



# Comunidad

March, 2019

Dear Friend and Supporter of Comunidad

**Perhaps as an LGBT+ person you have never been subject to threats or harassment. Or perhaps you have.** Some are deeply hurtful such as families ignoring your sexual identity; some are dangerous such as being threatened with great physical or bodily harm. In a letter recently sent to Archbishop José Gomez, the author wrote: “People have no moral right engaging with the same sex, just as they have no right engaging in rape.” This letter was in reference to Dr. Aaron Bianco.

Dr. Bianco spoke at Comunidad’s February 2019 meeting. He was a pastoral associate at St. John the Evangelist Parish located in the gay-friendly Hillcrest neighborhood of San Diego. Aaron said he had “endured physical and emotional violence from groups like Church Militant and LifeSite.” On Oct 14-15, 2018, his parish rectory was broken into and ‘no fags’ spray-painted on the conference room wall. On Oct. 17 a post on the internet showed pictures of his family, including a picture of his deceased mother and his address. Aaron felt he had no choice but to resign. Nonetheless, he continues his service to the LGBTQ+ community, and so do we!

Admittedly, we do have strong supporters in our Roman Catholic Church. These include Archbishop Gomez and many welcoming Roman Catholic Churches. We acknowledge the work of our own St. Matthew pastor Monsignor Guillermo Rodriquez, and outreach by Comunidad (the St. Matthew Ministry) in coordination with Catholic Ministry with Lesbian & Gay Persons (Archdiocesan CMLGP) and Always our Children (Parent groups). It is time to recognize the work of many people who courageously bring awareness and understanding of who we are and how we try to live out our Christian Baptismal commitment, in good conscience serving our loving God and the people who surround us. In addition, we constantly deliver the message to the GLBT+ community, “Welcome home Catholics!” You belong!

**We ask you once again to consider helping us in our ministry through making an annual contribution.** Let us keep hope alive, and in spite of all our challenges, to spread the good news that Christ has come for all without prejudice or discrimination. We thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Pires and Keith Brittin

-----  
Please send your contribution to  
Comunidad/St. Matthew, 672 Temple Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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