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Dr. Murphy

5/3/2020

Jesus Died For Our Sins, Too

This project came to me while my dad and I were watching mass on Good Friday. The priest was talking about how God sacrificed God's only son for us, everyone. The idea came into my head that Jesus died for our sins too. There are people out there who go to church and say that they are devoted Christians and then turn around and hate on others. Catholics need to understand that Jesus didn't die for certain people and not others. He sacrificed himself for everyone, unconditionally. The image of Jesus on a cross covered in pride flags came into my mind. I wanted to challenge the conventional ways that we literally see the cross. I did this project to show that the Queer community not only belongs in the Catholic Church but can help mend divide within the Catholic Community.

This project represents a journey to acceptance. Throughout my time at Loyola I've discovered more about myself and my faith than I ever thought I could. For many years I thought I had to choose between my bisexuality and my Catholic faith. Growing up, I felt that Catholicism wasn't allowed to be questioned. A good Catholic follows the rules and listens to the Vatican. That's what I took away from my previous schools and theology classes. That all changed when I came to Loyola. The classes that I've taken encouraged questions and taught different theologies that I never knew existed. Last semester, I took a Queer Theology class. In the class we would talk about the power of symbols. Symbols can have various meanings depending on one's experience. I decided to take powerful symbols that represent various groups of the LGBT community and bring it into conversation with the powerful symbol of the cross. I'm grateful for my time at Loyola and the communities I'm so proud to be apart of. I hope that the Loyola community continues to create spaces for queer people to explore and foster their faith in a safe, nonjudgmental space.