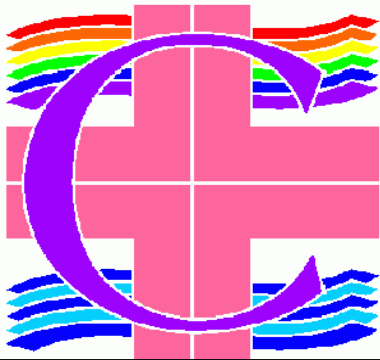


FEBRUARY 2009

COMUNIDAD

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



Mark Your Calendar

Comunidad meets the first Tuesday of each month. We have a social time from 7:00-7:30 pm, with the program starting at 7:30. We ordinarily meet in St. Matthew's Meisel Hall.

February 3rd

Dr. Sheilah Jones on the history/theology of Marriage

March 3rd

Fr. Emery Tang, OFM, on Change of Heart for Lent

April 7th

Holy Week Seder Meal

May 5th

Cinco de Mayo celebration

May 16th-17th

Long Beach LGBT Pride

Planning ahead...

October 16th-18th, 2009

Annual Comunidad Retreat

For additional information please e-mail us or call Chris at 562-987-5191 or Ray (en Espanol) at 562-590-9309. You may also visit www.comunidadlb.org

Questions? Comments? Ideas? E-Mail us at: comunidad@comunidadlb.org

Our Next Gathering: Tuesday, Feb. 3rd at 7:00 pm
St. Matthew's Meisel Hall, 672 Temple Avenue (at 7th Street)
Program information is below. Light refreshments will be served.

Comunidad is pleased to welcome Dr. Sheilah Jones as our guest speaker for February. Just in time for Valentine's Day, our topic will be the theological-religious basis for the definition of marriage. Dr. Jones received her doctorate at USC in social ethics with an emphasis in Catholic sexual morality. She teaches at Loyola Marymount University and Mt. St. Mary College, including a course on the Ethics of Christian Marriage & Sexuality. Dr. Jones has been a popular speaker at Comunidad on several occasions. Please join us!

COMUNIDAD HAS PARISH & ARCHDIOCESAN SUPPORT!

At our New Year's Mass on Jan. 6th, both St. Matthew's pastor, Fr. Guillermo, & the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Ministry with Lesbian & Gay Catholics (MLGC) liaison, Fr. Chris Ponnet, spoke about the importance & value of Comunidad to the larger parish & church communities. We are privileged to have such support and to be an example of lesbian & gay involvement in the church during these challenging times. ALL ARE WELCOME at St. Matthew's and at Comunidad! If you have felt alienated, please know you have a home with us.

L.A. RELIGIOUS ED CONGRESS 2009

February 27th-March 1st at the Anaheim Convention Center.

This great, local event has become the largest annual gathering of Roman Catholics in the U.S., with 40,000 people expected. Topics & discussions of LGBT interest will be offered.

For registration and other information, please visit www.recongress.org.

WE CANNOT LOOK TO THE BIBLE AS A MARRIAGE MANUAL, BUT WE CAN READ IT FOR UNIVERSAL TRUTHS AS WE STRUGGLE TOWARD A MORE JUST FUTURE. THE BIBLE OFFERS INSPIRATION & WARNING ON THE SUBJECTS OF LOVE, MARRIAGE, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY. IT SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF FAMILIES IN A FAIR SOCIETY AND THE RISKS WE INCUR TO OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN SHOULD WE CEASE TRYING TO BIND OURSELVES TOGETHER IN LOVING PAIRS. --LISA MILLER IN NEWSWEEK, 12/6/08