

Editorial in Brief: Pope John Paul II

By Lyla Miklos

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I have never understood my queer brothers and sisters who embrace the Roman Catholic faith.

The Vatican refers to homosexuality as "intrinsically disordered" and contrary to "Natural Law" and states that queers must answer the call of chastity by not responding to a "self-indulgent and sinful sexual inclination".

The late Pope John Paul II, in his book *Memory and Identity* described same-sex marriage as "a new ideology of evil . . . which attempts to pit human rights against the family and against man." He also stated that the queer community is a part of a "culture of death".

A god who could create the complexity and diversity of life all around us didn't intend to create queers? I am a queer woman who refuses to believe that I am an abomination.

Sadly, I am left only to imagine what my world could have been if the most influential and powerful religious leader on the planet had decided to preach acceptance, rather than intolerance, of queers.