

**Come Alive
Don't
Suffocate
in
Spiritual
Closets**

**Read About:
A Faith Worth Believing In ...
A Church Worth Belonging To ...**

Church of the Beloved Disciple

Gay Spiritual Strength

Are you a gay man or lesbian who has left the church? Or, are you spiritually disillusioned by your present church? Gay people in the United States are finding that gay men and lesbians are growing more and more reluctant to defend their spiritual lives as gay Christians. Many are becoming almost apologetic for being Christians, rather than witnessing to the unique character and gift of their gay sexuality, their gay personalities.

It's time to turn this attitude around. It's time to witness to the unique God-given gift of gay sexuality as a part of our gay life, and to everyone else's sexuality as a positive, God-given, part of their life. If you have left a church, or are unhappy in a church that does not have an open, intelligent, understanding of you as a person; consider finding out answers from a church that rightly considers you a whole human being. A church that says God's loving message of care and assurance is for you. A church that can say to you "a faith worth believing in — a church worth belonging to."

Whether society or churches pushed them out or cast them down, a great number of gay Christians are seen to cling to the apron strings of

***Editors Note:** *This pamphlet is not meant as criticism of church-oriented Gay organizations working for change from within their respective churches. But it is a positive message to all those who remain fully members of the institutional churches, and are unhappy therein.*

institutional churches and so continue to suffocate in spiritual closets or else kick off religion altogether branding it as superstitious nonsense or a cop-out. This is all a shame, true, gays are just like other people, but they are also different as all people are different. Unhappily, some gay men and lesbians accept a position of token tolerance in traditional churches because of the social advantage to membership therein, because this seeming advantage outweighs the value of being who they are and the chance to recognize their gay spirituality.

All too often, gay self-doubt creates an acceptance of second-class citizenship in a church.

There are no second-class citizens in God's House. At Beloved Disciple we are willing to prove this to you; if you are hurt, confused, or in any way distressed or annoyed with religion or established churches, we are ready to help with informed, intelligent answers, that can lead to a personally fulfilling faith — adult answers as to how you can live a positive, God-filled, love inspired Gay life. A life that can be lived with conviction and hope! We have the place, we have the teachers, we have the desire to help you become yourself — that wonderful person you can be: a Gay Christian.

Can there be any argument against the need for genuine teachers and clergy to understand and respect the culture and spirituality of gays? Will such teachers and clergy be found within the institutional churches that teach, at best, being "Gay is O.K." so long as you don't celebrate being gay or a gay Christian. An attitude of sup-

posed concern for the spiritual well-being of all men and women that is either totally ignorant of gay spirituality as a special grace of God, or does not care to hear it mentioned. Attitudes that choose to make gay men and lesbians "invisible men and women," because they choose not to see within them any spirituality.

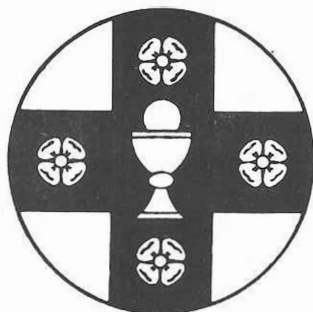
American Christianity is going through a period of vast and accelerating change. Let those who are gay not be swept away by these changes in the institutional churches. Let us not "throw out the baby with the bath water." It is time for us to stand up for spiritual strength and theological assurance. The world needs witness from us who are gay to defend and prove that our gay spirituality is compatible with, and part of the whole Divine Plan of God.

Being a gay man or lesbian and experiencing the fullness of this way of life, is either a sin or it is not. If such is not a sin as taught by institutional churches then it is a doctrinal and theological error to brand gays as sinners because of their homosexuality — something they did not create but received from God for their part in the development of all humanity within the Divine Plan.

Should I leave...? Where should I go...? Asks the Gay Christian. The answer is not far away. Go to where the truth is taught and practiced; where you may enter and worship as yourself without an apology and without fear of reproach. Go where the truth and spirit of God resides, that respects the life, love and spirit of gay men and lesbians. A religious home that assures you of your place in the family of God as a Gay Chris-

tian. For those of Catholic-Sacramental tradition there is the Church of the Beloved Disciple (Eucharistic Catholic). For the Protestant oriented gay there is Metropolitan Community Church and in the South the Orthodox Catholic Church of America. Some may say they are small and perhaps worship in rented quarters; but if such gay persons would give their support and allegiance to their own churches — the Gay oriented churches — and give the same moral and financial support that is given to other churches the potential is unlimited for positive change in their own lives, the lives of their brothers and sisters, and the beginning of positive change for good in all the world. The adventure of the longest trip is to take the first step.

**THINK ABOUT IT?
YOU CAN COME ALIVE!**



**CHURCH OF THE BELOVED
DISCIPLE
(Eucharistic Catholic)
Founded 1946**

**The Catholic Church
for the
Gay Community**

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Archbishop of New York
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**Most Rev. John Noble, D.D.,
Bishop Coadjutor**

**Rev. Father Philip R. Clement,
Chancellor**

SUNDAY MASSES

12:00 P.M. Mass

7:00 P.M. Mass

Coffee Hours follow each Mass

**A Faith Worth Believing In ...
A Churching Worth Belonging To ...
You Can Believe It ...**