

# THE LEFT “DISCOVERS” ANTI-CATHOLICISM

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on left-wing reaction to Rep. Michele Bachmann’s previous religious ties:

When I was asked by *The Atlantic*’s Joshua Green about Rep. Michele Bachmann’s previous membership in a church that believes the pope is the anti-Christ, I criticized the church for being anti-Catholic, but made it clear that there is no evidence that she is a bigot. Now I am being criticized by the left for not condemning Bachmann.

Perhaps the most spectacularly dishonest attack is the one delivered by Ben Adler of *The Nation* magazine. He is not only angry with me for not slamming Bachmann, he is upset that I compared her membership in a church affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) to Barack Obama’s membership in a church run by Rev. Jeremiah Wright. I told Green that while Wright is a hater, there is no evidence that Obama is a bigot. Similarly, Bachmann’s previous membership in a WELS-affiliated church has not tainted her. Most reasonable people got the point.

Adler, however, is not reasonable, which is why he accuses me of partisanship. Was I also partisan when I criticized Sen. John McCain for his cozy relationship with a minister who had previously made anti-Catholic comments? [Note: Pastor John Hagee subsequently made a 180-degree turn.]

Interestingly, Adler’s article appeared in *The Nation*, perhaps the oldest anti-Catholic magazine in the U.S. In the 20th century, it was home to Paul Blanshard, the most notorious anti-Catholic bigot of his day. Today, it is known for bashing the Catholic Church on all matters sexual. These people haven’t suddenly discovered anti-Catholicism—they are angry

that attempts to smear Bachmann have failed. There is nothing principled about them.

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