

ELECTION ISSUES SPARK VITRIOLIC RESPONSE

The Catholic Church's opposition to abortion, and its endorsement of the pro-marriage resolution in California, Proposition 8, has triggered an avalanche of criticism, much of it vitriolic. Here is a sampling:

- The *National Catholic Reporter* blasts all the bishops—"Not one among the bishops has had the courage"—to take on pro-life Catholics who have allegedly "distorted" the abortion issue
- Rabbi Brad Hirschfield criticizes Cardinal Egan for being anti-abortion, saying, "We need to stop litmus testing each other over single issues" like abortion. "We"?
- Catholics for Choice says that pro-abortion Catholics "are in good company, and in good conscience" for rejecting the Church's teaching on this subject
- Rev. Daniel Kanter, a Unitarian, says the Catholic Church "employs a measure of fear" to get Catholics to oppose abortion
- Rev. Jonathan Tran, a Baptist, opines, "If the Church doesn't tell us what to do with our ballots...and genitalia, who will?" "Us"?
- Professor Frank K. Flinn says the Catholic Church has not always been opposed to abortion, implying that the *Catholic Catechism*, the bishops and the pope are all wrong
- Rev. Geoffrey Farrow, a gay priest, says the Catholic Church's opposition to gay marriage represents a "hurtful" theology
- Atheos, a musician, says Proposition 8 "is nothing but Bigotry—good ol' Christian bigotry"
- *Los Angeles Times* writer Steve Lopez says that "Speaking up for the dignity of gay people must be a greater sin than being accused of molesting minors"

Catholic League president Bill Donohue responds as follows:

“Even worse are American Atheists, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Freedom from Religion Foundation. All accuse the Catholic Church of abusing its power by favoring Proposition 8, yet none says anything about the *more than 100 houses of worship and religious organizations* which oppose it. Their hypocrisy is appalling.”