

LAWRENCE O'DONNELL IS CLUELESS

During his MSNBC show of April 19, Lawrence O'Donnell opened fire on Bishop Daniel Jenky, the Vatican and Bill Donohue.

Peoria Bishop Jenky recently said that President Obama's radical secular agenda is violative of the First Amendment. Moreover, he warned that this path to religious intolerance had been followed before by the likes of Hitler and Stalin. Anyone is free to agree or disagree, but it is just plain stupid to argue that Jenky is putting the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church in jeopardy. O'Donnell obviously knows nothing more about the First Amendment right to free speech than he does about the right to religious liberty.

O'Donnell called into question the right of the Vatican to discipline its flock. He was upset because the Vatican is concerned about some nuns who are not in line with Church teachings on abortion and gay rights. Of course, if an MSNBC host were all of a sudden to adopt a pro-life or pro-traditional marriage position, he would be fired. By contrast, the Vatican is quite liberal in its handling of such matters.

O'Donnell said the Catholic League "has absolutely no official affiliation" with the Church, and that it is run by a "fraudulent operator." Really? While we are independent, maybe O'Donnell can explain why the Catholic League is listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* and has the support of many bishops. To show how clueless the man is, he then interviewed Sister Jeannine Gramick and an official from Dignity. Last year, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, representing the bishops, said that Gramick's New Ways Ministry group was not authorized "to identify itself as a Catholic organization." Similarly, Dignity has long been rejected as a Catholic entity. And we're the fraud? O'Donnell is out of his league, which is why he

doesn't have the courage to take on Bill Donohue.