

The Catholic Justification for the Notre Dame Faculty/Staff Letter
in Support of Notre Dame's LGBTQ Community
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Well over 300 members of the Notre Dame Faculty and Staff have signed a letter in support of the LGBTQ Community at ND. In this note we cite the Catechism of the Catholic Church and statements from the U.S. Catholic Bishops to show that the sentiments and recommendations expressed in the letter are consistent and harmonious with Catholic teachings and beliefs.

1. The Notre Dame Faculty/Staff Letter

We are writing to express our support for the 4 to 5 movement and for the members of the LGBTQ community at the University of Notre Dame. We value the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning members of our community exactly as we do all those who are part of the Notre Dame family. As faculty and staff, we affirm that our offices and classrooms will be safe and open spaces, where anti-LGBTQ discrimination, harassment, or violence will not be tolerated.

We thank last year's graduating students and others who have worked so hard to bring LGBTQ concerns to the forefront. Their efforts have made and will continue to make a difference. We also applaud the recent efforts of Notre Dame to create a more welcoming and safe environment for all.

We encourage the University to continue its progress by joining with the City of South Bend, our sister college St. Mary's, and other Catholic colleges and institutions across the country to make the protection, recognition, and equal treatment of the LGBTQ members of our family an official part of University policy. We look forward to the day when the Spirit of Inclusion describes not just an aspiration of some, but the everyday experience of all of us who are ND.

2. The Catechism of the Catholic Church & Related Church Teachings

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, section 2358

[Homosexuals] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.

*1997 statement from the U.S. Bishops Committee on Marriage and the Family, **ALWAYS OUR CHILDREN: A PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF HOMOSEXUAL CHILDREN AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PASTORAL MINISTERS***

Nothing in the Bible or in Catholic teaching can be used to justify prejudicial or discriminatory attitudes and behaviors... We call on all Christians and citizens of good will to confront their own fears about homosexuality and to curb the humor and discrimination that offend homosexual persons.

Statement of the Holy See Delegation at the 63rd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Declaration on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (18 December 2008)

The Holy See continues to advocate that every sign of unjust discrimination towards homosexual persons should be avoided and urges States to do away with criminal penalties against them.

Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexuality_and_Roman_Catholicism; see the section on "Compassion for those with disordered attractions") provides a nice summary of other Church teachings in this area.