

JUNE 1, 1975

POOL REPORT

Ford's Church Service

The President, dressed in striped charcoal suit, and Mrs. Ford, in beige tweed coat and brown hat, emerged from Moncloa Palace at 7:05 a. m. and rode in closed limousine through almost deserted but well-guarded streets to Salesas Reales church. Arriving at 7:12 a. m. they were greeted by the priest, Father Emiliano Perez, a young-looking man in green and white robes, the Mother Superior of the attached convent and six beaming sisters in black habits. The church is small but beautiful with high vaulted ceiling, all white and gold within, with classic Spanish paintings behind altar, on walls and ceiling. About 100 people, mostly Americans but some Spanish, were in the plain wooden pews. The Fords sat in the left front row, with Ambassador and Mrs. Wells Stabler. Father Perez conducted the service entirely in Spanish, except to say "The Mass is ended" in English at the end. An English text of the Bible lessons and sermon was provided. The President put on his glasses and followed the text. Pool has a copy of the sermon if anyone wants it. Only passage of possible significance was, "We also detect in the whole world too many words and not enough deeds; and nobody believes in speeches any more, as common hypocrisy has made us mistrust words."

At one point the priest approached the Fords and shook their hands, giving them "the peace of the Lord." They did not take communion. After the 20-minute service, the Fords were shown through the adjoining cloister, and then returned to Moncloa, arriving at 7:54 a. m.

Bob Boyd - Knight