

# BILL BUCKLEY TO POPE—DROP DEAD

William F. Buckley Jr., the founder of *National Review*, has written a column for Universal Press Syndicates titled, "Death for the Pope." He begins his piece as follows: "At church on Sunday the congregation was asked to pray for the recovery of the pope. I have abstained from doing so. I hope that he will not recover." The article is dated February 9.

Catholic League president William Donohue remarked as follows:

"The kindest thing that can be said of Bill Buckley's vile column is that he's gone off the deep end. It matters not a whit that he calls the pope 'a major historical figure,' because even the most inveterate anti-Catholic must acknowledge as much. Indeed, even the biggest Catholic basher in the world is not likely to write, 'So, what is wrong with praying for his death?' If you have to ask, sir, then you are beyond hope.

"This is so tragic. Having lived a life of distinction, Bill Buckley will now be remembered as the guy who had a death wish for the pope."