

RELIGION AND POLITICS: BISHOPS SPEAK WITH CLARITY

Catholic League president William Donohue commented today on the statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Catholics in Political Life," that was issued June 18:

"The bishops spoke with convincing clarity on the subject of politics and religion. Though there are many public policy issues that Catholics are rightfully concerned about, none is more important than the killing of innocent human life. That is why this statement, which gives priority to abortion, is so important: it says that issues like the minimum wage are morally inferior to abortion. As a corollary, it also suggests that shutting down a soup kitchen is not morally analogous to shutting down an abortion clinic. That this even needs to be said shows how morally bankrupt many Americans, including Catholics, have become.

"The statement also shows due respect for the autonomy of the bishops. The question of denying Holy Communion to pro-abortion politicians is something every bishop should decide for himself. In this regard, a one-size-fits-all strategy would be a mistake.

"It is great news to learn that the bishops look askance at Catholic institutions that honor pro-abortion public figures. For too long, Catholic colleges and universities have bestowed honors on those who have worked overtime to advocate abortion rights, including partial-birth abortion. They would never honor someone associated with anti-Semitism or racism, but when it comes to abortion, too many have let radical feminists on the faculty rule the day.

"Finally, the bishops correctly note that 'The separation of

church and state does not require division between belief and public action, between moral principles and political choices, but protects the right of believers and religious groups to practice their faith and act on their values in public life.' That remark is cogently written and without a single flaw. It should be widely disseminated to public officials and the law schools."