Selected Statements and Actions from the Leadership of the Roman Catholic Church
Compiled by Soulforce

12/23/08 Fox News – "Pope Accused of Stoking Homophobia After Speech"
Pope Benedict was accused of stoking homophobia today after a speech in which he declared that saving humanity from homosexuality was just as important as saving the rainforest from destruction. The Pontiff made the remarks yesterday in an end-of-year address to the Curia, the Vatican's central administration. He said that humanity needed to listen to the "language of creation" to understand the intended roles of man and woman and behavior beyond traditional heterosexual relations was a "destruction of God's work".

12/09/08 Fox News – "Vatican Under Fire for Opposing U.N. Declaration on Sexual Rights"
Journalists and activist groups are blasting the Vatican for what they say is its "grotesque" opposition to a U.N. declaration on gay rights — even though only a small collection of countries has supported the measure. The Roman Catholic Church is facing a barrage of protests and searing editorials for opposing a French-sponsored decree that calls for an end to discrimination based on sexual or gender identity. The U.N. hopes to abolish summary executions, arbitrary arrests and "the deprivation of economic, social and cultural rights" of gays.

11/09/06 American Chronicle – "Vatican Urges Israel To Ban Gay Parade"
The Vatican urged Israel to ban a gay parade this week in Jerusalem, saying the march in the city considered holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians would offend the faithful.

6/6/06 Reuters
The Vatican said on Tuesday that gay marriage, abortion, lesbians wanting to bear children and a host of other practices are seen as threats to the traditional family and were signs of "the eclipse of God." A 60-page document, called "Family and Human Procreation," was issued just days after President Bush urged the Senate to pass a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. It listed these threats as homosexual marriages, giving gay couples equal legal recognition as married heterosexuals, lesbians demanding the right to bear children through artificial insemination and gays who want to adopt children.

08/03/2006 DignityUSA
While announcing the theme of the upcoming 40th World Peace Day, due to be celebrated January 1, 2007: "The Human Person: Heart of Peace," the Vatican used some of the strongest language in years attacking gays and lesbians. Along with claiming "human dignity is contradicted by widespread incongruent lifestyles," the Vatican continued, "Propaganda and the growing acceptance of disordered lifestyles contrary to human dignity are weakening the hearts and minds of people to the point of extinguishing the desire for ordered and peaceful coexistence. All this represents a threat to humanity, because peace is in danger when human dignity is not respected and when social coexistence does not seek the common good."

6/7/05 Boston Globe – “Pope Says Gay Unions are False”
Pope Benedict XVI, offering his first detailed critique of gay unions since his elevation to the pontificate six weeks ago, yesterday described same-sex marriages as "pseudo-matrimony." In a speech to a conference on families held by the Diocese of Rome, Benedict made clear in strong language that he intends to pursue the hard-line defense of traditional Catholic teachings that made him controversial in his role as Pope John Paul II's chief enforcer of church doctrine.

11/4 & 5/04 www.zenit.org, "The World Seen from Rome."
In a two part interview, this Catholic propaganda organization, took a report supporting LGBT families and twisted it into an indictment of LGBT families. Claiming that children of LGBT families were more apt to experience severe attachment disorder. They cited studies published in the Archives of General Psychiatry stating that persons self-identified as homosexual in comparison to the general public had almost double the rate of suicidal ideation or attempts, substance abuse problems and psychological disorders, and suggested that 78.6% of the gay, lesbian or bisexual group suffered from multiple disorders.

10/9/03 The Guardian -
The Catholic Church is telling people in countries stricken by Aids not to use condoms because they have tiny holes in them through which the HIV virus can pass - potentially exposing thousands of people to risk. The church is making the claims across four continents despite a widespread scientific consensus that condoms are impermeable to the HIV virus. The WHO has condemned the Vatican's views, saying: "These incorrect statements about condoms and HIV are dangerous when we are facing a global pandemic which has already killed more than 20 million people, and currently affects at least 42 million."

6/8/03 365Gay.com from Rijeka,Croatia -
Pope John Paul Sunday issued his strongest condemnation to date of same-sex unions, telling Catholics a marriage must consist only of a man and a woman. In an open air mass on a sweltering day in the port city of Reijeka, Croatia the Pontiff said told Catholics they must defend traditional family values against gay marriage and put a "tragically fragmented" society back on track with God's wishes. His entire sermon to the 100,000 who gathered for the mass was devoted to attacking gay families

4/24/03 Human Rights Commission Update from Geneva
The debate on the resolution human rights and sexual orientation, as proposed by Brazil started this afternoon (24 April) in the Commission on Human Rights. The Brazilian delegation introduced the resolution stating that it created no new rights and that it was strictly based on existing treaties. They affirmed that it was not a new issue for the UN as special procedures (UN Special Rapporteurs and experts) had regularly addressed serious violations of human rights on grounds of sexual orientation, and urged that the time had come to tackle the issue at the level of the Commission. The Vatican is reported to be

phoning capitals in Latin American countries in order to pressure them to abstain or vote against the resolution.

03/31/03 Rueters New Service from Vatican City
A new Vatican glossary of sexual terms says homosexuals are not normal and that countries that allow gay marriages are inhabited by people with "profoundly disordered minds."

1/16/03 365Gay.com from Vatican City
The Vatican has ruled that sex-change procedures do not change a person's gender in the eyes of the church. The decision, made by the department in charge of doctrine, is contained in a confidential document obtained by the Catholic News Service. CNS, quoting a source familiar with the text, says the document instructs bishops never to alter the sex listed in parish baptismal records and says Catholics who have undergone "sex-change" procedures are not eligible to marry, be ordained to the priesthood or enter religious life.

3/8/02 Louisville Courier Journal – "Vatican Denounces Conference on Gays"
A national conference promoting the acceptance of gays and lesbians in the Catholic Church that begins today in Louisville has drawn a denunciation from the Vatican. Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is responsible for promoting and defending Catholic doctrine and morals, has gone as far as forbidding any Masses to be held at the conference.