



CALL TO ACTION

METRO NY CHAPTER

Inspire Catholics, Transform Church

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Empty Field Hospital for Catholics

Francis's Church cannot be much of a field hospital for the faithful struggling to live Jesus message if almost no one is permitted entry into the field hospital much less the clinic. Our tentative hope for a softening of the harsh theology of disrespect for our LGBTQI brothers and sisters has been crushed with Francis support of his Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith prohibition against priest blessing same-sex unions. This decision is based on the Church's sexual theology against same-sex behavior/relationships as disordered. This doctrine of disordered sexual behavior is based on the doctrine of acceptable sexual behavior of sperm and egg meeting only through sexual intercourse in the context of a marriage. This rigid and strict view of human sexuality is at dramatic variance with the current science of human sexuality. It results in just some of the following additional prohibitions for Catholics: Use of birth control, sexual activity without a marriage, use of medical reproductive technologies such as invitro fertilization (IVF). These sexual related doctrines are generally not received (= not accepted in the consciences of the Baptized and therefore not binding) by the faithful.

Alternate Theological View

This obsession with pelvic theology is relatively new to the Church and need not be so divisive to the spread of the Jesus message of love. It results in untold pain and suffering for those struggling with their self view as defective because of the Church's teaching. Sister Margaret Farley's book, **Just Love** does a great job of describing the options for a more accepting Christian view of human sexuality.

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The Science of Human Sexuality

Four centuries ago the Church classified Galileo Galilei's Heliocentric Theory as heresy. The Church had to eventually let go of its opposition to the heliocentric view of the universe based on science. The World Health Organization has long held a positive and affirming view of the range and diversity of human sexuality; "Sexual health is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of individuals, couples and families, and to the social and economic development of communities and countries. Sexual health, when viewed affirmatively, requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence ... (see WHO.org for more detail)." It is long past time for the Church to exam the science of human sexuality and revise its "disordered" and non-loving theology of human sexuality.

About Call to Action Metro NY, Inc.

Call to Action Metro NY, Inc founded in 2012 supports a church that is fully inclusive of divorced Catholics and also unequivocally responsive to the needs of gay and transgender people who must enjoy full equality in the ecclesial community. We also abhor racism in all its manifestations and pledge to join other like-minded groups in working to eliminate this evil from our society. In addition, we reject the outmoded thinking that precludes women from ordination as deacons and priests, and we strongly favor the elimination of mandatory celibacy as a prerequisite for ordination. Call to Action enthusiastically affirms Pope Francis' prophetic encyclical, *Laudato Si*, which sets out clearly our moral duties to preserve and enhance our common home. We also applaud this pope's commitment in *Fratelli Tutti* to Catholic Social Teaching and his trenchant critique of the prevailing brand of capitalism which pays little heed to considerations of the common good, the core guiding principle of Catholic social belief.