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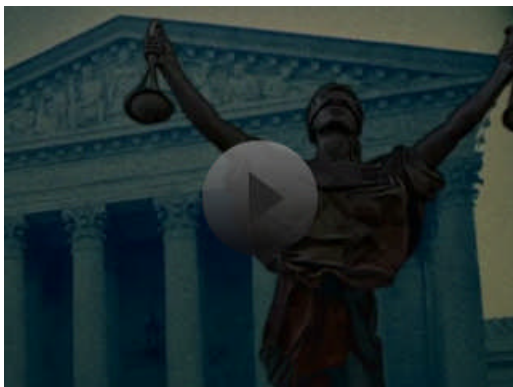
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Politics

Sotomayor... A Judicious Choice?

By **Lorie Johnson**
 CBN News Medical Reporter

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Supreme Court Justice nominee Sonia Sotomayor goes before a Senate panel, Monday, to begin the arduous confirmation process.

The senators will grill Sotomayor on every aspect of her life to determine whether she is worthy of the lifetime commitment of being one of only nine justices to sit on the bench of our nation's highest court.

Sotomayor is a Catholic. And as such, her position on abortion could receive more attention during her confirmation hearings. Traditionally, Catholics have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with pro-lifers. But that tradition could be softening.

A Practicing Catholic?

About 65 million Americans are Catholic. That makes up roughly one-quarter of the country's population. But only half that number are considered "practicing Catholics," who are solidly anti-abortion. Among the other half, opinions about abortion are mixed.

"If you look at practicing Catholics, those who go to mass on a regular basis, they are obviously in favor of pro-life they are obviously opposed to the abortion rights agenda," William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, explained.

"Those Catholics who show up at Easter and Christmas and take the seats from the rest of the Catholics in the church, these are the people who are okay with abortion," he said. "They may not be loving it, but they're certainly not too exercised about it."

But even among "non-practicing Catholics" there is division.

According to Donahue, "within the non-practicing category, those people who are good men and women but for whatever reason, laziness or whatever, don't go to church on a regular basis."

"They are not to be confused with the minority of people who call themselves Catholic and are champions of abortion, who lie about the Catholic church who are activists on the far secular left," he explained.

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