

'FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM': THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE PRIESTHOOD

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“Homosexuality is incompatible with the priestly vocation. Otherwise, celibacy itself would lose its meaning as a renunciation. It would be extremely dangerous if celibacy became a sort of pretext for bringing people into the priesthood who don't want to get married anyway. For in the end, their attitude toward man or woman is somehow distorted, off-center, and in any case, is not within the direction of creation.”

Homosexual tendencies estrange men who experience them “from the proper sense of paternity, [and] from the intrinsic nature of priestly being.” The Church must “head off a situation where celibacy of priest would practically end up being identified with the tendency to homosexuality.”

The nature of sex “is a point we need to hold firm, even if it is not pleasing to our age.”

(Pope Benedict XVI, *Light of the World*, 2010)