

KANSAS CITY STAR vs. CATHOLIC CHURCH



Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

Almost two weeks ago, we contacted the *Kansas City Star* about running a full-page ad on Sunday, October 30. The ad is a critical statement about the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), and their attorney friend, Rebecca Randles. The ad was written because we strongly defend Kansas City-St. Joseph Bishop Robert Finn against the politically motivated attacks on him.

Everything looked like it was good to go: on October 25, we submitted the ad exactly the way they wanted it, and indeed gave them our credit card information to pay the \$25,000 fee. On October 26, we received an e-mail which said that "The Publisher has respectfully declined and did not share the details as to why."

I have been writing newspaper ads for decades, especially for the *New York Times*. It is common practice to fact-check an ad, asking for documentation to substantiate something in it, but never have I been turned down, much less *without explanation*.

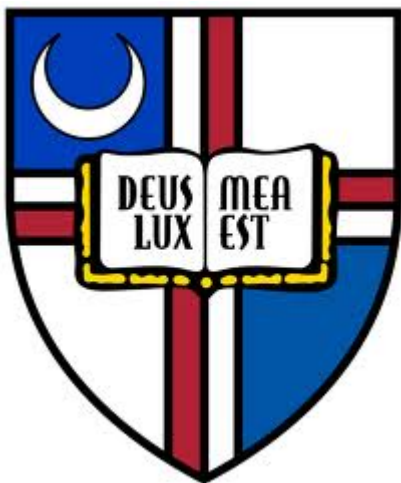
We know what's going on. The *Kansas City Star* has long been in bed with SNAP, just as SNAP is in bed with attorneys like Randles and her mentor, Jeffrey Anderson. All are decidedly anti-Catholic. To wit: on September 25, the *Star* ran a 2223-word front-page Sunday news story on SNAP. To say it was a puff piece would be an understatement. *Never* has the Catholic Church been treated with such kid gloves.

Starting this week, we will blanket the Kansas City, Missouri area with copies of the ad that the *Kansas City Star* doesn't want readers to see [\[to read it, click here\]](#); no secular or religious organization will escape us. They can impose a gag rule on us in their newspaper, but they cannot control us. Our campaign against the *Star* and SNAP will be on-going.

Contact KC Star publisher Mi-Ai Parrish: mparrish@kcstar.com

ATTACK ON CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Catholic University of America is being sued by George Washington University professor John Banzhaf because it does not accommodate Muslim religious practices.



Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

John Banzhaf needs to be sued for bringing a frivolous lawsuit. He has no complainants—not a single Muslim at Catholic University has come to him complaining about seeing pictures of the pope or the display of crucifixes in campus buildings. Nor has a single Muslim registered a complaint with the administration of the university. This lawsuit, which follows a recent one filed by Banzhaf against Catholic University for moving towards single-sex dorms, stands not one

iota of a chance of ultimately winning. Its purpose is to harass.

When Catholics enroll at Yeshiva University in New York City, they expect to see the Star of David and portraits of Moses. When Protestants enroll at the American Islamic College in Chicago, they expect to see the Crescent and Star. And when Muslims enroll at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., they expect to see crucifixes and portraits of Jesus. Those who attend these private schools and object to such displays need to leave and apply to a community college or a state university.

The impression is being left in the media that Muslim students are behind this assault on the First Amendment. It thus behooves Muslim leaders to denounce this lawsuit immediately. The bigot is Banzhaf, not Muslims.

BISHOP LORI DEFENDS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



Yesterday, Bridgeport Bishop William E. Lori testified before the House Judiciary Committee on the subject of religious freedom. He is the Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) new "Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue issued the following remarks today:

USCCB president Archbishop Timothy Dolan made an excellent choice when he selected Bishop Lori for this post. The Bridgeport bishop did not disappoint us yesterday. Indeed, he laid out, in exacting detail, the threats to religious liberty that exist today.

What is most disturbing about the nature of today's threats is that most stem from government, with the Obama administration leading the way. This is a condition that cannot be tolerated at any level of government, but it is particularly alarming when the federal government amasses its resources against the First Amendment. Because of its wide network of social agencies, the Catholic Church is feeling the pressure more than other religions, making this a critical issue for Catholics across the nation.

To read Bishop Lori's statement, click [here](#).

**MINNESOTA CATHOLICS PUSH
MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**



Catholic League president Bill Donohue stands with Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archbishop John Nienstedt in his support for a state constitutional amendment on marriage:

The reason why Minnesotans will vote next year on the issue of a constitutional amendment affirming marriage, traditionally understood, is due to attempts to reconfigure this ancient social institution. For example, people excluded by nature from procreating are currently demanding the right to marry, winning sympathy in some courts. Catholics are being rallied by Archbishop John Nienstedt to support the marriage amendment partly because some of those on the other side, e.g., “Catholics for Marriage Equality MN,” are falsely promoting themselves as representing an authentic Catholic position.

Critics of the Church’s position on marriage are saying that Archbishop Nienstedt is being “divisive,” and does not represent what Catholics want; others are literally going off the rails.

All bishops are called to lead, not follow. Moreover, the latest survey of Catholics published in the *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) shows more support for Church teachings on same-sex marriage than on the death penalty. The bishops are opposed to both (though proscriptions against the death penalty are not absolute), yet this hasn’t persuaded the gay marriage advocates to demand that the bishops ratify the pro-death penalty sentiments of the rank-and-file.

Not surprisingly, *NCR* recently published a piece by the former head of Catholic Charities in San Francisco calling bishops who uphold the Church's teachings on marriage "villains"; he accused them of promoting "an atmosphere of ignorance and hate." If they—and this includes *NCR*'s editors—really believe this to be true, then it's time to do the manly thing and get out. Finally, it is ironic that "Rainbow Sash" says Archbishop Nienstedt is guilty of abusing his authority—its members are known for such fascistic exercises as disrupting Mass at Communion.

VATICAN COUNCIL CALLS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace issued a document today titled, "Toward Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority." Commenting on it is Catholic League president Bill Donohue:

There has been much hyperventilation from some quarters over the release of this document. All of it is unwarranted. To begin with, the text is not an encyclical, nor is it the work of Pope Benedict XVI. Much of what it says is consistent with long-standing Catholic social teaching: the quest for the common good should guide social and economic policy. It properly calls for "abandoning all forms of petty selfishness and embracing the logic of the global common good."

Much of the early chatter focuses on the document's call for a global authority to render economic justice. It says,

“Benedict XVI himself expressed the need to create a world political authority.” The reference is to the pope’s encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*. The term “world political authority” appears once in the encyclical, the context of which is a plea for “international cooperation” in the pursuit of a more just “political, juridical and economic order.” In the very next sentence, the Holy Father stresses that such an authority must “observe consistently the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity.”

The document released today also emphasizes the need to follow the Catholic principle of subsidiarity. This means that solutions to social and economic problems should begin at the most local level, not at the national, much less the international, level. Indeed, the pope explicitly said in his 2009 encyclical that “subsidiarity is the most effective antidote against any form of all-encompassing welfare state.”

Today’s statement uses terms like “supranational Authority” and “supranational Institution.” These neologisms are purely the creation of the authors, Cardinal Peter Turkson and Mario Toso. They are not found in the pope’s encyclical. No matter, those who are comparing this text to the demands of the “Occupy Wall Street” crowd should first detail what exactly it is the urban campers want.

BISHOP FINN DESERVES BETTER

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on the controversy over Kansas City-St. Joseph Bishop Robert Finn:

The Catholic League will have a lot to say about Bishop Finn and his accusers over the next few weeks. For now, we want to

make it clear that we stand by him without reservation. Why? Not because he is a bishop, but because nothing he did deserves the kind of mad reaction against him that is emanating from many quarters. In a short time, we will lay out the details of our support for him. But for now, keep in mind the following:

Many strange photos (crotch-focused) of young girls, fully clothed, were found on the laptop of a priest last December; one showed a girl naked. Though Bishop Finn never saw it, he was told of it. The result? The picture was described to a police officer the next day, and an attorney for the Diocese was shown the photo. It was determined that the photo, while disturbing, did not constitute child pornography. The priest learns that they're on to him; he attempts suicide; he almost dies; he recovers; he is sent for treatment; he is not considered to be a pedophile, but is said to be suffering from depression; he is then placed in a spot away from children; he is subjected to restrictions. After violating the restrictions, the cops are called; more damaging photos are then found.

This account is quite different from what is being bandied about in the media. To take one example, there is an editorial in today's *New York Times* saying that Bishop Finn "knew of the photos last December but did not turn them over to the police until May." This makes it sound as if Finn knew about hundreds of photos of child pornography and did nothing about it. In fact, there was *one* photo, *that was not sexual in nature*, that was found. Moreover, a police officer and an attorney were notified immediately. Later, after the priest proved to be recalcitrant, the police were contacted.

As I said, we will have a lot more to say about this issue. Stay tuned.

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.

GOV. PERRY REBUKES PASTOR JEFFRESS

Catholic League president Bill Donohue released the following statement today:

Last night, I discussed the flap over Rev. Robert Jeffress with Chris Matthews on “Hardball” [click [here](#)]. While I made it clear that the anti-Catholic comments made by Jeffress must be roundly condemned, I also stated that I was not blaming Gov. Rick Perry for what the pastor said. One of the reasons I said this was because I was assured by my friend, Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, that Perry would never countenance any scurrilous remarks about the Catholic Church.

When I got home, I received a phone call from Gov. Perry. Catholic activist Deal Hudson, who has a history of forging good relationships between Catholics and evangelicals, intervened in this matter and arranged for the phone call. Perry and I spoke candidly about the Jeffress incident, and about religion, in general. He spoke sincerely: nothing that Jeffress said about Catholicism represents his views.

I very much appreciate Gov. Perry’s interest in getting this issue behind him in a responsible manner. He succeeded. Case closed.

PERRY SHOULD RENOUNCE

JEFFRESS

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

In a piece by Wayne Barrett in the Daily Beast [click [here](#)], he follows up on my news release of October 12 criticizing the anti-Catholic remarks of Rev. Robert Jeffress [click [here](#)]. Barrett asked if I thought it was appropriate for Governor Rick Perry, who was introduced by Jeffress last week at the Values Voter Summit, to cut ties with the Dallas pastor. I said he should.

In the last presidential campaign, I criticized Senator John McCain for accepting the endorsement of Pastor John Hagee; the minister had made anti-Catholic comments in the past. Subsequently, McCain split with Hagee. That flap ended amicably when Hagee, due to the intervention of Catholic activist Deal Hudson, came to my office to express his regrets. The sincerity of his remarks put an end to our dispute. We are now friends.

Ergo, Perry should follow the lead of McCain and make an explicit statement renouncing any ties he has to Jeffress. Any man of the cloth who entertains the despicable views Jeffress does about Catholicism, as well as many other religions, should be shunned by candidates for the presidency.

JEFFRESS SAYS SATAN RULES CATHOLICISM

Last Friday, Rev. Robert Jeffress, the Dallas pastor who introduced Gov. Rick Perry at the Values Voter Summit, spoke

derisively about the Mormon faith of Mitt Romney, making the case that "Mormonism is a cult." Two days later, he chided Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism as "false religions."

Last year, Rev. Jeffress said the Roman Catholic Church was the outgrowth of a "corruption" called the "Babylonian mystery." He continued, "Much of what you see in the Catholic Church today doesn't come from God's word. It comes from that cult-like pagan religion. Isn't that the genius of Satan?"

Catholic League president Bill Donohue offered these remarks today:

Where did they find this guy? When theological differences are demonized by the faithful of any religion—never mind by a clergyman—it makes a mockery of their own religion. Rev. Jeffress is a poster boy for hatred, not Christianity.