



May 16, 2023

Los Angeles Dodgers
1000 Vin Scully Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To whom it may concern:

We are extremely disturbed at the announcement that the Los Angeles Dodgers plan to honor an anti-Catholic hate group during a “Pride Night” ceremony next month.

According to a press release, the Dodgers will give a “Community Hero Award” to the “Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence” before the game on June 16th. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SPI) are an anti-Catholic hate group which exists to desecrate and degrade the Catholic faith. Their sole mission is to disgust Christians with the most grotesque acts they can imagine.

The SPI mock Catholics by taking on vulgar names such as “Sister GladAss of the Joyous Resurrectum”. They dress in sexualized perversions of religious garb, taunting the women religious who serve the poor in Southern California and throughout the world. In one infamous stunt, they tricked an archbishop into giving them the Eucharist – the most important sacrament of the Catholic faith – so they could defile it. This past Easter Sunday, the SPI put on an exhibition in San Francisco in which a performer dressed as Jesus carried a cross up a hill and then performed a pole dance on it. These are just a few examples of the SPI’s vile and diabolical actions which go far beyond parody or satire – they are blasphemous and deeply offensive to Christians everywhere.

This award comes at a time when Catholics are under threat across the country to a degree not seen in decades. In the past three years, there have been over 300 acts of violence and vandalism against Catholic churches in the United States, including nearly 50 in California alone. Through this award, the Dodgers are contributing to the climate of increasing hostility against Catholics.

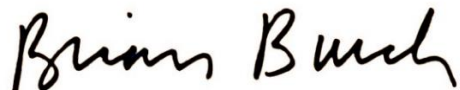
We sincerely doubt that the Dodgers would give such an award to a group which made a similar travesty of the Jewish faith or Muslim faith. Anti-religious bigotry of any kind has no place in baseball.

The timing of the award is particularly galling after the recent passing of Vin Scully, the legendary Dodgers broadcaster. Vin was a devout, lifelong Catholic who spoke often about the importance of his faith and raised money for Catholic charities around California and the world. He practiced – and encouraged others to practice – the very devotions which the SPI profane, such as the Rosary. Vin and other members of the Dodgers family, including countless fans, would surely be appalled that the team they love would dishonor their faith in such a manner.

Baseball is the national pastime, and a baseball stadium should be a place where people of all faiths are welcomed and respected. For a revered, all-American institution like the Dodgers to bring the SPI into the mainstream and honor them is reprehensible.

Make no mistake: the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are a hate group. If the Dodgers are truly committed to fighting bigotry and promoting inclusivity, as you have often claimed, you must cancel this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Burch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Burch
President, CatholicVote

CC: Robert D. Manfred, Jr.
Commissioner of Major League Baseball
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