

SNAP'S "LAST HURRAH"

Yesterday, before he landed in the U.S., Pope Benedict XVI said he was "deeply ashamed" of predatory priests, adding that pedophiles would be rooted out of the Church. Today, the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) is holding a press conference in Washington criticizing the pope for not doing enough.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue responded as follows:

"Any minor who has been sexually molested deserves our compassion. But what SNAP is doing, aided and abetted by angry Catholics and ex-Catholics, deserves not our understanding, but contempt. This is a group which has a deep ideological and financial investment in painting the Catholic Church as a villain.

"SNAP's ideological bias stems from the fact that it positively refuses to recognize the incredible progress that has been made—exactly five priests out of more than 40,000 had accusations made against them for abusing a minor in 2007—yet for SNAP it's never enough. Financially, it derives much of its funding from the steeple-chasing lawyers who have fleeced the 'deep pocket' Catholic Church. It's time we dismissed these professional victims' advocates for what they are—activists whose goal is to discredit the Church.

"Once the pope leaves, SNAP may as well close up shop. The reforms that have already been made have made the group increasingly irrelevant, and it's just a matter of time before it becomes obsolete altogether. So they should enjoy their little ceremony today—this is SNAP's last hurrah."