



## AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### **ANCC Responds to Vatican's Condemnation of Gender Fluidity**

The American National Catholic Church (ANCC) is dismayed and disappointed at the release this week of a document from the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, which condemns gender fluidity as "nothing more than a confused concept of freedom in the realm of feelings and wants."

The document, "Male and Female He Created Them," claims that gender fluidity is "in direct contradiction of the model of marriage as being between one man and one woman, thereby destabilizing the family as an institution." The implication is that it falls into the "intrinsically disordered condition" category to which the Vatican has consigned same-sex attraction.

In saying this, the Vatican refuses to recognize that gender identity is a function of genetics and biochemistry, which sometimes are incompatible with anatomical structure. Consequently, the "feelings and wants" implicitly condemned are neither whimsical nor arbitrary. Nor can gender transition be written off "at the end of the day," as "only a 'provocative' display against so-called 'traditional frameworks.'" It is instead an act of self-recognition.

Sadly, the Vatican's condemnation provides, even if unintentionally, a rationalization for continuing discrimination against LGBTQ persons. The document urges readers to refrain from "bullying, violence, [and] insults." But in condemning gender fluidity as unnatural, confused, and sinfully rebellious, the covert message it communicates is quite different.

The American National Catholic Church celebrates each and every person as a beloved child of God. It affirms that the sacrament of marriage is intended to be available to all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, who are lovingly committed to one another. Such unions do not weaken or dishonor the sacrament. On the contrary, they affirm it as the consecrated covenant between two people who pledge their fidelity to one another before the God who made them as they are.

The American National Catholic Church is an inclusive Catholic community, independent of the Roman Catholic Church, dedicated to making the world a more caring place. Guided by a presiding bishop, the ANCC celebrates the same sacraments as the Roman Church and follows the spirit of reform initiated by the Second Vatican Council. Although sharing core theological and liturgical practices with Roman Catholicism, the ANCC differs on several major points, such as married clergy, female priests, divorce and re-marriage, same-sex marriage, and lay leadership. The Church has parishes across the U.S. and a host of ministries to the alienated, under-served, and forgotten. For more information, visit [www.TheANCC.org](http://www.TheANCC.org).