



comunidad

Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Catholics

May 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

MAY 4TH
JAY SCHMIDT'S MEMORIAL MASS
CINCO DE MAYO AT COMUNIDAD

MAY 16TH - 17TH
LONG BEACH PRIDE
WELCOME HOME CATHOLIC BOOTH

MAY 23th
4th SUNDAY BREAKFAST

MAY 29th
ECUMENICAL BBQ

JUNE 2nd
GAY, CATHOLIC & PROUD

JUNE 5th
LONG BEACH AIDS WALK

JUNE 27th
BEACH MASS

JULY 6th
Movie: OUTRAGE

JULY 28th
BIG BAND AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

AUGUST 3rd
Fr. Chris Bazyouros

OCTOBER 8th-OCTOBER 10th
ANNUAL RETREAT

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND BLOG AT
WWW.COMUNIDADLB.ORG

CONTACT US AT:
COMUNIDAD@COMUNIDADLB.ORG
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Our May Gathering

Cinco de Mayo

After Jay Schmidt's memorial mass (see below) join us as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. The celebration includes a potluck dinner. Comunidad will supply the main dish. Please bring a food item to share. There will be several festive rounds of Loteria. Any "white elephant" gifts you can't wait to get rid of will be accepted. Loteria cards are \$1 per card.

Jay Schmidt's Memorial Mass

It was Jay's request to have his memorial Mass in conjunction with a Comunidad meeting. As it was elaborated in last month newsletter, Comunidad had a special place in Jay's heart. The Mass will begin at 6:15 pm. Fr. Jack Stoeger will preside. After the Mass we will have our Comunidad meeting. All are welcome to share our potluck and join in the activities.

Annual Appeal

Our Annual Appeal fundraiser continues. The Appeal is very important to us, since your tax-deductible donation is our only source of revenue. The money is used to continue our ministry to Gay and Lesbian Catholics. In addition to holding monthly meetings our other activities include a spiritual retreat, AIDS walk, Long Beach Pride booth and the Parish festival.

Economic times are challenging. Please consider donating to Comunidad. No amount is too small. Thank you.

Long Beach AIDS Walk

The 22nd Long Beach AIDS walk will take

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place on June 5. Every 9½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. We can stop HIV infection with your help. Comunidad will be collecting donations after all the Masses from May 8th through May 30th to support St. Matthew's Aids Walk team.

Ecumenical Potluck BBQ

The 8th annual Ecumenical BBQ, a gathering of the Episcopal and Catholic Ministries to Gays and Lesbians is scheduled for May 29th, 11am to 5pm. Steven and Jim will provide burgers,

sausages, hot dogs and drinks. RSVP to Steven at (714)536-5172 or Jim at (714)614-1468 by May 26th.

Beach Mass

On June 27th at 12:30 pm join us for a Comunidad-sponsored Beach Mass. The celebrant will be Fr. Will Conners. The Mass will be held on the beach across the street from 5231 E. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach. Remember to bring a beach chair. After the Mass there will be a potluck. Anna will provide hamburgers and sausage. Please bring a dish to share.

Why a Pride Booth?

Why does Comunidad sponsor the **"Welcome Home Catholics"** booth at Long Beach Gay Pride Festival?

Comunidad feels obligated to minister to the LGBTQ community, their Families & Friends who have been driven out of the Catholic Church by a homophobic sermon or congregation or something they heard from Rome or a local bishop. Some have been so deeply hurt and wounded that they have not only turned against Church but they have turned against God. They actually say, "If God hates me (my child, my friend), then I hate God." These people do not want to risk being hurt again. Others ask, "Why should I remain in a dysfunctional relationship with a dysfunctional church?" Difficult as those statements and questions are to hear, it is important to hear them. The mere presence of our booth at the Pride festival may help them to begin to question their perceptions.

There are those within our faith community who are concerned that Comunidad is seen as supportive of the so-called "gay lifestyle." They insinuate that Comunidad condones a "hedonist lifestyle" of an over-indulgence in booze, drugs and promiscuous sex. Curiously, that may be called more accurately the "hetero-lifestyle" since there are so many more heterosexual bars, drug addicts and brothels. It is our purpose to call people away from a hedonist lifestyle and into the Light of Christ. Jesus brought his light to the prostitutes, tax collectors, and even the Samaritans as well as some Gentiles. So we need to go where

people who need it will see the Light of Christ.

All it takes is just a few minutes at the Comunidad booth to realize we are not merely a presence, a source of information and hope, but we actually minister to people who have been told repeatedly God does not love them. We provide comfort to the afflicted, to the misinformed. We have witnessed people who return to the Church because they found us at the Pride event.

Young adults stop going to church and face many influences. At Pride events, we invite them back. We direct them to a welcoming community where they can cultivate their Faith – as adults instead of as the children they used to be.

We need to have faith communities which are truly welcoming, and willing to work with people who need to rediscover and reconnect to their spiritual side after (perhaps) indulging their carnal side.

"Why do we have a booth for Roman Catholics at Pride events?" It all comes down to spreading the good news. If we don't reach out to the people who attend Pride, who will? Don't we want to offer a positive option? Christ commanded it. In addition to Luke 15:4 (about the lost sheep), Matthew 22:9: tells us to "Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find." Let's do it!

Come visit us at our "Welcome Home Catholics" booth. If you have time, spend an hour or two ministering to our sisters and brothers.