

# Dear Padre,

**Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?**

Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (CCC 2358).

"The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity," wrote the US Bishops in "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination" (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, "As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshipping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion." ●

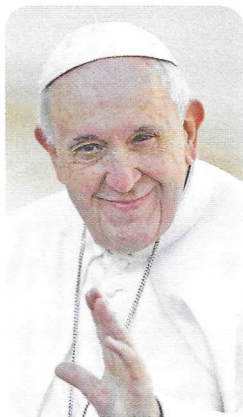
— *The Redemptorists*  
**DearPadre.org**



VECTOR GODDESS/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Many people today are constantly using social media, but are not themselves very social: they are caught up in themselves, prisoners of the cell phone in their hand. What appears on the screen is not the reality of other persons: their eyes, their breath and their hands.**



ADDRESS IN A MEETING  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE,  
ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021

### MONDAY

December 5  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26

### TUESDAY

December 6  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14

### WEDNESDAY

December 7  
*St. Ambrose,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church*  
Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

### THURSDAY

December 8  
*The Immaculate  
Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin  
Mary*

Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### FRIDAY

December 9  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19

### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

*Catholic Update* explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.

### SATURDAY

December 10  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### SUNDAY

December 11  
*Third Sunday  
of Advent*  
Is 35:1-6a, 10  
Jas 5:7-10  
Mt 11:2-11