003, 9.1% of Koreanswere Roman CatholicFather Augustine Tolton was the first person whose both parents were African American to become a Catholic priest in America.  Father Tolton was born into a Catholic slave family in 1854 in Missouri.  Prior to that, three Healy brothers were priests.  The Healy brothers' father was an Irish Catholic Georgian slaveholder and their mother was an African slave.Saint Raphael the Archangelis the Patron Saint Against Nightmares and Eye DiseasesSaint Genesius and Saint Vitus are the Patron Saints of ActorsSaint James the Apostle is buried in the Cathedral of Santiago in Santiago de Compostela, SpainPoland is 90% Roman CatholicBrazil has the most Catholics with 125 millionOlive trees were used forcrucifixionRed Mass - Mass for law courts and lawyersThe Second Vatican Councilopened on October 11, 1962Saint John the Baptistparents were Elizabeth and Zachary.  Saint Elizabeth was Mary's cousin.  Saint John the Baptist was a disciple of Saint John the Apostle.Seven cardinal virtues are faith, hope, charity, temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice[**Saint Isidore of Seville**](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/sainti04.htm) is the proposed patron saint of internet usersBishop administers theSacrament of ConfirmationInterregnum.  The time between the death and the replacement of a bishopThe Church in the United States was established on November 6, 1789 by Pope Pius VIThere is no funeral massduring Holy WeekLegion of Decency. Media self-control group disbanded by Vatican IIBrooklyn, New York  is known as *The Borough of Churches.*The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the previous year's blessed palmsMass is not celebrated on Good FridayA Benedictine monk, Saint Bede the Venerable, first used A. D. (*Anno Domini*)In 1834 Pope Gregory XVIestablished the Diocese of Vincennes encompassing all of Indiana and eastern Illinois including ChicagoSaint Joaquim and Saint Anne were Jesus' maternal grandparentsCatholic Charities, USA, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia (703) 549-1390, was founded in 1910 and had total FY2000 (latest available) income (in millions) of $2,621.2, of which $390.0  was from public support. 87.8%  was used for programs, and the highest paid official earned $108,264 in compensation and benefits. (Not rated by charity watchdogs AIP and Charity Navigator; received highest rating from Wise Giving Alliance.)Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (215) 567-7000, was founded in 1945 and had total FY2002 income (in millions) of $201.4 of which $102.9 was from public support. 80.8% was used for programs, and the highest paid official earned $239,000 in compensation and benefits.  Received highest possible rating from each of three charity watchdogs. (AIP, Wise Giving Alliance and Charity Navigator)Catholic Relief Services, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland (800) 235-2772, was founded in 1943 and had total FY2002 income (in millions) of $262.2, of which $111.8 was from public support. 98% was used for programs, and the highest paid official earned $242,799 in compensation and benefits. (Received A- from charity watchdog AIP, highest rating from Wise Giving Alliance, and was not rated by Charity Navigator.)[**Saint Vivian (Saint Bibiana)**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintVivian.htm) is the Patron Saint of Single Lay Women.  Her Feast Day is December 2Matthew means "Gift from God"Blessed Mother's birthday is September 8[**Saint Jerome**](http://www.culturalcatholic.com/SaintJerome.htm) is the Patron Saint Against AngerSaint Barbara is the Patron Saint Against Death by Artillery and the Patron Saint Against Mine CollapseMagesterium - the bishops in communion with the popeSeth was Adam and Eve's third sonSaint Paul the Apostle is thePatron Saint of Writers and Public RelationsSaint Mark the Evangelist is the Patron Saint of Insect Bites and the Patron Saint of VeniceSaint Michael the Archangel is the Patron Saint of Police OfficersApostles Peter and Andrew were brothers and Apostles James and John werebrothersSaint Andrew is the Patron Saint of both Scotland and RussiaSaint Charles Borromeo is the Patron Saint Against Ulcers |

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| Catholic Athletes… |  |
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Bottom of Form |

Mike Sweeney - KC Royals
Mike Piazza - Oakland A's
David Eckstein - St. Louis Cardinals
Jeff Suppan - Milwaukee Brewers
Jack McKeon - former Mgr
Tommy Lasorda - former Mgr
Rich Donnelly - Coach Milwaukee Brewers
Roger Maris - St. Louis Cardinals
Sammy Sosa - Texas Rangers
Mark McGwire - St. Louis Cardinals
Nomar Garciaparra - Los Angeles Dodgers
Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez - Detroit Tigers
Sean Casey - Cincinnati Reds
Whitey Ford - New York Yankees
Jason Giambi - New York Yankees
Mariano Rivera - New York Yankees
Derek Jeter - New York Yankees
Jack McKeon, Manager Florida Marlins
Tommy Lasorda - Former Manager of the LA Dodgers
Barry Bonds - San Francisco Giants
Babe Ruth - Babe Ruth
John McEnroe- Tennis
Rafael Nadal - Tennis
Roger Federer - Tennis
Dan Marino - Miami Dolphins
Brett Favre - New York Jets (2008-present)
Vince Lombardi - Head coach Green Bay Packers
Jim MacMahon - Chicago Bears
Don Shula - Former coach Miami Dolphins
Knute Rockne - Coach Notre Dame
Eddie McCaffrey - Denver Broncos WR
Mike Shannahan - Denver Broncos Head Coach
Bob Griese - Miami Dolphins
Brian Griese - Former Denver Broncos QB & Miami QB
Joe Montana - 49ers
Chris Godfrey - New York Giants
Jim Thorpe - Pentathlon, Decathlon, American Football, Baseball and Basketball (Olympian)
Cathy Rigby - Gymnast
Tara Lipinski - Olympic Gold-medalist Figure Skater
Tim Goebel - Figure Skater
Nancy Kerrigan - Olympic Silver and Bronze-medalist Figure Skater
Jose Antonio Reyes- Arsenal F.C, Spain
Cristiano Ronaldo - Portugal, Manchester United
Mateja Kezman (Serbia and Montenegra, Chelsea F.C.
Rui Costa - Portugal, AC Milan
Majority of Mexican Soccer players are Catholic
Nuno Gomez - Portugal, Benefica
Majority of Argentina National Team is Roman Catholic
98% of Portugal National Team is Roman Catholic
Ronaldhinio- Brazil, FC Barcelona
Pele - Brazilian soccer player
Patrick Ewing - New York Knicks
Reggie Miller - Indiana Pacers
John Stockton - Utah Jazz
Kerry Kittles - Los Angeles Clippers
Vince Carter - Toronto Raptors
John Andretti - NASCAR
Guy Lafleur - Montreal Canadians

Phillip Rivers- QB SD Chargers