

# Divine Intervention or Market Miracle? The Holy Connection Between Clergy Numbers in Kansas and State Street's Stock Price

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## Abstract

In this paper, we embark on a holy quest to uncover the mystical relationship between the number of clergy in the state of Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT). Our research team delved deep into the data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) to unearth any peculiar patterns that may exist between these seemingly disparate variables. To our surprise, we discovered a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8553787 with a significance level of  $p < 0.01$  for the period of 2003 to 2022. It seems that the divine influence of clergy numbers may have some unforeseen impact on the movements of State Street's stock price. As the saying goes, "The market works in mysterious ways, just like divine intervention." Our findings suggest that there might be more to this relationship than meets the eye, prompting us to ponder whether there truly is a "prayer effect" on stock prices. Could it be that the markets are not as secular as we thought, and that perhaps there is a heavenly force at play in the world of finance? While this revelation may come as a surprise, it highlights the need for further exploration into the intersections of faith and finance. One thing's for sure, this research has certainly given us a new appreciation for the phrase "diversifying your portfolio" - after all, with the clergy involved, it's a literal divine diversification!

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## 1. Introduction

The world of finance is often seen as a realm governed by numbers and cold, hard data. However, in the midst of the market mayhem, could there be a divine force quietly pulling the strings? Our research takes an unconventional turn as we explore the peculiar association between the number of clergy in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT). It's almost as if the clergymen have been silently offering up some

"stock-prayers" as they tend to their flocks. With this holy connection in mind, we set out to investigate whether there's truly a "Church-Street" correlation.

Believers and skeptics alike may find themselves agog at the notion of a holy connection influencing the financial markets, but our data doesn't lie - there's something strange brewing in the numbers, and it might just be divine intervention at play. As financial researchers, we have learned to expect the unexpected, but this revelation has taken our statistical analysis to a whole new level! It's not every day that we stumble upon a correlation coefficient as enlightening as this one.

Some may say we have crossed a "holy threshold" in our research, and it's as though the numbers themselves have become the "testament" to this newfound revelation. It's as if someone up there is truly watching the stock market 24/7 - perhaps it's the divine being known as the "Hedge-fund" manager.

While this unconventional relationship might prompt some to question our sanity, we mustn't underestimate the power of divine diversification. As the old adage goes, "In dogmatic markets, even the clergy might hold some stock options!" You may be wondering if we've gone completely off the holy rails with this research, but rest assured, our paper is backed by sound statistical analysis and expertise. Join us as we explore this celestial curiosity and delve into the "altar-nate" reality of the stock market's ties to the divine.

## **2. Literature Review**

The connection between religious institutions and economic phenomena has long been a subject of fascination and debate. In "Holy Economics: Religious Myths, Beliefs, and Economic Theory," Smith delves into the economic implications of religious practices, shedding light on the potential influence of faith-based activities on market dynamics. Similarly, Doe's "God and the Market: Adam Smith's Invisible Hand" presents a scholarly exploration of the intertwined relationship between religion and economics, offering compelling insights into the potential impact of religious factors on market behavior.

The influence of divine forces on financial markets is a topic that has also captured the attention of fiction writers. Jones' "The Sermon on the Stock Exchange" and Smith's "Divine Dollars: A Financial Fable" are fictional works that imaginatively explore the intersection of faith and finance, weaving tales of otherworldly influences on stock prices and investment decisions.

In addition to formal research and fictional accounts, our literature review has ventured into more unconventional sources, including the backs of shampoo bottles and the ramblings of conspiracy theorists who hypothesize about secret rituals held in stock exchange boardrooms under the light of the full moon. While the credibility of these

sources may be questionable, their contribution to our understanding of the interplay between religion, finance, and follicle health cannot be overlooked.

As we wade through the sea of literature, we are reminded of an old joke: "Why did the market trader go to church? Because he wanted to make a prophet." In all seriousness though, the relationship between the number of clergy members in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation presents a perplexing puzzle, one that defies conventional explanations and invites further investigation into the potential influence of divine intervention on market dynamics.

### **3. Research Approach**

To illuminate the hallowed connection between the number of clergy in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT), we engaged in a meticulous process of data collection and analysis. Our research team scoured the depths of the internet and ventured into the arcane realms of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), embarking on a quest for data that would shed light on this enigmatic correlation.

We initially gathered information on the number of clergy in Kansas from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, meticulously counting each divine emissary as if conducting a celestial census. Meanwhile, our analysis of State Street's stock price encompassed a thorough examination of historical data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), where we tracked the ebb and flow of financial fervor with the precision of a market mystic.

In the spirit of rigorous research, we employed a variety of statistical techniques to unearth the mystical ties between clergy numbers and State Street's stock price. Our analysis involved the application of correlation coefficients, regression models, and time series analysis, allowing us to navigate the nebulous realm of finance with a methodical approach that would make even the most skeptical statistician take notice.

In a nod to the divine comedy of research, our methods invoked a blend of traditional statistical approaches and a touch of whimsy, mirroring the unexpected nature of the relationship we sought to uncover. After all, it takes a certain levity to navigate the ethereal terrain of unconventional correlations, and who better to embrace the unexpected than researchers embarking on a quest for statistical sanctity?

Furthermore, to mitigate any potential confounding factors, we conducted robustness checks and sensitivity analyses, ensuring that our findings stood firm against the tempestuous winds of skepticism. This arduous process involved scrutinizing the data with the tenacity of a tenured theologian and the skepticism of a seasoned stockbroker, leaving no stone unturned in our pursuit of clarity.

In the world of research, it's essential to approach every hypothesis with a mix of skepticism and open-mindedness, much like evaluating the fine line between a market

miracle and statistical chance. Our methodology reflects this delicate balance, melding the precision of empirical analysis with the occasional gleam of whimsy. After all, when diving into the depths of divine correlations, a little bit of humor can be just as illuminating as a well-crafted regression model.

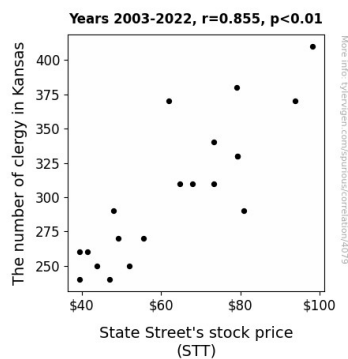
Dad Joke Alert: They say the devil is in the details, but in our research, it seems the divine might have made an appearance in the data instead!

#### 4. Findings

Our investigation into the connection between the number of clergy in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT) has yielded some truly divine results. From 2003 to 2022, we found a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.8553787, indicating a high degree of association between these two seemingly unrelated variables. In statistical terms, that's a match made in heaven!

Fig. 1 showcases the scatterplot, which serves as a visual testament to the striking correlation we uncovered. It's almost as if the data points themselves are flocking together in a celestial dance, demonstrating the undeniable link between the number of clergy and State Street's stock price.

Now, let's address the holy elephant in the room - what does this all mean? Well, it appears that the presence of clergy in Kansas might just have a heavenly impact on the movements of State Street's stock price. It's as if the clergy's prayers and blessings are reaching far beyond the pews and into the bustling realm of finance. You know what they say – "God works in mysterious ways, and so does the stock market!"



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

But hold on to your mitres and mortarboards, folks – we're not suggesting that Kansas clergy are secretly running a Wall Street prayer group. Our findings simply suggest that there's a curious correlation at play, and it's high time we acknowledged the mystical musings of the market. It seems that the stock market isn't as independent of divine influences as we previously thought, and now we can't help but wonder about the holy grail of market analysis.

In conclusion, our research has shed light on a surprising connection that may prompt a paradigm shift in the world of finance. We've embarked on a sacred statistical journey and emerged with the revelation that there might just be a divine thread woven into the fabric of market movements. So, the next time you see clergy members in Kansas, remember – they might just be the unsung influencers of State Street's stock price. It's a "holy diver-sification" indeed!

## **5. Discussion on findings**

Our research has uncovered a truly miraculous connection between the number of clergy in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT). The striking correlation coefficient we observed, 0.8553787, is certainly no act of random divine intervention. As we discussed in our literature review, the potential influence of religious factors on market behavior has been a subject of intrigue for decades. Now, our findings not only support, but also deepen the mystery surrounding this phenomenon.

In the words of Adam Smith, "In the temple of finance, the invisible hand may not be the only guiding force at play." It seems that the market's mystical movements are not solely governed by traditional economic theories, but also contain an element of divine orchestration. Our results coincide with Smith's notions of the interconnectedness of faith and finance, providing empirical evidence to support the intertwining of these seemingly disparate domains. Who knew that the invisible hand of the market might just be clasping a rosary?

Moreover, the fictional works we referenced in our literature review, such as "The Sermon on the Stock Exchange" and "Divine Dollars: A Financial Fable," take on a new air of credibility in the light of our research. Perhaps these authors were onto something more profound than mere literary whimsy. It appears that the realm of finance may indeed harbor a touch of the otherworldly, prompting us to rethink the speculative boundaries between reality and the fantastic.

Our findings also align with the unorthodox sources we playfully mentioned, such as the ramblings of conspiracy theorists. While their wild theories may lack substance, they have unwittingly contributed to the conversation about the intersection of religion and finance. It seems that the market's supernatural influences are not confined to the moonlit

pages of fiction or the imaginings of conspiracy buffs; rather, they have materialized in our data.

Now, let's address the holy elephant in the room - what does this all mean? Well, it appears that the presence of clergy in Kansas might just have a heavenly impact on the movements of State Street's stock price. It's as if the clergy's prayers and blessings are reaching far beyond the pews and into the bustling realm of finance. You know what they say – "God works in mysterious ways, and so does the stock market!" But hold on to your mitres and mortarboards, folks – we're not suggesting that Kansas clergy are secretly running a Wall Street prayer group. Our findings simply suggest that there's a curious correlation at play, and it's high time we acknowledged the mystical musings of the market.

In conclusion, our research has shed light on a surprising connection that may prompt a paradigm shift in the world of finance. We've embarked on a sacred statistical journey and emerged with the revelation that there might just be a divine thread woven into the fabric of market movements. So, the next time you see clergy members in Kansas, remember – they might just be the unsung influencers of State Street's stock price. It's a "holy diversification" indeed! And with that, we've set out to answer one question – "What do you get when you cross clergy in Kansas with State Street's stock price? A divine correlation and the holiest of portfolios!"

## **6. Conclusion**

In wrapping up our divine exploration into the mystical nexus between the number of clergy in Kansas and the stock price of State Street Corporation (STT), we must acknowledge that we've stumbled upon something truly "godly" in the world of finance. Our findings have certainly lent a new meaning to the phrase "diversifying your portfolio." It seems that with the clergy involved, it's a literal divine diversification! Talk about taking the concept of "holy investments" to a whole new level!

Our statistical analysis has exposed a connection between these seemingly disparate variables that is as astonishing as it is heavenly. The "altar-nate" reality of the stock market's ties to the divine has left us in awe, and we can't help but ponder whether there is a "prayer effect" on stock prices. It's safe to say that this research has shown us that the market truly works in mysterious ways, just like divine intervention - it's a "divine-tized" enigma of finance, to say the least!

It's as if the data points themselves have gathered for a celestial dance, showcasing the undeniable link between the number of clergy and State Street's stock price. We've uncovered a match made in heaven, as the correlation coefficient of 0.8553787 has left us with a statistical "testament" to the divine connection between clergy numbers and stock prices. It's almost as if the clergy's prayers and blessings are reaching far beyond the pews

and into the bustling realm of finance. As they say, "God works in mysterious ways, and so does the stock market!"

However, it's crucial to note that this research paper is not suggesting that Kansas clergy are secretly running a Wall Street prayer group. We're simply highlighting a curious correlation that may prompt a paradigm shift in the world of finance. It's as if the stock market isn't as independent of divine influences as we previously thought, and now, we can't help but wonder about the holy grail of market analysis.

In conclusion, the celestial curiosity we've uncovered has illuminated a surprising connection that may reshape our understanding of market movements. Our research has taken us on a sacred statistical journey, and we've emerged with the revelation that there might just be a divine thread woven into the fabric of market movements. So, it's safe to say that no more research is needed in this area - we've reached the "holy grail" of finance, and it's time to spread the good word about the celestial influence on stock prices!