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# A Blessing for Homer & Bart

## Vatican's official newspaper praises Simpsons family

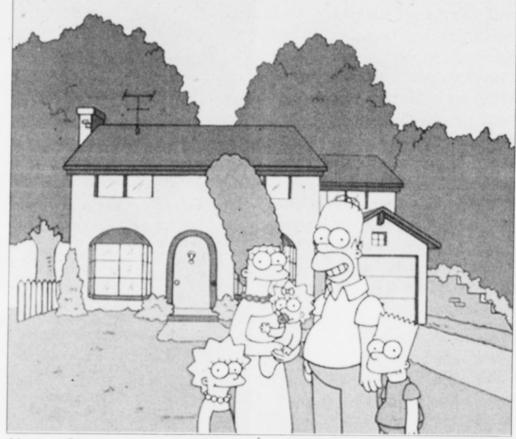
"The Simpsons" just got a blessing from the Vatican.

The official Vatican newspaper has declared that beer-swilling, doughnut-loving Homer Simpson and son Bart are Catholics — and what's more, it says that parents should not be afraid to let their children watch "the adventures of the little guys in yellow."

"Few people know it, and he does everything to hide it. But it's true: Homer J. Simpson is Catholic," the Osservatore Romano newspaper said in an article on Sunday headlined "Homer and Bart are Catho-

The newspaper cited a study by a Jesuit priest of a 2005 episode of the show called "The Father, the Son and the Holy Guest Star." That study concludes that "The programs for kids in which Christian faith, religion and questions about the Vatican. God are recurrent themes."

The middle class U.S. family prays before meals, and "in its own way, believes in the beyond," the news- dalous and ironic, boisterous and now in its 22nd season.



Homer Simpson may love beer and skips church in favor of football, but the Vatican has declared the doughnut fan and his family to be Catholics.

It's the second time the animated Simpsons" is "among the few TV U.S. TV series, which is broadcast in 90 countries, has been praised by

> Osservatore Romano described the show as "tender and irreverent, scan-

paper quoted the Jesuit study as profound, philosophical and sometimes even theological, nutty synthesis of pop culture and of the lukewarm and nihilistic American middle class."

"The Simpsons", which intro-In December 2009, the duced the catch-phrase "D'oh," is the longest-running prime-time TV series in the United States and is

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