

**Since My Last Confession**  
**a gay catholic memoir**  
*by Scott Pomfret*

Devout catholic lector (lay minister) Scott Pomfret weaves gay humor into his critique of the (mis)management of the Catholic church during the period from the first open discussions of the pedophile priests through the passage of the equal marriage rights law in Massachusetts. He exposes widespread homosexuality in the priesthood while clearly differentiating it from the pedophilia of a small minority. Scott is relentless in his criticism of the church hierarchy for their long-term cover-up of the actions of pedophile priests.

A central point in this book is hypocrisy. The Vatican very publicly issues rules. The bishops direct their priests to both publish and enforce them. Meanwhile, the parish priests decide whether these rules are appropriate for their congregations – and often simply ignore them. In some parishes, openly gay priests welcome their gay and lesbian congregants. In others, parish priests ignore constraints on marrying divorced parishioners. The vast majority of parishioners practice birth control, with no threat of pastoral approbation.

Much of the humor in this book revolves around Pomfret's ongoing battle with Cardinal O'Malley over God's and the state's acceptance of gays in the church and equal marriage rights. One would think that Pomfret's obvious, open violation of Church rules would lead to excommunication. It hasn't. He continues to lector, take communion, and participate in the Gay-Lesbian Spirituality Group in his church in South Boston.

Alongside the stories of his experiences, Pomfret provides short segments of his gay interpretations of various church rules. Since he means no threat to any of the lay people or specific priests in his church, he makes up special names for some of his characters. It is a fun book to read, while making strong points about the differences between the official church position on gay issues and the actions of their parishioners.

If you think the Church is infallible, you probably will not like this book. If you know the Church needs to get back to its roots – living and spreading Christ's teachings – you will enjoy it.