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The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that persons who experience same-sex attraction or identify as LGBT must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. (¶2358) The University of Mary therefore condemns any and all direct or indirect intimidation or harassment of any person in regard to their sexuality. Such behavior is offensive, detestable, and an affront to human dignity. Catholic moral teaching also holds that all persons, whatever their experience of sexuality, are called to lives of chastity in accord with their vocation and their state of life. Neglect or failure to do so is likewise harmful to human dignity.

Because the Church has clearly and consistently taught that the only morally acceptable sexual activity is between a man and a woman in the context of marriage, we encourage members of our community to be careful not to allow the language of compassion to be confused with or result in actions that endorse or excuse morally wrong behavior or activities.

We recognize that our approach may be in conflict with the practice or vision of the . We view for any in the history of our lives hold experiences of diversity and life -giving experience of another.

Finally, as a university, we encourage the rigorous pursuit of truth and the free exchange of ideas; we further encourage members of our community to engage this issue with civility and mutual respect.

13 August 2015 by the Board of Trustees (EC)