 March 12, 2024

Dear members and friends of Comunidad

**This letter is to tell you how important it is that you support Comunidad now!** Things have changed for the LGBTQIA+ communities! There is a strong effort to erase “diversity” as a value. People are told,” Don’t say ‘gay.’” Books about us are banned in public libraries and schools. Pride Month celebrations are removed from city calendars. Are we to remain silent?

Harvey Milk said, “How can people change their minds about us if they don’t know who we are?” Do our pastors and parishioners know about us or are we largely hidden within the Catholic community? Do we appreciate that we are gaining an advocate in Pope Francis? And for those most likely to face persecution, do we LGBTQIA+ make an effort to support transgender persons and drag entertainers? These questions swirl around us.

We have learned that we still have to be vigilant. Anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric is quick to rise. During times like these, it is imperative that we remember we have a supportive community in Comunidad that we can call upon at any time. We have those among us who do all they can to let us be known, speaking at churches, youth classes, at the Religious Education Congress, and lesbian and gay pride events. Comunidad proclaims who we are and what we do through the Comunidad Newsletter and Meta (Facebook), spreading the good news that we are here, both gay and Catholic.

Since 1986 the Comunidad **committee** has sponsored monthly spiritual activities, social events, and other ventures. A lot of time is given to provide a home for our LGBTQIA+ community.

**We ask you not to forget us. We need your financial support. We need your help and your presence.** God holds you in the palm of His hand. We hold you in our prayers.

**Mark Davis and Bea Cornejo, Co-chairpersons**

Please make checks payable to Comunidad and enclose your contribution in the envelope provided.

Detach here and return with your check

Please accept my contribution to Comunidad

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$50 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$75 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_$ 100 ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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Mail to Comunidad-St Matthew Church, 672 Temple Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814