

# NEW YORK TIMES TRIES TO KEEP FLAME ALIVE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue addresses today's *New York Times* news story on the pope:

"Pope Was Told Pedophile Priest Would Get Transfer." That's the headline in today's *New York Times* piece on the pope. Yet the *Times* offers absolutely no evidence to support this charge. All it says is that his *office* "was copied on a memo" about the transfer of Peter Hullermann. According to Church officials, the story says the memo was routine and was "unlikely to have landed on the archbishop's desk."

Let's say Archbishop Joseph Ratzinger, now the pope, did in fact learn of the transfer. So what? Wasn't that what he expected to happen? After all, we know from a March 16 *Times* story that when Ratzinger's subordinates recommended therapy for Hullermann, he approved it. That was the drill of the day: after being treated, the patient (I prefer the term offender) returns to work. It's still the drill of the day in many secular quarters today, particularly in the public schools. A more hard-line approach, obviously, makes more sense, but the therapeutic industry is very powerful.