Dear People Whom God Loves,

**Every Human Person Is A**

**Beloved Child of God**

I want to dwell on our responsibility as followers of Jesus to realize that people on the margins are just as human as those who are not on the margins. I am not going to get into various institutional projects to help those on the margins though that is essential too.

I want to focus on how we look at them and how we feel about them.

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1. People who are poor.

Do we who are not poor look at them as lazy and less than us? Do we know the reason why they are poor? Underneath is there a sense that they are less human than us who are not poor? Being poor makes their path different but they are beloved children of God, just as everyone else.

1. People who suffer from mental illness.

Do we expect them to act exactly in the same way as people without mental illness? If we have been blessed with a healthy mind, do we think of ourselves as superior to them? Do we appreciate that their path is different than ours and have difficulties that we don’t understand? They too are beloved children of God.

1. People with physical disabilities.

Do we, who don’t have these disabilities, think we are better than they are? Do we understand the difficulties that they face?

1. Gender, genital organs, sexual orientation.

This is the way that I understand these words:

Gender: The way that people see themselves. That is - they perceive themselves as male or female.

Genital organs: Male or female sexual organs.

Sexual orientation: To whom is one sexually attracted to.

My understanding of the words: Normal and Abnormal

Normal: The range in which most people are.

Abnormal: Outside the range that most people are.

For example: Adult male height: 5-7 feet = normal

Adult male height: 8 or 3 feet = abnormal

IQ: 110 = normal

IQ: 190 or 60 = abnormal

Normal and abnormal can be influenced by the particular culture in which people live.

Note that normal and abnormal do not necessarily tell us whether something is seen as good or bad. Normal and abnormal don’t tell us that some people are more valuable than other people. We are all the valuable, beloved children of God.

Let us look at gender, genital organs, sexual orientation.

What is normal: For most people their gender matches their sexual organs and their sexual orientation is towards the “opposite sex”. They are born that way. That says nothing about their goodness or badness. It does mean that they will not have to face the prejudice of people who are “normal”.

Science is still studying why some people are born “normal” and some people are not. Science sometimes gives us answers that can help us let go of our prejudices.

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Some people are born with their Gender and Genital organs matching but their sexual orientation is to their own sex. For others their sexual orientation is toward both sexes, sometimes in varying degrees. People in these categories are called abnormal because they are a minority. Their path is obviously different because of prejudices of some of the majority. Remember, we need to beware judging that normal and abnormal are not categories that tell us what is good and what is bad.

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I believe that our journey to understanding this is going to be difficult. I believe the journey will be helped by scientific discovery and by a spiritual deepening.

For example. Science can help by giving us information. Science has helped us by giving us the information that there is no big powerful being living up in the sky. Spiritual deepening allowed us to see that God is the Infinite Love that lives in us and the universe and that that presence not only makes us exist but also helps us to become better lovers and happier people. God is in the universe but God is not part of the universe.

I see that science can help us by giving us more information about the mysterious sexual world. Deepening spirituality can help us to see all people as the beloved children of God.

Smile, God Loves You,

Father Clay

P.S. I write this not because I really know and understand all this well. I write because I hope that it will encourage wiser people than me to learn more about this mystery that will give us a deeper understanding of this mysterious problem and throw out what is wrong or incomplete and find a deeper understanding and spirituality that will help us become more compassionate people for people who are born “abnormal”.

I write this postscript because my thoughts are not a flower or anything close to being a flower. It could however become a flower if it is watered and cultivated by others. That would make me happy.