

Did You Know...



News and trivia from our parish and the Catholic Church
-- contributed by the Christ Child Church Women's Club --



Christ Child Catholic Church

Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the Challenges of Loving Service

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The Moon is part of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida

Yeah, right. Does this look like something out of Fake News, or what? But it's true -- in a casually official sort of way. Here's how it happened:

In 1968, William Borders was promoted from Archbishop to Bishop, of the newly established Diocese of Orlando. This diocese encompassed, among other areas, the launch site at Cape Canaveral.

After his new appointment, Bishop Borders visited the Pope (Paul VI) and in the course of their conversation, mentioned that he was now the Bishop of the Moon. In response to the Pope's immediate reaction (perhaps to call the Swiss Guard <grin>), Bishop Borders cited the Code of Canon of 1917, which was in effect at that time. The Code stated that any "newly discovered territory" would fall under the bishopry from where the *discovering expedition* had departed. Well, in this case, that would be 'launched'.



Gregory H. Revera - Own work
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Since there was no church, and few citizens, on the Moon, the territorial authority was relatively moot, and remains so today. Stay tuned, the times they are a-changin'!



But lest we assume that Catholicity and the Moon are only associated by a chance legality, let's look at some other historical aspects of interest.

Back in 1645, selenographers (the people who map the moon) began naming craters and seas on the visible surface. Many of the greatest scientists of the day were Jesuit priests, and thus saints and royalty, all in Latin of course, became namesakes for prominent features. As of today, 35 craters have Catholic etymologies.

In another quirk of linguistics, the Latin word *maria* (seas), used to name the large flat lunar areas, coincided with the name of the Holy Mother. Many associations have been made down through time, between the two (e.g., "fair as the moon", Song of Songs 6:9).



Last, but hardly least, let us think of the Moon as exactly what it is -- our closest *heavenly body*. That phrase "heavenly body" is well-applied. The Moon can give us a clear glimpse, a beginning sense of what lies outside our tiny world. It seems that the Moon is meant to provide us a deep insight about the heavenly vastness that God has created.

Still Curious? See these links ---

<https://aleteia.org/2017/07/31/the-catholicity-of-the-moon/>

<https://www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/archive/remembering-the-bishop-of-the-moon/>

<http://www.archive.org/stream/newcanonlaw00woywuoft#page/n15/mode/2up>

<http://www.catholicapologetics.info/thechurch/canonlaw/commentary .pdf>

--- *Karin and Greg Illes*

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<http://christchild.org/did-you-know-articles>