

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BARBARA WALTERS?

Rosie's gone but the central problem remains.

For decades, no one questioned the journalistic integrity of Barbara Walters. She commanded respect and presided over her subjects in an authoritative fashion. Now she's the subject of derision. Everyone knows that the show she co-owns, "The View," is run by her fellow panelists—not her. That she has allowed this to happen is her business, but it is the business of the Catholic League to call her out when she permits her co-hosts to relentlessly bash Catholicism.

Since last September, Joy Behar and Rosie O'Donnell have ripped Roman Catholicism on 15 different occasions.

- The Eucharist has been ridiculed (9-28; 2-27)
- Baptism has been scorned (4-23)
- The Crucifixion has been mocked (11-8)
- Catholic teachings have been cast as a sham (2-7; 3-26; 4-13)
- The pope has been charged with enabling molesters (10-2; 10-27)
- All priests have been painted as pedophiles (5-18)
- Catholic presence on the Supreme Court has been dubbed unfair (4-19)
- Catholicism has been labeled repressive (9-12; 10-31; 5-31)
- Anti-Catholicism has been justified (10-12)

When Behar offended Muslims (10-18), she apologized on air. When O'Donnell offended Chinese-Americans (12-5), she apologized on air. But when Behar and O'Donnell offend Catholics—non-stop—no apologies are extended. The duplicity is nauseating.

On several occasions, we have contacted Walters and executive producer Bill Geddie. We have written to Anne Sweeney, co-chair of Disney Media Networks and president, Disney-ABC Television Group. None has replied. But ABC executives have had time to sit down with Asian-American groups because of one offense.

Barbara Walters has never made an anti-Catholic remark, yet she permits her panelists to run roughshod over Catholicism. Moreover, she allowed O'Donnell to float insane ideas about 9/11. It's time she took control of her show and restored her integrity. Everyone remembers Dan Rather for what he did in the twilight of his professional career. They may well remember Barbara Walters the same way.

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