

TCDSB Delegate Presentation

Topic: Doctrinal Basis and Scientific & Medical Evidence for Catholic Teachings on Human Identity, Gender & Sexuality

Topic Issue: Pride Month & Pride Flag for June 2021 in all TCDSB Schools

Action Requested: Maintenance of TCDSB Policy Prohibiting Gender Ideology Initiatives (i.e., adoption of a Pride Month & LGBTQ & 2 Spirited Flag) which Contradict Catholic Teachings, Scientific & Medical Expertise

Date: 7:00 pm, Thurs., Feb. 4, 2021

OVERVIEW:

1. **Catholic Teaching on Human Identity, Gender & Sexuality**

- a) Briefly Stated Catechetical Teachings of the Church
- b) Magisterial Statements & Documents

2. **Scientific & Medical Basis for Gender**

- a) Chromosome, reproductive organs & hormones
- b) Gender Dysphoria - DSM

Good evening,

The topic that I will address is: the doctrinal basis and scientific & medical evidence for Catholic teachings on human identity, gender & sexuality. **My goal is to present objective information to facilitate rational policy decisions that will neither violate:**

**Catholic teaching & Magisterial authority;
or, the incontrovertible facts of science & medicine.**

Regrettably, the issues brought to this Board meeting presuppose a theory about gender & gender identity that Pope Francis has characterised as “profound falsehood” and “ideological colonization.” While I recognize the enormous pressure that’s being brought to bare on each of you by special interest groups, activists & allies of this movement within the Board & within the media, **my presentation is intended to provide an objective basis that** may be belittled, slandered & even rejected by special interest groups, activists from within & beyond our Board, **but it is defended by our denominational rights & our right to scientific & medical evidence as an objective foundation for Board policy.**

Contrary to accusations that the TCDSB employs discriminatory practises or maintains systemic barriers that inhibit the rights of students that distinguish themselves according to their sexual orientation **our Catholic schools have always taught compassion & respect for the dignity of every person, regardless of age, race, or sexual orientation.** (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church nos. 1929, 1930 & 1931) This ethos is integral to our *raison-d’etre* and like Catholic teaching about human identity, gender & sexual ethics has been entrusted to us by the divine teacher himself, Jesus.

1. Catholic Teaching on Human Identity, Gender & Sexuality

a) Briefly Stated Catechetical Teachings of the Church

Our faith, informed by biblical theology & the Magisterial authority of the Church, teaches: that the body and soul of the human being are so united that sexual identity is rooted in biological identity as male or female.(Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 364, 365, 2332, 2333, 2393) **Thus, the doctrinal basis for Catholic education about human identity, gender & human sexuality is considered “a reality deeply inscribed in man and woman.”** (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World” (2004), no. 8. cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 2393) **The Church teaches that gender is given by God and that the body reveals the divine plan. As such, humans are not free to choose or change their sexual identity.** (Pope Francis, Address to the Polish Bishops - 27 July 2016) **Moreover, a person’s biological sex and his/her gender are treated as one and the same. This is a clear mandate for the rejection of gender theory & gender identity ideologies which are implicit & promoted by the LGBTQ+Two Spirited movement.**

The text of my delegation also provides (2) papal statements & papal documents from 2019, 2012, 2008 & 2004 which explicitly corroborate these doctrinal teachings & reject initiatives which promote gender theory like the adoption of a Pride Month & Pride Flag.

b) Magisterial Statements & Documents

- **Congregation for Catholic Education: “MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM” Vatican City 2019:**

The text, speaks of “an educational crisis”, in particular on the themes of affectivity and sexuality, in the face of “challenges emerging from varying forms of an ideology that is given the general name ‘gender theory’, which 'denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman',” and considers them as “merely the product of historical and cultural conditioning.” Identity would then “become the choice of the individual, one which can also change over time “. **The text speaks of an anthropological disorientation that characterizes the cultural climate of our time, contributing to “the destabilization of the family.”**

Turning to education, the document stresses the primary rights and duties of parents with regard to the education of their children — rights and duties which cannot be delegated or usurped by others. It also notes that children have the right to a mother and a father, and that it is within the family that children can learn to recognise the beauty of sexual difference.

Finally, the document notes the importance for Catholic schools of taking “into consideration the age-group of the students to be taught”, and of treating “each person with respect”. This can be done, it says, “through a way of accompanying that is discreet and confidential, capable of reaching out to those who are experiencing complex and painful situations”.

[Address by Pope Benedict XVI to the Curia, Thursday December 12, 2012:](#)

- **The profound falsehood of this (gender identity) theory and of the anthropological revolution contained within it is obvious.** People dispute the idea that they have a nature, given by their bodily identity, which serves as a defining element of the human being. They deny their nature and decide that it is not something previously given to them, but that they make it for themselves. **According to the biblical creation account, being created by God as male and female pertains to the essence of the human creature.** This duality is an essential aspect of what being human is all about, as ordained by God.

[Benedict XVI, Christmas Address to the Roman Curia](#)

(excerpt from sec. 1, paras 5, 6, 7), 22 December 2008. –

- **If the Church speaks of the nature of the human being as man and woman, and demands that this order of creation be respected, this is not some antiquated metaphysics. What is involved here is faith in the Creator and a readiness to listen to the “language” of creation. To disregard this would be the self-destruction of man himself, and hence the destruction of God’s own work.**

**[The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church \(2004\), Section 224,](#)
[states:](#)**

- **Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his or her sexual identity.** Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life. The harmony of the couple and of society depends in part on the way in which the complementarities,

needs and mutual support between the sexes are lived out. **According to this perspective, it is obligatory that positive law (human law/human policy) be conformed to the natural law, according to which sexual identity is indispensable, because it is the objective condition for forming a couple in marriage.**

Therefore, let there be no doubt that the Magisterial Authority of the Church does not condone gender theory or gender ideology. Catholic teaching is clear on the need to accept the objective truth of the reality of our bodies as being either male or female.

2. Scientific & Medical Basis for Gender

- a) Chromosome, reproductive organs & hormones
- b) Gender Dysphoria - DSM

In a recent journal by the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Dr. Moira McQueen wrote that the scientific and medical basis for “gender identity is determined at conception, genetically, anatomically and chromosomally.” (excerpt from CCBI, Bioethics Matters, March 2016, Vol 14, No.1) These well documented scientific facts have always guided the medical community & affirmed our Catholic teachings about gender & gender identity.

In the medical community, the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V. 2013) “re-classified Gender Identity Disorder as gender dysphoria. Although the condition has been moved to a lower level, its very classification indicates its psychiatric nature. It is a condition where people with the condition are genetically and chromosomally male or female. It is crucial to remember that the cause of this condition is as yet unknown: that it is psychological or psychiatric in origin and not physiological. Therefore, we must be prudent in our assessments as to how best to handle these situations, recognizing that what adults may think is the best way, may over the long term be wrong.” (excerpt from CCBI, Bioethics Matters, March 2016, Vol 14, No.1)

Confusion about gender or gender identity is referred to in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as gender dysphoria. This dysphoria raises many questions for the child, the family, the school and wider society. As is usual in moral issues, there is more than the individual to be

considered: there is also the issue of the common good. Moreover, the medical & scientific communities do not contravene Catholic teaching about gender or gender identity and they certainly do not **provide medical or scientific evidence that shows this psychiatric dysphoria merits a civil or human right.**

In summation, Catholic teaching about human gender, identity & sexuality is well developed & clearly articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church & many recent Magisterial statements and documents that have always been affirmed by objective scientific & medical evidence.

For this reason, I urge you to reject all gender ideology initiatives like the proposed adoption of a “Pride Month” & the Pride Flag in all TCDSB schools in the best interests of all of God’s children