



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

AUGUST 3rd

Fr. Chris Bazyouros

AUGUST 22th

FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

AUGUST 26th

OUT-AT-THE-MOVIES at the ART THEATER

SEPTEMBER 7th

MARIE CARTIER – GAY BAR as CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 25th

SOUND of MUSIC SING-A-LONG at the BOWL

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 August Gathering

Ordinary Time?

The Church is currently in the liturgical cycle called Ordinary Time. Each Sunday is numbered as a Sunday of Ordinary Time. For example, next Sunday is the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time. What makes time ordinary? Come to our August meeting. Fr. Chris Bazyouros, our retreat director, will enlighten us on how God makes ordinary time extraordinary.

Annual Retreat

Be Unchained; Be Healed

Can you walk the walk? As baptized Catholics and Christians we are called to become Christ-like. We are heirs to and members of Christ's Body. Though we may feel alienated from it, we are part of the family. God's word is not chained.

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. A retreat is a time to put aside our day-to-day activities and walk with God. See enclosed flyer.

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Comunidad at the Bowl 2

Comunidad is planning another night at the Hollywood Bowl. Ed Short has purchased tickets for the Sing-A-Long "Sound of Music", Saturday night Sept. 25th. Tickets are \$21. Contact Ed at (714)527-3169 for tickets, details, information, and transportation. Tickets are limited. Join us for an evening of fun.

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Out at the Movies

"Out At the Movies" is a monthly film screening event in Long Beach that benefits those touched by HIV/AIDS and Breast Cancer. The mission is to educate about important health issues while amusing and delighting the senses with finely made movies geared toward the GLBT community.

The evening of great films and live entertainment is every last Thursday of the month at 9:00 PM at the beautifully restored Art Theatre.

Admission to the event is \$10 per person as well as full availability of theatre concessions for purchase including beer, wine and champagne for those over 21 years of age. The evening includes full length feature films courtesy of

HereMedia and live entertainment beforehand.

Upcoming event dates are July 29th, August 26th, September 30th and October 28th.

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.

Why Retreat?

Steven Nadolny, Retreat Coordinator

Why do a retreat? Let's be honest, at least for many of us life is just too busy. We have many distractions: relationships, family obligations, TV, church, sports, the Internet, school, etc. Even work gets in the way! And I know people in retirement who are even busier now than when they were working. But a retreat is "a special period of (personal or) group withdrawal to a place of seclusion for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life of participants through such means as prayer, meditation, study, and instruction under a director" (Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1971, p. 1940). Our Comunidad retreats -- and we're up to no. 19 -- have included those elements and more: singings, some artistic expression, healing rituals, relax time and just some social fun.

And most of us would at least like to claim that our faith and relationship with God is important. Often we may try to sneak in a prayer in the morning, at night or before meals. I do it brushing my teeth, while I'm in the shower or exercising. But as anyone who's been in a good relationship will attest: relationships take time, energy and work. Often we put special time and effort into them.

So "Why Retreat?" Think of it as a spiritual

vacation -- a time to get away with God and some of your spiritual community. Sometimes our lives can seem isolated. On retreat we can often meet and share with others with whom we share some of our experience, (e.g. lesbian or gay and Catholic). We can get to know about the spiritual journey of others like ourselves. There's camaraderie in our shared life and faith experiences. We learn from each other. And hopefully become more open to hearing, seeing and experiencing God in our lives. -- Because isn't that what being Catholic is all about: loving and deepening our relationship with God? It's a journey. And one that we're not expected to take alone.

A retreat can be a time to re-group, re-energize and center our spiritual lives, and check the direction you're headed in. Many religious do a week long retreat annually. -- Don't you say that you want to spend eternity with God? Why not start with a weekend!

P.S. As extra incentives: This year we will be returning to Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. We were last there in 2002. And we will be sharing retreat center with Excel in Southland -- another group of lesbian and gay Christians!