

Barry Sullivan  
301-335-5162  
[Barrysullivan1@gmail.com](mailto:Barrysullivan1@gmail.com)

## FAITHFUL CATHOLICS PROTEST RETREAT FOR “GAY” CLERGY

Baltimore, MD, March 12, 2020 (revised)–

On the eve of the Feast Day of St. Joseph, March 18th from 4 – 6 pm Catholics are holding a demonstration against a New Ways Ministry-sponsored retreat for “gay” priests, deacons, bishops, and brothers from taking place in the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the Bon Secours Retreat Center on April 14-16. We are gravely disappointed in Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori for his failure to use his episcopal powers to prevent this retreat from happening (see Canon #764). The demonstration was organized after faithful Catholics, who contacted Archbishop Lori to request the retreat be halted, were told that he would not honor the request.

New Ways Ministries actively promotes a homosexual lifestyle in contrast to the teachings of the Catholic Church. The laity protesting the retreat affirm the teaching of the Church both that those with homosexual tendencies “must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity” (CCC #2358) and also it is an act of charity to teach that homosexual sexual acts are never in accord with God’s will for sexuality (CCC #2357).

New Ways Ministry has been condemned by the Vatican

([http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_19990531\\_gramic-k-nugent-notification\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19990531_gramic-k-nugent-notification_en.html)) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org/news/2010/10-028.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2010/10-028.cfm)).

The retreat leader, Fr. Peter Daly is a retired priest from the Archdiocese of D.C., who, in homilies and various publications, has repeatedly promoted homosexual “marriage”, an end to priestly celibacy, and the inclusion of female clergy.

Homosexuality in the priesthood is a problem for several reasons:

1. The John Jay Report discovered that 80% of the abuse involved males abusing males. Thus some protestors will be holding signs with the figure “**80%**” on it.
2. Dr. Paul Sullins’ analysis of various studies showed that “Extrapolating to all reported abuse, we can estimate that if the concentration of homosexual men in the Catholic priesthood had remained at its relatively low level of the early 1950s, abuse would have been about 85% lower, sparing an estimated 12,594 children, mostly boys, from sexual victimization by Catholic priests in the United States (Paul Sullins, “Is Catholic clergy sex abuse related to homosexual priests?” p. 4; online at <http://www.ruthinstitute.org/clergy-sex-abuse-statistical-analysis>.) Thus, some protestors will be holding signs with the figure “**12,594**” on it.
3. There are other problems stemming from the presence of homosexual men in the priesthood: it is not unusual for young men who have confessed to engaging in homosexual acts, to have been told by priests that God made them gay and they should try to find a steady partner. This advice endangers immortal souls.
4. Homilies that warn against homosexual sexual behavior are rarely given at Masses. This lack endangers immortal souls.

We are not accusing those attending this retreat of being abusers or of being sexually active, but are claiming that those who experience same-sex attraction should fully embrace the Church's teaching that all homosexual sexual acts are not in accord with God's plan for sexuality as they strive to attain the virtue of chastity.

We recommend that those looking for an event that offers pastoral guidance on the topics of homosexuality and sexual identity to clergy, religious, pastoral ministers, and lay professionals in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church attend "Be not Afraid: Affirming the Truth about Sex and Identity," sponsored by Courage and Encourage International in Sterling, VA, to be held on April 27 – 29 (<https://truthandlove.com/conference2020/>).

We respectfully demand that Archbishop William Lori, for the sake of the souls of those giving the New Ways Ministry Retreat, of those attending the retreat, and of those scandalized by the retreat, proactively disallow the presenters and attendants from celebrating Mass and/or Reconciliation. Finally, it is urged that Archbishop Lori exercise his episcopal authority to forbid all priests, deacons, and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Baltimore from attending the event. By his silence Archbishop Lori is misleading those souls in his Archdiocese, both single and married, who are trying to live out the beautiful, yet challenging, demands of chastity and conjugal love. The eternal destiny of souls under Archbishop Lori's care lies in the balance.