

# Pope Says “Who am I to judge a gay person of goodwill who seeks the Lord??”

*Pontiff's Demands Greater Acceptance of Homosexuality among Clerics*



Pope Francis speaks aboard the flight that landed in Rome on Monday.

July 30, 2013- By Laima Jonusiene,



Pope Francis stating "If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, Who am I to judge him?" The Pontiff making it clear - gays should not be discriminated. Gays can become priests but not women the Pontiff claims.

Cecilia Gonzalez Andrieu, an associate professor of theological studies at Loyola University, says Francis is a Pope of a new generation, a more modern world. She has confidence in the Catholic leader is looking at the signs of the times and acting accordingly. It looks to me from their stance on women they still have a long way to go.

The Pontiff also spoke about exploring the role of women in more leadership positions within the church, but he reaffirmed - no women priests. Gays but not women!!!! Well when a donkey flies you do not have to ask how far. However, by opening up the dialogue, theologians, like Andrieu, believe that women priests could someday be a reality. She encourages people of all religions, not just Catholics, to listen to the words of wisdom coming from Pope Francis. Words she says are "an invitation to make the world better, to change the world."

**Pope Francis shocked some religious and atheist minds today when he declared that everyone and anyone was redeemed through good works, including atheists.**

**"The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone!".. We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good: we will meet one another there."**

**Your actions determine your afterlife fate, not your words or beliefs.**

So apparently atheists, by doing good, will be saved - will go to Heaven.

When [Pope Francis](#) said he wouldn't judge gay priests, he opened the door to a new age of understanding within the Roman Catholic Church, which has struggled for epochs to confront the presence of homosexuality in its ministry.

The pontiff was traveling onboard a turbulent overnight flight to Rome from his first overseas trip—a journey heralded by his plain-spoken appeals to Catholics to reground the church in grass-roots ministry—when he proposed the delicate issue of how the Catholic hierarchy should respond to clerics who are gay, though not sexually active. In doing so, he lamented from the posture that has long shaped papal thinking on gay priests.

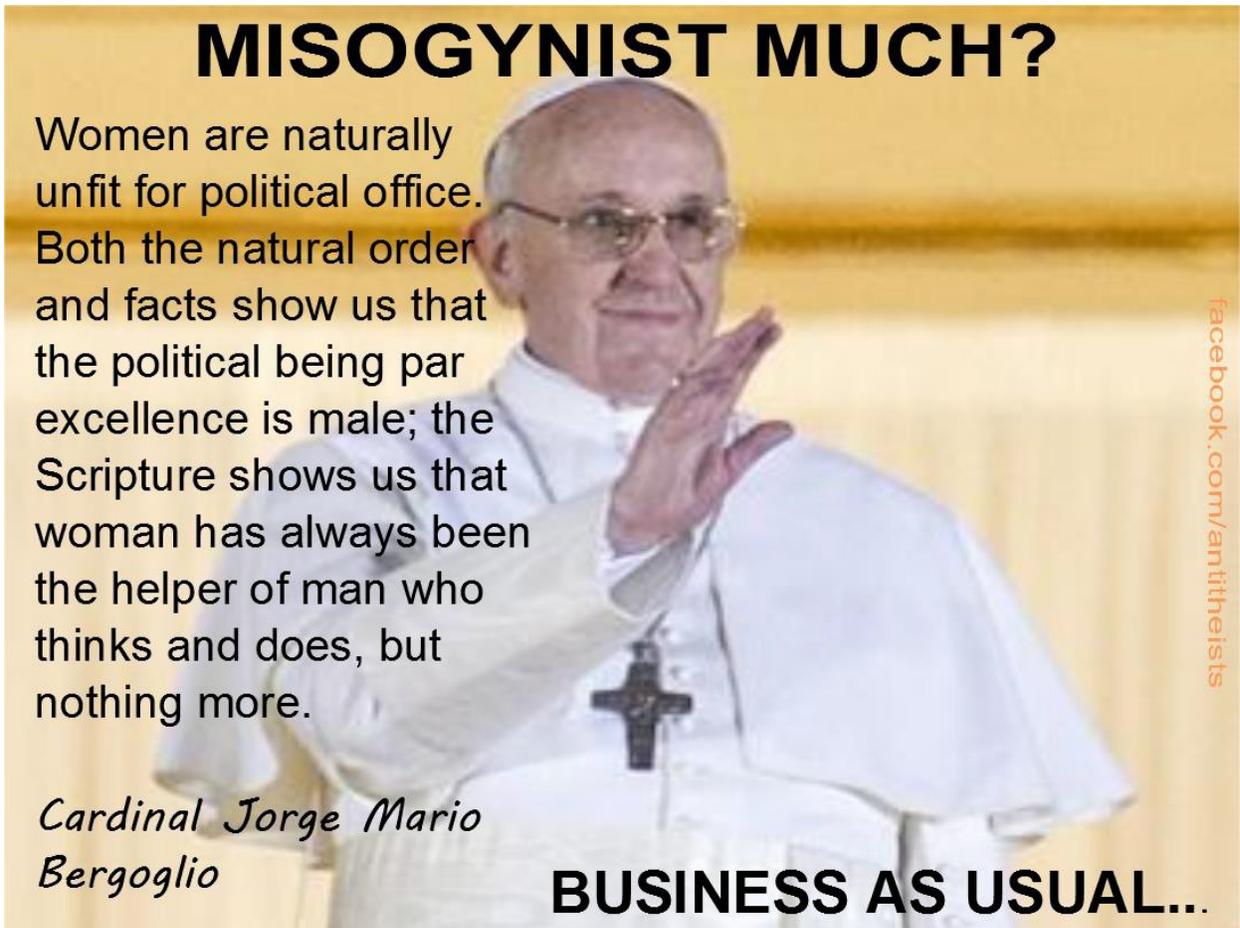
"Who am I to judge a gay person of goodwill who seeks the Lord?" the pontiff expressed a news conference in response to a question. "You can't marginalize these people."

Pope Francis reaffirmed church teaching by referring to homosexual acts as a sin. But he wielded his formidable bully pulpit to shift the tone of how the church regards homosexual orientation at its highest ranks.

The pope returned to the Vatican from a weeklong visit to Brazil, where he was given a rock-star welcome as a projected three million people flocked to a Sunday Mass on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach.

Analysts said that show of backing is likely to reinforce his hand as he confronts myriad challenges, including alleged corruption at the Vatican bank and the sexual-abuse crisis.

The pontiff said women couldn't be ordained as priests, because the issue had been definitively settled by Pope John Paul II. However, he said he wanted to develop a "theology of the woman," in order to expand and deepen their involvement in the life of the church.



Never before had a pope spoken out in defense of gay priests in the Catholic ministry, said Vatican analysts, and past popes have traditionally treated homosexuality as an obstacle to priestly celibacy. In 1986, the Vatican defined homosexuality as an "objective disorder," and in 2005 Pope Francis' predecessor, [Pope Benedict XVI](#), formally barred men deemed to have "deep-seated homosexual tendencies" from entering the priesthood.

Pope Francis "is showing a deep respect for the human condition as it is, instead of approaching things in a doctrinal way," said Alberto Melloni, a church historian.

"This isn't a change in the church's teaching," said Rev. James Bretzke, a theology professor at Boston College. "What's important is the change in style and emphasis."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York echoed the pope on Monday, saying a priest's homosexuality "wouldn't matter to me as long as one is leading a virtuous and chaste life." But, he added, "My worry is that we're buying into the vocabulary that one's person is one's sexual identity and I don't buy that and neither does the church."



Stephen White, a fellow in the Catholic Studies Program at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., said the pope "cut through a great deal of distrust between the church and people of same-sex attraction," adding that he doesn't anticipate that the pontiff's comments will cause a rift inside the church.

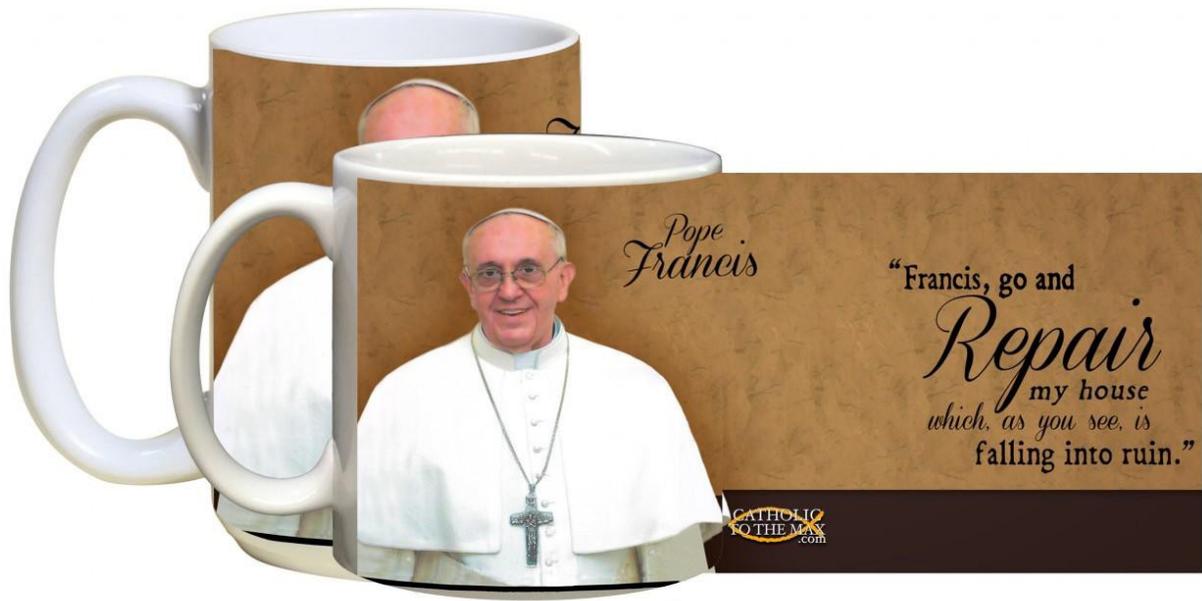
The pope's remarks drew guarded praise from gay-rights groups, who welcomed his change in tone.

"This could be the opening of a door or a window," Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Boston-based Dignity USA, an organization of gay and transsexual Catholics.

Ross Murray, director of news and faith initiatives at GLAAD, an advocacy organization, said while the pope's words are accommodating, he remained cynical of what will happen in practice.

"You have to distinguish between the fact of a person being gay, and the fact of a lobby," the pope said. "The problem isn't having this orientation. The problem is making a lobby."

"I don't know how this story is going to end," the pope said.



Well so far the story goes well for the Gays and atheists, but not as well for the women.

