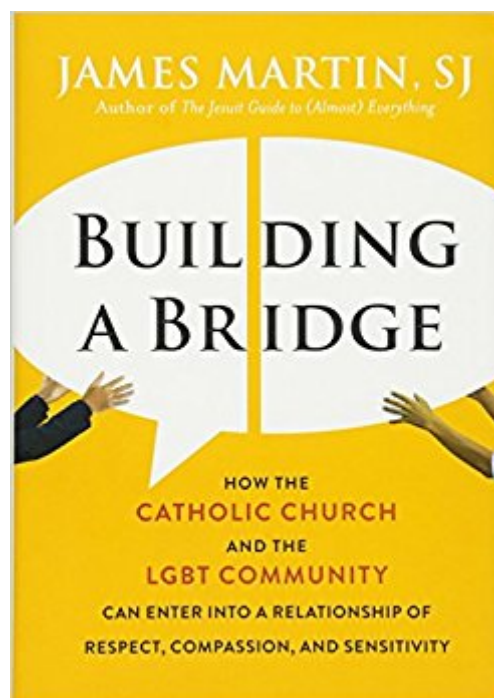




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Building A Bridge: How The Catholic Church And The LGBT Community Can Enter Into A Relationship Of Respect, Compassion, And Sensitivity



Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* and *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* turns his attention to the relationship between LGBT Catholics and the Church in this loving, inclusive, and revolutionary book. On the day after the Orlando nightclub shooting, James Martin S.J. posted a video on Facebook in which he called for solidarity with our LGBT brothers and sisters. "The largest mass shooting in US history took place at a gay club and the LGBT community has been profoundly affected," he began. He then implored his fellow Catholics and people everywhere to "stand not only with the people of Orlando but also with their LGBT brothers and sisters." A powerful call for tolerance, acceptance, and support and a reminder of Jesus' message for us to love one another. Father Martin's post went viral and was viewed more than 1.6 million times. Now, Martin expands on his reflections in this moving and inspiring book, offering a powerful, loving, and much-needed voice in a time marked by anger, prejudice, and divisiveness. Adapted from an address he gave to New Ways Ministry, a group that ministers to and advocates for LGBT Catholics, *Building a Bridge* provides a roadmap for repairing and strengthening the bonds that unite all of us as God's children. Martin uses the image of a two-way bridge to enable LGBT Catholics and the Church to come together in a call to end the "us" versus "them" mentality. Turning to the Catechism, he draws on the three criteria at the heart of the Christian ministry—"respect, compassion, and sensitivity"—as a model for how the Catholic Church should relate to the LGBT community.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A welcome and much-needed book that will help bishops, priests, pastoral associates, and all church leaders, more compassionately minister to the LGBT community. It will also help LGBT Catholics feel more at home in what is, after all, their church.” (Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life)

“Martin knows that by drawing close and entering into relationships, we learn mercy, equality of heart, and love of enemies. If we can be Christian in those things, then the scandal at the heart of the relationship between LGBT believers and our churches is on the way to being undone.” (James Alison, author of *Faith Beyond Resentment*)

“The Gospel demands that LGBT Catholics be genuinely loved and treasured in the life of the Church. They are not. Martin provides us the language, perspective, and sense of urgency to undertake the arduous but monumentally Christlike task of replacing a culture of alienation with a culture of merciful inclusion.” (Robert McElroy, Bishop of San Diego)

“Sexuality, gender, and religion – a volatile mix! With this book, Father Martin shows how the Rosary and the rainbow flag can peacefully meet each other. After this must-read book, you’ll understand why New Ways Ministry honored Father Martin with its Bridge-Building Award.” (Sister Jeannine Gramick, SL, co-founder of New Ways Ministry)

“In too many parts of our church, LGBT people have been made to feel unwelcome, excluded, and even shamed. Martin’s inspiring new book invites church leaders to minister with more compassion and reminds LGBT Catholics that they are as much a part of our church as any other Catholic.” (Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark)

“Martin discusses how . . . clergy and LGBT laity must genuinely befriend and become known to one another, in the assurance that the Holy Spirit sustains the effort.” (Booklist)

“If Martin’s book, with its biblical reflections on God’s loving creation of us and Jesus’ unconditional welcome, can help LGBT people and our families experience and trust God’s tenderness, he will have laid the foundation stone for social change and spiritual renewal.” (Washington Post)

“A major bridge-builder is Father James Martin, S.J., whose new book displays guarded hope for change. . . . Father Martin frames these complex issues in larger contexts, stressing the values of respect, compassion, and sensitivity.” (Martin E. Marty, *Sightings*)

“In this much anticipated new book, Father James Martin, SJ, seeks to end the *euvs* versus *ethem* mentality that has long divided LGBT Catholics and the institutional Church.” (Crux)

“The church may be on the cusp of another baby step in this ongoing discussion with the publication of this new book.” (Jonathan Merritt, Religion News Service)

“Calls for small steps forward [and] on church leaders to show respect.” (New York Times)

“Martin’s works

have consistently sought to convey the riches of Catholic Christianity in both a style and a language that is as accessible as possible in a pluralist, post-Christian culture. And it is one of Martin's great gifts that he does not sacrifice sophistication in aiming at accessibility. (Commonweal) "It's still rare to find anyone in the church hierarchy today—especially a Catholic priest—who will speak frankly and favorably about the queer Catholic experience. Father James Martin is that rare exception, making it his mission to affirm their right to belong in the church. (Vice) "A brief, clear guide on how Catholics can heal some of the rifts surrounding issues of sexuality. . . . The surprising places he finds insight highlight the subtlety of his thought and the time he has devoted to considering these questions. (Publishers Weekly) "A bold book, it talks clearly and openly about an issue that daunts and taunts our church, and, in its well-reasoned way, it takes the hysterics out of the discussion. (America) "Once again Father Martin gets to the heart of the matter. Jesus prayed with deep passion that we might be one. This courageous work is necessary reading for all who wish to build up the Christian community and to give witness to the Gospel message of inclusion. (John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe) "Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics have spent years on the margins of our community inviting such dialogue. This book cracks open a new door to opportunities to ask important questions about the inclusion of LGBT Catholics in the church, and those opportunities should be seized. (National Catholic Reporter) "Father Martin describes the 'encounter' Pope Francis frequently espouses. With a heart sympathetic to the suffering that LGBT people of faith have experienced and a love for the Church, he shows how this encounter can be a fruitful and liberating journey for those on both sides. (John Stowe, Bishop of Lexington, Kentucky) "James Martin had to know, even before he typed a single word of *Building a Bridge*, that no matter what he wrote, he was walking into a minefield of criticism. Which makes his courage—and his compassion—all the more powerful. (Chicago Tribune)

Jesuit priest and New York Times bestselling author James Martin issues an impassioned plea for Catholic leaders to relate to their LGBT flock in a new way, one characterized by compassion and openness. In this inspiring book, Father Martin turns to three virtues from the Catechism of the Catholic Church—respect, compassion, and sensitivity—as a model for how both the Catholic leadership and LGBT Catholics can move together on a "two-way bridge" toward reconciliation and love. This groundbreaking new book also includes

spiritual and biblical resources for LGBT people and their families, friends, and allies. Father Martin offers biblical passages, accompanied by meditations and questions for reflection, to help LGBT people find their place in the church and enter into a deeper relationship with God. Building a Bridge is a compassionate book desperately needed in today's climate of divisiveness. Â

Very brave and good of Father. Martin to write this book. It is small, but good. A true and factual account. Father Martin is well known as an excellent writer with I believe seven best sellers. He is well respected by his peers. There is a very good prayer section that is of great value.

A thoughtful and much needed book for both LGBT Catholics and their allies. Easy to read with reflection questions and prayers to help all those who have felt alienated from the Church they belong to by rite of their baptism. A must read for all Catholics, both clergy and lay alike.

Beautiful and helpful for this group...Love the quick service from you...Thanks...

It was great.

Refreshing articulation of gospel inspired pastoral approach to gay community

I wanted a more confrontational, get-right-with-Christ approach to this. Stick it to those bishops! I got it alright except it was me who got stuck. Should have known a Jesuit would lovingly challenge me to follow Christ more nearly and love him more dearly. Must. Read.

This book is really very simple in its approach. We need to treat each other with respect, compassion and sensitivity. What could be more important as we accompany each other on our journey to get to Heaven. The two way bridge Fr Martin describes is one of the paths on that journey. We need more bridge building these days with the talk of walls and the unkind words people say to each other. This book shows a way to begin. As I read this I kept thinking that the Prayer of St Patrick should be in my heart as I walk across this bridge; that I will see Christ in those thinking of me, speaking to me, seeing and hearing me and that I will see Him in each of them. In the latter part of the book Fr Martin gives us passages from scripture to reflect on. The one on "Different Gifts" touched me. We all make up the "Body of Christ" and we bring our talents to it. This includes our

LGBT brothers and sisters. I will enjoy dialoguing on his questions for reflection. Let me state that I am not a theologian. I am a regular Catholic, married for 34 years, who goes to Mass on Sundays, prays the Rosary and is part of several groups in the Church.

I devoured this book in three big bites and it was scrumptious. Fr. James Martin's style as always is down to earth and accessible. The topic is timely and definately a step in the right direction. My conscience has been at odds with official church teaching for sometime now and while Father is careful not to mislead his readers into thinking anything has officially changed, he makes it clear it is high time for us to be more Christian in our dealings with one another, especially those on the margins as members of the LGBT community sadly often are.

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