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the newsletter of the **Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry**

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### **New Logo and Website**

Hello Members! If there is any one constant, it is change! As we move toward our next phase of development as an Association, our logo identity and website need revision. LGBTQ persons, their families and friends know something about identity and image. Individually, we have some ability to control how we are perceived in the world. What a person wears makes a statement. Many of us have reinvented who we are. A spiffy new outfit may change how we look or feel, but essentially we retain the same values and heart. That is how we think about these revisions: different appearance, but still true and perhaps clearer as to who we are. Below are the objectives we endeavored to accomplish through these external changes.

#### **The Logo Update:**

- makes clear that we are Catholic LGBTQ-positive
- shows we are pluralistic in our approach to Catholic Church teaching
- presents cohesive appearance among our printed materials and website
- keeps us aware of our focus on "setting the table"

#### **The Website Revamp:**

- is easier to navigate with its more specific tabs
- streamlines information

We trust that our refreshing "facelift" of logo and website more accurately reflects, clarifies and supports our Association's identity and those whom we serve.

#### **MAKING OUR MINISTRIES KNOWN**

As we continue our focus on all our youth, we encourage local members and ministries to get to know the resources in your area and to make your ministries known to other local groups. A good way to begin is to visit the website of the GSA Network: [www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org). This is a national network of Gay-Straight Alliances, coordinated by young people who are concerned about issues like bullying in schools, youth suicide, and building community and mutual respect for all persons. From this site, you can click on your home state and find local groups and resources. As those of us in ministry know all too well, what young people often desperately hunger for but are unable to find is a parish or faith community where they feel welcome and able to honestly and openly ask the questions that are deepest in their hearts. If your local GSA's are unaware of your ministry, e-

mail them and ask them to post your information, brochure, or meeting times on their resource pages. You may be just what some young person of faith is looking for. If the only welcome a young person receives is in a secular setting, can we blame him or her from walking away? Christ is eager to reach out a loving, healing hand. You can be that hand! Let us know what happens... —  
*Sheila Nelson*

### **WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, "I thank my God whenever I think of you; and when I pray for you, my prayers are always joyful, because of the part you have taken in the work of the Gospel from the first day until now. Of one thing I am certain: the One who started the good work in you will bring it to completion by the Day of Christ Jesus (1:3-6)." How appropriate these words are as we extend our appreciation to Le Martin of Memphis and Michael Zampelli of Santa Clara, CA, as they leave the CALGM Board. They have each given so generously of themselves to the Board and to the Association, and those of us who have had the privilege of serving on the Board with them have found them to be true friends, wonderful companions on our journey, sources of wisdom and inspiration.

Le Martin joined the Board in 2009 and has chosen to retire at the end of her three-year term. One just doesn't find a more positive and generous spirit than the Board found in Le. No task was too tedious, too great or too small for Le.

She was willing to step forward and do whatever was needed. For the past two years, she has served as Board Vice-President—and she has been a great support to me as President. You, too, have all benefitted from the countless hours she has put into editing the RECLAIM. Le is an incarnation of Southern Hospitality; the Board has never been treated so well as when Le and the Memphis Ministry hosted our Board Meetings in January 2010 and again in May 2012. (We couldn't resist one more meeting there while Le was still on the Board.) When things got challenging, Le's warmth, practical wisdom, and generous spirit helped carry us through. She will be very much missed.

Michael Zampelli, SJ, joined the Board in 2008 and was immediately elected Treasurer of the Board, a position for which he claims he was uniquely *not qualified*. But the work needed to be done, and Michael stepped up to the plate with grace and a sense of humor that proved to be a lifeline for the organization. Little did he know how many challenges lay ahead; reliance on volunteers had meant that some important things had fallen through the cracks—like tax forms and our corporate status as a charitable organization. Michael adeptly ushered us successfully through a series of crises—and his theater background came in handy as he relayed our challenges with great humor, keeping us not only solvent but laughing. Just as important, Michael is a man of great wisdom; when we struggled with too many ideas or lacked



realized the ill partner was another woman. This was a watershed moment, for the priest, in his viewpoint of pastoral care. He realized that not only straight people, but all people suffer the same pains of family illness and distress. Sexual orientation matters not. The priest said his viewpoint was forever changed.

The two women in this story, Kat and Karen, celebrate their anniversary every year with a cake after the 11 am mass at their church. They have been together 34 years.

In the understanding environment in which the couple lives, the local deanery has a vital lesbian, bisexual, transgender and families ministry. In one southern city, it is a priest's story of emotional migration.

The ministry members agree that simply being visible, talking with people, and getting invitations to speak is the best mind-changing strategy.

—*Jeep Ries*

## **ACCEPTANCE**

In 2002, Caitlin Ryan, Ph.D., ACSW, directed a study on the mental health of LGBTQ young adults, the results of which are applicable to today's LGBT youth. Below is the description of the study taken directly from the Family Acceptance Project website, [familyproject.sfsu.edu](http://familyproject.sfsu.edu)

**Issue:** The role of family acceptance as a protective factor for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adolescents and young adults has not been established.

**Methods:** A quantitative measure with items derived from prior qualitative work retrospectively assessed family accepting behaviors in response to LGBT adolescents' sexual orientation and gender expression and their relationship to mental health, substance abuse, and sexual risk in young adults. 245 young adults were surveyed.

**Findings:** Family acceptance predicts greater self-esteem, social support, and general health status; it also protects against depression, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation and behaviors.

**Conclusions:** Family acceptance of LGBT adolescents is associated with positive young adult mental and physical health. Interventions that promote parental and caregiver acceptance of LGBT adolescents are needed to reduce health disparities.

Suppose every helping professional in your world was familiar with this study. It might not change moral judgments but it could very well impact how families respond to their LGBTQ youth. —*Le Martin*

## **LISTENING IN MEMPHIS**

Last May, the CALGM board members met in Memphis. The grace of southern hospitality welcomed us. The local Memphis ministry feted us with an abundant potluck feast.

The board's intention is to have listening sessions in the years between conferences. It was decided to have a listening session while we had so many local ministry members present. We had some questions as conversation starters.

***How do you make your group visible?***

We wear T-shirts that identify who we are. Some members have been asked to speak in schools about growing up in the Catholic education system. We sit together at our parish churches. We bring brochures and ribbons to Call To Action functions, Pax Christi, and adult Faith Formation. Our brochures are in some parish literature racks. The Cathedral Parish Lent and Advent study groups have a designated lgbt group. Our meetings are often listed in the events section of the diocesan newspaper.

***What does your group do?***

We have monthly potluck suppers, followed by prayer and a short program. Attendees include non-Catholics, p-flag members, lgbt persons, their families, friends and allies. Our meetings are held in Cathedral facilities. Sometimes the e-invitation includes requests for supplies or groceries needed in the local GLBT community center or another social service organization. The Cathedral parish has a day of service. We volunteer to go as a group on one of the scheduled projects. We also hold an annual day long Saturday retreat.

***How do you relate to your Bishop?***

We invite the Bishop to our retreat and ask him to celebrate mass. He has done this for the two retreats we have had. We report to him the number of Catholics, in the group, who participate in various ministries in their parishes. We let him know what the group has

done throughout the year and our plans for speakers and activities for the coming year.

***What do you do for June PRIDE?***

We march with P-Flag and we have our own booth. We distribute flyers telling about our potluck and the Cathedral mass schedules.

***How is your organization funded?***

The diocese gives us a small annual budget. Individual donations fund the retreat and contribute to the local Gay and Lesbian community center.

The director of the local GLBT community center also talked to the board and others present. We will save his assessment of GLBT issues in Memphis for another date.

Please consider asking board members to come to your area for a listening session. Then we could share with CALGM members what is going on in your ministry.

***COME TO MINNESOTA FOR A CALGM RETREAT***

CALGM is sponsoring a retreat on the weekend of October 5-7, 2012, at St. John's Abbey Guesthouse in Collegeville, MN. The theme of the retreat is our CALGM theme for 2011-2013: "Setting the Table for All Youth: Yours, Mine, Ours." We are going to use two films for the main input of the retreat, reflecting on how those films can inform the way we work with youth who are struggling with issues of faith and sexuality.

The first film is "Walking Across Egypt," starring Ellen Burstyn and Jonathan Taylor Thomas. Thomas plays

a young man who's gotten in trouble with the law and Burstyn plays an elderly woman who takes him into her home to help him.

The second film is "Joyful Noise," starring Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah. The two women inherit the leadership of their church's gospel choir and are challenged to rethink how they do things in order to include some very talented young people who don't see things the way the elders do.

On Saturday afternoon, we will host a regional CALGM Listening Session for Board Members to hear from retreat attendees as to ways CALGM can assist them in their local ministries with LGBT Catholics and their families. The afternoon will conclude with the CALGM Annual Membership Meeting, beginning at 4 p.m. The cost of the retreat is \$175 for a single room and \$280 for a double room. Meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch are included. (After Sept. 15, the cost rises to \$190 and \$320 respectively.)

To register, go to our website at [www.calgm.org](http://www.calgm.org) and print the registration form. Fill it out and send it in with your payment to the address on the form. We look forward to seeing you in Collegeville in early October. By the way, the autumn foliage will be at its peak. You don't want to miss this retreat! —Fr. Bob Pierson

## **CALGM RETREAT AGENDA**

### **Friday, October 5, 2012**

4-6 pm Arrive at the abbey guesthouse

6-7 pm Dinner in the guesthouse

7-9 pm Movie "Walking Across Egypt" in the Conference Room 105

### **Saturday, October 6, 2012**

6:30-8:30 am--Continental Breakfast

9 am-11 am--Small group / large group discussion reflecting on "Walking Across Egypt" in Conference Room 105

11:30 am—Mass with the monastic community in the Abbey Church

Noon-1 pm—Lunch in Guesthouse

2-4 pm—Regional CALGM Listening Session for Board Members to hear local ministries' concerns in Room 105

4 pm CALGM Annual Membership Meeting in Conference Room 105

6-7 pm—Dinner in the guesthouse

7-9 pm— Movie "Joyful Noise" in Conference Room 105

### **Sunday, October 7, 2012**

6:30-8:30 am—Continental Breakfast

9 to 10:15 am—Closing Session/Ritual

10:30 am—Eucharist in Abbey Church

11:30 am--1 pm—Lunch in guesthouse

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR RETREAT  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Registration Form for Retreat**  
*Space is limited. Please register early.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to register for:

\_\_\_ Single room for the weekend  
Cost: \$175 (after 9/15/10--\$190)

\_\_\_ Double room for the weekend  
Cost: \$250 (after 9/15/10--\$320)

**Please detach and mail this page of the form to:**

Fr. Bob Pierson, OSB, Guestmaster  
St. John's Abbey  
PO Box 2015  
Collegeville, MN 56321-2015

Or contact him with this information by phone at (320) 363-3929 or  
by e-mail at [rpierson@csbsju.edu](mailto:rpierson@csbsju.edu)

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Because space is limited for overnight accommodations, requests for rooms will be honored on a first come/first served basis. If we are not able to house you in the abbey guesthouse, we will provide you with a list of other accommodations that are available in the area, and adjust your registration fee accordingly.

The Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry (CALGM) is an association of diocesan, parish and campus-based ministries and those involved in these ministries. CALGM reflects the Catholic Church's commitment to pastoral concern and support for lesbian and gay Catholics, their parents, families and friends. These ministries, under the leadership of bishops, pastors and other pastoral leaders, seek to apply Church teachings regarding the integration of sexuality and spirituality<sup>1</sup> and the recognition of the dignity, respect and inclusion of gay and lesbian persons in the life and mission of the Church.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1994)

<sup>2</sup>"Homosexuals, like everyone else, should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights. They have a right to respect, friendship and justice. They should have an active role in the Christian community." (*Live in Christ Jesus*, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1976)

Sponsored by the  
Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry  
Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse, Collegeville, Minnesota

**Friday, October 5 to  
Sunday, October 7, 2012**