

CINCINNATI.COM ENQUIRER REDS BENGALS JOBS CARS HOMES WEATHER TRAFFIC SUBSCRIBE

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

ONLINE EDITION OF THE REGION'S #1 NEWSPAPER



Subscribe Save!

Apr. 15, 2002

ENQUIRER HOME LOCAL SPORTS BUSINESS TEMPO ENTERTAINMENT CLASSIFIED AR

TODAY'S ENQUIRER

Front Page

► Local News

Sports

Business

Tempo

Travel

Health

Technology

Weather

Back Issues

Search

Subscribe

SPORTS

Bears/Cats

Bengals

High School

Reds

Xavier

PERSPECTIVE

Jim Borgman

Columnists

Photographers

ENTERTAINMENT

Movies

Dining

Horoscopes

Lottery Results

Local Events

Video Games

CINCINNATI.COM

Giveaways

Maps/Directions

Send an E-Postcard

Coupons

Visitor's Guide

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs

Cars

Homes

Obituaries

General

Place an ad

HELP

Feedback

Subscribe

Search

Survey

Monday, April 15, 2002

Late

Updated

Priests: Homosexuals not necessarily excluded

By James Pilcher, jpilcher@enquirer.com
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Straight or gay? It's one of the questions facing potential entrants into the nation's Roman Catholic seminaries, and for the church itself.

The Vatican says gay men should not be ordained priests. But local seminary leaders say gays can be good priests — if they live celibate lives.

Applicants with homosexual tendencies are not automatically precluded from admission at the Athenaeum of Ohio-Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, the Tristate's only Catholic seminary.

"We look at everyone and try to determine whether or not they can live with their own sexuality in a celibate and chaste way," says the Rev. Gerald R. Haemmerle, president and rector of the Athenaeum in Mount Washington.

"That's either homosexual or heterosexual. To me the emphasis is on 'celibate' and 'chaste,'" he says. Regardless of sexual orientation, applicants must show that they've been celibate "for a number of years" before entering the seminary, he adds.

The issue of gay priests has come to the forefront in the wake of the church's continuing sex scandal involving priests and teen-age boys.

Critics of allowing gays to be priests say it conflicts with church teachings that homosexuality is a sin. Others say the church teaches that homosexuality is not a sin, but homosexual activity is.

No one knows for sure how many gays are priests. Estimates range from 10 to 40 percent of the U.S. priesthood.

Father Haemmerle says that in the five years he's been rector, only two seminarians have said they were gay or had homosexual inclinations.

"From what I've seen since I've been here, I simply don't believe there is a gay culture in the seminary," Father Haemmerle says.

AP TOP HEADLINE N

- Sharon Promises I Withdrawals
- Powell: Summit Mi Arafat
- Pope Summons A to Discuss Abuse
- Former Justice Wh
- At Least Four U.S. Accident
- Bin Laden Video F Sept. 11 Hijacker
- Stocks Fall on Ban
- Kenya's Rop Wins

NATIONAL NEWS

- Pope Summons A
- Troops Killed in Af
- Former Justice Wh
- Bush, Cheney Cam
- Middle Class Get B
- Court to Hear Victo
- Panel Wants Death

WORLD NEWS

- Powell Mulls Sum
- Sharon: Troops Wi
- Sept. 11 Hijacker F
- Israel Captures Ke
- Pope Summons A
- Troops Killed in Af
- Chinese Plane Cra

BUSINESS NEWS

- Banks: Profits Rise
- Inventories of Uns
- Oil Prices Rise As
- Stocks Narrowly M
- Tenant Returns to
- Papademos Appro
- Middle Class Get B

SPORTS NEWS

- Kenya's Rop Wins
- Red Sox Down Yan
- N.Y. Rangers Fire
- Tigers Hire Avila a
- Sky's The Limit for
- Johansson Wins Fi Carlo



The policy of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which oversees the Athenaeum, is the same as that for the Diocese of Covington. That's according to the Rev. John Sterling, director of the Covington diocese's vocation program.

Both dioceses require seminary applicants to be tested for HIV, although the Cincinnati archdiocese has yet to craft a policy for what happens if someone tests positive, since no one has yet.

If an applicant from the Covington diocese tests positive, he is not admitted to Mundelein Seminary outside Chicago, where Covington sends its seminarians.

"People with (homosexual) inclinations just cannot be ordained," Joaquin Navarro-Valls, a U.S. spokesman for the Vatican, told the *New York Times* last month.

"That does not imply a final judgment on people with homosexuality," he said. "But you cannot be in this field."

Local seminary officials say their different approach works.

"The teaching is that just having a homosexual inclination is not sinful, it's disordered," says the Rev. James Walsh, who served as rector and president of the Athenaeum from 1984 to 1990, and later as executive director of the seminary department for the National Catholic Educational Association.

Father Walsh, now pastor of St. Dominic in Delhi Township, says he knows of "a few" gay priests who were ordained under his watch, and they've turned out to be fine ministers.

"It's really commendable in the way it's handled here," he says.

Priests: Sex no longer a taboo topic in seminaries

Priests: Entry requirements

► Priests: Homosexuals not necessarily excluded

Priests: Hundreds more claim abuse in Boston area

Priests: TV ads pulled

BRONSON: Porn pushers

Some Good News

You Asked For It

Jailed anti-abortion activist continues fight from behind bars

Ohio in new lottery as sales fall

Proms return to downtown

Racial profiling settlement 'not the end-all'

Cities consider helmet laws

Council studies mall site

Dayton bus decision due

Death of convenience store owner underscores job risk

King weighs in on Roach hiring

Mall developer temporarily backs off getting aid

Yavneh Day students go to D.C.

Tristate A.M. report

Kenton rolls out skate park plan

Man charged in sheriff's slaying

Owners fighting to keep farm from sanitation district

Carlo

• Blazers Outlast La



**Are You
Looking
Advanced
Your Ca**

**THE ENG
BUSINESS T**