



# COMUNIDAD

## Building Bridges, Not Walls

February, 2018

“I appeal to you not to create walls but to build bridges,” Pope Francis said. “To not respond to evil with evil. To defeat evil with good, the offence with forgiveness.” In this spirit, Comunidad once again requests your support for our work as builders of bridges in a time of deconstructing forces.

New challenges face us as a community as well as individuals. For the first time in four years, a recent GLAAD poll shows significant diminished support for the LGBTQ community in our nation. Previously, we all felt pride for all the progress made! Also hateful acts against LGBTQ persons have increased. We are not alone: many other groups in our nation and in other countries do not fit into the neat boxes of the majority and are told they are not welcome. We must stand with our brothers and sisters who are oppressed because of their religion, their immigrant status, or the country they come from. We acknowledge the gay and lesbian Ugandans who are deeply oppressed and face death or life in prison.

As Comunidad moves into its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, we continue to be a bridge builder. We seek to be the arm of Christ reaching out to those who feel that the church has abandoned them. Our message always: Welcome home, Catholics! We hope you have found a real home through your affiliation with us and with the many priests and lay leaders who support us in our ministry.

Comunidad asked in a recent survey, what do you expect of us? You gave us four priorities: providing spiritual and theological opportunities, meeting others of our faith, supporting gay and lesbian Catholics, and attending Masses where gays and lesbians are present and openly welcome. Our plans will address these priorities.

We thank you for your financial support. We thank you for providing Comunidad the means for doing our job well. Our goal is to be a conduit for good, a connecting force, and an unbroken link representing you, our LGBTQ community and friends.

In Christ,

Marilyn Pires and Keith Brittin, Co-chairs

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**Please mail your contribution to**  
**Comunidad/ St. Matthew Church**  
**672 Temple Ave.**  
**Long Beach, CA 90814**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\_\$30 \_\_\_\_\_\$ 25 \$\_\_\_\_\_Other