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## On the Queer Film Festival

By Bishop John M. D'Arcy

As Today's Catholic went to press last week, my attention was called to articles in the South Bend Tribune concerning a film festival with the unfortunate title of, Notre Dame Queer Film Festival.

As I referenced last week concerning The Vagina Monologues, a bishop bears a serious responsibility before God and the church, to see that Catholic teaching is always presented, clearly, and without reservation. It is my understanding from press accounts that no one rose to do this at the film festival. Accordingly, I present here, the clear and concise teaching of the Catholic Church on this matter.

*Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.*

*The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them it is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill Gods will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lords cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.*

*Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection.*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2357-59*

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