



Office of Archbishop Alexander Sample

A Catholic Response to Gender Identity Theory

Archbishop Sample's Update to the Faithful

My Brothers and Sisters,

I'd like to provide an update on "A Catholic Response to Gender Identity Theory", available at archdpdx.org/gender. Many have expressed gratitude for the clarity this document provides on Church teachings. We are proud of this document and pleased with all the feedback we've received from Catholics throughout the Archdiocese. We are grateful to God for teaching us, through His Church, the truth about the human person. Although it addresses Catholic schools, I encourage everyone to read the document and to prayerfully reflect on it.

I want to address some inaccurate media reports that have led to some confusion:

1. Recent changes at the Department of Catholic Schools are not in any way tied to the Gender Identity Theory document or its related controversy.
2. There are no plans to close any school. Our Catholic schools are an essential part of our mission of evangelization. The importance of the mission and our dedication to our families is unchanging.
3. No student has been excluded from any Catholic school or parish. Our doors are open to everyone and always will be. As Catholics, we joyfully abide by the Church's teachings and moral principles when we are forming the consciences of our children. This includes those moral principles articulated in the Gender Identity Theory document.

God gives us free will to embrace or reject Catholic teaching, but as your Archbishop, I implore you to examine your conscience and turn to the truth. Please know that you are loved by God, and by me. May the Spirit of God fill you with His love, His joy, and His hope.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon