

This is Google's cache of <http://www.cbcpnews.com/?q=node/14833>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 1 Mar 2011 13:54:12 GMT. The [current page](#) could have changed in the meantime. [Learn more](#)

[Text-only version](#)

# CBCP News

[HOME](#) [HEADLINES](#) [DIOCESAN NEWS](#) [VATICAN NEWS](#) [ASIA NEWS](#) [WORLD NEWS](#)

[Statements](#) [Resources](#) [Opinion](#) [Multimedia](#) [About us](#)

[Home](#) » [Headlines](#)

## Bishops urge homos to come out

MANILA, March 1, 2011— Roman Catholic Church officials called on homosexual individuals to “come out in the open” saying it would take a load off their minds.

At least two Catholic bishops expressed their desire on Tuesday for homosexuals to go public over their sexuality because there is nothing to be ashamed of.

Archbishops Paciano Aniceto and Oscar Cruz told church reporters that the church didn't care about a person's sexuality, only on same sex unions and sexual acts.

“Honesty is very important,” said Aniceto, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

Aniceto said there are many reasons people are afraid to come out as lesbian, gay or bisexual and it depends on the culture they were brought up in, and the point of view of their family and friends.

“That's why it is also very important to have counseling centers and formation groups that will face this issue,” Aniceto said.

The prelate made the statement Tuesday during the launching of the book “Homosexuality and the Catholic Church” written by the late American missionary Fr. John Harvey in Manila.

Cruz said the book is a must-read for everyone struggling with same sex attraction (SSA) whether a Catholic or not.

In fact, he said, everyone including priests, religious and the laity alike would benefit from the contents presented in a question and answer type format.

SSA

Major issues surrounding the nature of homosexuality are covered and presented in an objective and pastorally sensitive manner drawing from Harvey's experience in ministering to people with SSA.

Cruz said the book is basically in defense of the SSA in the sense that it does not merit condemnation at once because it is a “natural disposition.”

“Don't condemn those who had a different sexual orientation for one thing they did not choose it. Second, it is possible they could redeem themselves from it. Third, a good number of them are just behaving that way but they are not acting on their sexual orientation,” he said.

According to him, he also has no problem with men dressed as women.

“It's okay. We don't know their motive but they dress as a boy or as a girl and that is all that he does, I don't see problem with that,” Cruz said.

But while the church is not condemning homosexuality, the head of the CBCP's dispensation desk said it will not tolerate homosexual acts.

“It would be wrong only if you act on it. The same thing with heterosexual if we act on it contrary to morals then it is wrong... so same with homosexuals,” Cruz said.

### Headlines

savvy world, pope says

Pope accepts resignation of 90-year-old Maronite patriarch

Pilgrims flock to Medjugorje while Vatican studies alleged apparitions

### Diocesan News

Adopt unified FOI bills instead of drafting own version, Palace urged

Conflicting laws on land use further disadvantage marginalized sector

Aboitiz Power mulls use of seawater for power plant

MNLF leadership urged to continue working with Aquino gov't

Laguna's St. Peter's Seminary is 30 years old

### Vatican News

Authentically proclaim Gospel in tech-savvy world, pope says

Pope accepts resignation of 90-year-old Maronite patriarch

Pilgrims flock to Medjugorje while Vatican studies alleged apparitions

Pope tells Vatican academy that abortion 'resolves nothing'

Author: Pope is attacked due to stance for truth

### Asia News

Koreans treat sick Vietnamese poor

Last foreign missionary priest dies

Archbishop helps resolve ethnic conflict

Cardinal Pham Minh Mãn: Vietnamese Church is growing and wants society to grow

Religious groups want end to live burials

### World News

Bishop urges Catholics to strengthen faith during Lent

Get full access here!



You Know Coffee.

**VISIT US @**  
SM MEGAMALL and  
The PODIUM Branches

"If a homosexual goes into partnership with another homosexual it is wrong. If it's only attraction, (there's nothing wrong). It is just a feeling," he said.

No third sex

Cruz also said that there is no such thing as "third sex" and there are only two choices because God only made man and woman.

"There's no third sex. It is a sexual disposition... sexual inclination. There's no third sex according to the natural law as well as divine law," he said.

For his part, Fr. Dave Clay, ECFL assistant executive secretary, said this is the very first time that the Philippine Catholic Church came out with a book on homosexuality.

The book first came out in the US in 2007 but its Filipino edition only arrived in the country this year.

Clay said the book is currently available in Catholic book stores but they are also planning to have it distributed to students in Catholic schools. [CBCPNews]

US bishops decry rejection of marriage defense

Tunisian Prelate horrified by priest's murder

Amid violent protests, Catholic missionaries continue their work in Libya

Red World Youth Day bandanas recall love of martyrs

### Archives

Share / Save [social media icons]

Add new comment



Headlines



HOME

HEADLINES

DIOCESAN NEWS

VATICAN NEWS

ASIA NEWS

WORLD NEWS

**CBCP News :: Official news service of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Media Office**

Grid Focus Theme by Derek Punsalan, modified by Denz Dayao. Site architecture by Drupal

0002732057