# Is the Vatican becoming more pro-gay?



Pope Francis has made headlines with his appointment of Father Roberto Pasolini as the new preacher of the Papal Household. This appointment comes as a significant shift within the Vatican, especially given Pasolini's perceived pro-LGBT stance, sparking conversations within the Catholic community.

Father Roberto Pasolini, a 53-year-old Capuchin friar from Milan, is set to succeed Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, who had served in the role for 44 years since his appointment by Pope John Paul II in 1980. As the preacher of the Papal Household, Pasolini is tasked with delivering sermons during the important liturgical periods of Advent and Lent to both the Pope and members of the Roman Curia.

Pasolini has previously been vocal about interpretations of biblical texts, making statements that have intrigued and, in some instances, unsettled traditional views within the Church. In a talk at the Capuchin Convent in Varese last February, he encouraged an imaginative contemplation of biblical narratives, suggesting that some relationships depicted in scripture, such as that of Jonathan and King David, could be reimagined as reflective of same-sex relationships. Although he acknowledged that such interpretations are not explicitly stated in the Bible, he argued that the assumptions made by the text's authors were based on the cultural understanding of their times, which did not encompass modern ideas of sexual orientation.

Pasolini's hypothetical interpretation extends to several Gospel accounts, including the story of a Roman centurion deeply concerned for his ailing servant, suggesting a potential personal and intimate connection between the two. In another controversial suggestion, he entertained the idea that relationships within Jesus' circle of disciples could have had homoerotic dimensions, alluding to the strong expressions of love used in reference to figures like Lazarus.

The appointment of Pasolini happens amid another significant appointment by Pope Francis. In October, the pontiff named Father Timothy Radcliffe, renowned for his advocacy of gay rights, to the rank of cardinal. Radcliffe, the former superior general of the Dominican order, has been a proponent of fostering deeper understanding and inclusion of LGBT individuals within the Catholic Church. He has encouraged Catholics to engage with LGBT culture more openly and has controversially linked gay relations with the Eucharistic qualities of mutuality and self-gift emblematic of Christ's teachings.

These appointments reflect an evolving dialogue within the Church as it grapples with modern understandings of sexuality and inclusion. While some applaud these steps towards inclusivity, others within the Church express concerns over adherence to traditional doctrines.

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

## References

* <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260403/pope-francis-appoints-new-preacher-to-the-papal-household-to-succeed-cardinal-cantalamessa> - Corroborates the appointment of Father Roberto Pasolini as the new preacher of the Papal Household and his succession of Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa.
* <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2024/11/11/italian-capuchin-succeeds-cardinal-cantalamessa-papal-preacher-249237> - Provides details on Father Roberto Pasolini's background, including his studies and his role as the new papal preacher, and the context of Cardinal Cantalamessa's long tenure.
* <https://international.la-croix.com/religion/capuchin-father-roberto-pasolini-named-new-preacher-of-the-papal-household> - Discusses Pasolini's liberal views, his public catecheses, and the criticism he has faced from conservative voices within the Catholic community.
* <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-11/pope-francis-preacher-papal-household-roberto-pasolini.html> - Details Pasolini's academic and pastoral background, his new role, and his responsibilities as the preacher of the Papal Household.
* <https://www.myspiritfm.com/News?view=post&blogid=Catholic-News&articleid=280383> - Confirms the appointment of Father Roberto Pasolini and his tasks as the new preacher, including delivering sermons during Advent and Lent.
* <https://international.la-croix.com/religion/capuchin-father-roberto-pasolini-named-new-preacher-of-the-papal-household> - Corroborates Pasolini's statements on biblical interpretations, including his views on same-sex relationships and the cultural context of biblical texts.
* <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2024/11/11/italian-capuchin-succeeds-cardinal-cantalamessa-papal-preacher-249237> - Provides context on Pasolini's approach to preaching and his involvement with modern technology to spread the Gospel.
* <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260403/pope-francis-appoints-new-preacher-to-the-papal-household-to-succeed-cardinal-cantalamessa> - Details Pasolini's educational background, including his doctorate in biblical theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University.
* <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-11/pope-francis-preacher-papal-household-roberto-pasolini.html> - Mentions Pasolini's work with the poor, people living on the streets, people with disabilities, and his ministry in prisons.
* <https://international.la-croix.com/religion/capuchin-father-roberto-pasolini-named-new-preacher-of-the-papal-household> - Discusses the broader implications of Pasolini's appointment and the evolving dialogue within the Church on issues of sexuality and inclusion.