

Dear (Bishop/Priest/Diocesan Leader),

My name is (Your Name), and I (brief introduction about yourself, where you worship, where you were educated, details you share are up to you).

I write to you today as a member of our diocese who cares deeply about the Church's mission of love, compassion, and inclusivity. Recent events have compelled me to reach out to you with a heavy heart, deep frustration, and a desire for understanding.

I was deeply troubled by the recent (letter, policy, statement) regarding LGBTQ+ people/students within our Diocese. (Add any particulars you are concerned about).

As followers of Jesus' mission of justice and members of the Catholic Church, I believe that we should follow Pope Francis's Christ-like example of love and acceptance for all members of our community, regardless of their identity and who they love. Pope Francis has repeatedly emphasized the importance of reaching out to marginalized individuals and embracing them with open arms, without judgement or hatred. His words in *Amoris Laetitia* resonate with many of us who long to see the Catholic Church become a more inclusive institution:

"Every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while 'every sign of unjust discrimination' is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence."

These words echo the central command of Christianity – to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers are our neighbors, and it is our Catholic duty to show them love, welcome, and support especially in the wake centuries of culturally violent norms that have done them harm.) Furthermore, even the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that all LGBTQ+ persons must be "accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity."

(Add any personal stories or information about your own story or identity that may be relevant as you are comfortable. This is optional, of course.)

It is vital that our Diocese take these teachings to heart and convey them to all members of our community. I request that our Diocese engage in open and respectful discussions about LGBTQ+ rights within our faith community. This dialogue should include members of the LGBTQ+ community, theologians, medical and psychological professionals, and pastoral leaders to ensure a well-rounded and informed approach. Without these voices, we cannot even begin to consider ourselves aware and understanding of this issue. (Here you may add an additional specific ask based on the particulars in your area: rescind a policy, retract a statement, etc.).

Please do consider the words of Pope Francis as well as the work being done by theologians all over the world, who continues to inspire sentiments of love, inclusion, and justice. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(Your Name and any contact information you would like to share)