

Lansing Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

Upholding the principles of the Catholic faith and morality in the science and practice of medicine

Position Statement on Same-Sex Attraction

September 26, 2002

We, the Board of the Lansing Guild of the Catholic Medical Association, with fidelity to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, compassion and respect, and in the interest of public health, affirm the following position on homosexuality (same-sex attraction):

- “The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity”. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) #2358
- “All the baptized are called to chastity.” CCC#2348
- Psychological research strongly supports the position that same-sex attractions can occur as a result of emotionally traumatic experiences with peers, parents or siblings throughout childhood and adolescence. Therapy for unwanted same sex attractions has proven to be beneficial in many cases. *Homosexuality and Hope** © 2000; North American Research on the Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), www.narth.com.
- Homosexual behavior is associated with an increase in psychiatric disorders, including Major Depression, Substance Abuse, Suicidal Tendencies, Schizophrenia, and Borderline Personality Disorder.* Sanford et al. (Jan 2001) *Archives of General Psychiatry* Vol. 58; Fergusson et al. (Oct. 1999) *Archives of General Psychiatry* Vol. 56.
- Multiple sexual partners greatly increases the chances of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV which can be lethal. “Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention” *Summary Report Department of Health and Human Services*. July 20, 2001.
- People with same sex attractions should not be discriminated against, nor should they receive special rights. Legislation should not promote behavior that has been shown to lead to disease, mental illness, and premature death. CCC #2286, #2358

*An extensive bibliography of the scientific studies upon which these statements were based can be found in the document, *Homosexuality and Hope* ©2000 Catholic Medical Association, available at www.cathmed.org. This document compassionately addresses the development of same sex attractions, therapy for those who desire treatment, and pastoral care of persons suffering from same sex attractions.

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