



Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church

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Archbishop of New York
1011 First Ave
New York, NY 10022

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Dear Archbishop Dolan;

Recently I wrote on behalf of the Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church (ARCC), offering you our prayerful support in your new work as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please be assured that our prayer support continues for what is a formidable responsibility.

I believe it is important, at the same time, to express concern regarding your recent very public support for Mr. William Donohue in his role as President of the Catholic League. (*Why we need the Catholic League*, <http://blog.archny.org/?p=931>)

Mr. Donohue, media-savvy personality that he is, has consistently and unfortunately been a force for division within the Church. His antisemitism, evidenced in an interview on MSNBC, 12/9/2004, (http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6685898/ns/msnbc_tv-about_msnbc_tv/) must surely run contrary to any legitimate Catholic understanding of Jews and Judaism. For example, he says there "Hollywood is controlled by secular Jews who hate Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular." He goes on to say "You have got secular Jews. You have got embittered ex-Catholics, including a lot of ex-Catholic priests who hate the Catholic Church, wacko Protestants in the same group, and these people are in the margins." Perhaps the most accurate thing that can be said of Mr. Donohue is that he is an equal opportunity hater.

While I sincerely hope you are mistaken that the spouting of such vile diatribes is needed within the Catholic Church, I trust you will find a way to include in your blog equally high praise for progressive Catholic organizations and their members, who love the Church and work to make it better. Such organizations, among which ARCC is pleased to situate itself, have over recent years been subjected to what I might best portray though a paraphrase of your opening comments in your blog, i.e. "It almost seems to be an unspoken rule that progressive Catholics are not supposed to respond to criticism, insults, and slights towards their deep desires for a compassionate and inclusive Church with anything more than a smile. Certainly we shouldn't actually *say* anything."

Archbishop Dolan, we of ARCC will continue to support you through our prayers. We ask, however, that you reflect on what your support for the deeply divisive Mr. William Donohue does to the Church.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Edgar, DPA, President
ARCC