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NEWS

"The Da Vinci Code": cracking the code



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A new documentary, set to air Saturday on WNDU, addresses three claims in "The Da Vinci Code", including the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene

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- ["The Da Vinci Code": fact versus fiction](#)

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- [Jesus Decoded](#)
Visit the official website for the documentary, "Jesus Decoded" to find out more information about the film.
- [Jesus Decoded: Order your copy](#)
Pre-order your copy of "Jesus Decoded". The cost of the DVD is \$19.95.
- [New Group Media](#)
Read more about the group who created the "Jesus Decoded" documentary.
- [Sony Pictures: The Da Vinci Code](#)
Visit the official website for the upcoming film, "The Da Vinci Code".

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Last Updated: 05/19/2006 10:15 am

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Story filed by NewsCenter16 Reporter
[Kari Huston](#)

[South Bend, IN](#) - Is "The Da Vinci Code" merely fictitious entertainment, or is it a whistleblower for Christianity?

Christians around Michiana are tackling the movie in anticipation of its release this weekend.

"I would hope that people's faith in Jesus Christ and the resurrection will not be compromised by this book or movie, it's just too flimsy," says Sister Judy Zielinski, of New Group Media.

New Group Media, a South Bend production company, was hired by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Campaign to create a documentary that would refute "The Da Vinci Code".

The one-hour program called "Jesus Decoded" will air on NBC stations, including WNDU Saturday.

In it, secular and Christian scholars tackle three claims in "The Da Vinci Code" claims.

The first is the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

"Were they married? Did they indeed have children as the book claims? Who was Mary Magdalene? Was she a reformed prostitute? Because that theory has come down through the ages," explains Zielinski of some of the questions "Jesus Decoded" will attempt to answer.

According to Catholics, "The Da Vinci Code" is also wrong about the formation of the New Testament.

"The book claims that there were something like 80 gospels that were around and that the emperor Constantine put political pressure on the bishops as to which books were going to make it in and which weren't," says Zielinski.

Finally, "Jesus Decoded" uses reenactments and religious art to also examine the role of women in the early church.

In Michiana, many churches are welcoming "The Da Vinci Code" debate.

Ministers have turned it into a series of sermons exploring doctrine and history.

"Here at Granger Community Church, we're committed to addressing the topic of the day," says Senior Pastor Dr. Mark Beeson of Granger Community Church. "What we want to do is to acknowledge what's true, study and recognize the truth, so we can be helpful to turn the light on for people that are stumbling in the darkness. People, if they want truth, they can go to some of these great pastors, these great priests, and they can find truth that they can build their lives on."

As anticipation builds for "The Da Vinci Code", Christian leaders seem confident it will take more than a multi-million dollar murder mystery to shake their congregations' faith.

Watch the documentary

"Jesus Decoded" will air on WNDU this Saturday at 1:00 PM.

New Group Media hopes churches, discussion groups, or anyone hoping to explore the other side of "The Da Vinci Code" claims, will use their documentary to do so.



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Across the nation, ministers have turned "The Da Vinci Code" into a series of sermons, which explore doctrine and history

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