

# CATHOLICS AND JEWS TARGETED WORLDWIDE IN 2004

Catholic League President William Donohue released the following remarks today:

“Anti-Catholicism in the US is the predominant focus of the Catholic League. But we are not oblivious to what has been happening to Catholics in other parts of the world. Specifically, the rise of anti-Catholicism in Europe and the Arab nations is very disturbing. Moreover, it is not for nothing that these two regions continue to display an abiding hatred of Jews.

“Through the noble efforts of people like A.M. Rosenthal, Americans have learned of Christian persecution in Arab lands, such as torture, child slavery and the bombing of Christian villages in Sudan. Upwards of 40,000 Christians have been driven out of post- invasion Iraq by Islamic extremists conducting coordinated bombings and systematic persecution.

“In Northern Serbia and France, vandals desecrated graves at Catholic cemeteries. Emblematic of this growing hostility toward Catholics in Europe is the recent behavior of the European Union. Not only did it refuse to make any reference to Europe’s Christian heritage in the EU constitution, but it viciously rejected the distinguished Italian philosopher Rocco Buttiglione as nominee for EU Justice Minister—simply because he shares the Pope’s views on marriage and the family. Indeed, Buttiglione personally told me that EU governmental elites explicitly called the Catholic Church Europe’s greatest threat.

“As for anti-Semitism, just this week Sri Lanka refused to accept a team of Israeli medical personnel to help the country’s tsunami victims. (Apparently, the government prefers

children to die rather than be treated by Jewish doctors.) The Anti-Defamation League has documented rampant anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, Holocaust memorials have been desecrated in Vienna; a hundred Jewish gravestones were desecrated near Straasbourg in October; sixty Jewish gravestones were destroyed in Birmingham, England in August.

“That anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism track each other in Europe and the Arab countries is no coincidence: state-sponsored secularism in Europe and a radical interpretation of Islam in the Muslim world both regard Catholics and Jews as the enemy.”