

St. Michael's Award - 2012

St. Michael, whose name means ... like God ... is an Archangel. He is a soldier of heaven and a special messenger from God to humankind. Most of us know him as patron saint of police officers, and while that is one of the reasons this award is named for St. Michael, it is not the only one.

St. Michael is a prince of the heavenly host, and one of the four archangels who hold up God's throne. He is a soldier who has defended heaven and is

responsible for defeating Lucifer and freeing heaven from the devils control. St. Michael is portrayed as carrying a sword and killing a serpent or dragon that symbolizes the devil. The scales that St. Michael carries show his power, for he can weigh the souls of men and women and rescue them, even from the jaws of hell.

The Police Holy Name Society's presenting of the St. Michaels Award is to acknowledge a member of our association or community that exhibits the qualities St. Michael exhibits while serving as an archangel of God.

The Police Holy Name Society of Nassau County is proud to introduce the recipient of the 2012 St. Michael's Award, William A. Donohue.

Bill began his teaching career in the 1970's working at St. Lucy's School in Spanish Harlem and in 1980 Bill earned his PH.D in Sociology from New York University. He has authored four books and numerous articles.

Bill is currently the President and CEO of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization. He is the

publisher of the Catholic League journal, Catalyst and an adjunct scholar at the Heritage Foundation.

Bill has appeared on thousands of television and radio shows speaking on civil liberties, religious and social issues.

In many ways Bill's life work has been like a voice shouting in the wilderness ... clear the way for the LORD's coming.

Bill has been a tireless defender of all religions and religious liberties for all and in particular a true and trusted defender of the Catholic Church.

Who speaks for us? Who speaks for the Catholic Church? Our faith calls each of us to speak. Just as our profession calls us to duty, our faith does also.

We are all called to be active participants in our faith, not just spectators ... in the face of contemporary secular thinking, confronted by the relentless onslaught of atheism; Bill Donohue's efforts in this realm have been no less than heroic.

Bill's work in this sphere speaks for itself; we highly recommend that you become

informed, take the time and read the latest news on the Catholic League's website or their annual report on ANTI-CATHOLICISIM and you will see the brilliance in that work.

Taking a quote from the Leagues 2010 Report ... "Anyone who seeks to have an impact on the culture is bound to be controversial: it comes with the territory ... Moreover, this is not a job for wimps".

To have come to such a profound understanding of faith and religion Bill must live and experience his faith very deeply.

While we remain abundantly blessed in this country with religious freedoms you have to wonder sometimes what motivates religious intolerance and attacks on faith.

In my own personal journey of faith it's become quite evident to me that Christianity has been more of a force for good, more of a force for love than any other force in history.

However this isn't always the narrative that we are used to hearing and as Catholics it's an imperative that we set the record straight.

Growing in faith and love isn't a daily accomplishment; it's a lifetime journey and a lifetime spiritual commitment for Christians.

Prayer is vital to the Christian experience and Christian life is not sustainable without prayer. Daily prayer requires daily effort. Spiritual leaders such as Bill Donohue allow us to experience our faith more deeply and to recognize and appreciate the splendid beauty and enduring truths of Catholicism.

In presenting Bill with the St. Michael's Award the Police Holy Name Society recognizes him as a courageous Christian, a man of deep faith and an embodiment the St. Michael's Award.