

MEDIA CIRCUS OVER VATICAN VOLUME; FROM U.K. TO “THE VIEW”

On February 18, there was a news story in *The Times* (of London) about “a study approved by the Vatican” showing that men are more given to lust; women to pride. This story was reprinted in the *New York Post* on the same day. Both newspapers identified Wojciech Giertych as “the personal theologian” to the pope. The next day, ABC News referred to the work as a “survey.”

On February 18, panelists on the ABC show, “The View,” discussed these news reports and took the occasion to slam Catholicism. Bill Donohue responded with a news release criticizing what transpired. On today’s show, Joy Behar said that Donohue “says in a letter that we read that Barbara [Walters] should be squelching us from this type of thing.”

Donohue replies as follows:

“What a bunch of incompetents. First of all, there is no study that was approved by the Vatican on the subject. There is a book by Dominican Father Giertych, and it was not ‘approved’ by the Vatican: his comments appeared in a Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*. He is not ‘the personal theologian’ to the pope; rather, he is theologian of the papal household. Moreover, he did not conduct a survey—he wrote a book. Both the terms ‘study’ and ‘survey’ suggest something scientific, and therefore distort the priest’s work.

“What Behar calls a ‘letter’ was actually a news release. More important, I never said Walters should be squelching them. What I said was that after we hit her with a *New York Times* ad in 2007 for tolerating anti-Catholicism, ‘she got the message and quieted her panelists.’

"What a media circus: inept journalists feeding anti-Catholic bigots. We contacted one of the two Brit reporters, Jack Malvern, about his story but he failed to reply. It's time he heard from our side. Let 'View' co-producer Bill Geddie hear from you again."

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