Catholic Church

**With sales down at KFC, Colonel Sanders calls the pope to ask for a favor. “Holy Father, I need you to change the daily prayer from ‘Give us this day our daily bread’ to ‘Give us this day our daily chicken.’ If you do that, I will donate $10 million to the Vatican.” The pope replies, “That is the Lord’s Prayer. I can’t change it.” “How about $50 million?’ “No.” “$100 million?” “I’ll get back to you.” The next day, the pope calls together his bishops. “I have good news and bad news,” he says. The good news is that KFC is donating $100 million to the Vatican. The bad news is, we have to give up the Wonder Bread account.” (Planet Proctor Newsletter)**

**Th**[e Vatican received an invitation for a friendly but high-level golf game to be played in the spirit of friendship by representatives of Catholics and Jews. None of the cardinals was good at golf, so they decided to make Jack Nicklaus, a devout Catholic, a cardinal so he could represent the Vatican -- and win the game. Nicklaus was honored and agreed to play. The day after the game Nicklaus went to the Vatican and reported to the pope that he had good news and bad news. The good news was that he had played the best golf of his life; the bad news was that he lost by three strokes to Rabbi Tiger Woods. *(Rocky Mountain News*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)*)*

[**A man is struck by a bus on a busy street. As he lies dying, he calls out, “A priest! Somebody get me a priest!” A police officer checks the crowd – no priest, no minister, no man of God of any kind. Then out of the crowd an elderly man comes over. “Officer,” he says, “I’m not a priest. I’m not even a Catholic. But for 50 years I’ve lived behind St. Elizabeth’s Church, and every night I’ve listened to the Catholic litany. Maybe I can be of some comfort to this man.” The officer agrees, and the elderly man kneels down over the injured pedestrian and solemnly intones: “B-4, I-19, N-38, G-54, and O-72…” *(Jewishmag.com, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, October, 2023)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**Nuns have an average life expectancy of seventy-seven years, the longest of any group in the United States. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 122)***

**The Roman Catholic population of the world is larger than that of all other Christian sects combined. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 122)***

[**A Catholic school in Michigan is suing the state, claiming that face masks physically prevent students from seeing the image of God. The lawsuit from Lansing’s Resurrection School claims that “because God created us in His image, we are masking that image” by covering our faces, and mask mandates are therefore “disruptive to this essential element of the Catholic faith.” *(The Week magazine, August 6, 2021)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**A Catholic priest in Phoenix used a single incorrect word in baptism ceremonies over his 20-year career – invalidating the rite for thousands of people. As he poured the holy water, the Rev. Andres Arango said “We baptize you,” rather than “I baptize.” Bishop Thomas Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix sent out a message to parishioners notifying them they will need to be re-baptized. “If you were baptized using the wrong words, that means your baptism is invalid,” he said. Arango apologized and asked for “forgiveness and understanding.” *(The Week magazine, March 4, 2022)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**Two Popes Are Better Than One: In 1309, Pope Clement V, who was French, moved the papacy from Rome to Avignon, France, where it remained for seventy years. When Pope Gregory XI moved it back to Rome, in 1376, French cardinals revolted and elected their own pope, known as an antipope. (Don Voorhees, in *The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 236)***

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