

DA VINCI CODE TRIAL RESOLVES NOTHING

Catholic League president William Donohue commented today on the London court's ruling in the dispute between Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, and Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*:

"The court's finding today, that Dan Brown is not guilty, is totally inconsequential to the interests of the Catholic League. We regard all parties to the dispute—Dan Brown, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh—as anti-Catholic frauds. Baigent and Leigh lied in 1982 when they marketed their book, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, as non-fiction: we know this because in order to sue Brown they decided to rename their work 'historical conjecture,' thus enabling them to charge him with copyright infringement. Brown is also a fraud: *The Da Vinci Code* opens with three 'facts,' all of which are lies.

"The Catholic League is keeping an open mind with regards to Ron Howard, the director of the movie adaptation of Brown's volume. We have asked him to put a disclaimer at the start of the film indicating that it is a purely fictional account. The ball's in his court."