

just asking Do you feel the Catholic Church is scapegoating gay priests by linking pedophilia to homosexuality?

I never have taken seriously gay men who espouse the liturgy of the church. What hypocrites!

On the other hand, gay men probably make very good priests (and priestesses) after suffering all the personal anguish and torment. They certainly must have excellent compassion for all the other tortured souls (can't join the church without one).

The church's reaction to this controversy has been, for a bunch of narrow-minded, extremely conservative old white men, surprisingly compassionate. I haven't noticed the scapegoating the question alludes to.

This sideshow might have an unintended benefit of demonstrating the dangers of not coming out, at least if you're a brainwashed Catholic boy bent on perpetuating the world's longest passion play.

CHAS NOL
Oakland, Calif.

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I am a Roman Catholic nun, a lesbian and a theologian. It's important to make a distinction between "the Catholic Church" and the hierarchy of the church located in Rome.

The Catholic Church is 97 percent laypeople and 3 percent clergy—of which 2 percent are nuns and about 1 percent are priests. So it's not fair to blame "the Catholic Church" when those in authority and power are making the decisions.

Yes, I believe the bishops and cardinals in fact are scapegoating gay priests for the pedophilia. According to canon law, "pedophilia" is referred to as "the worst sin," so they certainly aren't going to pin that on the heterosexual priests, that's for sure.

A heterosexual priest friend of mine told me that while he was in seminary training for the priesthood he was told, "The best way to stay celibate is to stay away from women." If they thought gay priests were the problem they would have said, "Stay away from boys."

SISTER GUADALUPE GUAJARDO
Portland



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By linking pedophilia to homosexuality the Catholic Church is scapegoating all gay people, not just priests. The church can kill two birds with one stone this way as it wants to both have a scapegoat for the problems created by its unnatural, arbitrary sexual rules and further public opinion against gay rights.

Despite the fact that it usually comes out smelling like roses because of society's and the media's unwillingness to criticize Christian institutions, the truth is that the church is still quite adept at demagoguery. This is just one more way that the church establishment hasn't changed that much in essence since its inception.

I bet if it could it would pull a Galileo on the

psychiatric and child protection organizations and force them publicly to renounce the truth that homosexuality isn't linked to pedophilia. As my ex-nun mother would say, why does anyone, especially gays and women, want to stay in the church?

TOM SOPPE
Portland

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Yes, it is!!! It's easier to blame gay men than to accept the fact that priests are not perfect.

I was raised Catholic, and maybe this scandal will make the church realize it needs to bring itself into the modern world. It's not a sin to use birth control; using a condom can save lives. AIDS is real.

EVA HOFFMAN
Milwaukee

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Yes, the Catholic Church is anti-gay, and to preserve its way of thinking—that homosexuality is wrong or abnormal—it needs to blame the gay priests. Pedophilia is about power, not sex.

DIANE MCALLISTER
Portland

next issue So Will and Grace suddenly want to procreate: Will this open people's minds to the concept of alternative families, or will this set our cause back 50 years? Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

There are some genetic/medical reasons why some people are obese, but they still can try to live a healthy life. Let's not use the term "self-acceptance" as an excuse for being unhealthy and not willing to change.

One of my best friends who is a big woman has lost so much weight within the past two years that she is feeling better, has more energy and is breathing easier. She is my role model in being patient and persistent with oneself.

So thanks, Marty, for keeping the dialogue open and making us all think.

PAT AMES
Portland

Through thick and thin

TO THE EDITOR:

One of the things I love most about the lesbian community is our ability to be outraged and vocal. When Marty Davis wrote her editorial about our growing "size," I knew there would be an uproar. And, indeed, there was.

Acceptance of each woman's size has long been a benchmark of the unconditional love we give one another. That's been a hugely important philosophical stance for our community.

I, for one, knew I will continue to practice acceptance and tolerance wherever I go and whatever I do in the world. However, my take

on Marty's observations didn't strike me as particularly exclusionary or overtly critical.

It felt to me as more of a personal epiphany she had observing a large group of women. And even more personally, she included herself in that observation.

I have to agree I've felt the same way when I go to events and see my beautiful sisters show up in full force. More than once, I've thought we really aren't doing much to keep ourselves healthy and living a long life. And I can add myself to that group because I am overweight, as well.

What is it about this issue that hurts so much? Why is it that the only dialogue we can have is to defend one's right to be fat? Where is the dialogue about how we support each other to live healthy?

And I don't think any of us believe that means being a size 2! We're smarter than that and have worked too hard for our place in the world.

But come on. Let's really talk about how being severely overweight can limit the options you have in the world.

I hate it when I can't walk as swiftly as my thinner friends or when I have to struggle to get seat belts buckled on planes—just annoying stuff that reminds me my size influences the quality of my day. Although I certainly think my friends can slow down and those damn belts could be a little longer, I don't think that's the only issue here.

I want to walk longer, and I love to get on

planes and travel. More importantly, I want my cholesterol level to come down, my knees to stop hurting and my shortness of breath to go away.

Therefore—some days kicking and screaming—I watch how much I eat of certain foods, and I make myself get out there and move. I am mindful that I can influence my own day and improve the quality in it.

I am in this for the long haul, and I don't mind spending the rest of my life thinking and living in ways that make me healthier. I don't find that offensive or limiting. I find that loving.

I urge women to take some thought and love into your hearts and find ways to support yourself and others in finding the best, most workable path to a healthier and more joyful life. We really are worth it.

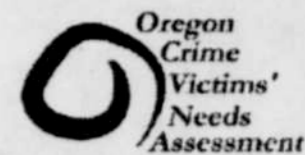
ROSE CRAIG
Lake Oswego

Campus hypocrisy

TO THE EDITOR:

Students at Pacific University in Forest Grove recently held a rally to protest the termination of a wrestling coach. His supporters claimed injustice, coupled with a trail of similar

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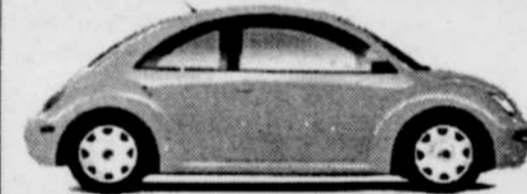


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