

AFFIRMATION OF PERSONAL FAITH*

“I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church teaches, believes and proclaims to be revealed by God.”

In particular:

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching about the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. I affirm that “direct abortion, willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law” and constitutes a grave offense. (CCC 2271) I attest that I am not affiliated with, nor supportive of any organization which supports, encourages, provides or otherwise endorses abortion or euthanasia.

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching that contraception is an offense “against the openness to procreation required of marriage and to the inner truth of conjugal love.” (cf. CCC 2370) I accept with the Church the necessity “that each and every marriage act remain ordered per se to the procreation of human life.” (CCC 2366)

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching that every person “should cultivate chastity in the way that is suited to their state of life.” (CCC 2349) I believe that “sins gravely contrary to chastity include masturbation, fornication, pornography and homosexual practices.” I accept with the Church that “the sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage, and that outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin and excludes one from sacramental communion.”(CCC 2396, 2390)

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching that “‘homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered,’ are contrary to the natural law, and close the sexual act to the gift of life.” I accept with the Church that, “under no circumstances can they be approved.” (CCC 2357)

I affirm and believe all that the Church teaches about the Real Presence of Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. I believe that “under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity.” (CCC 1413) I accept with the Church that “anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having received absolution in the sacrament of penance.” (CCC 1415)

I affirm and believe all that the Church teaches about Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. I believe that “devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.” (CCC 971)

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching that it is possible for a person, by his own free choice, to remain separated from God for all eternity and that “this state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called ‘hell.’” (CCC 1033)

I affirm and believe the Church’s teaching that “all who die in God’s grace and friendship but are still imperfectly purified,” must “undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” I affirm that the Church’s name for this final purification is Purgatory. (cf. CCC 1030-1031)

I affirm and believe that the Church is “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” (CCC 811) I affirm that the Church teaches with God-given authority and that the promise of Christ is to remain with His Church always. I believe that “when the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine ‘for belief as being divinely revealed,’ and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions ‘must be adhered to with the obedience of faith.’” (CCC 891)

To these and to all the teachings of the Catholic Church I give my assent. I strive in my beliefs and life style to conform to this Affirmation of Personal Faith.

Signature

Date

* The Church requires the making of a Profession of Faith by various persons when they undertake specific duties related to Church administration and teaching (cf. Canon 833). The Affirmation of Personal Faith for study facilitators was adapted from the Diocese of Baker in Bend, Oregon. Facilitators are encouraged to review the reference in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) that accompanies each affirmation.