



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

**November 29, 2006.**

### **Australian Bishops welcome Vatican Instruction on the question of admission of homosexual men to seminaries and the priesthood**

The Australian Catholic Bishops have received and discussed the recent Vatican Instruction on the question of the admission of homosexual men to seminaries and the priesthood.

While the document repeats matters previously addressed by the Holy See, we welcome the clarification that the Church does not see as fit candidates for priestly ordination men who are homosexually active, those who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies and those who support 'gay culture'.

The Bishops appreciate the careful and well balanced treatment of very complex questions in a document that is essentially an aid to the discernment of potential priestly vocations.

The document does not call into question the validity of the ordination and the situation of priests in whom homosexual tendencies emerged either before or after ordination. It makes clear that all priests are called to live a life of chastity.

We thank all priests who give faithful witness to the celibate vocation.

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