



Pastoral Message for WorldPride 2014

1. This year the city of Toronto is honoured to play host to WorldPride, "an international celebration incorporating activism, education, and the history and culture of global LGBTTIQQ2SA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning, two-spirited, and allies) communities. Toronto will be the first WorldPride celebration ever held in North America, and the 4th such festival in the world. WorldPride brings people together from around the world to honour our past, celebrate the present, and inspire a better future for LGBTTIQQ2SA communities everywhere."
(<http://worldpridetoronto.com/festival/worldpride-2014#sthash.0E46lFhC.dpuf>)

2. The Eucharistic Catholic Church is a participant and supporter of WorldPride by our presence at the June 21 Interfaith Event, my officiating weddings at the Interfaith mass wedding being held on June 26, our Pride Mass on June 29 and by our prayers. We are honoured to be able to participate in these ways.

3. I have been involved in ministry to members of our community since my Ordination as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. I left active ministry as a Roman Catholic priest because of being denied the freedom to speak about my belief that diversity in sexual orientation and identity was a gift of God, fully integral to God's creative design and therefore not something to be characterized as intrinsically disordered as the Roman Catholic Church teaches.

4. As a autocephalous Catholic Church in Apostolic Succession (not in union with nor subject to the Roman Catholic Church, but having valid Sacraments), we reject this teaching and affirm in our Profession of Faith the "Equality of sexual orientations, whereby is found in

homosexual, bisexual and transgendered people the creative purpose of God and whereby is found in the conjugal relationship of all couples the Sacrament of God's love."

5. We pray that the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which feast is held during WorldPride on June 27 this year, may bless with Infinite Love all WorldPride participants.

6. It is a mistake often made to think that faithfulness to Tradition is exclusive of a progressive and inclusive orientation. God calls us to witness to a Tradition which is so "rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. 3: 17) that it is open "to know also the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge" (Eph. 3: 19); and all human preconceptions. (Pastoral Exhortation *In caritate radicati et fundati* given in celebration of the Patronal Feast 2008; par. 13).

7. And so, we are present as a Church, as faithful disciples of Christ, to live out our witness to God, Infinite Love. We do so during this WorldPride 2014 so that traditional Catholic faith and devotion is not excluded from the lives of individual LGBTTIQQ2SA and our communities, and that those so moved may find with us their religious and spiritual path and home.

Given at Toronto, Ontario, Canada this 20th day of June, the opening day of WorldPride 2014, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Fourteen, the ninth year of my Episcopate.

Most Reverend J. Roger LaRade, O.F.A.
Primate-Archbishop
Eucharistic Catholic Church