

Pope Francis: A new direction on gays



In so doing, Francis is leading the church in a new direction, said David Petty in *The Atlantic.com*. If sexual orientation doesn't deserve pre-empptive condemnation by the pope—"who am I to judge?"—then it becomes difficult for other church leaders to rail against gays, or for Catholic organizations to fire employees for simply being gay. These are "small, mild steps toward equality"—an incremental revolution, but a revolution nonetheless.

of Christianity, acccording to him, "What a contrast to the true heart of Christianity, and I love that it is the true heart of gay men from joining the clergy."

Francis' comments certainly represent "a significant shift in tone", said John Allen Jr. in CNN.com, "though not in substance." He didn't change church teaching on homosexual acts,