

## **Did voodoo-like ceremonies cause lightning to strike St. Alphonsus Church?**



**When the St. Louis landmark was badly damaged in an August storm, some speculated that the activities within had provoked divine wrath. Research has revealed that certain rites taking place in that parish closely resembled voodoo**

On August 17th Jeremy Kohler of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* began his report by writing:

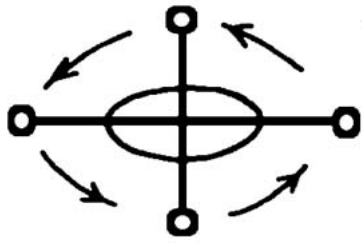
"Lightning struck a storied 135-year-old church Thursday evening on Grand Boulevard, sparking a fire that caused major damage to the midtown monument. The five-alarm blaze gutted St. Alphonsus "Rock" Catholic Church, dedicated in 1872 and widely known for its trademark limestone exterior walls." (For complete article, see [Fire guts 'Rock' Church](#)).

It's been estimated that repair of the damage will cost over \$100,000 and the church won't be usable until the second half of 2008. Some observers have taken the destruction of St. Louis' once-Redemptorist "Rock" Church to be divine retribution for what was going on there and we won't quarrel with that interpretation as being quite probably the correct one. Novus Ordo Watch reported as early as [January 2005](#) how the *supposedly* conservative John Paul II appointee, "Archbishop" Raymond Burke, was allowing pagan syncretism to flourish at St. Alphonsus and now it would seem that it's reaped the consequences of his acts. NOW's earlier mention of the church led to more in-depth research on the subject that upon which the present report is based.

Just prior to the fire, there appeared a video clip on YouTube of something identified as a ["Praise Dance"](#) that occurred at St. Alphonsus. (**Warning:** Vulgar, immodest movements in parts of the video.) The video has certainly caused much scandal and has been likened to a sort of voodoo dance (something that becomes more evident if the audio is turned).

The church describes itself as geared towards "Afri-centric Catholics" and that certainly seems the case, but a caveat needs to be added. When you read a church of "Afri-centric

Catholics" you shouldn't think of it in the same sense that in times past one could speak of, say, a neighborhood church of Irish Catholics or Italian Catholics, at least not entirely. Yes, they all retained certain customs and features that point to the ethnic or national background of the parishioners, but in the case of "Rock" Church (the origin of nickname, by the way,



harkens back to the days of its construction, when workers casually used the term to refer to its exterior) there is also the promotion of "traditional African" (read *pagan*) practices that are directly related to *voodoo*.

A prime example of this found on the church's site is the [Kongo Cosmogram](#), a symbol that finds its origins in pagan worship and despite having the image of a cross, is in no way connected to Christianity (aside from attempts to blasphemously *force* a link between the two, such as the ceremonies seen on photos linked to the Cosmogram page). One website that promotes African "traditional" religions notes a connection between the Cosmogram and voodoo and its cousins, such as Macumba (Brazil) and Santeria (Cuba), noting that at various American archeological sites associated with slaves this occult symbol has been found, along with crystals and other artifacts "related to African divination and conjuring practices." (See [The Ba'kongo nation from the Crystal Mountains of Congo, West-Central Africa: Little-Known ancestral source of crystal high science among Africans-in-America.](#))

The Cosmogram is also associated with the black folklore in the American South of selling one's soul at a [crossroads](#), which sometimes is represented symbolically with a "piece of cloth is laid on the ground and at the four corners of the cloth are set four candle-sticks with burning candles....At the center-point of this portable crossroads is a small bowl heaped full of herbiage, presumably an offering" (while not identical, there are disturbingly similarities in the All Souls Day ceremony at the "Rock" Church in the photo at right). This and other photos taken at the time show what appear to be clerics taking part in the festivities. Of course, defenders of this ceremony are going to argue that the participants are merely using a common African symbol without attaching to it any occult significance. Of course, that symbol comes from a religious tradition that wittingly or not involves the worship of devils. What is being used in the ritual is unmistakably pagan and, at best, ambiguous in its message.



And yet this sort of activity is most assuredly *not* restricted to African pagan traditions and it is instructive to note that the Cosmogram has a more or less direct counterpart in the world of the European occult: *the magic circle*. The purpose of the magic circle is usually used by sorcerers or witches as a defensive shield of sorts when summoning a spirit to do their bidding. Although magic circles aren't



always formed precisely like the Cosmogram (such as is shown [here](#)), at other times there is a similarity so striking that it is difficult to dismiss a common preternatural ancestry between the two. In the photo to the left

the magic circle shares some key elements with the Cosmogram: Within the circle a cross is found (here represented by four reclining occultists) and the four points of the cross are marked by candles, just as with its African cousin. Another similarity is that such sinister practices seek to contact the dead in ways condemned by the Catholic Church from her earliest days and, indeed, even by God in the Old Testament.

Returning to "Rock" Church, it is incredible that this insanity is taking place on the premises what was once a Roman Catholic church. Honestly, to look at the above picture without knowing where it was taking place, it would be quite easy to believe that it's some sort of *magic ritual*, far easier than to think it's sanctioned by a purported Catholic church (well, unless one is aware of the Vatican II ecclesial landscape, of course). The teaching of the Church has always been to condemn such unholy blending of the true Faith and false religions. In 1792 the Holy See, in a decree concerning the missionary activities of the Jesuits in India, reiterated the Constitution of Pope Gregory XV which "forbade any sign bearing *even the least semblance* of superstition." (emphasis added; see *Catholic Encyclopedia*, [Malabar Rites](#)) So what this Novus Ordo church (and countless more like it) is doing cannot even be justified from that angle. The thought that they would want to conduct services that even resemble voodoo rites is indicative of how far they have strayed from the Catholic Faith.

And, no, this devilish nonsense is not an "abuse," for again it is sponsored under the auspices of Burke, allegedly one of the most "Catholic" of all the conciliar hierarchy in the United States and one who has been and continues to be in the good graces of Modernist Rome. That he would permit such un-Catholic Novus Ordo practices right under his nose without doing anything to stop it is proof positive for all but the most unthinking of conciliarists that Burke does *not* possess the Catholic Faith, however much he claims to profess it. Prior to Vatican II had Catholics been caught engaging in such an ceremony, there would have been serious repercussions; in the apostate counterfeit church it is nothing extraordinary, simply another example of the false doctrine of heathen "inculturation" being put into action. Burke apologists may try to say that he "didn't know" about such activities, yet he has no excuse *not* to know, among other reason because the incriminating photos were posted on the Internet in November 2004, nearly a year after John Paul II installed him as the "archbishop" of St. Louis.



So Burke allowed this false grafting of the pagan to the Christian continued until the night the roof came crashing down at St. Alphonsus Church and there is no reason to believe that neither he nor a little lightning will stop these people. Not unless it stops them dead in their tracks. Barring a miracle of grace, they'll find a temporary venue for their sacrilegious activities and Burke will be more than willing to oblige them, as he has already. Rather than leading these people away from harm's way, as a good shepherd would, Burke allows them in true Novus Ordo fashion to continue wandering dangerously near the precipice. And from his point of view there is no problem with this; after all, John Paul II went one step further and actually met with witch doctors, publicly [praised African "traditional religions"](#) as *legitimate* (see also related items below the linked article), blasphemously calling them "seeds of the Word" and did not urge them to leave their diabolical worship for Christ or suffer eternal hellfire.



**More on "Rock" Church:**

**VIDEO** ["Rock" Church choir](#) (complete with swaying "priests")

[More "liturgical dance" at St. Alphonsus Liguori Church](#)

Novus Ordo comments on the [Novus Ordo comments](#) on the "praise dance" video (some unwittingly humorous remarks defend Burke as having his hands tied because it's a Redemptorist church, as if a bishop can't *demand* that the order clean up its act or leave)

[Entertainment Tonight goes up in flames](#) (in contrast to the above remarks, the blogmaster at Sheep in the Midst of Wolves has his head on pretty straight and reads "Rock" Church the riot act (see entries for September 28th and also the 27th).

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