

MICHIGAN STATE PRESIDENT ACTS PRESIDENTIAL

After William Donohue registered a complaint on October 12 against the student newspaper at Michigan State University, he received a call on October 18 from the president of the school, Peter McPherson. McPherson conveyed his sincere outrage at the offense and read to Donohue a public statement he released on the subject. Here's what happened.

The campus newspaper of Michigan State University, *The State News*, printed a cartoon in its October 10 edition that showed a Christ-like figure nailed to a cross. Across the figure's chest was written "Public Schools" and atop the cross was the inscription "Proposal 1"; the latter referred to a school voucher initiative on the ballot in November.

William Donohue commented to the media as follows:

"There is a problem with anti-Catholic bigotry on the campus of Michigan State University. Last June, I wrote to the general manager of *The State News* concerning a cartoon series called 'Fetus X' that featured a blasphemous treatment of Jesus. Berl Schwartz was quite understanding of my objection and requested that I write directly to the offending editor-in-chief, David Miller. This time I am contacting the university president, Peter McPherson.

"It will not do to say that the newspaper is not a campus publication because it receives no school funds. It is distributed on the campus and is understood as the school's *de facto* newspaper. There is little doubt that if *The State News* spoke against a gay rights initiative by hanging Matthew Shepard from a cross, the paper would be confiscated immediately (and imagine putting 'Morality' across his chest for added emphasis!)."

Donohue had a constructive conversation with the school's president and pledged he would inform Catholic League members of McPherson's presidential response to his complaint.