

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ..."
The first words of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution

San Francisco Atheists

Activism

Rally against the Pope

On Sunday, May 23rd, the San Francisco Atheists sponsored a protest demonstration aimed at the Pope of the world-wide Catholic Church.

The demonstration was held at the large St. Mary's of the Assumption Cathedral at the corner of Gough and Geary Streets, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.



participated in the protest. About 10 Don Havis and Larry Hicok, and a provided their own signs. Some of to parishioners and passers-by with Resign," "The Pope is not above the enough", and "The Pope must A flier detailing a small number

Approximately 18 to 20 people signs were provided for protesters by few enterprising participants the signs brought our message home messages such as "The Pope Must law," "I'm sorry is not good punish pedophile priests." of particularly egregious cases of pedophile priest's abuse cases and Benedict's role when he was Cardinal Ratzinger in covering up deflecting proper punishment for the involved priests. This flier was handed out by our protesters to parishioners as they entered or exited the church. About a third of the passing parishioners accepted the hand-out. The common theme of the protest was a call for justice for the victims of priest abuse and the immediate resignation of Pope Benedict XVI as a minimal gesture toward that end.

We received some limited TV coverage from NBC, which was briefly shown on Channel 3 Bay Area News, with Diane Dwyer at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Thank you to all, that participated, for helping us make visible the guilt of this dubious leader.



The the photos

Don Havis

See the video