

# NO POST-IMUS CULTURE FOR CATHOLIC BASHERS

In the wake of the controversy last month involving shock-jock Don Imus, CBS chief Les Moonves remarked that Imus “has flourished in a culture that permits a certain level of objectionable expression that hurts and demeans a wide range of people. In taking him off the air, I believe we take an important and necessary step not just in solving a unique problem, but in changing that culture, which extends far beyond the walls of our Company.”

The Catholic League didn't miss these events and took the opportunity to share our thoughts about the double standards at play with the press in an April 16 news release:

“It was a great statement, but no sooner had Moonves spoken when Catholics learned that his words represented wishful thinking

“On the HBO show ‘Real Time with Bill Maher’ on April 13, the comedian showed a picture of guitarist Keith Richards in his ‘New Rules’ segment and said, ‘New rules, snorting your father isn't crazy’ (this was a reference to Richards’ hoax about snorting the ashes of his dead father). Maher then showed a picture of a Catholic priest administering Communion, saying, ‘Eating your father, that's crazy.’

“The next day Seth Meyers read a news story on ‘Saturday Night Live’ wherein he remarked, ‘For the second consecutive year the number of sex abuse claims against the nation's Catholic priests had dropped. Undisputable proof that fewer kids are going to church.’

“Even the TV Guide Channel got into the act on Sunday when John Henson questioned why anyone would want to blow himself up to get into heaven just to be with 72 virgins when you

could have '72 naughty Catholic schoolgirls.'

"It is one thing when comedians like Maher label all religions 'childish, destructive and nonsense' (as he did April 16 on 'The View'), quite another when the Eucharist is mocked and priests are slandered.

"The Catholic schoolgirls' remark was not offensive, per se, but it was entirely gratuitous in both forum and context. All in all, it goes to show that Catholic bashing will survive in a culture that penalizes race and gender bashing."