



FOR DECEMBER 2005

COMUNIDAD

MINISTRY WITH LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS, ST. MATTHEWS'S CHURCH, LONG BEACH, CA

Mark Your Calendar

December 5, Monday after evening prayer at 5:30pm -- Comunidad hosts the second Advent supper in the parish hall, with Christmas carols afterwards!

December 6, Tuesday at 7pm, Celebrate our Posada & potluck at St. Matthew See box to right →

December Saturdays/Sundays Our annual Christmas collection for the poor families in the parish, after all the Masses. Please sign up to help, or call Marilyn at (562) 434-987

In 2006:

January 3, Tuesday at 7pm, Inauguration Mass for next year's Steering Committee

January 8, Sunday after 10:30 Mass Annual planning retreat for Comunidad's Steering Committee

February 4, Saturday, 5:30pm at Blessed Sacrament in Hollywood, Twentieth Anniversary Mass for MLGC: Archdiocesan Ministry with Lesbian & Gay Catholics

February 18 or 19 (date not finalized) James Alison on "The Church and the Politics of Homosexuality: Scape-goating or Reconciliation"

March 30 – April 1, 2006 Religious Education Congress at the Anaheim Convention Center

Comunidad's First Tuesday of the month Meetings, at 7pm in St. Matthew's parish Hall: *February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5*

Be sure to mark your calendars, and tell us what you would like to see us do on these dates!

THANKS again for a great year!

You can email us at comunidad@123mail.org

Our Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2005
St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 672 Temple Avenue (at 7th Street)
Social starts at 7pm, Program at 7:30pm

POSADA AND POTLUCK

Do you remember how difficult it was to "come out of the closet" –or are you among the many who are still working on it? If you can help others, or need help yourself, please join us at our December 6 meeting. We will have our own prayerful version of the *Posada*, which is Spanish for a wayside inn, and refers to the Mexican Advent tradition which re-enacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. As a part of our gay and lesbian outreach, we invite you to participate in our version of the search for a welcoming door. Bring a flashlight to see by.

Afterwards, we will have another of our popular potlucks in the hall. Comunidad will provide tamales and drinks. **It's up to you to bring your choice of a salad or a dessert to share, AND A FLASHLIGHT!** Call Anna (562-987-0130) or Dave (562-439-8067) for more information.

You are still needed

This is the time of year we need your help to collect money (& food) for the poor. We need people (especially if you speak Spanish) after all the Sunday & Saturday Masses. Please call Marilyn (562-434-9873) to sign up.

+ + +

This Monday, Dec. 5, we host the parish potluck after 5:30 evening prayer. We need your help with set-up before, and clean-up after.

Future Meetings

January's First Tuesday is on the 3rd. We ask you to join us in an inaugural Mass for Comunidad's Steering Committee, those who will guide our Ministry in 2006.

Dates of other First Tuesday meetings in 2006, as well as other significant events, are in the box to the far left. Don't miss your chance to hear the English Theologian James Alison in person in February - be sure to see his website: www.jamesAlison.co.uk/

What do you want us to do this coming new year? Do you have any ideas for speakers, for cultural, social or spiritual events? We certainly want to hear from you. Your participation is important to the success of this special ministry, both in our parish and in the archdiocese.