

PURGING THE CHURCH'S PREDATORY PRIESTS

Michael Reagan

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Am I the only Catholic who thinks the church needs to consider getting rid of the old guard - all the way up to the pope?

That may be the only way to finally purge the predatory priests who have been allowed to exist within the bowels of the Catholic Church for so long.

The church has been rocked in recent years by sexual abuse scandals in Ireland, Australia, Chile, Boston, LA ...

Then two weeks ago we got the shocking results of the country's largest investigation ever into the sex crimes of Catholic priests.

A grand jury in Pennsylvania identified more than 300 "predator priests" in six dioceses who over the course of 70 years had molested and raped nearly 1,000 children, mostly boys.

The bombshell report named the priests who had been caught abusing kids, and in graphic and sordid detail it described what they did - again and again, even after their superiors learned of their molesting.

According to the grand jury report, the priests' serial sexual abuse was only possible because of a church-wide cover up that reached all the way to the Vatican.

The scandal in Pennsylvania is the familiar horror story: The children who were victimized were not believed while the pedophile priests were protected by the church.

The priests were not defrocked, not reported to police and were often moved to other parishes where their history of abuse was kept quiet and they were able to prey on more children.

As usual, the Vatican's PR machine said all the right things.

A spokesman expressed "shame and sorrow" and decried the pattern of abuse and coverup in Pennsylvania as "criminally and morally reprehensible." He said the abuse "robbed survivors of their dignity and their faith."

Earlier this week Pope Francis himself issued a letter in seven languages admitting the church had shamefully failed to protect or care for "the little ones," whose pain "was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced."

No kidding.

The pope also vowed to prevent further cover-ups of what he correctly called "crimes" and promised accountability for the abusers -- and those above them who permitted the abuse to continue or covered it up.

That sounded good, but at least one Cardinal, Sergio Obeso Rivera of Mexico, didn't get the message.

Obeso Rivera said this week that victims of priestly sexual abuse - i.e., children - should be "ashamed" to accuse "men of the church."

Maybe something the cardinal said was lost in translation, but if Pope Francis is serious about cleaning up the church it has to get rid of men like Obeso Rivera.

It's his generation that has been protecting pedophile priests for decades.

It's because of old men like him that the people in the pews don't believe the church is ever going to do what it should to solve its predatory priest problem.

It's because of old men like the Mexican cardinal that the church is fighting for a statute of limitations on filing child sexual abuse charges instead of fighting to have no statute of limitations on sex abuse at all.

There's no statute of limitations for murder and there shouldn't be one for child molesting.

The molesting of a child is the murdering of a soul. I know from experience that when a young boy is molested, as I was by a camp counselor in 1953, it is something that affects you for the rest of your life.

Maybe the Catholic Church needs to start with a clean slate.

It does no good for the pope to meet with kids who've been sexually abused and tell them how sorry he is when he has old cardinals in power like Obeso Rivera who believe it's the child's fault.

If the pope doesn't have the guts to take away the red cap, the miter, from a Mexican cardinal who makes that kind of idiotic statement, then maybe the pope needs to be replaced also.

Epic Fail: Fr. James Martin at the World Meeting of Families

 churchmilitant.com/news/article/epic-fail-fr.-james-martin-at-the-world-meeting-of-families



News: [World News](#)

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Worm-tongued eloquence from the homosexualist Jesuit

By Jim Russell

Homosexualist Jesuit Fr. James Martin spoke on Aug. 23 to about 1,200 pilgrims at the much-touted and Vatican-sponsored World Meeting of Families (WMOF) held this year in Dublin, Ireland. His talk? "Showing Welcome and Respect in our Parishes for 'LGBT' People

and their Families." The talk was [immediately published at the *America* magazine website.](#)

For this longtime observer of the harm Martin has done to the Church — and in keeping with all things "LGBTQIA" — his effort at the "WMOF" was "MOTS" or "SSDD": more of the same; or same stuff, different day. For anyone who knows the "both/and" that the Church expects regarding the truth about homosexuality and orthodox pastoral outreach to those with same-sex attraction, Martin's slippery prose amounted to an epic failure to give the faithful, the so-deeply-wounded People of God, what is truly needed at this moment of crisis.

It cannot be stated too strongly that Martin is a wolf in shepherd's clothing. That's not an attack on him as a person, either — it's merely a fair description of what takes place when he merely opens his mouth to speak. His words are well-crafted — deliberately and deftly sleek and calculated to dance artistically through the minefield of truths that he so assiduously avoids. He wants zero to do with these truths — the core reality — of the homosexual condition. And like a pied piper, he wants everyone who catches earshot of his lilting tune to follow along, not much caring, it seems, whether his followers ever experience the fullness of truth regarding that reality, despite the fact that death can come either physically or spiritually to those who remain ignorant to the landmines Martin has them dancing around.

Martin speaks the politically correct LGBT-speak of secular culture. He relies upon secular psychology — which long ago declared homosexuality to be "normal" — to

trump Church teaching regarding the disordered reality of the homosexual inclination. Instead, he fully assumes that which ought to be proven first: namely, that there exists a massive bias against

"LGBT people" in Catholic parishes everywhere.

That one obvious misstep in this pied piper's dance is based upon a further set of assumptions: 1) "gay is okay" (not in need of healing); 2) "coming out" is healthy and necessary; and 3) if you "come out" and people respond negatively, you're being "excluded" and "marginalized" by "homophobia."

That is what Martin assumes as his starting point for his talk to families — families — attending this major event. Not a single utterance about how being "LGBT" is itself a particular cross borne by so many, a cross of harm and suffering. No, the "LGBT" person and community are both ship-shape and in need of nothing except complete, utter and unmitigated acceptance.

But, wait — shouldn't we warn them of the danger involved both in their experience of the homosexual inclination as well as acting on that inclination? Yeah, if you want to be a bigot or homophobe, go ahead.

I trust that readers can read his speech for themselves, if they wish. If anyone is looking for actual Catholic teaching, however, look elsewhere, as you'll find virtually none. What you will find are the correct buzzwords Martin uses to shape the narrative: unwelcome, scandal, cruel, excluded, lepers, etc.

But haven't Catholic parishes had enough of this twisted landscape in which truth goes unnoticed,

submerged in the dung heap that results when half-truths and outright lies get piled upon it? For decades, haven't Catholic parishes been accused precisely of being "unwelcome" to "gays" merely by clearly teaching the truth about homosexuality and by clearly expecting that its parishioners would all be willing to *not* identify themselves by their personal crosses, regardless of what their particular crosses really were? No "gay sex" community, no "adulterer" community, no "embezzler" community and so on.

This all-too-brief summation of Martin's oily spiel foisted upon people of faith gathered in Dublin will never shine full light on the corruption just under the surface of what seems at first blush to be sympathetic.

Martin wants to normalize everything that comes prior to this act of emergence of an "LGBT person" into any parish — he wants to normalize the condition. He wants to normalize "coming out" as a public acclamation of the okayness of the condition. After which Martin then stands ready to accuse parish communities of being "cruel" unless they offer two holy thumbs-up signs to the those seeking to have their own acceptance of "gay" identity, in turn, unquestioningly accepted by that parish community.

This all-too-brief summation of Martin's oily spiel foisted upon people of faith gathered in Dublin will never shine full light on the corruption just under the surface of what seems at first blush to be sympathetic — even "respectful, compassionate and sensitive." But at least one more example can suffice to expose the rot at the core of Martin's vacuously sentimental approach to this issue. Do

you know which parish is Martin's hope-filled beacon of "LGBT welcome" in this world?

Martin: "My own Jesuit community in New York is next to a church called St. Paul the Apostle, which has one of the most active LGBT outreach programs in the world. The ministry is called Out at St. Paul and sponsors retreats, Bible study groups, speaking engagements and social events for the parish's large LGBT community. ... And I just learned that two members of that group are entering religious orders this year."

If that last sentence spoken by the pied piper of Dublin doesn't immediately send chills up your spine, it should. If it doesn't, I highly recommend that you [check out something I wrote about "Out at St. Paul" and its pet project "Owning Our Faith" back in 2015.](#)

God help us if the best the Church can offer the world regarding homosexuality and how parishes can be more welcoming to "LGBT people" — at an event meant to encourage and strengthen families — is the worm-tongued eloquence of Fr. James Martin.

Jim Russell lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and writes on a variety of topics related to the Catholic faith, including natural law, liturgy, theology of the body and sexuality. He can be reached by email at dearjimrussell@gmail.com.

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What Fr. James Martin Should Have Said in Ireland

DAVID PROSEN



Somehow, almost overnight, our culture decided that a “LGBT” identity is something that one is born with. There is no research proving this. As a matter of fact, the [American Psychological Association](#) website states, that although much research has been done, scientists have not reached a consensus on the causes. However, our culture speaks of people being born “gay or lesbian” as if it is common knowledge.

During an [interview for his book](#), Fr. James Martin, SJ was asked what he would say to one who identifies as “LGBT” and is struggling with this. Martin stated, “God made you this way. You are wonderfully made just like Psalm 139 says you

were knit together in your mother's womb ... this way. This is a part of your identity."

I am disappointed that the Vatican invited Fr. James Martin, SJ to speak at the World Meeting of Families instead of a leader who could discuss with clarity the beauty of the Church's teachings on authentic love and chastity. My fears became a reality this morning after reading about Father Martin's talk in press reports.

According to [*America the Jesuit Review*](#), Fr. Martin had been invited to speak at the World Meeting of Families being held in Dublin Ireland to "help bridge" the gap of many Irish citizens, who are unhappy with the teachings of the Catholic Church especially on the topic of homosexuality.

In his talk [Thursday morning](#), he discussed ways to respond to the *Catechism's* call to show "respect, compassion and sensitivity" to those who experience same-sex attractions. [Fr. Martin](#) suggested that it's not right to focus on whether those identifying as LGBT are fully conforming to the Church's teachings on sexual morality if we aren't going to expect the same of the rest of the Church community. I agree. We are all called to chastity. The answer, however, isn't to ignore this call and avoid it all together. The answer is to discuss it, and teach this to all members of the Church.

Along the same lines, he stated, "Don't reduce gays and lesbians to the call to chastity we all share as Christians."

We are all human beings. Men, women, married, single, widowed, those in priestly or religious vocations, those with same-sex attractions and those with opposite-sex attractions are called to live chaste lives. No one escapes this call, because it comes from our Heavenly Father, the creator of the Universe who made us in his image and likeness. Christ

himself is chaste, pure and filled with authentic love for each of us.

Today's culture equates chastity as "no sex," "no fun," and believes that those who pursue this virtue are doomed to live a miserable life of loneliness. Many in our culture believe that this call to chastity is outdated and an infringement on one's human rights. Some even believe that striving for chastity is harmful. Throughout my journey, many have assumed I was unhappy, miserable and lonely. And they assumed this because I didn't have a partner or an outlet for sex. The truth is, I am far from being miserable or lonely and this is because I stopped living the "gay" life.

The culture's idea of chastity is not accurate. Chastity isn't about loneliness. It's quite the opposite. Chastity is a virtue and in pursuing this we are pursuing holiness and growing in our relationship with the creator of the universe.

We need to hear about the joy found in striving to live out chastity. All of us in the Church need to hear this. We won't hear it from the culture. Unfortunately, some shepherds of the Church such as Fr. Martin are embracing the teachings of today's culture rather than the beautiful teachings of our Church.

Shepherds of the Church, we need you to step up to the plate and teach us the truth. Show us the joy we all can obtain in pursuing holiness and growing closer to Christ. Don't be afraid to tell us the truth. Our souls' thirst for the truth.

I believe Fr. Martin's intentions are sincere, and his ideas may seem logical and *nice*. But it's not authentic love. Truth is intertwined with love and cannot be separated from it. As there is dissatisfaction with Church teaching on this topic in Ireland, it would have been more helpful to have someone speak on the beauty of chastity and what the Church teaching

means. I believe we desperately need this focus in the United States as well.

Father Martin also advocated Thursday morning for ministries to those identifying as “LGBT” without addressing Church teaching. What he advocates for, is not new and has been in existence for years. It’s just that its no longer under the radar.

When I turned away from the “gay” life many years ago, I desperately sought out support. A priest referred me to one of these “gay-supporting” ministries in my diocese. I told the screener who took my call that I was looking for support in living according to the Church’s teachings on homosexuality. I was told this particular group would not be helpful to me since its focus was on homosexuals who had been hurt by people in the Church. I was not given any other options, just “sorry.” A few years ago, two other men I know, were told the same thing. They weren’t given any other options either. There are many of these types of groups in many dioceses. *Those who experience same-sex attractions and seek to live chaste lives are the real marginalized group of the Catholic Church.*

Thankfully, we’re not alone. After further research, I found [Courage International](#) and I am truly grateful for this organization. Courage is a diocesan clerical public association of the faithful that ministers to men and women who experience same-sex attractions and strive to live according to the Church’s teachings on homosexuality. Courage often wasn’t welcome in many of the dioceses that had these ministries that Fr. Martin supports. These ministries he advocates for are already in existence. The difference is that now, they are no longer under the radar. I’m thankful that Courage is continuing to grow and is in many dioceses today.

I have met many courageous men and women who are living meaningful, joyful, and chaste lives. It has been a Godsend to have Catholic brothers and sisters who are in this together. We support each other and pray for each other. The Christian path is hard to walk. We aren't meant to do this alone and isolated.

There are many of us who experience same-sex attractions and strive to live chaste lives. We are usually the quiet voices, that don't attend parades. However, many of us are feeling called to speak out and share our stories of hope and joy.

In 2016, shortly before the Synod on the Family was to begin, I was blessed to be one of four people who gave testimony at a conference in Rome, Italy. The focus of which was to speak the truth with love on this issue of the Church's teaching on homosexuality. Each of us, who experienced same-sex attractions, spoke of the hope and joy that we have found in living out our Catholic Faith by embracing its beautiful teaching of chastity.

As we move forward to end confusion, let us turn to and embrace the Church's teachings. I encourage leaders to show us the beauty and true meaning of her words. Help us to see the hope that she offers that comes by pursuing holiness, virtues and a close relationship with Christ.

(Photo credit: Daniel Ibanez / CNA)