

WAL-MART HAS BEEN PUT ON NOTICE

Bill Donohue commented today on the latest development in the Catholic League's fight with Wal-Mart:

"Yesterday, I announced a boycott of Wal-Mart and asked 126 religious organizations that span seven faith communities to join with us. We want a) an apology for insulting Christians by effectively banning Christmas and b) a withdrawal of its insane statement regarding the origins of Christmas and c) a revision on its website.

"The piece today by Joe Kovacs on worldnetdaily.com quotes Wal-Mart spokeswoman Jolanda Stewart saying, 'We already serve a diverse customer base, and we're just trying to help them to celebrate their individual needs and wants.' I thought Wal-Mart was a department store—not a Wellness Center.

"Stewart's remark is flatulent. If Wal-Mart had a 'Holiday' section on its website that directed customers to its Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa sites, that would not be objectionable. What is objectionable is its steadfast defense of the statement about the origins of Christmas as crafted by its Customer Relations department, and the way its customers are directed online to find Christmas items. Searches for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa direct customers to the Jewish and African-American holiday sections, but searches for Christmas are directed to the 'Holiday' section. Ergo, Wal-Mart discriminates in its treatment of Christmas.

"Today, I e-mailed Dan Fogleman, Senior Manager of Public Relations, letting him know the following: 'Now that Wal-Mart is standing by its position, I hope you're ready for our next move. Don't forget, we have the next six weeks to pull out all the stops, and we will.'"