



# Comunidad

Lent, 2020

Dear Friend of Comunidad:

Beyoncé’s song, “Say my name, Say my name,” reminds us how we long for recognition for who we are--from those closest to us, our lovers, our friends, families, and co-workers. This longing extends also to the communities we want to belong to: our church, our country, and other organizations we want be fully a part of. Even as we hear homilies on accepting us, it is rare for the celebrant at Mass to say the words “gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender” clearly. As much as many in the church want to give us a welcoming hand, sometimes it is an unspoken welcome.

This hidden life we are at times compelled to lead can create so much damage, especially when we are young. The Trevor Project tells us LGB youth are five times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth, and a national study reported that 40 % of transgender adults have attempted suicide, 92% before the age of 25. We believe the damage to our psyche is repairable when we follow Harvey Milk’s advice to have the courage of “coming out,” and lead fuller lives. A fuller life includes a spiritual life and those of us raised in the Catholic tradition often long to be a full participant in the rich traditions of the Church.

We were told in Baptism that God called us by name, that we have been imprinted with Christ, and that we are anointed to be “priest, prophet, and king.” Father Guillermo Rodriguez, our pastor who retired January 1, 2020, said to us over and over, “Be who you are. Be who you are.” What a blessing this priest was to Comunidad!

Comunidad encourages LGBT Catholics to claim their faith and still “be who you are!” Through Comunidad many have and many more will find a welcoming home. “This is our faith: this is what we believe.”

Being faithful to our calling means to give ourselves to our ministry. Only once a year do **we ask your help**. You will find us at Pride festivals, the Catholic Religious Ed Congress, speaking in schools, and presenting before parishes. We answer the individual calls of our brothers and sisters as well as their families. We hope you will support our work through volunteering, prayers, and contributions. We look forward to your response.

In Christ,

Bea Cornejo and Mark Davis, Co-chairs

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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