

**Witness to Catholics with same sex attractions and their families
on the occasion of the scandal of celebrating “Always Our Children”
October 7, 2017 St. John the Evangelist Church, San Diego.**

We are here tonight because we love you and want you for Jesus Christ who died to bring us life.

God loves all His children wherever they may be in their development. Jesus living in us makes us into His image as a man or a woman, oriented toward the other by nature, strengthened by grace, even if our feelings have not yet developed as such.

God teaches us our sexual identities as man or woman in the Bible. He teaches us that bodily intimacy is to be shared in Holy Matrimony of a man and a woman for unity and for creation of new life. He has attached great pleasure to this gift in order that we exercise it according to His plan.

God teaches also that the gift never is to be used in any other relationship such as close friendships, casual encounters, or for personal gain.

The Holy Catholic Church has confirmed God’s teaching throughout the centuries. She gives loving direction in the 1986 teaching from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons because Holy Church represents her Savior, Jesus Christ.

In 1997 clerics in the Catholic Church who were practicing or promoting homosexuality rejected this teaching. They wrote their own document, *Always Our Children*, from a bishops’ committee, never confirmed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops nor by the CDF, nor by the Holy Father.

They continue to use their opinion to affirm their homosexual temptations and acts which never can be approved. They twist authentic friendships, approve bodily intimacies, and use those with same sex attraction to add to their numbers.

Jesus spoke only of marriage between man and woman, warning against adultery. He confirmed that not one letter of the law would pass away. He warned against wolves in sheep’s clothing. Through St. Peter’s second letter chapter 2 God counseled us to reject leaders who use people for their own needs.

In Jesus Christ everything is possible. He has saved each of us from our temptations to try to bring sin into our lives and to justify it. Each of us needs Him to guide our lives, and we bring you to Him and Him to you.

We are here today because we love God’s people and His Church. We need Jesus’ salvation at every step of our lives because of our own imperfections and spiritual development delays. We fight the confusion that is present in the world and which has now come into our church shepherds, when as St. Augustine warns, they use the sheep for themselves, do not bind up the weak, and try to destroy the strong. When our shepherds fail, we still speak Christ’s truth because we love His people and do not use them to confirm our temptations, rather to fight them and live in God’s wholeness.

We love our shepherds even when they are weak. We love all in Christ even when they stray as we sometimes do. Follow Jesus, not those who use you and use Him for justification of their own sins. Discover your beauty in chastity and the love of your Savior in the truth of the Church. At this Mass, give everything over to Jesus; pray for the shepherds who mislead you; live chastely, love justice, do the right, and walk humbly with your God