

SUSAN SARANDON'S WILLFUL IGNORANCE

Over the weekend, actress Susan Sarandon discussed her 1995 movie, "Dead Man Walking"; the film was based on a book by Sister Helen Prejean that condemns the death penalty. Sarandon said she sent a copy of the book to the pope, saying, "The last one, not this Nazi one we have now."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented on this today:

Susan Sarandon's ignorance is willful: those who have hatred in their veins are not interested in the truth. The fact is that Joseph Ratzinger (the pope) was conscripted at the age of 14 into the Hitler Youth, along with every other young German boy. Unlike most of the other teenagers, Ratzinger refused to go to meetings, bringing economic hardship to his family. Moreover, unlike most of the others, he deserted at the first opportunity.

When he was elected pope in 2005, Rabbi David Rosen, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, said it was "rubbish" to maintain that Ratzinger chose to belong to the Hitler Youth. He not only spoke kindly about the new pope, he added, "enrollment was compulsory."

Sarandon's comment is obscene. Sadly, it's what we've come to expect from her.