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Catholic census to be conducted this month in diocese

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CATHOLIC CENSUS
TO BE CONDUCTED
THIS MONTH IN DIOCESE

MISSOULA--

A census of the Helena Diocese of the Catholic Church will be conducted at the end of September, according to an announcement by Bishop Raymond G. Hunthausen. It will be the first diocesan-wide census since the initial effort in 1958.

Census week will be September 27 to October 4.

The census is one aspect of a sociological study of the diocese being conducted by the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Montana.

"Information that will be obtained in the census is vital to further aspects of the study," said Dr. Gordon Browder, a UM sociology professor, who is executive director of the Institute.

Volunteers will be making house-to-house visits, but information will be gathered only from Catholics. All Catholics in the diocese are encouraged to provide the information requested.

In addition to a need for the sociological study, the census will also provide important information for establishing local programs at the parish level. Education officials and religious education personnel will have more accurate figures on the pre-school and school-age population as a result of the census.

Dr. Browder pointed out that with the federal decennial census so recently completed, it will be possible to make meaningful comparisons with the population at large.

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