This qualitative research looks into the lived experiences of gay male students at a Catholic higher education institution. The experience of these students has traditionally not been analyzed, and this study takes a close look at what it means to be gay and attend a Catholic university. These students have experienced varying degrees of acceptance and support from their peers, faculty, staff, and the institution as a whole. While acknowledging that the institution does provide some supports, students found them to be uncoordinated, insufficient, and not of value, when compared to supports offered to students who identify with other minority groups. These students provided their own insights on what they are looking for in terms of support from the institution as a whole. Students’ recommendations formed the basis of implications for improved practices to increase notions of acceptance and support for this student population.

**Purpose**
- To gain an understanding of how gay male students at a Catholic institution perceive acceptance and support
- How this population perceives both support from the institution as well as peers
- Understand current climate for this student population to inform best practices

**Methods**
- Qualitative research study
- Utilized the snowball method to locate research participants.
- Hour long structured interviews
- Interviews transcribed & coded
- Themes emerged from the data

**Participants**
- 3 current undergraduate students
- 1 current graduate student
- 2 recent alumni (graduated in past 2 years)
- All participants self-identify as both male and gay

**Implications**
- Greater diversity in supports available for LGBTQ students
- Outreach and education about LGBTQ students across campus
- Development of a peer mentor program
- Increased visibility of LGBTQ students & available supports
- Public support of gay students from administration

**Future Research**
- How the gay male student population engages with rest of LGBTQ community
- Research into barriers for students coming out
- Benchmarking supports offered at other Catholic Institutions

**Selected References**