

# GOV. PERRY REBUKES PASTOR JEFFRESS

Catholic League president Bill Donohue released the following statement today:

Last night, I discussed the flap over Rev. Robert Jeffress with Chris Matthews on "Hardball" [click [here](#)]. While I made it clear that the anti-Catholic comments made by Jeffress must be roundly condemned, I also stated that I was not blaming Gov. Rick Perry for what the pastor said. One of the reasons I said this was because I was assured by my friend, Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, that Perry would never countenance any scurrilous remarks about the Catholic Church.

When I got home, I received a phone call from Gov. Perry. Catholic activist Deal Hudson, who has a history of forging good relationships between Catholics and evangelicals, intervened in this matter and arranged for the phone call. Perry and I spoke candidly about the Jeffress incident, and about religion, in general. He spoke sincerely: nothing that Jeffress said about Catholicism represents his views.

I very much appreciate Gov. Perry's interest in getting this issue behind him in a responsible manner. He succeeded. Case closed.