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Tue, Jan 31, 2006

Home

Local News

Around the World

Movie Reviews

Advertising

Classifieds

Bulletin Notes

Search

Contact Us

Archdiocese of
Atlanta Website

Youth Ministry

Young Adult
Ministry

Juventud Catolica

The weekly column by
Archbishop Gregory

**What I Have
Seen And
Heard**



Around the World

Home / World News / **Catholics urged to boycott eBay for allowing listing of Eucharist**

Catholics urged to boycott eBay for allowing listing of Eucharist

Published: 2005-04-27

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) -- Catholics are being urged to boycott eBay because the popular auction Internet site allowed an Iowa man to try to sell a Communion host purported to be consecrated by Pope John Paul II. The host was later withdrawn by the seller, no money exchanged hands and the host was properly disposed of according to church law. However, groups calling for the boycott contend that eBay should not have allowed the auction of an item sacred to Catholics. The eBay company "is more interested in profits than in the beliefs of Catholics," said Tom Serafin, founder of the International Crusade for Holy Relics, one of the groups supporting a boycott. Hani Durzy, a spokeswoman for the San Jose, Calif.-based company, said the auction of the host was allowed despite criticism prompted by the eBay listing because it did not violate any federal, state or local laws, and was not deemed hateful by the company. In an interview with the National Catholic Register, the spokeswoman also said auctioning the host might be offensive to some but did not incite hate like Nazi paraphernalia, which cannot be sold on the site for that reason. Durzy did not have an immediate response to the call for a boycott. Groups backing the boycott include the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property. A Web site has been set up, www.boycottebay.com.

Around the World

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Fri, April 1, 2005

Mon, April 4, 2005

Tue, April 5, 2005

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Wed, April 6, 2005
Thu, April 7, 2005
Fri, April 8, 2005
Mon, April 11, 2005
Tue, April 12, 2005
Wed, April 13, 2005
Thu, April 14, 2005
Fri, April 15, 2005
Mon, April 18, 2005
Tue, April 19, 2005
Wed, April 20, 2005
Thu, April 21, 2005
Fri, April 22, 2005
Mon, April 25, 2005
Tue, April 26, 2005
Wed, April 27, 2005
Thu, April 28, 2005
Fri, April 29, 2005

IN 2005

January, February, March,
April, May, June, July,
August, September, October,
November, December

ARCHIVES

2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

[Home](#) | [Local News](#) | [World News](#) | [Movie Reviews](#)
[Search](#) | [Staff](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Bulletin Notes](#)