



American Orthodox Christian Church Archdiocese of St. Titus

Western Rite Province
2385 Woodwind Trail #613
Melbourne FL 32935

Eastern Rite Province
11655 Briar Forest Dr #69
Houston, TX 77077

1 October 2011

Feast of The Protection of the Holy Theotokos
and the Holy Ananias

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In light of recent events in Buffalo, New York, specifically the suicide of 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer, the ruling archbishops of the Archdiocese of St Titus, believe that we can no longer remain silent to the issue at hand.

Despite what one may believe the church's teaching on homosexuality is or should be, the fact that youth of today are being relentlessly bullied for being homosexual cannot be acceptable within a Christian faith community. Our Lord's commandment, "You must love one another as I have loved you," (John 13:34) is not a suggestion but a command. Did Jesus ever say, "I will love you only if.....?" No, what our Lord said was, "But anyone who is the downfall of one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone hung round his neck." (Mark 9:42) How can it be right for any Christian to not only allow, but support through their silence, the direct emotional pain of another human being?

Christianity has recently taken a turn away from the teaching of the Christ to whom they claim to have an allegiance. Distortions of the scriptures, continuous ignorant statements and beliefs by uneducated pastors and a secularization of our society in which God has been systematically removed from our culture are some of the root causes of the extreme reaction of those claiming to be followers of Christ toward those with whom they disagree, especially those who are given to same-sex attractions.

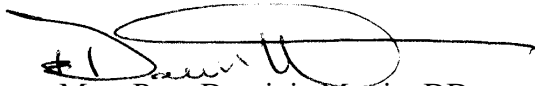
The youth of today have a great deal more challenging them as they grow and mature into adulthood. While in many respects they are very similar to the youth of times gone by, the truth is that the proliferation of negative messages that glamorize the occult, the lack of positive spiritual support and morals, and the constant barrage of violence through video games and music seem to have numbed the minds of children to the real effects of their vial acts of bullying. The fact that this process has been on going for many years can also explain why it is that the parents of these children seem to have the same hard hearts.

It is the responsibility of the church to speak out against this cruelty and continued assault on humanity. The numbness of the average person to the considerations of others in our society is a cancer which is being fed by the sin of selfishness. To remain silent when our youth are being torn to shreds by the thoughtless words and actions of others would be a great sin to continue, and an ever greater sin if it is continued by the church which calls itself Christian.


Therefore, the members of the American Orthodox Christian Church and Communion, Archdiocese of St. Titus, denounce the actions of bullying and harassment of youth and all in society because of their sexual attractions, sex, age, race, heritage and religion. We also denounce those who support the bullies and their actions: those parents and guardians who do not respond to effectively stop the actions of those in their care who are responsible for this emotional battery on others. Lastly, we call upon other faith communities to renounce these actions and sins perpetrated on our youth and especially on those who have same-sex attractions no matter what their age or station in life.

If we are truly Christian we MUST love all others as HE has loved us. If we cannot do this then we cannot justly call ourselves Christian and must be prepared to suffer the punishment of God for the sins we commit.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Dominic Martin, DD
Archbishop-Western Rite Province



Most Rev. George M Jachimczyk, DD
Archbishop-Eastern Rite Province

+ *Augustin Noel*
Rt. Rev. Augustine Noel
Vicar Bishop