

# VILE "SOUTH PARK" EPISODE PULLED

Catholic League president Bill Donohue released the following comments today on "South Park":

"Several news stories today are reporting on the decision by Comedy Central to pull a scheduled rerun of the 'Bloody Mary' episode that was shown on 'South Park' on December 7-10. The decision reflects what I asked for in our news release of December 8. Therefore, I commend Comedy Central for finally making the right decision. That it aired in the first place, however, does not speak well for the bigots responsible for creating it.

"In our December 8 news release, I also said, *'Remember, they chose to insult Our Blessed Mother on the eve of the Immaculate Conception, and the holy day itself.'* The episode in question featured a statue of the Virgin Mary spraying blood from her vagina. It was one of the most vile TV shows ever to appear, and that is why I asked Joseph Califano, a practicing Catholic and member of Viacom's board of directors (Viacom is the parent company of Comedy Central) to issue a public condemnation of the 'Bloody Mary' episode; I also asked that he do whatever he could to pull any scheduled reruns of the episode.

"On December 9, the day Califano received our request, he released a statement condemning the episode. He also said that any further decisions would have to be made by Tom Freston, president and chief executive of the New Viacom. For the past few weeks, we have been in touch with Freston's office awaiting his decision. Yesterday, we received a phone call from Tony Fox, executive vice president for corporate communications at Comedy Central, informing us that there were no plans to rerun 'Bloody Mary.'

“Already, we are being deluged with hate mail that is as obscene as it is viciously anti-Catholic. All because we exercised our First Amendment right to request that Comedy Central not offend Catholics again! But we’re used to such things and will not be deterred.”