Vatican City

» ONLY THE POPE AND JESUS CHRIST KNOW WHAT ON EARTH THIS FLAG SYMBOLIZES.

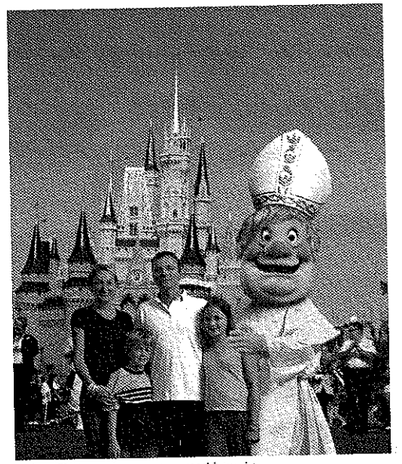
PAPAL FUN-COIN » GOOD FOR ONE RIDE IN VATICAN CITY.

The Catholic Disneyland

The world's smallest independent state is a papal kingdom of imaginary characters and expensive attractions where vacationing families can go to escape reality for a few days.

St. Peter's Magic Castle looms over this wondrous land of make-believe, where pointy-hatted trolls spout ninth-century wisdom, and where, with the swoop of a holy scepter, child-rape allegations can disappear.

While there can be long lines at the confession booths and the communion-wafer stands, both children and adults say it's worth the wait to get doused with holy water and have their sins washed away.



Vatican City's popular mascot poses with tourists.

FACTS » ENJOY A COLD CUP OF CHRIST'S BLOOD

ADMISSION
$12 (boys under 12 free)

AREA COMPARATIVE
Half the size of New Life Church, Colorado Springs, CO

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Francesco "Frankie Crackers" Bartoli

SUFFRAGE
Universal at age 80

POPULATION
783 (one pontiff, 57 cardinals, 724 houseboys, and the kooky but lovable ghost of Pope Sixtus V)

AFTERLIFE EXPECTANCY
100%

LEADING INDUSTRIES
Usury, real estate, bingo

LOCAL CUISINE
Fish on Fridays

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Offenders are forgiven after serving 5–10 Hail Marys

IMPORTS
Money

EXPORTS
Guilt

HISTORY » EXACTLY WHAT JESUS WOULD HAVE WANTED

A.D. 30 Jesus Christ ordains the Apostle Peter the first pope, declaring, "You are the rock upon which I will build an opulent mansion."

325 Emperor Constantine legitimizes the papacy by declaring just one sect of Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, forever dooming to heresy the promising "Jesus was a centaur" sect.

593 World-renowned explorer Pope Gregory I discovers Purgatory.

1054 A rift between cardinals results in the Great Schism, a church split between two rival popes, confusing everyone for centuries, including God, who at this point has mostly stopped paying attention.

1191 The Inquisition forces all participants to confess it's "the best Vatican attraction ever."

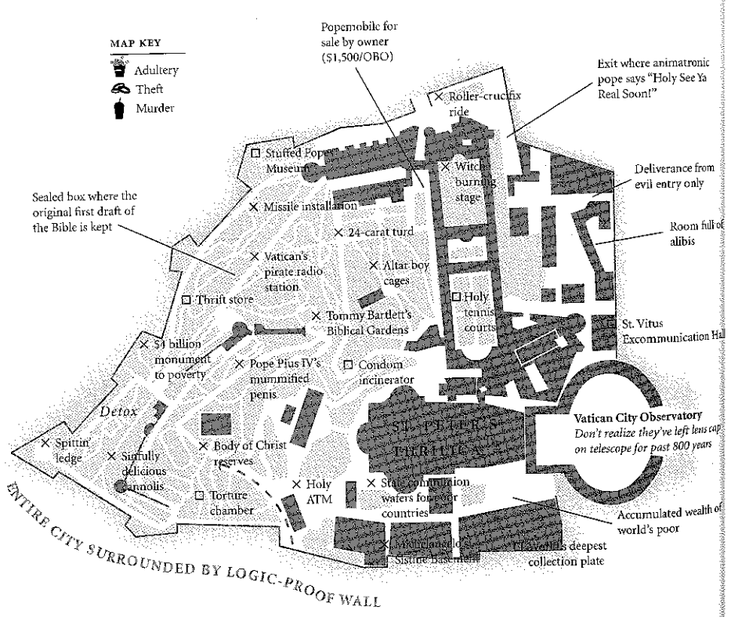
1633 Pope Urban VIII conceives an ambitious plan to send enormous pages of the Bible into outer space so that Galileo's telescope will for once see something factual.

1882 Friedrich Nietzsche pronounces God dead. Next of kin Pope Leo XIII inherits all of God's books, furniture, and an estimated $100 billion in church property.

The Golden Chalices
A favorite Vatican attraction.

1962 Pope John XXIII announces Vatican II. Many conservative Catholics complain that there are still a lot of bugs, and eagerly await the Vatican II.I upgrade.

2005 As soon as Pope Benedict XVI moves in, he immediately finds the perfect gold pedestal upon which to display his Hitler Youth knife.

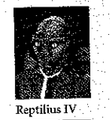


RELIGION » POPES THROUGH HISTORY

Innocent X

Honorius IV

Paul III



Reptilius IV

John Paul II

Benedict XVI