

NOVEMBER 16, 1975

POOL REPORT NO. 6 - CHATEAU TO CHURCH OF POIGNY-LA-FORET
AND RETURN

President Ford, President Giscard, Mrs. Giscard and Premier Moro left the Chateau at 9:27 in a motorcade to attend mass at the village church, Poigny-la-Forêt, five miles away. The motorcade went through the Rambouillet National Forest, a route that was lined with police, some of them carrying submachine guns.

They arrived at the church at 9:36 and occupied the first row facing the altar.

The church was a typical small village church. A painting of the Crucifixion hung above the altar and painted on the wall above the picture was the inscription "Il nous a tant aimés." A triplex of French tricolors flanked the altar on either side.

Ford was wearing a dark blue pin-striped suit, white shirt and blue and white tie. President Giscard was wearing a tan suit with a blue shirt and Mrs. Giscard was in a suit and hat of tan.

There was no sermon. At the communion time Madame Giscard and Premier Moro received communion. Before that at the "Kiss of Peace" President Giscard kissed his wife.

Just before the consecration of the host, the priest, a local priest but not pastor of the parish, turned to the congregation and asked for prayers for all the people on the earth, for the leaders of nations and for the works of your meeting in Rambouillet -- an apparent reference to the summit conference.

At the end of the mass the priest turned again to the congregation and said, "I wish you a good Sunday and, for those of you who work "Bon courage" (which apparently translates fairly exactly into English.)

After mass Ford, President Giscard and Mrs. Giscard posed for pictures and shook hands with the village priest and members of the village.

Thereafter, the motorcade returned to the Chateau.

JEROME CAHILL

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