



# CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious  
and  
Civil Rights*

January 25, 2018

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Dr. Jane Chu  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Arts  
400 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Dr. Chu:

"Jerry Springer: The Opera" is currently being staged at an off-Broadway site. It is the most obscene anti-Christian play ever performed. The production company, the New Group, is an NEA-funded organization. Enclosed find a script summary.

This entity is so dependent on public monies that it does not merit review by Charity Navigator. "This organization is **not eligible to be rated by Charity Navigator** because, as a service to individual givers, we only rate organizations that depend on support from individual contributors and foundations." (Bold in the original.)

It does not matter that the NEA did not donate to this vile play: what matters is that without public funding, led by the NEA, the New Group would not be able to host it.

The nexus between the NEA and the New Group is more than disturbing: it is so incestuous that it is in violation of the NEA's own strictures. In 2009, the NEA gave the New Group \$50,000, "To support the preservation of jobs that are threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn." Yet under NEA guidelines, "General operating or seasonal support" is explicitly prohibited.

I would like to hear from you about these two matters: the propriety of funding a grantee that hosts anti-Christian plays, and the NEA's donation to the operating expenses of the New Group. I am also bringing this to the attention of the Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.  
President