

INVENTING CONTROVERSY

In a recent Religion News Service story, David Gibson said the following in regards to the Paris murders:

“In finding no justification for the deaths of the *Charlie Hebdo* editorial staff, [Cardinal Timothy] Dolan *seemed* to part ways with another prominent New York Catholic, Bill Donohue of the Catholic League, who *essentially* said the newspaper editors had brought on their own slaughter” (Donohue’s *italics*). The verbs dropped by Gibson were telling: he couldn’t quite state that the New York Archbishop parted ways with Donohue on this subject, so he inferred that they have. Moreover, he inferred that Donohue blamed the victims. Donohue offered a more manly rejoinder.

- “Killing in response to insult, no matter how gross, must be unequivocally condemned.” That was the first sentence Donohue wrote on this issue. (January 7)
- The next day Donohue wrote that “the murderers are fully responsible for what they did and should be treated with the full force of the law. Nothing justifies the killing of these people.”
- “The only people who are responsible here are the murderers, the Muslim barbarians.” Donohue said this to Megyn Kelly on January 8 on her Fox News show, “The Kelly File.”
- “Now who is responsible? The Muslim thugs are responsible.” Donohue said this to Don Lemon on his CNN show on January 9.

Bill Donohue could go on and on. Evidently Gibson, and others, have a problem understanding why there is nothing inconsistent about fingering the Muslim murderers as responsible for the crime, and discussing the irresponsible record of those who deliberately and persistently insulted Muslims.