

Deliver Us From Evil

Summer is here. Of the many activities available to people, going to the movies is but just one of them. There are many titles. There are many genres. Usually there is a horror film in the crowd. This year's is Deliver Us From Evil. This seems to follow up on the Exorcist series. While it portraits a Roman Catholic priest as the hero; is it really that way in real life?

Many years ago, I came across an interesting article on that subject. The whole article is below. You can read it, and judge for yourselves.

**World Weekly News
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Attempt to Force satan out of girl's body backfires, when ...

Priest Burst into Flames during Exorcism

Holy mans horrible death rocks Vatican!

by

DAVID TANNER Correspondent

A Catholic priest exploded in flames when a demon-possessed schoolgirl attacked him with balls of white-hot energy that shot from the palms of her hands!

The death of Father Luis Ponce stunned church officials who called the holy man one of the premier exorcists of this century or any other.

We knew Father Ponce was in for a fight but never expected anything like this, said a Vatican spokesman who requested anonymity.

What happened to him is beyond human comprehension. Our only understanding will come from God. The tragic exorcism unfolded after the parents of the 9-year-old girl visited Father Ponce at his parish and asked him to do something for their daughter.

Neither the girl nor her parents, who live in Barcelona, Spain, were identified in reports.

But the Vatican official said the child was perfectly normal until March 21, when she underwent a complete transformation of personality and tried to stab her parents with a kitchen knife.

She seemed to possess superhuman strength and became increasingly violent, said the official.

According to my information she strangled her pet cat and slashed a schoolmate with a broken bottle.

She cursed violently, and ugly cuts and bruises appeared on her face and body for no reason whatsoever.

In his report prior to the exorcism Father Ponce said, 'The girl is definitely possessed. There is no psychological or physical explanation for her behavior. An evil spirit has taken control and an exorcism is mandatory.'

Father Ponce chose three seasoned assistants to help him perform the exorcism and arrived at the family's home at 10 a.m. on

March 26, said the official. The girl instantly lashed out at the priest with a torrent of curses — then shook violently and began to claw at her body when he held out a crucifix and began to pray.

The exorcism took a turn for the worse, said the official. Father Ponce sprinkled holy water on the girl while his assistants held her in bed and the room filled with the smell of rotting flesh. For a split second the demon emerged from the girl's mouth, exposing black, scaly skin and a face so horrifying her mother threw up.

When the demon returned to the child's body she broke away from Father Ponce's assistants.

Blood began to flow from her eyes as she raised her hands to chest level. Her body began to shake. Then two balls of energy shot from her hands and hit Father Ponce in the chest, burning him as badly as if you had soaked him in gasoline and struck a match. I'm told that he literally exploded in flames.

A few seconds later the girl returned to normal and had no recollection of what had happened. We don't know whether

Father Ponce banished the demon prior to his death or if it left on its own.

Spanish authorities acknowledged that the incident is under investigation but referred all questions to the Vatican.

What an interesting story. There is also a similar account in the Bible. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:13-20)

But the casting out of demons was done by Our Lord Jesus Christ. And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, What are you discussing with them? Then one of the crowd answered and said, Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, O faithless

generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me. Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more! Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. (Mark 9:14-27)

Our Lord Jesus Christ didn't need Hollywood props. He didn't use holy water, rosaries, crucifixes etc. He told His disciples how to do it. Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. (Mark 16:14-18)

No matter what happens; God is still in control. He sent His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ down here to Shed His Blood, and pay

the penalty for our sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ has advice for everyone. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (John 3:7)

He still wants you to spend Eternity with Him, and His Heavenly Father. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. (Acts 16:30-31)

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

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