

## **Why do we put lightning rods on Catholic Churches? Aren't we expected to trust God?**

I guess we could ask why we put roofs on churches as well. We could pray and trust that God would not let it rain over the church. I'm reminded of the old joke about Farmer Joe who was stranded on his front porch as the flood waters were rising. A boat came by and offered to rescue him, but Farmer Joe stubbornly decided to stay and said, "I'll put my trust in God." The waters rose higher and another boat approached Joe at his second story window. But once again, he refused assistance. The flood waters rose even higher and Joe had to take refuge on the roof of the house when a helicopter came by and dropped a ladder. Once again Farmer Joe stayed put and said, "I'll put my trust in God." Well the waters eventually washed the farmer off the roof and he drowned and went to heaven. God saw him and said, "Farmer Joe, what are you doing here?" Joe replied, "I put my trust in you and you let me down." And God said, "What do you mean? I sent two boats and a helicopter to save you."

As human beings, God gives us intelligence and the ability for rational thought and reason. He wants us to use these gifts to advance our scientific knowledge for the benefit of mankind. We trust in God to help us, not necessarily by preventing lightning, but by giving us the intelligence to understand how lightning acts and the wisdom to harness its effects.

**Deacon Joe**