

CAC on the Move

Center for Action and Contemplation Joins Albuquerque's Gay Pride March

On June 9, 2001 Albuquerque's 25th annual Gay Pride Parade marched down Central Avenue. A number of the participants were bizarrely costumed, sporting neon colored "fright wigs" and enormous cone shaped bosoms. The Gay/Pagan community was represented by SWEFA (the South West Earth Festival Association) and its affiliate CASHEW, marching behind a banner with a pentagram logo and the motto "Pagan Pride." Other pagans carried signs reading: "We all come from the Goddess,"



and "Magic is Afoot."

Also joining the parade was the Center for Action and Contemplation, an organization founded by Fr. Richard Rohr and situated on the property of Holy Family parish. Its group walked behind a self-identifying banner, so there was no mistaking the CAC presence or its support of the Gay Pride movement.

The May/June 2001 *Friends of the CAC*, a Newsletter of the Center for Action and Contemplation, published an article about the parade, titled "A Day for All of Us: A Personal Reflection on Gay Pride Day," by Ellen Grigsby. Grigsby writes: "Most lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) people and our families live and die in closets. Most public discussion 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 (sic) 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....On Gay Pride day (sic), 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....Gay pride day (sic) is a day for all of us." ❖

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