

12,000 Souls Baptized Reporting 'a Personal Encounter with Christ'

More than 12,000 people were baptized in France on Easter Sunday—a record number for the country where about 50% of the people say they do not believe in God.

The French Bishops Conference reports that despite the acceleration of “de-Christianization,” there has been a rise in requests for baptism in the Catholic Church within the last 10 years.

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During an Easter service, 7,135 adults were baptized and more than 5,000 teenagers aged 11 to 17 were baptized, according to America Magazine.

The report explains that 31% more people were baptized this year than last year and that the number of adults, 18-25 years old, rose from 23% to 36% in the last year.

“In today’s French society, 80% of young people have not received any religious education,” Father Vincent Breynaert, director of the National Youth and Vocations Service, explained in the report presented on March 27. “They have very few preconceived ideas about the Church. What those asking for baptism have in common is that they had a spiritual experience and a personal encounter with Christ.”

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The report also outlines that the requests for baptism are

noticeable in bigger cities.

In Paris, there was a 27% increase from 2023 to 2024.

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