



A statement from the Chairperson - LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council:

It's very disappointing, but the church has again issued a very negative statement regarding blessings for same-gender couples. The conferring of a blessing is the smallest acknowledgement that the Church can give to our identity and to the holiness of same-sex relationships. It appears that even this is to be withheld from us.

The Church goes on to state that same sex relationships are a "choice". I suppose they are - as much as a heterosexual relationship with one person and not another is a "choice". However, there is no admission that orientation and gender identity are not choices, and that the need for love and human contact are part of our biology.

We are yet again confronted with real proof of the Church's fallibility and sinfulness. I encourage you not to give up on the message of Jesus to us all, that God is love - even though his Church gives the impression that it is not. I encourage you to pray regularly for the Mother Church, that it may be a better symbol of God's love in the world.

And remember to pray for our community, that none of us may be as insensitive and ignorant of the plight and suffering of others around us.

In Christ

Thomas Lofaro