

NBC CANCELS MADONNA'S "MOCK CRUCIFIXION"

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented today on NBC's decision to cut the "Mock Crucifixion" segment from its November 22nd airing of Madonna's "Confessions" concert:

"NBC did the right thing, but the fact that it did not say why the offensive part of Madonna's concert was cut shows cowardice. What NBC should have done is to admit that since it refused to air the Danish cartoons that Muslims objected to earlier in the year, it felt obliged not to treat Christians in a discriminatory manner. On September 20, I wrote to NBC chief Bob Wright making this point.

"Pressure politics were at work, too. On September 29, a letter was sent to Bob Wright by Brent Bozell, president of the Parents Television Council, and me, warning him that we would boycott one of the sponsors of the Madonna concert if the 'Mock Crucifixion' part were not excised; we would decide via a conference call the next day which sponsor would receive our Christmas present. In addition to the Catholic League and the Parents Television Council, the following groups said they would join the boycott: American Family Association, Morley Institute, Christian Film and Television Commission, Jews Against Anti-Christian Defamation, Traditional Values Coalition and Women Influencing the Nation.

"Congratulations to all these groups, and most especially to Don Wildmon's American Family Association for being out in front on this issue."