Letter to the Editor

In reply to Ms. Hosie

GERARD J.M. VAN DEN AARDWEG

Ms. Hosie feels some articles on homosexuality in *The Linacre Quarterly* (including the ones I authored) are “not gentle, humble, patient” and express “disdain and repugnance of homosexuals” (which is more or less the accusation of homophobia). I must reply however that there is nothing objectively offensive in the articles I am responsible for, nor do I find these accusations substantiated in the articles of the other authors I have read. As for my own articles, she does not argue against the psychological facts, observations, and insights described. What evidence then does she adduce to justify her complaints?

She quotes a statement in my critique of the intermediate report of the bishops’ synod of 2014 referring to “the disproportionate psychological and medical problems of many practicing homosexuals [which] constitute a considerable and steadily increasing social burden.” She suggests that mentioning this abundantly documented fact would hurt practicing homosexuals, for it would be the same as disqualifying whole groups, such as “the aged, the dying, the poor.” This is logically a strange comparison, and it is also fairly theatrical, if I may say so. Furthermore, regarding the “divisive” things that in her view should not have been written, she quotes my observation of “the blindness

and self-centeredness of [gay] activists.” That would violate her ideal of “listening and debating with respect and humility and mercy.” These nice words about “respect, humility, etc.” however may not mean we should keep silent about truths such as the gay activists’ willful blindness to psychological and moral truths and their socially disastrous as well as self-destructive selfishness.

Especially many homosexuals are prompt in feeling unjustly discriminated against when their orientation or lifestyle is described as psychologically disordered in one way or another. Those who write (and publish) about this reality can be sure to be accused by some indignant sufferers from this affliction of the grave sins of discrimination, lack of compassion, hate crimes, and the like. Alas this accusation is socially and politically most effective. And unfortunately, many Christians today join in this inordinate complaining about unjust treatment and victimhood—their feelings of honest compassion are contaminated by a kind of sentimentality that blurs their perception of reality. This is a real problem that complicates the debate on homosexuality today; it can only be indicated here, but would deserve broader consideration.

As regards the reprint of my 2014 critique on Lifesitenews of determinate passages in the 2014 interim report of the

bishops' synod, the recent attempts of some prelates, and certain regrettable manipulations, aiming at the introduction into the Catholic Church of a degree, modest as it may be or seem to be, of recognition of homosexual relationships on the grounds of false psychological assumptions, show the timeliness and necessity of such critique.

Otherwise, Ms. Hosie's negative portrayal of the attitudes of the authors of the

articles, whom I assume she doesn't know, is not very prudent, nor just. I think a dispute in a periodical of academic standing should be about opinions and evidence concerning the subject at issue, not about suppositions regarding the attitudes or motivation of authors.

Gerard J.M. van den Aardweg, Ph.D.
Private practice
The Netherlands