

Wendell Baker
1070 Larch Ave.
Moraga, Ca 94556

Mr. John Fenoglio
Scout Executive
Mt. Diablo-Silverado Council
800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

Dear Mr. Fenoglio,

In my role as scoutmaster I have been given the following policy statement from my Charter Organization.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0799.asp>

What the Church Teaches About Homosexuality
by Richard Sparks, C.S.P.

Which says:

For the majority of people, this attraction is primarily focused toward members of the opposite sex. Thus, their orientation is termed "heterosexual." But for a relatively small but significant percentage of the population, homosexual persons, this attraction or orientation is primarily toward their own gender. Bisexual persons seem to be somewhat equally drawn to members of both sexes. While having a homosexual (or even a bisexual) orientation is not typical, it is not in itself morally wrong or sinful.

Since in most cases it is discerned or discovered, not freely chosen, it is not automatically blameworthy (Human Sexuality, #55; Catechism, #2358). Thus the Church has taken a fairly benign or accepting stance toward homosexual persons—who discover their desires and inclinations (i.e., orientation) toward same-sex sexual activity. Yet the Church has consistently taught that to act on these inclinations, particularly to engage in homosexual genital acts, is always objectively morally wrong. Why so? Here the Church attempts to be true to the core premises of our Catholic sexual-ethics tradition, while at the same time fostering basic human respect, justice and pastoral care toward gay and lesbian persons.

Accept the orientation, not the actions

In recent e-mail conversations with one of my Mormon friends he passed on the following:

I think you might be surprised that the LDS faith has a similar position to the Catholic church. Church stance taken from LDS.org "If someone is attracted to people of the same gender and does not act on those feelings, he or she has not sinned. The Church's standard for morality is the same for everyone, no matter which gender one feels attracted to. Neither the Lord nor His Church can condone any behavior that violates His laws. Again, we condemn the immoral behavior, not the person."

Did you kick out Ryan Andresen because you checked into his sexual activity? Do you propose we do this with all of our scouts?

Why would the Boy Scouts feel that just being gay is immoral when the Catholics and the Mormons (and most of the rest of the world) say it's just a state of being?

Since this policy was confirmed by a secret committee it should not be acted upon, it needs to be re-evaluated by a committee willing to share their reasoning, and identify themselves.

I ask you to please work to have the unfair policy towards gays rescinded as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Wendell Baker

cc: Mr Wayne Perry
Mr. John Fenoglio (MDSC)
Mr. Yno Gonzalez (MDSC)
Mr. Steve Israel (MDSC-Aklan District)