



TRUE PASTORAL CARE FOR HOMOSEXUALS

by Fr. Michael Rodríguez

In the *Letter on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons*, dated October 1, 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (headed by then-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI) wrote, "We encourage the Bishops to provide pastoral care in full accord with the teaching of the Church for homosexual persons of their dioceses. No authentic pastoral program will include organizations in which homosexual persons associate with each other without clearly stating that homosexual activity is immoral. A truly pastoral approach will appreciate the need for homosexual persons to avoid the near occasions of sin. We wish to make it clear that departure from the Church's teaching, or silence about it, in an effort to provide pastoral care is neither caring nor pastoral. Only what is true can ultimately be pastoral. The neglect of the Church's position prevents homosexual men and women from receiving the care they need and deserve."

The Catholic Church shows particular maternal solicitude towards homosexual persons. **In other words, as a loving Mother, she cares more than anyone else about homosexuals.** The above directive makes it clear that anyone who dissents from Church teaching or is silent about it, is neither loving nor showing care to homosexuals. *Only what is true can ultimately be pastoral.* If one neglects to preach the truth, one is committing a grave disservice, even injustice, to homosexual men and women, depriving them of "the care they need and deserve."

Only what is true can ultimately be loving. Let's review **the truth about homosexuality.** (1) Homosexual **acts** are acts of grave depravity; they are mortal sins which cry to heaven for vengeance. Under no circumstances can they be approved; (2) Homosexuality is an objective disorder; (3) The Church gives no definitive teaching as to the origin or cause of homosexuality; (4) Homosexual **persons** are to be treated with respect, compassion, and sensitivity; (5) Homosexual **persons** are called to chastity and growth in virtue. Aided by sacramental grace and prayer, they are to strive for Christian perfection. (*Catechism* #2357-#2359)

Anyone, *it does not matter who, anyone* (e.g. whether Catholic or non-Catholic, whether family members or support-groups, whether academic

institutions or civic associations, whether government agencies or the United Nations) *who does not adhere to the above "summary" of Catholic Church teaching, is a foe of homosexuals, not a friend.*

The Catholic Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, teaches that the greatest evil in the world is sin, "to the eyes of faith no evil is graver than sin and nothing has worse consequences for sinners themselves, for the Church, and for the whole world." (*Catechism* #1488). Unfortunately, for those with little or no faith, it's extremely difficult to realize and accept how terrible and destructive sin is. This however, doesn't change the facts. Engaging in depraved and unnatural sexual acts will lead directly to the ruin of both the homosexual's body and soul. ***If you love the person how can you possibly lie to them and tell them something different?*** Our *very anatomy* cries out against the lie that homosexual acts are "o.k." Remember, *only what is true can ultimately be loving.*

Sin breeds sin, and the devastating consequences of personal sins spread to society, poison the world, and even stain Holy Mother Church. It's downright shocking to find "Catholics" who are dissenting from Catholic Church teaching on homosexuality. This is an additional wound inflicted upon the Body of Christ, because now these "Catholics," by rejecting the truth of Jesus Christ, have placed themselves outside of communion with the Church! It gets worse. Reflect, first there are (a) individuals committing mortal sins of a homosexual nature; next, evil extends its tentacles to (b) society as a whole accepting homosexuality and homosexual activity as "normal"; and finally, iniquity's victory is all but sealed when (c) laws are enacted which impose the putrid homosexual ideology on everyone, while those who, rightfully resist it, are ridiculed, attacked, and persecuted.

We are fast becoming *a godless society.* History does indeed repeat itself, another Sodom and Gomorrah. *Sancta Maria, Refugium peccatorum, ora pro nobis.*

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