

QUESTIONS of GENDER & SEXUALITY

2. “Who am I to judge?”



A remarkably candid Pope Francis struck a conciliatory stance toward gays Monday, [July 29, 2013] saying “who am I to judge” when it comes to the sexual orientation of priests

We shouldn’t marginalize people for this. They must be integrated into society,” Francis said during an extraordinary 82-minute exchange with reporters aboard his plane returning from his first papal trip, to celebrate World Youth Day in Brazil.

“If someone is gay and searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?”

HOMILY FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

November 28, 2024 — Brendan Callaghan, SJ

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51188>

Four decades on from the start of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, we are continually challenged to grow in inclusiveness. In our current world — still traumatised by COVID — it is all too easy to lose sight of the fact that **more people than ever (more than 30 million) are now living with HIV**. As CAFOD reminds us, only half of those who need treatment are receiving it, and stigma, taboo and misinformation persist even as medical progress continues.

... Jesus never sent anyone away without stopping to listen and to speak to them, whether men or women, Jews or pagans, doctors of the law or publicans, righteous men and women or sinners, beggars, the blind, lepers or the sick **By listening to the needs and to the faith of those He met, and by responding through words and gestures, He renewed their lives, opening the path to healed relationships**

We are participants in the way that God in Jesus Christ comes to meet each of us. We are not simply imitating or honouring or remembering — we are participating in God in Jesus Christ coming to meet us.

In being invited as we celebrate World AIDS Day to respond to the continuing challenge of HIV/AIDS, we are being invited to that inclusive welcome that we are learning to live as a synodal church.



May we let ourselves be moved by the mercy of the Father, and allow this to become our own life’s work; a discreet mercy, silent and hidden, but still capable of sustaining and restoring the life and history of each one of us.