
Friends of the CAC

A Newsletter of the
Center for Action
and Contemplation

Bulletin



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“Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.”

—Francis of Assisi

A Day For All of Us: A Personal Reflection on Gay Pride Day

By Ellen Grigsby

On June 9, at noon, on Central Avenue at the intersection of Richmond Avenue, Albuquerque's 25th annual Gay Pride Parade will begin. Participants will proceed to the Fair Grounds announcing this year's theme "Embrace Diversity."

Like parades generally, this one promises to be an occasion for spirited celebration, and I will cherish it all the more for those few short afternoon hours because I know how different most of life is from the stuff of parades. Especially gay pride parades.

Most lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) people and our families live and die in closets. Most public discussions of families and family values/needs silence us out of existence, as though we have no families, as though we are not families. Most churches teach that our sexuality/sexual identity/gender identity are inferior and sinful. Indeed, it was not until 1999 that even 50 percent of the people in this country had decided that our "lifestyle" was "acceptable."

So, every year, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people march together down Central Avenue in support of lgbt civil rights. For me, it is a sign of God's transforming and liberating grace that we can come together in spite of all the hurt and history that would divide us. It is like a glimpse of the kingdom in our midst whenever we receive and share with others, even for a short time, healing beyond the brokenness. On Gay Pride day, for instance, I can almost believe the time is near when no lgbt child will ever again hear that her/his sexuality/gender identity is not God's gift. It is nothing less than a day of proclaiming faith in miracles.

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I believe Gay Pride day is a day for all of us. It is a time when all equality-minded people can be unequivocal and public in standing with us in our struggle. It is a time when the lgbt community can acknowledge and appreciate the many supporters we have. In a theological sense, I believe it can serve as a day for all of us to show each other that we all need each other if we are to embody more fully the life of the Spirit. It can be a day of saying we believe in a God who finds no person's dignity disposable.

The Gospel of John tells us it was the prayer of Jesus "that they may all be one" (17: 24). Please join us on June 9. We need you. If you wish to march or ride in the parade with other faith community members and/or friends of the CAC, please email egrigsby@unm.edu or call 266-7840 to find out our parade number/starting location.

See also the summary at Gallup Poll Topics A-Z: Homosexual Relations, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indhomosexual.asp>.

Liturgies and Bible Study

"So I learned that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw with certainty in all things, that before God created us, God loved us, and that love never diminishes nor ever shall. In this love have all his works been accomplished, and in this love our life is everlasting."

-Julian of Norwich

Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at the CAC at 7:00 pm. Fr. Richard Rohr will preside and share information and insights on the spirituality of Julian of Norwich, whose feast day it is. Julian is one of Richard's favorites and the liturgy will center around her journey and message.

Tuesday, June 19, 2001 at Tepeyac Guest House at 6:00 pm (1705 Five Points Rd. SW, one-half mile south of the CAC). Bring a vegetarian dish to share for this potluck and community-led liturgy. The beautiful Tepeyac gardens will be a perfect setting for this liturgy about ecology.

The date and time for the July liturgy have not yet been determined, but it will occur during the Women's Journey Into Justice conference (July 3—5, 2001).

The Bible Studies series is drawing to a close for the summer. The last class is May 9.
