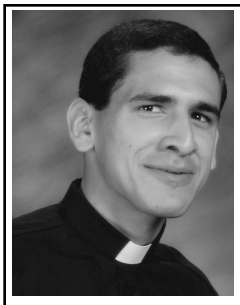

THE TRUTH ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY, PART I

by Fr. Michael Rodríguez

As our Savior hung from the Cross, His Precious Blood streamed forth to pay for all the crimes of a lost world. ***Who, after this, would continue in sin, and so renew the cruel crucifixion of the Son of God?*** After His death, Jesus Christ's sacred side was pierced by a lance, "and immediately there came out blood and water." (Jn 19:34) The Son of God, showing the depth and breadth of His love, shed His Precious Blood down to the last drop in order to redeem man from sin. *What inexpressible love!* The Most Precious Blood of our Savior is a testament to the *immensity* of God's love. It is simultaneously a testament to the reality and *horror* of man's sin.

Jesus Christ's Sacrifice on Calvary and the shedding of His Most Precious Blood *are made present daily on the altars of His Church!* Holding the Precious Blood in her chalices, the Roman Catholic Church continues to teach the truth about God's love. She shall do so until the end of time. She likewise continues to teach the truth about the gruesomeness of sin.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church presents **the truth about homosexuality** in three paragraph numbers, #2357-#2359. We can summarize this truth in five points: (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.

The shedding of our Savior's Precious Blood witnesses to the unending love of God. Every baptized soul is a child of God. Without question, God loves all of His children, regardless of sexual "orientation." We Catholics must show charity, respect, and understanding towards our homosexual brothers and sisters. As baptized Catholics, they too form part of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Above all, we are to show love and compassion towards homosexuals by leading them to the truth, and helping them to reject sinful homosexual activity. *Remember, it's about saving souls!* We must be firm, yet humble, patient, and caring. Love and compassion means assisting the homosexual person to live chastely, form wholesome friendships, and grow in the virtues: peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, and modesty. (Gal 5:22) Happiness and self-fulfillment can never be gained through sinful relationships and disordered sexual activity. True and lasting happiness is found by following Christ, denying oneself, carrying one's cross, and being faithful to God's holy law. Jesus Christ promises, "For he that will save his life, shall lose it; and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it." (Mt 16:25)

We practice charity towards homosexual persons by helping them strive for Christian perfection. We should be ready to kneel with them before **the healing Cross of Christ,** which is the source of supernatural grace: frequent attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Confession, fervent Holy Communions, praying the Holy Rosary daily, abundant acts of penance and mortification, and a tender devotion to the most pure Mother of God. *Never forget that it is she, conceived without sin, who is crushing the infernal serpent's head.*

Although the Church gives no definitive answer as to the cause of homosexuality, she does teach that it is objectively disordered. It follows logically, then, that *someone's* sin (even *society's sins*) plays a primary role in giving rise to the homosexual disorder, e.g. dysfunctional parent-child relationships, divorce, absent fathers, and sexual abuse. It's probable that many homosexuals don't consciously "choose" their sexual "orientation." However, it's a certainty that many have been profoundly wounded by the sins of others, even since the earliest years of their lives.

[*to be continued tomorrow*]

Fr. Michael Rodríguez is the parish priest at San Juan Bautista Catholic Church.

THIS WAS PRINTED IN THE EL PASO TIMES
AS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT ON AUGUST 27, 2011, PAGE 9B.