

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER SLANDERS PRIESTS

On the blog site of yesterday's Orange County Register was a series of questions and answers on the subject of sexual abuse. At the top, under the headline question, "Think you can spot the sex offender in the crowd?", was a silhouette of a priest: faceless, the silhouette was clearly a male wearing a priest's collar and black jacket. None of the questions or answers mentioned anything about a priest, or about religion in general. This entry is still posted today on the blog of the Santa Ana, California newspaper.

Commenting on this is Catholic League president Bill Donohue:

The newspaper is a disgrace. By slandering tens of thousands of Catholic priests all across the nation, the Orange County Register has carved out a special place for itself in the annals of journalism.

When the Danish cartoon controversy exploded in 2006, the Orange County Register refused to offend Muslims by printing the depictions of Muhammad. Ken Brusic, the editor, explained the decision by saying that to publish the cartoons the newspaper "would needlessly offend many in our community and would add little to the debate." But offending Catholics, especially Catholic priests, is perfectly legitimate.

Nothing short of an immediate apology will suffice, and it should come from the top, Terry Horne, president and publisher.

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