

# CBS PETITIONED TO PROBE SHOWTIME

Catholic League president William Donohue explained today the league's strategy for dealing with Showtime, the cable network that recently aired a hate-filled episode of "Penn and Teller":

"On May 23, 24 and 27, Showtime's 'Penn and Teller' aired the 'Holier Than Thou' episode that has so enraged Catholics, as well as people of all faiths (). The obscene assault on Mother Teresa, her Missionaries of Charity and the Catholic Church was arguably the most vicious anti-Catholic fare ever shown on television in the United States. An excerpt of this show was sent to 350 persons of influence, including every bishop who commands a diocese. Now we want results.

"Beginning today, we are launching a nation-wide campaign demanding that CBS initiate a probe into this matter. Why CBS? Showtime is owned by Viacom, and Viacom has many subsidiaries in the entertainment and communications industries, none of which is more prominent than CBS. Now it may be that those who work at CBS had nothing to do with the offending Showtime episode. Nonetheless, CBS bears corporate responsibility. Just as important, the famous CBS name has been sullied by what Showtime did.

"We are focusing our attention on two persons: Leslie Moonves, Chairman and CEO of CBS, and Nancy Tellem, President, CBS Paramount Network (Showtime is a Paramount TV studio that will remain with CBS even if Viacom splits into two entities this summer). The petition ([click here](#)) seeks justice: We want those responsible for this bigoted assault on Catholicism to be held accountable for the damage they have done.

"In addition to pushing this petition on our website, we will

ask our members to get involved: the July-August edition of *Catalyst*, our monthly journal, will reprint the petition. We are most proud of the support that we have received from those outside the Catholic community. They know what's at stake and they look to CBS to correct it."