# The Catholic Orangemen of Togo: A Unique and Colorful Tradition

The Catholic Orangemen of Togo are a unique and colorful tradition that dates back to the 19th century. These men wear bright orange robes and march in parades, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. They are a symbol of faith and unity in a country that is largely Muslim.



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The Catholic Orangemen of Togo by Craig Murray



The origins of the Catholic Orangemen are not entirely clear, but it is believed that they were founded by a group of Catholic missionaries who were sent to Togo in the 1800s. The missionaries wanted to find a way to attract local people to the Catholic faith, so they decided to create a group that would be both colorful and appealing.

The Catholic Orangemen quickly became popular in Togo, and they soon spread to other parts of West Africa. Today, there are Catholic Orangemen groups in many countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, and Mali.

The Catholic Orangemen are a fraternal organization, and they are open to men of all ages. The group's members come from all walks of life, and they include farmers, teachers, businessmen, and government officials.

The Catholic Orangemen are a very active group, and they participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. They hold regular parades and festivals, and they also visit schools and hospitals to perform for children and patients.

The Catholic Orangemen are a unique and colorful tradition that is an important part of Togolese culture. They are a symbol of faith and unity, and they help to bring people together from all walks of life.

#### The Catholic Orangemen's Robes

The Catholic Orangemen's robes are one of the most distinctive features of the group. The robes are made of a bright orange fabric, and they are adorned with a variety of symbols, including the cross, the Virgin Mary, and the saints.

The orange color of the robes is said to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit. The cross is a symbol of the Christian faith, and the Virgin Mary is a symbol of purity and motherhood. The saints are represented on the robes because they are examples of people who have lived lives of faith and devotion. The Catholic Orangemen's robes are a powerful symbol of the group's faith and identity. They are a reminder of the group's commitment to the Catholic Church, and they help to create a sense of unity among the members.

#### The Catholic Orangemen's Music and Dance

The Catholic Orangemen's music and dance are an important part of the group's tradition. The group's music is typically played on drums, and it is often accompanied by singing and dancing.

The Catholic Orangemen's dance is a lively and energetic affair. The dancers move in a circle, and they often use their hands and feet to create a variety of patterns.

The Catholic Orangemen's music and dance are a way for the group to express their faith and joy. They are also a way for the group to connect with each other and with the community.

#### The Catholic Orangemen's Role in Togolese Society

The Catholic Orangemen play an important role in Togolese society. The group is a symbol of faith and unity, and it helps to bring people together from all walks of life.

The Catholic Orangemen are also a source of support for the local community. The group often visits schools and hospitals, and it provides assistance to those in need.

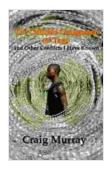
The Catholic Orangemen are a valuable part of Togolese society, and they play an important role in the country's culture and traditions.

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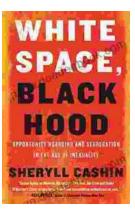
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