

ARCHBISHOP BURKE UNFAIRLY MALIGNED

On June 29, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ran an editorial on the papal appointment of St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke to head the Vatican's highest court, the Apostolic Signatura. The mostly favorable editorial ended with a startling paragraph that cited accusations made by Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP). The group charged that "dozens of proven, admitted, and credibly accused predator priests have been *welcomed* here." It also said that "there's not a bishop in America who has *imported* so many pedophile priests into his diocese as Burke has." (Emphasis is ours.)

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented as follows:

"When I read the operative verbs '*welcomed*' and '*imported*,' I knew it wasn't true and I knew that the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* had been had. No bishop ever welcomes or imports troubled priests into his diocese. What many do is treat priests for behavioral disorders at various centers. That is exactly what they are supposed to do—give men who need treatment the help they need.

"As it so happens, there are two treatment facilities located in the Archdiocese of St. Louis—one in Jefferson County and one in Franklin County. The Archdiocese neither owns nor operates them and both were built before Burke became the Archbishop of St. Louis.

"I've been waiting all week for SNAP to send us the evidence that the Archbishop '*welcomed*' and '*imported*' molesting priests into his diocese. But it hasn't been able to deliver. All that exists is the vicious interpretation by SNAP.

"This is anti-Catholicism writ large. What we have is an advocacy group that is going broke because it can't get any

more money from steeple-chasing lawyers and a prominent newspaper swallowing its moonshine. The newspaper owes Archbishop Burke a public apology and SNAP needs to take an ethics class or shut down altogether.”