



Comunidad

Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Catholics

January 2010

Mark Your Calendar

MONTHLY MEETING

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM
ST. MATTHEW'S MEISEL HALL
672 TEMPLE AVE.
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

JANUARY 5th

NEW YEAR'S MASS

FEBRUARY 2nd

THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY

MARCH 2nd

LENTEN OBSERVANCE

MARCH 19th – 21st

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND BLOG AT
WWW.COMUNIDADLB.ORG

CONTACT US AT:

COMUNIDAD@COMUNIDADLB.ORG
CHAIR@COMUNIDADLB.ORG

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Our January Gathering

New Year's Mass

On Tuesday Jan 5th Comunidad will celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics. As is our custom, we begin the New Year with Mass, the center of our faith. Come and rededicate yourself as a proud lesbian or gay Catholic.

We will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm and about 7:20 pm Mass will commence. After Mass, a social will be held in the Parish Hall. If you want, bring a dessert to share.

Please join us.

Christmas Generosity

During Advent St. Matthew's parishioners were greeted after Sunday Mass by smiling, bell-ringing members of Comunidad who were collecting money for those less fortunate this holiday season.

St. Matthew's parishioners donated over \$3000 dollars. A check was presented to Anna Totta, regional director of Catholic Charities. Anna bought food certificates which on Dec. 14th were distributed to needy families.

In addition, Comunidad contributed 200 posada packets filled with Christmas candy and trinkets. These packets were used as part of St. Matthew's English Posada celebration.

Blessings to All who contributed.

Our New Format

In an effort to serve better the Gay and Lesbian Catholic community Comunidad has redesigned its newsletter. Comunidad hopes you

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will find this format more readable and more informative. The community involvement of Comunidad will be spotlighted. From time to time an Op Ed section will be included. In this section

the major concerns of our members will be addressed. The Comunidad membership is encouraged to submit articles for consideration. David Kennedy starts the discussion.

OP ED*

Religious Ed Congress, 3/19-21

By David Kennedy

Mark your calendar now! Even if these dates (see above) are already booked, put them on your calendar anyway. The Holy Spirit may cancel your other event(s) to allow you to attend the Religious Education Congress at the Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave, right across the street from (south of) Disneyland & the California Adventure.

Those who have previously attended have some idea of what to expect. If you haven't been before, it is difficult to explain adequately. There's so much to tell. Where to begin?

Well, you know the when and where (both above). How about the 'what'?

As the name implies, it is about religious education. The variety of topics and speakers are far too many to cover here. Go online to "RECongress.org" to see the list of speakers/topics, as well as all sorts of other information. We are working on a list of recommended speakers for you -- or maybe you know some and can recommend them to us. We'd love to hear from you!

Note the fee for attendance is only \$60 now, \$70 if postmarked after February 5, 2010.

People attend from all over the United States, as well as Canada, Ireland, England and Mexico among others. 38,000 attended last year. As you can tell, it truly is a huge event. Most people attend to hear the wide range of speakers. Some people attend for the liturgies alone. They are amazing and there is no fee to attend the liturgies (except for parking, so carpool with friends).

"But wait," as they say on those enthusiastic TV ads. "That's not all!"

There's More!

This is where Comunidad fits in, along with the Archdiocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics (MLGC). We staff a booth in the exhibit hall, similar to the one at Pride Festivals.

In a great expression, coined by our very dear friend Lynette Aldapa, "We go to Pride as lesbians/gays to speak with our Catholic accent; we go to Congress as Catholics to speak with our lesbian/gay accent." We remind people of Comunidad's Gospel message that God loves all of us unconditionally.

Even before the exhibit hall opens to the public, our Ministry begins. Other exhibitors and vendors drop by with questions. We have information on our Ministries throughout the Archdiocese and beyond. People stop by to pick up our flyers and thank us for being there. Often we provide personal Ministry to someone who has a brother/sister, cousin, niece/nephew, etc., who is LGBTQ.

My favorite story is told by the mother who passed our booth each year saying to herself, "I must visit that booth and find out what it's about." Then, as she suspected, her son finally came out to her and her husband. At the very next Congress -- you know what happened -- she made a bee line for our booth. Based on what she heard, and due to the support of her pastor, within that year she started a parent support group in her parish. They are available in Spanish, thanks to bi-lingual parents who have joined her.

Wait! There's still More!

As part of our Ministry at Congress, St. Monica's GLO (gay/lesbian outreach) used to host a hospitality suite with drinks and snacks, so we could entertain those we meet at Congress. St. Monica parish could not afford the suite this year. So many members of GLO/MLGC have stepped forward to help. If you would also like to contribute time, money or talent to make us more effective at Congress, please contact Dave Kennedy, Comunidad's MLGC liaison (phone 562-439-8067 or sfexile@msn.com).

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU AT CONGRESS.
Please join us there.

*Disclaimer: This is strictly the opinion of the author. It does not connote Comunidad agreement.