# Vatican lets gay trainee priests in the back door



The Vatican is reportedly ushering in a cautious evolution related to its stance on homosexuality within Catholic seminaries, signalling a potential shift in its traditional approach. New guidelines laid out in the document titled "Guidelines and Standards for Seminaries" suggest a more nuanced handling of openly homosexual candidates for the priesthood. Reports by Euronews indicate that these guidelines advocate for a holistic evaluation of candidates, rather than limiting the discernment process to a singular focus on sexual orientation.

The guidelines convey an important message: "When it comes to homosexual tendencies, it is also important not to reduce discernment to this single aspect," highlighting a subtle change in the tone from an institution often perceived as rigid on issues of sexuality. However, while the Vatican is acknowledging the complexities surrounding candidates, it still maintains a firm stance on the vow of chastity, which binds all priests—regardless of sexual orientation—to refrain from sexual relations. This continues to align with the Catholic Church's official teaching, which emphasizes the respect and dignity of homosexual individuals but categorizes homosexual acts as "intrinsically disordered."

Despite the subtle progress reflected in the new guidelines, the Church has reaffirmed that men who actively practise homosexuality or endorse what is termed as "gay culture" are barred from ordination. Meanwhile, the prohibition against women entering the priesthood persists, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Pope Francis, who has been seen as adopting a more inclusive approach to LGBTQ issues since his election, expressed a more progressive view in January 2023 when he asserted that "being homosexual is not a crime." In alignment with this stance, he approved blessings for same-sex couples, though he clarified that sacramental marriage remains exclusive to heterosexual unions.

However, the Pope’s comments have not been without controversy. In May 2023, he suggested that certain seminaries should prohibit homosexuals from entering, referring to a term "frociaggine"—a Roman dialect term often considered a homophobic insult.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://protestia.com/2025/01/11/vatican-revises-seminary-requirements-says-gay-men-can-now-become-priests-with-one-caveat/> - Corroborates the new guidelines allowing gay men to enter seminaries if they commit to celibacy and do not 'flaunt' their homosexuality.
* <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/world/new-catican-guidelines-allow-gay-men-train-as-priests-1.10243440> - Supports the information that the new guidelines emphasize celibacy and prohibit men who openly display their homosexuality or support 'gay culture'.
* <https://religionnews.com/2025/01/10/vatican-approves-document-allowing-gay-men-to-become-priests-in-italy/> - Confirms that the new document suggests a holistic evaluation of candidates rather than focusing solely on sexual orientation and maintains the vow of chastity.
* <https://protestia.com/2025/01/11/vatican-revises-seminary-requirements-says-gay-men-can-now-become-priests-with-one-caveat/> - Provides context on Pope Francis's previous statements and the controversy surrounding his use of a homophobic term.
* <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/world/new-catican-guidelines-allow-gay-men-train-as-priests-1.10243440> - Details Pope Francis's efforts to be more inclusive towards LGBTQ Catholics despite the Church's stance on homosexual acts.
* <https://religionnews.com/2025/01/10/vatican-approves-document-allowing-gay-men-to-become-priests-in-italy/> - Mentions the reaction from LGBTQ Catholic advocates, such as New Ways Ministry, welcoming the new guidelines as a step forward.
* <https://protestia.com/2025/01/11/vatican-revises-seminary-requirements-says-gay-men-can-now-become-priests-with-one-caveat/> - Clarifies the denial by the Italian bishops’ conference that the new norms allow for the admission of gay men to seminaries, as reported by some media outlets.
* <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/world/new-catican-guidelines-allow-gay-men-train-as-priests-1.10243440> - Explains the continued prohibition against men who actively practice homosexuality or endorse 'gay culture' from being ordained.
* <https://religionnews.com/2025/01/10/vatican-approves-document-allowing-gay-men-to-become-priests-in-italy/> - Reiterates the Catholic Church's official teaching that homosexual acts are 'intrinsically disordered' while respecting the dignity of homosexual individuals.