

JESUS' TOMB DISCOVERY IS TITANIC FRAUD

"Titanic" director James Cameron and TV-director Simcha Jacobovici are claiming they have evidence of a Jerusalem tomb that allegedly houses the remains of Jesus and his family. Commenting on this is Catholic League president Bill Donohue:

"Not a Lenten season goes by without some author or TV program seeking to cast doubt on the divinity of Jesus and/or the Resurrection. Last April, NBC's 'Dateline' featured the wholly discredited and downright laughable claims of Michael Baigent, and two years ago ABC treated us to a special that questioned every aspect of the Resurrection. Now we have the Cameron-Jacobovici thesis.

"Israeli archeologist Amos Kloner was in charge of the 1980 investigation of the tomb that Cameron-Jacobovici have seized on 27 years later to make their allegations. 'The claim that the burial site has been found is not based on any proof, and is only an attempt to sell,' Kloner says. He adds, 'I refute all claims and efforts to waken a renewed interest in the findings. With all due respect, they are not archeologists.' Indeed, Kloner has branded their claims 'impossible' and 'nonsense.' Moreover, he says there is 'no likelihood' that Jesus and his relatives had a family tomb. 'It makes a great story for a TV film,' he concludes.

"Joe Zias, who spent a quarter-century as an archeologist at the Rockefeller University in Jerusalem, said that 'Simcha has no credibility whatsoever.' Zias isn't shooting from the hip: Jacobovici's credibility explodes when one considers that he still believes the 2002 tale about an ossuary with the inscription, 'James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.' On June 18, 2003, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) condemned this claim as a modern forgery—this was the unanimous decision

of a 15-member IAA committee. Agreeing with this decision were Harvard's Frank Cross and Tel Aviv University professor Edward Greenstein.

"The Discovery Channel aired the 2002 hoax and now it's back with the Titanic fraud. It's time the Discovery Channel discovered ethics and stopped with the sensationalism."