

# Misconceptions Color Ideas About Catholics

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

At the start of this century, there were about 10 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 society 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 holy 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 "sacramentals" 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 Pops) 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 counsel 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 embroider its teachings with fanciful superstitions of their own. It also has brilliant intellectuals like Jacques Maritain, John Courtney Murray and Pierre de Chardin.

In short, the Catholic Church is what its name implies—Catholic, or all-inclusive. Its catholicity is great enough to include the poor and illiterate woman who scrubs floors at 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.

**Specific Religious Duties**  
There are, for example, a few specific religious duties which are enjoined 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 things 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.

**Young Men Invited To Meeting**  
Young men with a taste for the sea are invited to a Sea Scout organizational meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Klamath Falls Naval Reserve unit's headquarters at Kingsley Field.

Vincent Herlihy, 1603 North Eldorado, Avenue, a graduate of the U.S. Marine Academy, will be the unit's skipper. The Naval Reserve unit will be sponsor.

Sea Scouts operate under the Explorer Scout program. They will learn seamanship, navigation, boat handling and upkeep and other salty skills.

Youths 15 years of age or 14 and in the ninth grade are eligible. They will plan their own activities. Tentative plans are to enlist cooperation of local boat owners for some activities.

A regional Sea Scout regatta will be conducted at Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle in May and about 900 scouts from the Pacific Northwest are expected to attend.

A regional explorers' conference at Fort Lewis in June will also be offered and the local unit will be able to send two delegates.

**Kennan Tabbed**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy is reported planning to name George F. Kennan as ambassador to Yugoslavia.

The 56-year-old diplomat and educator is a top expert on the Soviet Union. He is regarded as author of the Truman administration's containment policy against the Communists.

Keenan served as ambassador to the Soviet Union under former President Harry S. Truman until the Soviets said he was unacceptable to them.



"Where's your parachute?"

## McFadden Ends 'Boot' Training

Marine Pvt. Eugene T. McFadden, son of Mrs. Ardis A. Smith, 1645 Siskiyou, completed recruit training Jan. 12 at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

The 11-week course included instruction in all basic military subjects and infantry weapons.

Upon completion of training new Marines are assigned to a unit for further infantry training, or to one of the many Marine Corps schools.

## Roof Damaged

Suburban firemen were called at 10 a.m. Tuesday to quell a fire on the roof of a home occupied by Charles Thompson, 4644 Denver Street. A chimney was placed too close to the roof during a remodeling job, firemen said. Damage was slight.

## COMPLETES SEA TRIALS

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (UPI)—The 3,500-ton nuclear submarine "Shark" successfully completed its preliminary sea trials Tuesday and returned to port to prepare for commissioning ceremonies Feb. 9. The Shark, believed the fastest undersea craft in the world, will be used primarily as an anti-submarine weapon.

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United Presbyterians of the Klamath Basin will welcome their national leader, Dr. Herman Lee Turner, moderator of the 172nd General Assembly on Thursday evening, Jan. 26, at 8 o'clock at the First Presbyterian Church, A. Ga. He has been widely known for his persuasive, courageous service with the two choirs of the First Presbyterian Church and the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Ga. He has been widely known for his persuasive, courageous service with the two choirs of the First Presbyterian Church and the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Ga. He has been widely known for his persuasive, courageous service with the two choirs of the First Presbyterian Church and the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Ga.

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many years, as a member of the Board of National Missions, a commission on evangelism, and as a member of the assembly's special committee on consolidations, the group which worked out details for the merger in 1958 of the former Presbyterian, USA and United Presbyterian, N.A. denominations.  
The community is invited to United Presbyterian Church in the USA.

**NOTICE OF CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION PATROLMEN**  
Apply City Hall  
5th and Walnut  
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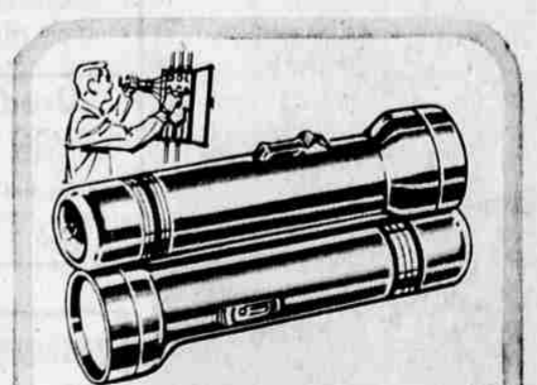
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