

# CARDINAL LAW'S RESIGNATION

Catholic League president William Donohue addressed what Cardinal Bernard Law's resignation means to most Catholics:

"Most Catholics are greeting the resignation of Cardinal Law with a sigh of relief and sadness. While no one blames Cardinal Law for the entire scandal in the Church, his departure nonetheless represents an important step towards recapturing the trust of the laity. Now the mending process can proceed with alacrity.

"There is a small, but vocal, minority for whom nothing will ever satisfy. SNAP president Barbara Blaine, ex-priest and psychotherapist Richard Sipe and victims' attorney Mitchell Garabedian are already whining and making new demands. Worse, some are given to reckless charges against the Church. Take, for example, the recent remarks of a radical group called the Coalition of Catholics and Survivors. They have accused the pope of ordering a coverup of the sex-abuse allegations.

"Their so-called smoking gun theory boils down to this: the pope in 1999 recommended that a defrocked priest ought not return to the area where he committed his offenses. They take this eminently sensible advice and use it as a hammer to bludgeon the pope. Just so everyone understands what's going on here, what the pope did was to say that a former priest—*someone who had been returned to the status of a layman*—ought to start a new life in a new location. Isn't this what parole boards recommend to released inmates—that they not return to the neighborhood that nurtured their maladies? Shame on Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly and others for disseminating this mindless charge.

"Finally, some are already beating the war drums going after bishops of other dioceses. This is absurd: everyone knows that no other diocese in the nation was qualitatively or

quantitatively comparable to Boston. To suggest otherwise is to play into the hands of Fifth-Column Catholics.”

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## **BISHOPS BEWARE: AGENDAS ARE IN THE AIR**

Catholic League president William Donohue issued the following cautionary note today regarding the bishops' meeting in Dallas:

“Even before the meeting begins, some activists have branded it a failure. Consider Call to Action. Its spokeswoman, Linda Pieczynski, is quoted as saying, ‘We don’t really trust the bishops to do the right thing and come up with the solutions.’ For those unacquainted with this group, what this means is that because the bishops are not prepared to overturn virtually every Catholic teaching on sexuality—something Call to Action desperately wants—the fruits of the bishops’ efforts are therefore dead on arrival. Given this organization’s determination to prejudge the outcome of the bishops’ meeting, it makes no sense to even give lip service to their demands. They should simply be dismissed.

“Dignity USA is another ‘progressive’ Catholic organization that has made up its mind in advance. For this group, the mere mention of the fact that the cases of priestly sexual molestation that have been in the news are mostly of a homosexual nature is, ipso facto, evidence of homophobia. It needs to be said that while most gay priests are not molesters it remains true that most of the molesters are gay. This is a fact that cannot be ignored any longer. Indeed, the best social science evidence on this subject shows that a man who

is drawn to sexual encounters with adolescent boys will have seven to eight times as many victims as other, nonhomosexual abusers.

“Here’s another problem. On Friday in Dallas, one of the women who will speak on the subject of ‘The Abuse of Women by Catholic Clergy’ (a meeting organized by SNAP), comes to the event with her own baggage. She says she had an on-going affair with a priest beginning in 1984 when she was 18 and he was in his late 30s. In the fall of 1999, she declared victim status and triggered an investigation against the priest. This was a few months after she admitted having another sexual affair with the same priest. To top it off, this ‘victim’ was married in 1997.

“In short, the bishops should beware of all the agendas that are in the air.”

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## **“SOUTH PARK” STOOPS TO THE GUTTER**

The February 4 episode of the Comedy Central cartoon, “South Park,” featured a boxing match between “Jesus” and “Satan.” In addition to the violence, the script included a priest character who shouts, “Jesus, you’re gonna kick ass”; a boy who coaches Jesus saying, “Goddammit, Jesus, snap out of it”; another young boy who discusses how he stuck an envelope “up my ass”; and, as usual, the chef sings sexually explicit songs to the boys. Moreover, “Satan” slams “Jesus” around the ring, fakes losing the match and “Jesus” bemoans that he was betrayed because everyone bet against him.

William Donohue issued the following statement on this

program:

“In July, one of the creators of ‘South Park,’ Trey Parker, boasted of his agenda by saying, ‘I can guarantee it’s gonna be the raunchiest thing on TV and it’s gonna piss a lot of people off.’ He wasn’t entirely honest—he should have had the guts to say that it was Christians whom he wished to offend.

“Everyone complains how decadent the pop culture has become. But it doesn’t take a blue ribbon commission to figure out why: with people like Parker emulating people like Larry Flynt, it’s no small wonder why things are the way they are.

“To those who say that ‘South Park’ is just a cartoon, I have a suggestion: write to Mr. Parker and ask him to deliver the same message of blasphemy, sex and violence by substituting Martin Luther King for Jesus and Bull Connor for Satan. After all, that should tick a lot of people off, too.”