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Miles-CronanTalk/Archbishop Burke Transcription

[Email, Tom Miles to CronanTalk with Burke Correspondence, 22 February 2004. Tom Miles Papers, Series II, box 5, folder 2]

[Tom Miles and CronanTalk correspondence re: Miles' February 22 letter to Archbishop Burke. CronanTalk was an email newsletter/forum maintained by members of St. Cronan's Catholic Parish in St. Louis. Tom and Audrey Miles were long-time parishioners with the church, and were very active in the national Catholic community.]

[begin email screen-print format]

Tom Miles

From: dave miles [truthlessguru@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2004 5:25 pm

To: tom@milesplace.com

Subject: Re: FW: Letters exchanged with Archbishop Burke

just got word from god,,,[sic] she's changed her position on the disorderliness of homosexual acts,,,[sic] and deemed them equal to or superior than the old boring heterosexual acts, in terms of fun, excitement and orderliness, i.e., typical sequence of events involved, etc.

my sympathy to your deeply deluded archbishop and his obsolete religion...party on...

Tom Miles <tom@milesplace.com> wrote:

----Original Message----

From: Tom Miles [mailto:tom@milesplace.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2004 8:13 PM

To: CronanTalk

Subject: Letters exchanged with Archbishop Burke

Folks –

As some of you know, I wrote a letter to the Archbishop (on February 22 of this year, which (because I received a response today) I am quoting here:

Dear Archbishop Burke:

Welcome to St. Louis. We sincerely hope your stay here will be fruitful in every respect.

My wife and I carefully read the report of your interview in today's Post-Dispatch.

As practicing Catholics (and, we believe, compassionate people), we were appalled at your comments regarding homosexuals. We have a 39-year old daughter (5th of our 6 children) who revealed ("came out") that she is lesbian 15 years ago. Our family loves and totally supports her and her life-partner.

Because of all we believe about her and her values (as well as those of scores of other gay men and lesbians we have come to know and respect), we cannot accept your that she is disordered. As a result of the official (but certainly not universally accepted) teaching of our Church, our daughter has been forced to find acceptance in another religion . . [sic] a loss which need not have occurred.

You must know that the American Psychiatric Association determined (some years ago) that homosexuality is not a mental condition...something which, apparently, our Church has chosen to ignore.

We hope and (yes) pray that somehow...someday..[sic] a;; religions and their followers will accept that diversity is part of God's plan, not an aberration or disorder requiring special treatment of discrimination.

Submitted in good grace...J. Tom Miles, Jr.

Here is Archbishop's response, dated July 30:

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of February 22nd. I apologize for taking so very long to respond to you.

I was sorry to read that you were upset by the comment made in the interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch regarding homosexuality. The homosexual condition is disordered insofar as it is not in harmony with the plan of God in creating man and woman. Although same-sex attraction is disordered, those persons who suffer from such an attraction are neither to blame, nor are they morally reprehensible. Homosexual acts, since they are disordered and contrary to the plan of God in creating man and woman, are intrinsically disordered. For this reason, persons with same-sex attraction are called to chastity.

The Catholic Church in no way seeks to exclude persons with same sex attraction or to discriminate against them. In the Archdiocese of Saint Louis is a chapter of Courage, which is an apostolate which ministers to those with same-sex attraction and their loved one. There is also a chapter of Courage for parents and family members of persons who suffer from same-sex attraction. I am sorry your daughter had experienced a lack of acceptance from the Church.

Asking God's blessing upon you and your family, I remain

Yours devotedly in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop of St. Louis

Even though the letters were not intended for “publication,” Audrey and I felt compelled to share them with our fellow Cronanites. Our reaction to the Archbishop’s response will certainly be obvious to all of you.

Tom Miles