

Men and women sin differently, according to Vatican study

Men and women sin differently according to a Vatican study which suggests men are prone to lust while women are more likely to commit sins of anger.

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Genetically modified blue rose Photo: AFP

Pride is the most common sin committed by women, the report found, but ranks only at number five for men, who are most prone to lust, followed by gluttony.

The results of survey, which was based on an analysis of confessional data carried out by 95-year-old Jesuit priest and scholar Roberto Busa, have been echoed by the Vatican.

Monsignor Wojciech Giertych, personal theologian to Pope Benedict XVI and the papal household, told the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano: "Men and women sin in different ways. When you look at vices from the point of view of the difficulties they create you find that men experiment in a different way from women."

After lust and gluttony, the third most common sin by men is sloth followed by anger, pride and envy with avarice at the bottom.

For women, envy was the second most common sin after pride, followed by anger, while sloth was the least likely.

The survey also found that 30 per cent of Catholics no longer considered confession to a priest necessary, and 10 per cent even said that it "impeded their personal dialogue with God", according to The Times.

Last year the Vatican added seven new sins to the existing list: genetic modification; human experimentations; polluting the environment; social injustice; causing poverty; "financial gluttony"; and taking or selling drugs.