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Minister responds to Pope's anti-gay remarks

by Allen White
Special to Q-Notes

SAN FRANCISCO—Rev. Penny Nixon, Co-Pastor of MCC San Francisco, which is part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and one of America's largest Christian churches serving the GLBT community, responded to the bitter and homophobic attack on the gay community by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

"Keep in mind this is the Holy Father we are talking about. What kind of father calls his children evil? The remarks today by Pope Paul II condone, justify, even encourage hatred and violence against gay people. Pope Paul II today was irresponsible and intrinsically wrong," said Rev. Nixon on Sunday, July 9.

"He does not speak for us. It is important to realize the Pope is not the only person who can claim to speak for God. There are many Christians, many spiritual people and others who do not share the views of the Pope."

This week GLBT people gathered in Rome for World Pride 2000. Rev. Nixon said, "The remarks of Pope John Paul II are not only wrong, they are predictable. He, like so many others, will tolerate us until we stand up and show our pride. World Pride 2000 was not about him. It's about us."

In response to the Pope's comments about the Year of Jubilee, Nixon said, "Jubilee is about coming home. Who would want to come home when their father is calling members of his family 'objectively disordered?' Jubilee is about solidarity with all people. In fact, the comments of Pope John Paul II are in contradiction with the social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church." ▼

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