



comunidad

Ministry for Lesbian and Gay Catholics

July 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

JULY 6th
HOMOSEXUALITY in SCRIPTURE (a Movie)

JULY 25th
FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

JULY 28th
BIG BAND AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

AUGUST 3rd
Fr. Chris Bazyouros

OCTOBER 5th
SPIRITUAL PATHS and METHODS of PRAYER

OCTOBER 8th-OCTOBER 10th
ANNUAL RETREAT

NOVEMBER 2nd
PRAYER SERVICE for ALL SOULS

DECEMBER 7th
GAYS in the MILITARY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND BLOG AT
WWW.COMUNIDADLB.ORG

CONTACT US AT:
COMUNIDAD@COMUNIDADLB.ORG
CHAIR@COMUNIDADLB.ORG

Our July Gathering

What the Bible really says about Homosexuality

Do you feel like a "fish out of water" when listening to discussions of Scripture and Homosexuality? Come to our July meeting and see a clear, straightforward, yet instructive documentary on this topic. From the International Movie Database: "This feature documentary uses humor and original animation to make a traditionally complex and controversial topic accessible to those who don't like talking about religion and sexuality."

Comunidad at the Bowl

Comunidad will be selling tickets at the July meeting for the July 28th jazz concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Featured will be the Count Basie Orchestra, the Dave Holland Big Band, and Dave Douglas Big Band. Join us for an evening of music and fun.

Long Beach AIDS Walk

Thanks to the generosity of St. Matthew's parishioners, our AIDS walk appeal was a huge success. A total of \$2,500 was contributed.

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.

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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.

What God Has Made Clean

Dr. James Forbes is the pastor emeritus of New York City's Riverside Church. Riverside Church was one to the earliest affirming churches. Dr. Forbes' inspiring book, "Whose Gospel?", was published earlier this year. The foreword to the book was written by Bill Moyers. Moyers cited a question he posed to Dr. Forbes. The question and answer have great relevance to Comunidad's July meeting.

The question was: "Many Conservative Christians believe the Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin. You take the opposite position. Do you have anything in common with those people on the other side of that theological divide?"

The answer was: "Yes, the first thing I have in common is that when a person who is homophobic speaks to me I understand it because I was, too. And the second thing is that they want to please God and I do, too. So we are moving together. For example, I tell the congregation about some parents I knew who had no place in their hearts for gay kids until

they discovered one of their own children to be gay. The mother immediately announced, 'This is my child. Don't anybody go messing over my child.' The Creator had to know that among humanity there would be some gay people and some straight people and some people in-between, and the God who is revealed to me by Jesus seems to prefer that special attention be given to the child who is different, especially if the difference had occasioned rejection, humiliation, and ostracism."

What side of the theological divide are you on? It is time to pray and meditate. It is time to put away your preconceived notions and open yourself to what the Bible really says about homosexuality. Recall Peter's dream in the Acts 10. Three times Peter was commanded to eat animals which were considered common and unclean. Each time Peter refused. After each episode, a voice said: "Do not call what God has cleaned unclean." Peter was slow to understand.