

# NEW YORK TIMES FEATURES McCOURT INSULT

In today's *New York Times*, there is a lengthy article about the death of Irish author, Frank McCourt. As a sidebar, there is also a short excerpt from his book, *Angela's Ashes*, about the author's First Communion. Part of what the *Times* selected reads as follows:

"Then he [the priest] placed on my tongue the wafer, the body and blood of Jesus. At last, at last. It's on my tongue. I draw it back. It stuck. I had God glued to the roof of my mouth. I could hear the master's voice, Don't let that host touch your teeth for if you bite God in two you'll roast in hell for eternity. I tried to get God down with my tongue but the priest hissed at me, Stop that clucking and get back to your seat. God was good. He melted and I swallowed Him and now, at last, I was a member of the True Church, an official sinner."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue wasn't amused:

During his lifetime, Frank McCourt made any number of insulting remarks about Catholicism, all to the applause of his sophomoric fans. That the *New York Times* selected this chestnut about Holy Communion reveals what some might say is the newspaper's dark side. This conclusion, however, would be unwarranted: the *Times* has no other side when addressing matters Catholic.

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