

BROOKLYN CHURCH VANDAL GETS PROBATION; SEN. SCHUMER WILL SEEK FEDERAL PROBE

Primus St. Croix, the man who has confessed to destroying five religious statues in the Diocese of Brooklyn, was sentenced today to five years probation.

The Catholic League has requested New York Senator Charles Schumer to ask the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate whether St. Croix can be prosecuted under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance Act of 1994. The law, while primarily aimed at protecting free access to abortion clinics, also makes it unlawful for anyone who "intentionally damages or destroys the property of a place of religious worship." Senator Schumer has agreed to do so.

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, spoke for the organization today:

"On Sunday we learned that a mural on the wall of an intermediate school in Brooklyn must be painted over because school authorities object to a painting of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary. This morning we learned that a man who smeared white paint over a dung-laden portrait of the Virgin Mary at the Brooklyn Museum of Art may be sentenced to a year in jail and required to pay a \$1,000 fine. And this afternoon we were informed that an illegal alien who admits to crushing statues of the Virgin Mary and other Catholic symbols is being given five years probation. Taken together, these three incidents suggest that there is something very sick going on in this country, and there is something especially perverse going on in Brooklyn.

"The Catholic League commends Senator Charles Schumer for agreeing to ask the U.S. Justice Department to investigate

this matter further. It is important that this act of hate not be treated lightly."