

Should U.S. lift ban on gays in armed forces?

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the armed forces for the following reasons: engaging in, or attempting or soliciting to engage in, homosexual acts; a person stating that he or she is a homosexual unless further findings prove that the person is not; or a member marrying, or attempting to marry, a person of the same biological sex.

While supporting these directives, Father Gomulka also emphasized that the ban applies only to homosexual behavior, not to orientation.

"If there is no proof or admission (of homosexuality), you can't be separated. The military is not concerned about orientation," the priest said.

Father Gomulka admitted that the most controversial aspect of the directives is that they prohibit a person from stating that he or she is a homosexual — an apparent contradiction of the priest's statement that sexual orientation alone is not an issue with the military.

But Father Gomulka maintained that an admission of homosexual orientation is inherently linked to homosexual behavior.

"We have yet to confront someone who was separated (for saying he or she was homosexual) who denied (homosexual) conduct," Father Gomulka remarked.

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Indiana, explained the ban's practicality during the Jan. 12, 1993, television broadcast of *Larry King Live* on the Cable News Network:

"We have always discriminated in the military on the basis of size; personality; of certain background characteristics. You're trying to find a person who will fit into a unique system — a system of intense discipline; a system of uniquely close living," said Senator Coats. "Because of this, if you are openly admitting to a gay lifestyle, we think it's incompatible with a military lifestyle."

Father Elmer W. Heindl, who served as an Army chaplain from 1942-1949 and as a military-reserve chaplain for another 21 years, likened the ban to rules and regulations that apply to any



other line of work.

"(The ban) is reasonable. I don't believe it interferes with any basic right that anyone has. If they choose (a military) career, they must have a responsibility of living up to the requirements," said the retired Father Heindl, who currently serves as parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave., Greece.

On the other hand, Father Gary L. Tyman asserts that the military's official stance is rooted in paranoia.

"I think there is always a lot of irrational fear with homosexuality," said Father Tyman, who serves as Newman Community chaplain at the University of Rochester. "It seems to me that the ban is not based so much on military effectiveness as it is rooted in cultural and societal fear."

Father Tyman's name appeared among more than 1,600 individuals and groups from across the nation who placed a four-page advertisement in the Nov. 13, 1992, issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*. The ad protested the Vatican's June, 1992, statement that expressed disapproval of homosexuals in such roles as teaching, athletic coaching, adoptive parenting and military service.

Father Tyman cited controversy over President Harry S. Truman's mandate to racially integrate troops in the 1940s as an example of unfounded anxiety regarding the existence of various minority groups in the military.

"Many of the arguments made about

lifting the ban are the same as arguments made at the end of World War II regarding racial integration," observed Father Tyman.

Kay Wroblewski, a member of the Rochester-based Interfaith Advocates for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People, agreed with Father Tyman's contention.

"I think it's fear and ignorance. We're just scared to death that somebody, who's not like us, is going to take us over," said Wroblewski.

Interfaith Advocates is a contingent of approximately 30 Rochester-area residents from varying religious backgrounds, including Roman Catholic. The organization comprises both gays and heterosexuals.

According to Wroblewski, who is a heterosexual, the group's purpose is "to provide advocacy for, and improve communication of, lesbian, gay and bisexual issues in a religious context."

Two guests who appeared with Sen. Coats on the Jan. 12 edition of *Larry King Live* also disputed the ban.

"I can understand (the military's) concern, but I think it's a wrong concern," said James Jennings, a homosexual who spent 14 years in the U.S. Navy.

"Gay men and lesbians have served in the military ever since the military has existed," asserted Tanya Domi of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Domi, who is a lesbian, served in the Army for 15 years. She said she decided to leave the service because she had grown tired of the stress stemming from being forced to keep her homosexuality a secret.

Father Tyman supported Domi's point that the ban is somewhat ineffective. "The evidence is quite clear that homosexuals are in the military, and many have performed quite well." Yet, he added, "Our country loses some talented people because of this ban."

Jennings, Domi and Sen. Coats appeared on *Larry King Live* to comment on the controversy surrounding the mysterious death of Allen Schindler,

Jennings' former lover and roommate. Schindler's severely beaten body was discovered near his Marine ship in October, 1992.

Although the Navy has stated officially that it is fully investigating Schindler's death, his assailant has not yet been identified. Jennings contends that Schindler's homosexuality may not only have caused the attack, but is also the reason he claims the Navy is not putting forth its best investigative effort.

"They're not looking at (Schindler) as one of their own. They're looking at it (as) another faggot has died," Jennings asserted.

Jennings said he enlisted in the Navy — despite his knowledge of the ban — for practical reasons.

"The military ... is a good place to springboard onto a better life — educational opportunities, travel. You get to do a lot of things you never thought you could do," he said.

Jennings said he believes gays should not have to be silent about their homosexuality in order to be a part of the military and/or escape physical abuse during their service.

"Right now, in the military, we're non-people. What we're asking for is to be treated as adults, as humans," said Jennings.

However, Larry King injected a word of caution for those demanding the ban to be removed.

"If (gays) come out, will they be safe?" the talk show host queried.

Wroblewski acknowledged that anti-gay feelings would not immediately disappear with the lifting of the ban.

"It's going to take some really dedicated, courageous gay and lesbians to say, 'Enough is enough.' They're going to have to say, 'Come at me with all you've got,'" said Wroblewski.

Education will be needed to break down barriers between gays and heterosexuals in the military, Wroblewski said. "There should be a course, something like 'Homosexuality 101.' They could have it along with basic training," she suggested.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announces appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following appointments, which are effective Jan. 5, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

Retirees

Father Anthony F. Calimeri, from pastor at St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs and St. Francis Church in Phelps, to residence in Phelps, P.O. Box 24, Phelps, N.Y. 14532.

Father Robert C. MacNamara, from pastor at Church of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, to residence at St. Mary Our Mother rectory.

Pastors and Administrators

Father Daniel J. Condon, from administrator to pastor at St. Patrick Church in Mt. Morris, effective Aug. 31, 1992.

Father Edward J. Dillon, from temporary priest coverage at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira, to pastor at St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs and St. Francis Church in Phelps.

Father John V. Forni, from sabbatical (Jan.-June, 1993) at the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., to pastor at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wolcott, St. Tho-

mas the Apostle Church in Red Creek and St. Jude Chapel in Fairhaven.

Father Timothy E. Horan, from parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Newark, to pastor at St. Andrew Church in Rochester.

Father David W. Mura, from parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Penn Yan and St. Andrew Church in Dundee, to pastor at Holy Apostles Church in Rochester.

Father Edward L. Palumbos, from temporary administrator to pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Rochester, effective Oct. 9, 1992.

Temporary administrators and priest coverage

Father Paul J. Freemesser, from temporary priest coverage at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira, to temporary priest coverage at St. Michael Church in Newark, effective Feb. 1, 1993.

Father Louis A. Vasile, from temporary administrator at St. Gabriel Church in Hammondsport and St. Patrick Church in Prattsburg, to temporary priest coverage at St. Michael Church in Penn Yan and St. Andrew Church in Dundee.

Parochial vicars

Father Michael A. Huerter, from parochial vicar at St. Ann Church in Hornell, to parochial vicar at Church of the Good Shepherd in Henrietta.

Father Mark A. Miller, from parochial vicar at Church of the Good Shepherd in Henrietta, to parochial vicar at St. Ann Church in Hornell.

Sabbaticals and coverage

Father John V. Forni, from temporary administrator at Holy Apostles Church in Rochester, to sabbatical at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., effective Jan.-June 1993.

Father John J. Glogowski, from sabbatical coverage at Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, to sabbatical at School of Applied Theology in Oakland, Calif., effective Jan.-June 1993.

Father Edwin B. Metzger, from Maryknoll associate in Athi River, Kenya, to sabbatical at Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, N.M., effective Jan. through mid-March 1993, then at Mt. Saviour Monastery in Pine City, effective mid-March-June 1993.

Father Michael J. Schramel, from sabbatical coverage at Church of the Holy Ghost in Rochester, to sabbati-

cal at St. Peter's Centre in Canberra, Australia, effective Jan.-June 1993.

Other

Father John A. DeSocio, from chaplain at Ithaca College, to director of vocations at Becket Hall in Rochester, effective June 29, 1993.

Father John D. Dillon, from temporary priest coverage at Northern Cayuga Cluster in Weedsport, to chaplain at Auburn Correctional Facility, effective Jan. 4, 1993.

Father Matthew A. Kawiak, from parochial vicar at St. Boniface Church in Rochester, to chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, effective Feb. 1, 1993. (Residence: Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse, Rochester.)

Father Louis A. Sirianni, from sabbatical at the Antonian Residence in San Antonio, Texas, to weekend assistance at St. Boniface Church in Rochester, and part-time assistance in the diocesan Tribunal, effective Feb. 1, 1993.

Father Robert C. Smith, from pastor at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wolcott, St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Red Creek and St. Jude Chapel in Fairhaven, to chaplain at Butler Shock Incarceration Facility in Red Creek.