

From: Beatrice Barr <beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org>
Subject: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate
Date: December 5, 2018 at 10:39:11 AM EST
To: clrcr@catholicleague.org
Cc: treasurer@oxford-union.org, president@oxford-union.org
Reply-To: Beatrice Barr <beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org>

Dear Mr Donohue,

I am writing to you to invite you to speak in a debate at the Oxford Union in our forthcoming term.

The motion for the debate is '**This House Believes the Catholic Church can never pay for its Sins**'. Given your strong voice and prominence in this issue, we believe you would be a particularly interesting and unique speaker in this debate.

As is traditional, the debate will be held on a Thursday evening during full-term, namely: 17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February, 21st February, or 28th February. It would be great if you could let me know those which would be convenient for you.

I have attached a formal invitation from our President, Daniel Wilkinson, who is copied into this email. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss the invitation in more detail. Otherwise, I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Warm thanks in advance,

Beatrice Barr

Beatrice Barr | **Assistant to the President**
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the OXFORD UNION

Daniel Wilkinson
President

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president@oxford-union.org

Wednesday 5th December 2018

Dear Mr Donohue,

I am writing to extend an invitation for you to speak at the Oxford Union in one of our historic debates this coming term. It would be a great privilege were you to accept this invitation, and I sincerely hope you will be able to join us for the debate.

The Oxford Union was founded in 1823 by students protesting the restrictions placed on freedom of speech and expression by the University of Oxford. Since our foundation, the Oxford Union has been defined by its outspokenness and dedication to creating the conversations that matter. Through that aim, we have evolved into one of the most prestigious student societies in the world.

Throughout our history, we have played host to world-leading politicians, thinkers, and activists alike who have spoken on the most important issues of the day. From former Presidents Nixon, Carter, and Reagan, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Oxford Union has been at the forefront of contemporary political and social debate. It would be an honour if you were to join us in debate and continue this fine tradition.

We would be delighted, therefore, were you to speak on the motion:

This House Believes The Catholic Church Can Never Pay For Its Sins

In the wake of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, the Catholic Church has once again been put under the public spotlight for its actions. Following revelations about prolific child sexual abuse and the false imprisonment within the infamous Magdalene laundries, the church has taken steps to accept responsibility for the actions of its members including public apologies, expelling priests, and limited payout programs for victims. Whilst living up to a message of repentance is something of clear importance to the Church's new leadership, critics argue that based on the scale of damage done, efforts continue to be insufficient. In light of this we ask, can the Catholic Church ever pay for its sins?

As is tradition, the debate will be held on a Thursday evening, though there are currently a number of possible dates: **17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February, 21st February, 28th February.**

The Union offers a unique combination of tradition and prestige, with our student members often constituting those who go on to be the leaders of tomorrow. Almost all of our debates have been uploaded to the Oxford Union YouTube channel, but of course, the level of media attention would be entirely up to your discretion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any wish to discuss this invitation further.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Wilkinson
President

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 12:05 PM
To: 'beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org'
Cc: 'treasurer@oxford-union.org'; 'president@oxford-union.org'
Subject: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Ms. Barr,

Thank you so much to President Wilkinson for this invitation. Dr. Donohue would be most pleased to participate in this debate. As the last proof of his new book is scheduled to arrive in January, his first preference would be **Thursday, February 21**. He will await further word from you as to details.

Sincerely,
Rick Hinshaw
Director of Communications
Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights
450 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10123
212-371-3191
communications@catholicleague.org

From: Beatrice Barr [<mailto:beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 1:41 PM
To: catholic league
Cc: treasurer@oxford-union.org; president@oxford-union.org
Subject: Re: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Mr Hinshaw,

Thank you so much for your rapid response - the Union would be honoured to host Dr Donohue.

We are as yet uncertain on which date the debate will take place, but it looks likely to be the 21st or 28th February - would the latter equally be convenient to Dr Donohue?

Just a word on format - the debate typically follows the British Parliamentary style, which consists of three speakers in proposition and three in opposition, each giving speeches of 8-10 minutes. Typically, one speaker on each side is a student, with two being eminent guest speakers such as Dr Donohue. While he would be willing to speak either in proposition or in opposition to the motion *'This House Believes the Catholic Church can never pay for its Sins'*, we presumed that Dr Donohue would prefer to speak in opposition. The floor is additionally opened for a period during the debate for members to contribute, meaning that debates typically take between an hour and an hour and a half.

Speakers are always invited to drinks followed by a three-course dinner before the debate, as well as a drinks reception afterwards. Additionally, while the Union is primarily a student

organisation with charitable status and is thus unable to cover international travel costs, we always cover travel costs within the United Kingdom and offer guests accommodation for a night in a 5* hotel or a traditional Oxford college of their choice.

I will continue to update you on plans for the debate as we develop them.

Thanks again- I send my best regards to you and Dr Donohue,

Beatrice

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 2:28 PM
To: 'Beatrice Barr'
Cc: 'treasurer@oxford-union.org'; 'president@oxford-union.org'; 'Catholic League'
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Ms. Barr,

Thank you for the further details. The format is perfectly acceptable to Dr. Donohue.

In response to your questions:

- Yes, February 28 would be equally convenient for Dr. Donohue.
- Yes, he would want to speak in opposition to the motion.

We look forward to hearing from you further.

May I also request that you copy any further correspondence to our vice president, Bernadette Brady-Egan, at vp@catholicleague.org.

Thank you so much.

--- Rick

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 9:48 AM
To: 'Beatrice Barr'
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Ms. Barr,

We are just wondering when you think Bill might be able to know which date has been chosen for the debate. It is possible he will have some family members joining him, and knowing the date will be helpful to them in planning their schedules. Thanks so much for whatever you can tell us.

--- Rick

From: Beatrice Barr [<mailto:beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 6:26 AM
To: catholic league
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Rick,

The date for the debate is almost certain to be February 28th.

Thanks so much to you and Bill for your continued interest,

Bea

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 10:14 AM
To: 'Beatrice Barr'
Cc: 'Catholic League'
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Bea,

Thanks so much. Just a reminder to please copy any emails to me to our vice president, Bernadette Brady-Egan (vp@catholicleague.org).

Thanks again,
Rick

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 9:51 AM
To: 'Beatrice Barr'
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Ms. Barr,

I'm just getting back to inquire whether you have any further details. Is the date of February 28 confirmed? Do you have information on possible accommodations? We would appreciate as much detail as you are able to provide at this time, so that Bill is able to make plans for travel, accommodations, etc.

Thanks so much,
Rick

Rick Hinshaw
Director of Communications
Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights
450 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10123
212-371-3191
communications@catholicleague.org

From: Beatrice Barr [<mailto:beatrice.barr@oxford-union.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 10:36 AM
To: catholic league
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Rick,

Apologies, but as we did not hear back from you we've now filled the debate. I really hope that should a similar opportunity arise in the future we'll be able to have Bill's voice in it - I'm really sorry that scheduling has meant it hasn't worked out this time!

Best wishes,

Beatrice

From: catholic league [<mailto:communications@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:10 PM
To: 'Beatrice Barr'
Subject: RE: FW: Oxford Union Invitation for Bill Donohue - Catholic Church debate

Dear Ms. Barr,

I have passed along your cancellation to Dr. Donohue, and he assures that you have not heard the last of this.

Rick