



AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Presiding Bishop's Statement on the Contributions of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Californians

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2011

Bishop George R. Lucey: "Honor the Contributions of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Californians"

On behalf of the American National Catholic Church, I am taking this opportunity to respond to the California Roman Catholic Bishops' opposition to the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful Education Act (SB 48). If passed, the bill would require California public schools to teach about the historical contributions of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender Americans.

California currently requires that public schools teach from texts that "accurately portray the role and contributions of culturally and racially diverse groups including Native American, African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and European-Americans in the development of California and the United States." Taking this next step to include the contributions of gays and lesbians is not only historically accurate, but a long overdue recognition of the legacy of the gay community.

It baffles and pains me that the Roman Catholic Bishops would not only consider opposing this fair-minded legislation, but now actively lobby against its passage.

Los Angeles Roman Catholic Archbishop Jose H. Gomez' statement that the "bill amounts to the government rewriting history books based on pressure-group politics" is, on its face, offensive. Further, it is disheartened that a Mexican-born Roman Catholic leader is unable to generalize his own experience of exclusion to those of others.

Like the actions of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston's cancellation of an "All are Welcome" mass celebrating gay pride and New York Archbishop

Timothy Dolan's condemnation of the passage of marriage equality in New York State, California Bishops again demonstrate that the Roman church is at odds with the inclusive message of God's love at the heart of the Gospel.

I wish to be clear. We would not consider nor would we tolerate opposition to a law that recognized the contributions of ethnic minorities, women, immigrants, or the disabled. We cannot tolerate it here. Anything less is intentional animus against another minority group.

We of the American National Catholic Church stand with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Californians in support of legislation that in a small way will begin to acknowledge the contributions this community has made to California and the fabric of America.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop