



comunidad

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

JUNE 1st
GAY, CATHOLIC & PROUD

JUNE 5th
LONG BEACH AIDS WALK

JUNE 12th
WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

JUNE 27th
BEACH MASS
4th Sunday Brunch is cancelled

JULY 6th
HOMOSEXUALITY in SCRIPTURE (a Movie)

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
CHAIR@COMUNIDADLB.ORG

Our June Gathering

Gay, Catholic & Proud

Is it a contradiction to be gay, Catholic and proud? Do we have to abandon our Catholic faith to find a place to worship? In our baptism we were born as full members of the Body of Christ. Unlike Esau we do not intend to surrender our birthright. No one can deny us our birthright. It is Comunidad's mission to nurture gay and lesbians in their Catholic faith. Fr. Gerry McNulty will lead our discussion as we explore being gay, Catholic and proud.

Long Beach AIDS Walk

The 22nd Long Beach AIDS walk will take 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.

Women's Health Conference

The American Cancer Society and St. Mary Medical Center present the 4th Annual Women's Health Forum with a focus on lesbian health and cancer issues. The event will be held from 9 a.m. – Noon on Saturday, June 12th at St. Mary Medical Center Health Enhancement Center, 1055 Linden Avenue in Long Beach. Call 1-888-4STMARY for more information.

Beach Mass

On June 27th at 12:30 pm join us for a Comunidad-sponsored Beach Mass. The celebrant will be Fr. Will Connor. The Mass will be held on the beach across the street from 5231 E. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach. Remember to

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bring a beach chair. After the Mass there will be a potluck. Anna will provide hamburgers and sausage. Please bring a dish to share. **Because of the Beach Mass the 4th Sunday Brunch will not be held in June.**

Annual Retreat

Our annual retreat will be held at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside on Oct 8th – Oct 10th. Our retreat director will be Fr. Chris Bazyouros. Fr. Chris is pastor of St. Albert the Great Church in Compton It is a time put aside our day-to-day activities and commune with God. The retreat details will be in future newsletters.

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.

Please consider donating to Comunidad. No amount is too small. Thank you.

Our Brothers in Africa

From the pages of the Los Angeles Times. In Malawi South Africa, Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza were arrested the day after they celebrated their engagement. A judge sentenced the couple to 14 years hard labor under Malawi's anti-gay law. This case has drawn international condemnation. Please pray for them and the civil rights of all gay and lesbian in South Africa.

Excuse Me, Eminence

Anna, Comunidad member at large

It was an astonishing statement! The Vatican's second-highest authority, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, stated the sex scandals haunting the Roman Catholic Church are linked to homosexuality and not celibacy. The Cardinal made this statement at a news conference on Monday, April 12, 2010. "Many others have demonstrated, I have been told recently, there is a relation between homosexuality and pedophilia. That is true," said Bertone. "That is the problem." The Cardinal said this in order to refute a different argument that celibacy is the cause of child pedophilia. How are we as Lesbian and Gay Catholics able to defend ourselves against such an untrue and unproven statement?

Members of disliked minority groups are often stereotyped as representing a danger to the majority's most vulnerable members. For instance, Jew of the Middle Ages were accused of murdering Christian babies in ritual sacrifices and black men in the United States of raping white women. In recent years, antigay activists have routinely asserted that gay people are child molesters.

The research to date all points to there being no significant relationship between a homosexual lifestyle and child molestation. In reviewing the literature, "there appears to be practically no reportage of sexual molestation of girls by lesbian adults and the adult male who

sexually molests young boys in not likely to be homosexual," noted authority Dr. A. Nicholas Groth. In another review of the literature, Dr. Nathan McConaghy similarly cautioned against confusing homosexuality with pedophilia. He noted, "The man who offends against prepubertal or immediately postpubertal boys is typically not sexually interested in older men or women."

A most famous study by Dr. Carole Jenny and her colleagues failed to find a connection with homosexuality and child molestation. Reviewing 352 medical charts of sexually abused children, the molester was a gay or lesbian adult in fewer than 1% of the cases in which an adult molester could be identified—that is only 2 of the 269 cases. Jenny in a 1994 publication in Pediatrics noted that debates about gay people as molesters "have little to do with everyday child abuse" and lamented that they distract lawmakers and the public from dealing with the real problem of children's sexual mistreatment.

As lesbian and gay Catholics, it behooves all of us to protest strongly when members of the church, whether they are clergy or not, attempt, to distract from the real issue of clergy sexual abuse and its ensuing cover up. Gays and lesbians should not become the scapegoat for the institutional church's indefensible behavior.