## IN DENIAL OVER GAY-DRIVEN MONKEYPOX

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on reaction to monkeypox:

"Monkeypox can be exceptionally painful," says Patrick Ashley, senior deputy director at the D.C. Department of Health, "especially if there are lesions on the penis, a lot of penal swelling, on the anus as well, it can be significantly painful."

Now we all know who is the most likely to have these kinds of problems. They used to be called homosexuals, then they were called gay. Now they are often known as men having sex with men (as if this is not what defines homosexual behavior).

The D.C. Department of Health confirms our suspicion. So who is listed on its website as the most likely to get monkeypox? "Gay, bisexual, and other men 18 and older who have sex with men and have had multiple or anonymous sexual partners in the last 14 days; or transgender women [e.g. males who think they are a woman] and nonbinary persons assigned male at birth who have sex with men; or sex workers [prostitutes] of any sex; or staff (of any sex) at establishments where sexual activity occurs (e.g., bathhouses, saunas, sex clubs)."

In other words, promiscuous gay men are the problem.

This is not a generalization. While all health officials and gay activists will insist that everyone is at risk, they know full well that this is a gay-driven disease.

ABC News reports that in Britain, monkeypox is spreading in "defined sexual networks of gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men." The reporter adds, "Officials said there were no signs suggesting sustained spread beyond those populations."

NBC News reports that "To date, more than 99 percent of monkeypox cases in Britain are among men, and the majority of those are in men who are gay, bisexual or who have sex with men."

California state senator Scott Wiener, who is a homosexual, is angry about the news. "What's most frustrating about this whole situation is that it is completely and utterly avoidable, and it's impacting the queer community in a very significant way."

He's right, but not for the reasons he gives. The San Francisco Democrat is blaming government for not doing enough to combat monkeypox. He should instead hold those accountable for unnecessarily spreading the disease. There are many others like him, and they include healthcare officials and gay activists.

Charles King is a gay activist who has worked with AIDS patients. "Telling people not to have sex or not to have multiple sex partners or not to have anonymous sex is just a no-go, and it's not going to work. People are still going to have sex, and they're going to have it even if it comes with great risk."

He's right. You may as well talk to the wall. Gays who practice dangerous sexual acts, and who have multiple sex partners—with men they never met before—are impervious to reason. They will stop at nothing. For them, the pain and suffering that they endure is worth the risk. That they may spread their disease to innocent unsuspecting persons seems not to matter.

After AIDS was discovered in 1981, those who demanded that the bathhouses remain open—even though they were a popular venue for the spread of HIV—were not gay bashers. They were gay activists.

In the 1980s, Bruce Mailman was the owner of the four-story

St. Mark's Bath in the East Village. He said people like New York City Mayor Ed Koch, who called bathhouse owners "merchants of death," were demonstrating "a regrettable lack of sensitivity to our constitutional rights," rights that included "the right of individuals to associate freely, to practice private sex and to operate a lawful business." [The Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University is named after him, even though he proved to be an existential threat to the health of all New Yorkers, especially gays.]

Jim Downs recently wrote a piece in The Atlantic lamenting the closing of bathhouses in the 1980s; he now opposes calls for restraint among gays. "When public-health authorities shut down bathhouses during the early days of HIV, many gay people saw the closures as a violation of their governing liberation." He's right—many gays, then as well as now, define freedom in terms of genital liberation.

Downs goes further today, heralding bathhouses as a plus for public health. "Rather than treating bathhouses, clubs, and dance parties exclusively as spreaders of infectious diseases, they should be recognized as potential promoters of sexual health."

The combination of narcissism and suicidal thinking is stunning. It proves, once again, that it is not the public that gays need to fear—it is the advocates in their own community. Their advice is deadly.