



# CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious  
and  
Civil Rights*

July 17, 2025

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Dr. Robert Groves  
Interim President  
Georgetown University  
204 Healy Hall  
37th and "O" Streets, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20057-1789

Dear Dr. Groves:

You recently received a letter from CAIR regarding the controversy over Professor Jonathan Brown. In its news release, it said it is "the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization." I am president of the nation's largest Catholic civil rights and advocacy organization. But I hasten to say that I have a very different perspective on this issue.

CAIR wants Georgetown to "immediately cease any investigation or disciplinary action related to Dr. Brown's tweet." Instead, it calls on the university to "affirm its commitment to protecting academic freedom," arguing that Brown "should be fully reinstated as chair and no further action should be taken against him."

I have taught in higher education for many years; I have also served on the board of directors of the National Association of Scholars for two decades. I am quite familiar with the need for academic freedom. I am also quite familiar with its abuses. What Brown has said—over the course of many years (see the enclosed news release)—makes him Exhibit A in the annals of academic malpractice.

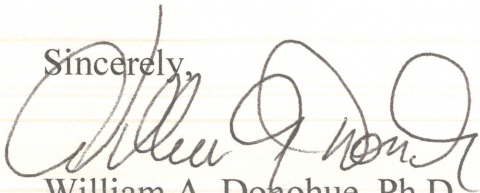
Higher education has one overriding goal: the pursuit of truth. This has consequences. For example, devotees of the Flat Earth Society are welcome to speak in public parks and arenas, but they have no right to speak at a college or university. To do so would suggest that they have a legitimate role to play in the pursuit of truth.



Accordingly, to allow professors who intentionally, and repeatedly, disparage and demonize ethnic or religious groups—and who justify slavery and rape—is to suggest that they have a legitimate role to play in the pursuit of truth.

Professor Brown is not simply engaging in obscene invectives—he is trashing the very meaning of higher education. As such, he is not suited to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William A. Donohue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "D".

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.

President