

April 24, 2002

## **Additional Comments from Cardinal Maida on Pedophilia and the Priesthood**

In one of the scores of interviews Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has given in Rome during the meetings at the Vatican, two separate issues were somehow condensed into one response.

The questions involved, on the one hand, the root causes or motivation behind those who would take advantage of minor children, and, on the other hand, the sexual orientation of seminarians and priests. As a result, the topics of pedophilia and sexual orientation became intertwined.

Additional clarification on these subjects can be found in subsequent interviews Cardinal Maida granted in/from Rome. On CNN Tuesday night, April 23, reporter Connie Chung asked Cardinal Maida the following questions:

How do you think homosexuality should be dealt with...because there are some cardinals...some members of clergy...who believe it is a problem?

“I would treat it just like we do a family. I know families... I know of people where they discovered one of their children was homosexual ... you embrace them, you love them... try to understand why this happened...why they are homosexual,” said Cardinal Maida.

And you don't exclude them?

“No...a parent never leaves a child... I love all my priests...”

If you believe that there are homosexuals in the seminary, do you then prevent them from becoming priests?

“That depends, that's a hard question to answer ... I take every case on its own merit.”

In an interview with *The Michigan Catholic* newspaper discussing what has occurred in the Detroit archdiocese, Cardinal Maida noted that the majority of the cases handled under the archdiocese's 14-year policy have, in fact, involved young adult males.

“What the connection is between that fact and homosexuality is currently beyond our understanding,” the cardinal said, “although we look to behavioral scientists and others to better inform us on this issue.”

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