

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Documentation

Maradonian Church: Contemporary Religious Movement in Football Culture

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Heritage Description

The Maradonian Church represents a unique contemporary religious movement that deifies Diego Armando Maradona as the god of football. Founded in 1998 in Rosario, Argentina, by Dr. Alejandro Wall, this church has attracted hundreds of thousands of followers worldwide who practice a football-centered religion with Diego Maradona as their deity.

Cultural Context and Beliefs

The Maradonian Church gathers hundreds of thousands of Maradona fans from all over the world. Our religion is football, and like every religion, it must have a God. The Church's mission is to keep alive the passion and magic with which our God played football, never forgetting the miracles he performed on the fields before everyone's eyes.

Just as football has a prince and a king, it also has a God. That God is Argentine and his name is Diego Armando Maradona. Maradona transcended the barriers of fields and stadiums, installing himself in many of our lives as a culture, as something normal. Today we see his face and name on t-shirts, painted walls, posters, and all kinds of objects.

The 10 Commandments

1. The ball shall not be stained, as D10S said in his tribute.
2. Love football above all things.
3. Declare your unconditional love for Diego and good football.
4. Defend the Argentine jersey, respecting the people.
5. Spread Diego's miracles throughout the universe.
6. Honor the temples where he preached and his sacred mantles.
7. Do not proclaim Diego in the name of a single club.
8. Preach the principles of the Maradonian Church.
9. Carry Diego as a middle name and give it to your son.
10. Don't be a hothead and don't let the turtle escape.

Sacred Prayers

Our Father (and he is truly ours)

Our Diego who art on earth, hallowed be thy left foot. Thy magic come to us, thy goals be remembered, on earth as they are in heaven. Give us today joy in this day, and forgive those journalists as we forgive the Neapolitan mafia. Lead us not to stain the ball and deliver us from Havelange. Diego.

Hail Diego

Hail ball, full of magic, Diego is with you. Blessed art thou among all others and blessed is Diego who does not let you be stained. Holy round one, mother of goals, pray for us players now and at the hour of our match. Diego.

I Believe

I believe in Diego, almighty footballer, Creator of magic and passion. I believe in Pelusa, our D10S, our Lord. Who was conceived by the work and grace of Tota and Don Diego. Born in Villa Fiorito. He suffered under the power of Havelange. Was crucified, died and mistreated. Suspended from the fields. They cut his legs. But he returned and resurrected his spell. He will be in our hearts, forever and in eternity. I believe in the football spirit, The holy Maradonian Church, The goal against the English, The magic left foot, The eternal devilish dribble, And in an eternal Diego. Diego.

Maradonian Celebrations and Cultural Distribution

Maradonians celebrate two major dates: June 22 (Maradonian Easter) and October 29 (Maradonian Christmas Eve and Christmas). The church, established on October 30, 1998, by Dr. Alejandro Wall in Rosario, claims over 500,000 followers worldwide across Argentina, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, and 60+ countries, with primary locations including Buenos Aires, Villa Fiorito, Naples, Barcelona, and Mexico City.

Sacred Symbols: Number 10, the left foot (la zurda mágica), football as sacred object, Argentine jersey, and 1986 World Cup footage. Following Maradona's death on November 25, 2020, the movement experienced unprecedented growth, interpreting his passing as divine ascension and expanding through digital platforms with virtual services and online ceremonies.