

# Poll Counts Votes For Soul

We have had polls to count just about everything else so we should have expected this one sooner or later.

Now we have a poll reporting how many people vote in favor of believing you have a soul.

A poll recently surveyed people in Europe, the Far East, Central and South America to ask them, "Do you believe there is a life after the present one?"

Most of the people answered, "Yes."

Predominantly Catholic countries like Italy had a high percentage in the affirmative but with a few notable exceptions.

In Mexico City, 38 per cent stated they did not believe in life beyond the grave, and in Brazil there were 36 per cent who did not believe in an after life.

Japan, with relatively few Christians in its teeming population, reported only 20 per cent do not believe in a future life.

The poll indicated that the amount of schooling did not seem to sway opinions one way or another. The more educated people indicated they gave the question considerable thought and then some said yes, others no. The uneducated were also quite evenly divided as to belief and disbelief.

**PHILOSOPHERS DEBATED** the subject centuries before Christ was born, and some philosophers are still debating the topic.

The debate actually narrows down to the question, "Do you have an immortal soul?"

The lowest savages of the ancient Ice Ages, just like the remotest aborigines of Australia today, concluded there is a soul in every human to survive the body's death. Burial rites in Neanderthal caves, Egyptian tombs, and Fiji reefs all point to the basic belief that the soul lives after the body dies.

Plato and Aristotle in Greece, Cicero in Rome testify to the general belief in an immortal soul but admit an equally widespread puzzlement as to just what the soul is — air, atoms, or fragments of an imagined world-soul.

**EVEN THOUGH THE JEWS** had the Old Testament to guide them they were sharply divided about the reality of the soul. The Sadducees denied it. The Pharisees accepted it but added their own beliefs about pre-existence and transmigration.

It was left for our Lord Jesus Christ to clarify the question with his repeated statements about the soul and the everlasting consequences of virtue or vice in this life.

Christian faith is meaningless without belief in a life after the present one.

Christian philosophers, notably St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, have probed the mysterious realm of the relationship between body and soul.

**CATHOLIC DOCTRINE HAS** always explicitly taught that the soul after the body's death goes to heaven, purgatory or hell.

If so-called Catholics in Mexico City, Brazil or elsewhere reject the doctrine, they deny a fundamental dogma of faith and they actually cease to be Christians.

Too bad the poll did not press the doubters to give their reason for their unbelief.

But maybe there is no need for this. St. Augustine explained the sceptic's denial as long ago as the fourth century.

Those who deny there is a soul, he said, have a reason for wishing they had no soul.

And the people who wish like that are those with a guilty conscience, who fear the punishments in store for them in the life they dread to enter after this one ends.

For Christians who make a reasonable effort to serve God according to His commandments there is the opposite outlook — one of serene consolation knowing that God is good and has a reward exceeding great awaiting them beyond the grave, even if another poll shows a majority vote to the contrary.

## Calendar

Sunday, April 13—Low Sunday (white), Gloria, Creed, Easter Preface.  
Monday, April 14—St. Justin, martyr (red), Gloria 2nd prayer of St. Tiburtius.  
Tuesday, April 15, through Friday, April 18, Mass as Sunday, except no Creed; or Thursday, St. Anicetus, martyr (red), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Sunday; VR.  
Saturday, April 19—Saturday Mass of our Lady (white), Gloria, Preface of the Blessed Virgin; VR.

## SERMONETTE

By REV. PAUL COURTNEY

Where There Is Darkness, Let Me Bring Light . . .

Have you ever personally given a poor man a meal cooked with your own hands? Even a sandwich? Have you ever given a piece of needed clothing to a specific poor child? Ever tended the sickness of an indigent stranger?

In this complicated specialized age of ours even the corporal works of mercy are largely in the hands of specialists. We are not even sure where the poor and needy are. If we want to give we call the parish priest or the charities bureau to identify and locate the poor for us.

Like it or not, we must admit that the average individual nowadays doesn't get a great deal of chance to perform personally and with satisfying directness the physical works of charity for those in need. Fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, we are so far removed from poverty that we must deal with the poor by proxy.

But how different it is in another area. We need not search long for those who need spiritual help. On all sides of us we see persons in the throes of discouragement, depression and darkness of spirit. If bodily hunger is no longer a common threat, the ills of the spirit abound. Sometimes these ills are far too deep to be touched by the simple therapy of kindness. But more often they are minor miseries which we could cure by the easiest acts of mercy.

Unfortunately we rarely think of the darkness in the lives of others and little realize how much light lies in our power. We worry about the darkness in our lives. St. Francis tells us we've got it backwards. How well are we using the light that we have for others?

## JOSEPH BREIG

### Many a Mason Must Feel . . .

My guess is that many a Mason must feel slightly ill over the situation in Oregon.



Scottish rite 33d degree Masons in that state have teamed up with POAU in an effort to take free textbooks away from children in Catholic schools.

POAU, if you have forgotten, is short for Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

POAU's main reason for being is to make things difficult for Catholic Americans.

Its chief tool in this noble endeavor is what it calls "separation of church and state."

POAU HAS NO use for the separation set forth in the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

That means that Congress is forbidden to set up a government church and compel people to adhere or contribute to it.

The Constitution does not satisfy POAU. POAU wants "separation" to mean that religious citizens (especially Catholic citizens) are not entitled to the same government benefits as non-religious citizens.

In practice, POAU policies add up to government discrimination against Catholic Americans.

POAU is nothing if not small; nothing if not petty.

POAU does not want children in religious (for which read Catholic) schools to ride in school buses.

POAU does not want them to enjoy the services of public health doctors or nurses.

POAU does not want Catholic American youngsters to get any of the government aids that other children get — including textbooks.

POAU wants hospitals operated by religious denominations to be excluded from federal aid.

**SURELY SAID THE** physician who heads the staff of one hospital, POAU "does not expect reasonable men to believe that the operation of a modern hospital staffed by doctors and nurses of all creeds, and caring for men of all faiths and no faith alike . . . is propagation of religion in the sense that funds used for such purpose are for the establishment of a religion."

Wrong, doctor. Precisely that is what POAU wants people to believe.

POAU fought a proposal that Congress give religious schools the same excise tax exemption enjoyed by public schools for necessary educational equipment.

If a religious school buys a typewriter to teach typing, POAU wants the school taxed.

Oh, POAU can be piddling small.

In Oregon, Scottish rite Masons, by their own admission, are working with POAU to deprive Catholic school children of free textbooks.

To this end, the rite's education committee circulated a statement to 2,000 public school teachers.

The statement falsely alleged that Catholic schools teach "governmental doctrines that are foreign, and contrary to the American concepts of government."

"This is evident," said the Scottish rite statement, "by simply reading the textbooks." This amounts to saying that the State of Oregon has been giving un-American textbooks to Catholic children.

Stuff and nonsense. Anybody is perfectly free to examine any textbook used in any Catholic school in the land. Anybody who will do so will find that the charges are preposterous.

A week before the Masonic falsehoods were distributed, Gov. Robert D. Holmes of Oregon denounced the campaign against free textbooks as plain downright bigotry.

One thing is certain — it sure is small. It sure is petty. It sure is enough to make many a Mason feel slightly ill.

# How Pope Rules World Wide Church

Cardinal Stritch of Chicago will leave this month to take up duties in the "Pope's Cabinet"—the Roman Curia.

He will be the first American prelate to head one of the Catholic Church's top governing offices.

Pope Pius XII recently named him pro-prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, central coordinating agency for the Church's world-wide missionary program.

The Pope, of course, has supreme authority to rule the Church. That is the way our Lord established the Church, giving "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" to St. Peter and his successors.

**TO KEEP** in touch with the problems and needs of Catholics throughout the world, the Pope has the Roman Curia to aid him, somewhat similar to the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Roman Curia has 20 departments each with clearly defined duties.

The 20 departments of the Curia are divided into 12 congregations, 3 tribunals, and 5 offices.

The sacred congregation of the Holy Office ranks at the top of all the departments. Its duty is to defend and promote Catholic faith and devotion.

[This congregation is widely known as the publisher of the Index, a list of books banned as dangerous to Christian faith and morals.]

The Holy Office authorized celebration of evening Masses as a means to intensify devotion.

The Office also recently warned Catholics not to delay the baptism of infants.

The sacred Consistorial congregation has charge of appointing bishops, organizing new dioceses, and conducting the meetings of Cardinals to elect a new pope.

The Consistory also supervises the spiritual care of sailors and refugees.

The sacred congregation of the Eastern Church deals with affairs of the 10 million Catholics who belong to the various eastern rites.

Many thousands of these eastern rite Catholics are in the United States — such as parishioners of St. Joseph, Rochester; St. Peter and St. Paul, Auburn; Christ the King, Bath; St. Nicholas, Elmira Heights.

The sacred congregation of Sacramental Discipline watches over the proper administration and reception of the sacraments.

The congregation of the Council enforces the decrees of the Council of Trent, Canon Law, and supervises lay apostolic groups organized under the title Catholic Action, as in France and Italy.

The sacred congregation of Religious has authority over all the religious orders of men and women as also over the third orders of lay people.

The sacred congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, usually called by its Italian name "Propaganda," coordinates the Catholic Church's world-wide missionary program.

Propaganda is currently witness to spectacular triumphs in the conquest for souls—in Africa and to shattering tragedies as the faith is bitterly attacked and hobbled in China and Communist satellite countries.

The Propaganda has charge of appointing missionary bishops and of raising funds to support missionaries, especially through the Propagation of the Faith Society headed in this country by Bishop Sheen.

The sacred congregation of rites has charge of all Latin rite church ceremonies.

This congregation in 1956 decreed the new Holy Week schedule and ritual changes, including Holy Communion on Good Friday.

The congregation's biggest task is the investigation of candidates for canonization.

The congregation also has to authenticate relics and see to their proper distribution and reverent use. Officials of this congregation also assign the patron saints to new inventions or organizations.

The sacred congregation of Ceremonies arrange all rituals in which the Pope takes part.

The sacred congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs deals with civil governments which have special treaties with the Vatican.



Pope as Vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter, Prince of Apostles, has supreme authority in Catholic Church. He is aided in government of Church by prelates of Roman Curia.

The sacred congregation of Seminaries and Universities is the Catholic Church's top educational office. Although this congregation concentrates most of its attention on seminaries, courses it also outlines subjects to be studied in all Catholic schools.

The sacred congregation of St. Peter's Basilica has charge of the upkeep of the world's largest church, annually visited by millions of tourists and pilgrims and the scene of the principal ceremonies of the Catholic Church.

**THE THREE** tribunals or courts of the Curia are the Penitentiary, in charge of indulgences and easing of penances assigned in confession; the Apostolic Signature, an appeals court for Vatican City; and the Rota, the court which decides marriage cases.

**THE FIVE** offices are called the Apostolic Chancery, Apostolic Datary, Apostolic Secretariat, Apostolic Letters and Secretariat of State.

These offices prepare official documents for the congregation and tribunals.

The Secretariat of State is the Vatican Foreign Office.

Once asked what is the overall policy followed by Vatican agencies in administering Church affairs, Cardinal Merry del Val, secretary of state to Pope St. Pius X, said, "The Ten Commandments."

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He has come to this conclusion after twenty-five years in the priesthood and first hand knowledge of the spiritual life of people in France, Brazil, and Italy.

Most of his priestly career has been spent as a missionary in Brazil where he also served as a provincial superior of Dominican priests.

**HIS PRESENT** assignment is the restoration of historic shrines and monasteries in southern France where 13th century St. Dominic laid the foundations of the Order of Preachers.

Father Tauzin is currently in America until May visiting U.S. Dominican establishments.

He marvels at the Catholic school system in this country and paid a deserved tribute to the nuns who staff the schools, "Your sisters are so competent and so devout," he said, "Your people must be very grateful to have such good teachers for the children."

He also admitted his amazement at the number of contemplative monks and nuns in America — Trappists, Carmelites, and other rigorous orders devoted to prayer, meditation, and cloistered work.

The French priest in his three months visit to the United States has also noted that American Catholics are "so kind and so generous."

## Making Marriage Click

### Advice For Widows

By MSGR. IRVING A. DOBLANO  
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"Please devote a column to the problems of Catholic middle aged widows. We were happily married, then suddenly it was all ended by the death of our husbands. We are now pursued, wooed, confused. But we need affection now more than ever. Infatigable now don't seem so serious." — Several Catholic Widows.

There are about 8,000,000 widows in the U.S.A. and over 1,300 new ones are added every day. You have lots of company! You may once have said, "This type of thing won't happen to me; it only happens to other people."

But suddenly death came. It shocked you, dazed you, numbed you. Then new worries, new failures, new health problems. And the older you get the more you love and the less you are loved. Some may think you are now a fifth wheel.

**MAY I MAKE** these few suggestions: Mourn frankly and fully, but without self pity. Remain in good physical health. Eat properly and take outdoor exercise. Get back into circulation as soon as possible.

Don't try to live in a corner. Become self-reliant and develop self confidence. Do not depend on relatives and friends as if you were a parasite. Get a job if you can. Organize your lives as though you were never going to marry again.

Do not unload your troubles on your offspring. Accept yourself as you are, not the "ideal me," but the "real me."

Get really close to the Mass, the Sacraments, prayers. The Holy Father says, "A widow cannot have interior peace and face all her tasks unflinchingly unless she becomes more spiritual." Volunteer your services; and hour a week to help the parish church.

No widow can seek affection from married men. The Ninth Commandment was not revealed just for our curiosity. To seek or consent to affection from bachelors or widowers carries risks. Unless one intends to remarry, one may not have a proportionate reason for the dangers involved in permitting certain affections. The advice of a local spiritual director is needed.

Incidentally, if widows tried to remarry, where would they find the men? There are over one and a half million more women in the U.S.A. than men. Women are outliving men by 6 years.

Some sociologists suggest polygamy! Some preachers in England proposed that a lady marry for 10 years, then give some other woman a chance. Obviously, this is ridiculous, but the fact remains that, except for his greater muscular strength, man is actually the weaker sex. Almost every disease kills more men than women.

**MARRIED WOMEN** who fear that they will not be able to endure widowhood without affection will have to help their husbands live longer! They may have to teach them to abandon their illusions of physical superiority, their cult of maleness.

They must accept more responsibilities in marriage. They will have to demand less taxing consideration. They will have to relieve their husbands from economic pressures and that striving for status.

On the other hand, God may want widows to go on plugging at their new job; one dull, monotonous moment after another.

It will take courage, but most of all it will take love. Love, however, is something you have in wholesale abundance. Perhaps love is the only answer after all; direct it properly and God will no doubt help you to understand.

**Men Of Distinction**  
A Fisherman was having wonderful time in a trout stream. The fishing season hadn't opened and he had no license. Finally a stranger walked up.

"Any luck?" asked the stranger.

"Any luck? Boy, this is a wonderful spot. I took forty out of this stream yesterday."

"Is that so? By the way, do you know who I am?"

"Nope."

"Well, meet the game warden," said the stranger.

"Oh," gulped the fisherman. "Well, do you know who I am?"

"Nope."

"Well, meet the biggest liar in the state."

## Courier Journal

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## French Priest

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Dominican seminarian views scene from Toulouse priory where St. Dominic told his first band of friars on May 14, 1217, to "preach all over the world." Cross marks spot where he stood to give the command.