

KANSAS CITY STAR AND ANTI-CATHOLICISM

The SNAP-*Star* alliance against Kansas City-St. Joseph Bishop Robert Finn is a natural: both are anti-Catholic. As evidence of SNAP's bigotry, see our report on its July conference. As for the *Star*, consider its infamous 1999 "survey" of priests.

Twelve years ago, the *Star* did a survey of priests across the nation. They were asked such things as: identify your sexual orientation; discuss whether you have HIV or AIDS; assess how the Church is handling this issue; and explain whether the Church should change its teachings on celibacy and homosexuality. *No other religious or secular institution was surveyed.* In response, we sent our own survey to a random sample of *Star* employees, asking questions about their sexual orientation and disease status. At least we admitted that our "survey" was a joke—the *Star* actually thought itself serious.

The purpose of the *Star's* survey was to report that HIV or AIDS was rampant among priests and that the Church's response was heartless. Expecting that most would disagree with celibacy and the Church's teachings on homosexuality, the end game would then be realized: this is how the *Star* expected to manipulate public opinion, putting pressure on the Church to change its teachings.

What a disappointment. Almost 100 percent (99.1) said they either did not have HIV or AIDS, or did not think they had it. Two-thirds said the Church was "caring and compassionate" about priests with HIV or AIDS, and only four percent were critical. Yet virtually *all* the remarks printed in the *Star* came from priests who were critical of the Church! Angered by the results, the *Star* showed even more contempt for privacy rights by combing the death certificates of deceased priests looking for dirt.

By any measure, the *Star* showed its bias, as well as its necromania.