

THE POLITICS OF CHILD RAPE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on a front-page news story in today's *New York Times* on the problem of child sexual abuse:

Reporter Paul Vitello shows the shocking extent of child sexual abuse in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish community. He also details the cover-ups that have long been aided and abetted by law enforcement.

Where have all the church-and-state advocates been all these years when Orthodox rabbis were allowed by the D.A.'s office to settle these cases "internally"? Where have all the professional victims' groups been in staging protests outside synagogues? Where have all the sue-happy lawyers been seeking to plunder the Orthodox? Where have all the comedians and late-night entertainers been in cracking jokes about rabbis raping kids?

It's not just Orthodox Jews who have been given a pass: no group has gotten away easier than public school employees. Consider this. Because public school students have only 90 days to file suit, it is already too late to prosecute a teacher—in virtually every state—who molested a minor as recently as last spring. But if the offense took place in a Catholic school, the student has years to file suit. Not only that, molesting teachers *are still* shuffled from one school district to another; it's called "passing the trash."

Orthodox Jews try cases of child rape in rabbinical courts. Imagine if the Catholic Church failed to report abuse cases to the authorities and decided instead to institute its own ecclesial courts? Today's article quotes a Jewish attorney urging law enforcement to recognize "religious sensitivities" for the guilty by seeking alternatives to prison. Allow a Catholic attorney to advise the same and it's called

corruption.

Last year, 40 minors in this small Jewish community said they were abused. Last year, there were 10 such allegations in the entire Catholic Church in all 50 states. Catholics are fed up with the duplicity. It's not just Roman Polanski who can rape and run with impunity these days. The politics of child rape is sickening.