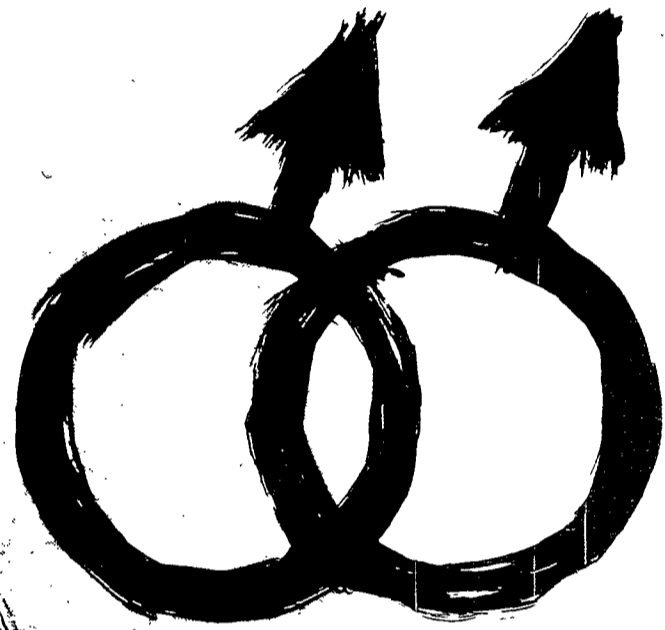




CATHOLIC COURIER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY
Vol. 104 No. 4 Thursday, October 22, 1992 75¢ 24 pages

Gay Rights?



Ballot proposals challenge church's teachings on issue

Along with other residents at St. Matthew's Catholic Parish in Hillsboro, Ore., Father Jim Galluzzo, assistant pastor, awoke at about 2 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, to find the pastor's office on fire.

In addition to the fire, which was extinguished after causing extensive damage, the parish staff found that someone had used the interior of St. Matthew's Church as a canvas for hateful graffiti.

"Kill Catholics and Gays," urged one of the messages left by the vandals, who also targeted Hispanics and Jews.

In a recent telephone interview, Father Galluzzo told the *Catholic Courier* that a single phrase amid all the graffiti explained for him what had motivated the vandals:

"Vote yes on 9."

Measure 9 is an initiative currently on the ballot for Oregon's state elections this November. If supported by the majority of the state's voters, Measure 9 would ban the extension of civil-rights protections to gays and lesbians.

The measure also defines homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural ... and perverse," and links it to sodomitochism and pedophilia.

Finally, Measure 9 would also require all government agencies and public schools to discourage homosexuality. Among other possible actions that could be taken under the measure, gay organizations could be banned from public facilities and school textbooks "cleansed" of references to homosexuality.

In a statement released earlier this year, the Oregon Catholic Conference said it opposed Measure 9 because "the terms used in its language are overbroad, ambiguous and potentially harmful and discriminatory to homosexual citizens."

Furthermore, the Catholic conference stated, "this proposed constitutional amendment may contribute to attitudes of intolerance and hostility directed at homosexuals."

Conference members fear Measure 9's non-legislative consequences because gays in the Northwest already have been the targets of violent attacks — both verbal and physical — from right-wing extremists during recent years, according to Robert J. Castagna, executive director of the OCC.

By
Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Continued on page 22