

Catholic Church, Nation's Largest Religious Body, Enigma To Many

Faith Embraces Over 40 Million In United States

By LOUIS CASSELL
UPI Correspondent

At the start of this century, there were about 16 million Roman Catholics in the United States. They were heavily concentrated in a few big cities of the Northeast. Many of them were immigrants. They exerted relatively little influence on the life of a predominantly Protestant nation.

Today America has more than 40 million Catholics. They are widely dispersed throughout the country. The great majority are second or third generation citizens. On Jan. 20, one of them was inaugurated President of the United States.

Although it is now the nation's largest religious body, the Catholic Church remains an enigma to most of the 140 million Americans who are outside its fold. The average non-Catholic knows little and understands less about the church in which the new Chief Executive was reared.

In this and four subsequent dispatches, an attempt will be made to answer some of the questions which non-Catholics ask about Catholicism, and perhaps to clear up a few popular misconceptions.

One Misconception Painful

The misconception which pains Catholics most is the idea that their church is a monolithic entity in which everyone thinks alike and acts alike, and all decisions are handed down from above.

Actually there is great variety—religious, political, social, and cultural—in the Catholic family.

There are Catholics who attach great importance to fasts, water, candles, crucifixes, religious medals, statues of the Virgin Mary and other physical aids to devotion. And there are others who find no spiritual help in these "superstitions" and therefore do not use them.

There are Catholics who are ultra-conservative in politics, and those who are in the vanguard of way-out liberal causes. Some look upon the United Nations as an instrument of the devil; others including the recent Pope are ardent internationalists.

You can find Catholics in Spain, for example, who believe that the government should give special privileges to their church and restrict the rights of other religions. You can find Catholics (especially in America) who believe strongly in church-state separation and religious freedom for all.

Some Anti-Clerical

Some Catholics admire their priests; others are militantly anti-clerical. Some try to heed every command of the church; others disobey its most explicit moral teachings, such as the ban on use of contraceptives.

The Catholic Church has some ignorant and unlettered members who embrace its teachings with fanatical superstitions of their own. It also has brilliant intellectuals like Jacques Maritain, John Courtney Murray and Pierre de Charbon.

In short, the Catholic church is what its members make it—Catholic, or all-merciful. Its catholicity is great enough to include the man and little girl who work in the White House, and the millionaire Harvard graduate who lives there.

However much Catholics may differ in other respects, they are united in their adherence to certain beliefs and practices.

There are, for example, a few specific religious duties

The Week in California

Brown Ready to Send Surplus Food Into San Bernardino

By United Press International
Gov. Edmund G. Brown announced that he was prepared to send surplus food to San Bernardino County's 13,500 hungry families.

He said the foodstuffs would be delivered if the county supervisors ask for them, under the treatment program launched by President John F. Kennedy.

Brown suggested a meeting in Sacramento of the county Young Men's and Nancy Smith, a board member, to discuss the situation.

"They will talk about financing" a spokesman for the governor said, "and the possibility of a federal stamp plan to pay the cost of the surplus food."

Benefits Said True

Brown told his news conference he had sent one of his staff members, Richard Kline, to San Bernardino to check reports of hunger caused by heavy unemployment, and which are enjoyed on every practicing Catholic. They include attendance at Mass on Sundays, abstinence from meat on Fridays and reception of Holy Communion at least once a year. Many Catholics go beyond these minimum duties, but no Catholic may fall short of them without lapsing from his faith.

Every Catholic also is required to accept, as divinely revealed truth, the basic doctrinal teachings of the church. Many of the tenets which the Catholic Church teaches about God, Christ and the Bible are identical or very similar to the beliefs of other Christian churches. There are, however, some Catholic beliefs—for example, about the Virgin Mary, papal infallibility and the Mass—which differ sharply from the beliefs of Protestant Christians. Some of the distinctive Catholic doctrines will be discussed later in this series.

Next—Papal infallibility.

Kline found the reports to be true.

"If help is not received at once, malnutrition will be a factor," Brown quoted Kline as saying.

He also said Kline learned from San Bernardino officials that county's residents were "on the edge" of wholesale evictions for failure to pay mortgages and rents, that one title company's evictions have doubled and that payment delinquencies are up 50 per cent.

Turned Away

Kline told newsmen that 9 out of 10 persons who applied for aid to Community Chest agencies in Fontana and Colton were being turned away.

"People there are hungry," he said. "They are not dying in the streets but they are going without food."

Irving H. Perluss, state director of employment, reported that unemployment throughout the state averaged 8 per cent in the first three weeks of January, 2 per cent above the level considered serious. In San Bernardino county, employment was reported running at 10.5 per cent.

Elsewhere, there were these developments:

Budget: Gov. Edmund G. Brown proposed a hold-the-line state budget of \$2.6 billion with the lion's share going to finance the mounting costs of public education. The spending program for the year starting July 1, he said, is "honestly but narrowly balanced."

It is up only 4.5 per cent over current expenditures, the smallest percentage increase since 1943. The governor admitted he was relying heavily on an end to the recession and an upturn in business in the latter part of 1961 to preserve the shabby budget balance.

In order to maintain a general fund surplus of \$468,000 at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1962, Brown

dropped his "pay-as-you-go" philosophy and ordered the issuance of \$100 million in bonds to finance building needs for the university and state colleges.

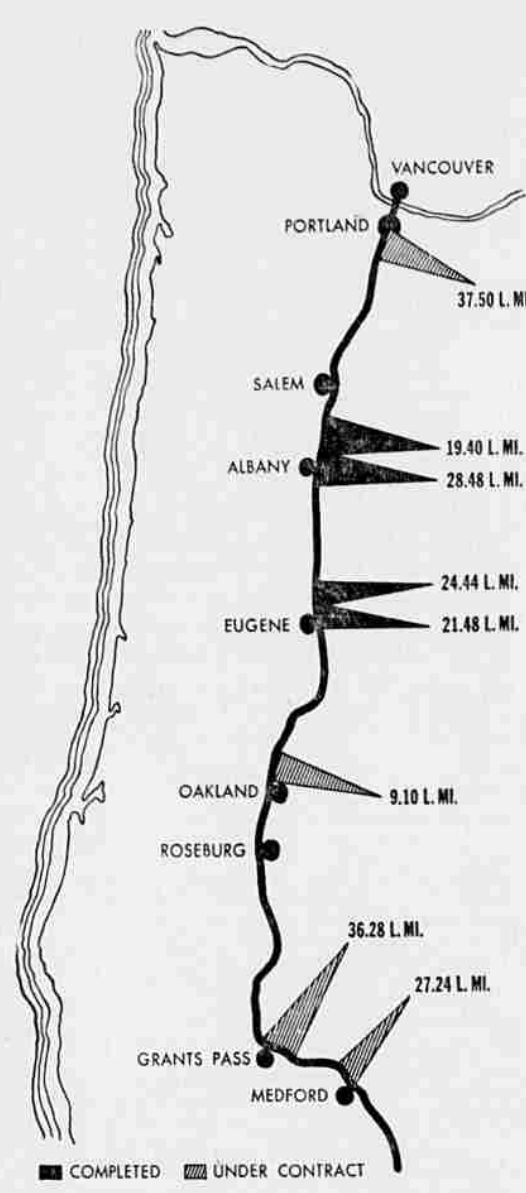
Halaby: Najeb E. Halaby of Santa Monica, selected by President Kennedy to serve as chief of the Federal Aviation Agency, said he would review the status of the Electra airliner. Halaby said that "to reassure the public and myself, I'm going to fly the plane myself." He was a test pilot for Lockheed from 1942 to 1943.

Grandmother: A 69-year-old grandmother was found guilty in San Francisco of conspiring to murder her former son-in-law in a plot she insisted was pure fiction. Mrs. Henrietta Sidelinger had been accused of asking Bruce Jenner, 20, a student at San Francisco State college, to kill Alfred B. Britton Jr., a San Jose attorney.

Powell: Eleanor Powell, dancing star of many movie musicals of the 1930s, announced a comeback and ran through her new night club routine dressed in a blue leotard, black stockings, tap shoes and a familiar top hat. Miss Powell, recently divorced from film star Glenn Ford, told a news conference in Hollywood she would open a month-long engagement at a Las Vegas, Nev., night club starting Feb. 28.

Squaw Valley: John E. Carr, state director of finance, said he probably will ask the legislature for about \$190,000 to pay off final bills of the 1960 Winter Olympic at Squaw Valley. A financial report said that despite the fact California poured \$12 million into the Olympic Games and the federal government added \$3 million more, \$188,128 still was needed to pay off final debts.

Mont Tremblant, the highest peak in the Laurentians 100 miles north of Montreal, reaches 3,150 feet.



Increased Use of Concrete Is Noted In Highway Work

Contracts for paving Oregon's interstate highway system call for an increase in the use of Portland cement concrete during 1961, according to Richard G. Montgomery, public relations counsel for the Cement Industry of Oregon.

Concrete is being used on 30 per cent of the total lane miles under contract at the present time, Montgomery pointed out. This represents a significant increase, he explained, since only 15 per cent of the completed interstate highway is paved with concrete.

Total concrete highway completed or contracted on Oregon's interstate system now amounts to 204 lane miles. "This is progress for an Oregon industry," he commented, "considering that virtually no concrete highways were constructed in the state during the 15 years previous to 1958."

Three Oregon Firms

The cement industry is made up of the three cement-producing companies doing business in the state—Ideal Cement company, Oregon Portland Cement company, and Permanente Cement company.

All of the new concrete work has been confined to portions of the Pacific Highway, now officially designated as Interstate Highway 5, from north of Albany to south of Medford, with the exception of the Portland ex-

ension of the Baldock free-way, Montgomery reported. Portions contracted in 1960 include 27 lane miles from the Seven Oaks to Jackson Street in Medford, 36 lane miles from Grants Pass to Evans Creek, nine lane miles from Rice Hill to North Oakland Junction, 23 lane miles from the McKenzie river to the Willamette river, and 21 lane miles on the Portland free-way.

SWEATER SALE!	
sale price	regular price
\$8	9.95
\$8	10.95
\$8	11.95
\$8	12.95
\$10	13.95
\$10	14.95
\$10	15.95
\$10	16.95
\$10	17.95
\$14	18.95
\$14	19.95
\$14	22.95
\$14	23.95
\$20	39.95

BARKER'S

MAIN AT CENTRAL MEDFORD OREGON

NOT Bargain-Counter Coverage...

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE with BIG safe-driver SAVINGS from THE TRAVELERS, the company that INVENTED auto insurance.

Available now to Oregon motorists from your local independent Travelers Agent:

Don Stathos, insuror

THE MALL—1005 E. Main

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE PROTECTION

Phone SP 3-6658

SAFEWAY HELP YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL

Complete His Reference Library

BUY A BOOK-A-WEEK

Complete Your Set in 6 Short Weeks!

THE NEW GOLDEN BOOK PICTURE ATLAS OF THE WORLD

BOOK 1 only **49¢**

ALL OTHERS **99¢** each

WARD'S

24 hour

WATER HEATER INSTALLATION

Phone SP 3-7301

32-GALLON GLASS LINED ELECTRIC

104.95

\$5 DOWN \$3 A MONTH

Extra-big capacity and fast recovery give you plenty of hot water for all your household needs. Great heat tank won't rust. Automatic controls.

MORE THAN A THOUSAND MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN GLORIOUS FULL COLOR

6 MAGNIFICENT BOOKS

START TODAY!

BOOK 1 NOW ON SALE!

EXCLUSIVELY AT

SAFEWAY

The Perfect Companion Set to the World Famous

GOLDEN BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA