



# LEARN PRAY ACT

Sponsored by Sisters of Charity of NY and Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth NJ

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## LEARN:

The month of June is *Pride Month* and is celebrated in commemoration of the gay rights movement and its roots kindled by the Stonewall Riots of June 1969. Since then, the LGBTQ+ community has significantly influenced history, society, and American life through groundbreaking activism, transformative cultural contributions, and vital scientific advancements. From leading in the Civil Rights Movement to revolutionizing modern healthcare, their impact is woven into the fabric of the United States.

During an airline interview, Pope Francis' widely quoted "Who am I to judge?" prompted many to open a dialogue on homosexuality. As a man of his word and example, Pope Francis had several audiences with members of the LGBTQ+ community in Rome.

In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* Pope Francis states: "The dignity of others is to be respected in all circumstances...that every human being possesses an inalienable dignity is a truth that corresponds to human nature apart from all cultural change. For this reason, human beings have the same inviolable dignity in every age of history, and no one can consider himself or herself authorized by particular situations to deny this conviction or to act against it."

The gay community has overcome much injustice and has achieved greater equality in our lifetime. As Catholic Christians with Gospel foundations, we all have a moral obligation to confront prejudice and discrimination. We must reflect God's love, acceptance and care for all members of this population as we engage, accompany, and welcome them to our workplace, neighborhoods, parish churches, religious communities, and schools.

## PRAY

### A PRAYER FOR PRIDE MONTH

Lord God, our Maker  
May we always appreciate the dignity of each person:  
Straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender.  
May we witness your extravagant artistry of each beloved,  
Celebrate your Divine imprint upon each heart,  
And recognize how You fashion each human being  
With purpose and wonder.  
Your limitless love creates us all. AMEN

## ACT:

**Welcome new neighbors who proudly *display their Rainbow Flag*.**

- *Read the following story about the Blessed Mother and a gay couple.*  
Madonna of Montevergine: Patron of LGBTQ people since medieval times by Kittredge Cherry  
<https://qspirit.net/madonna-montevergine-lgbtq/>
- *Be inspired by achievements of the gay community.* [Library of Congress Classroom Materials at the Library of Congress](#) LGBTQ Activism and Contributions
- *Meet our VETS* [\\_Speaking Out: LGBT Veterans - Stories from the Veterans History Project](#)