

# ATTACKS ON CHURCH GET UGLY; ALL ARE GRATUITOUS

It's been a wild autumn fighting verbal and graphic bombs lobbed at the Catholic Church. Most disconcerting has been the totally gratuitous nature of these ugly incidents.

Sarah Silverman styles herself as an edgy young comedian. We see her as a foul-mouthed bigot. She began her October tirade against Catholicism by lamenting the problem of world hunger on TV, but then quickly turned with a vengeance on the Catholic Church. Out of all the institutions in the world she could have unloaded on, she chose to single out our religion, and for no apparent reason. Except hate.

Abortion mills are death chambers, pure and simple. How anyone can work there, much less own the buildings that house them, escapes us. What is even more perplexing is why the owner of a building that leases an abortion facility would bait the faithful by putting a picture in the storefront window of Jesus extending his middle finger at Christians. He obviously was not content to merely allow the killing of the unborn—he had to show his hatred of Christianity.

Hate was much in evidence when radical secularists recently celebrated the first worldwide Blasphemy Day. Ostensibly organized to protest Muslim violence, the sole object of hate was Christianity, not Islam. This should put to rest the lie that these militants simply don't believe in God: if that were true, then all the insults that marked the day would be inexplicable.

Silverman could have based her monologue on world hunger without ever singling out the Catholic Church, but it was more fun to lie about the Church as a means of bashing it. And she could have spared us the vulgar language: what she said about

the pope cannot be repeated here. Moreover, when mainstream websites post her video, we know how deep anti-Catholicism runs in our society.

Rockford's abortion-loving entrepreneur could have settled for making a profit by giving his blessings to an intrinsic evil, but that wouldn't have fulfilled his sick need to insult us. When we have an abortion mill promoting death *and* anti-Christian bigotry, it isn't a leap in judgment to say there is a demonic odor to it.

Those who launched Blasphemy Day could have celebrated atheism without lashing out against Christians, except that would have taken the fun out of it. Though there were some humanists like Paul Kurtz who argued against this religion-bashing day, the fact they their side lost tells us volumes about the future of atheism. It doesn't look pretty.