

## Additional Resources:

- Catholic Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons
  - <http://www.cmlgp.org/>
  - [info@cmlgp.org](mailto:info@cmlgp.org)
- Fortunate Families (National Ministry)
  - <https://fortunatefamilies.com/>
- *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity* (2017) by James Martin, SJ
  
- Family Acceptance Project™, San Francisco State University
  - <https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>
- The Trevor Project
  - **24/7 Crisis & Suicide Prevention Hotline: (866) 488-7386**
  - [thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org)
- American Psychological Association
  - <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/index.aspx>
  
- Church documents:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/homosexuality/index.cfm>
  - “Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers” (1997)
  - “Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care” (2006)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §2357-2359



CMLGP

Catholic Ministry with  
Lesbian & Gay Persons

# A GUIDE TO FORMING A CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN MINISTRY IN YOUR PARISH

### Step 1: Identify the needs in your Parish Community

- 1.1 Are there LGBTQ+ individuals in your Parish Community? Have others expressed interest in belonging to or forming a Ministry for LGBTQ+ individuals, for their parents, and/or allies?
- 1.2 If so, ask if they would like to partner with you in forming this Ministry and ask if they would be willing to share their stories with the Pastor or Parish Life Director (PLD).

### Step 2: Reach out to CMLGP (Catholic Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons) or similar ministries in your area

- 2.1 CMLGP can provide you with insights and advice on forming your own Ministry. We are also happy to support your efforts with resources, panels, and workshops.
- 2.2 Please see our contact information at the end of this brochure.

### Step 3: Prepare for your meeting with your Pastor or PLD

- 3.1 Develop a presentation with your team. Tailor it to the unique needs of your Parish, considering the context of your community (language, culture, etc.). In your planning meeting, discuss: Why is this Ministry needed? How can it benefit the Parish and individuals? How have similar Ministries helped in other Parishes?
- 3.2 Presentation outline example:
  - Testimony from LGBTQ+ individuals and/or their parents and families. (Find Parishioners who are willing to share.)
  - Explain the need for such a Ministry and its potential benefits.
  - Ask about the possibility of forming a Ministry in your Parish. Share your vision of what your Ministry will look like, example: a listening Ministry or an active Ministry to integrate members into the life of the Parish.
  - Allow time for Pastor's/PLD's questions.
  - Set up a follow-up meeting if needed.
- 3.3 Prepare resources that would be helpful to your Pastor/PLD, such as USCCB documents, books, articles, etc. See the resource list at the end of this guide.

LGBTQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, & more...

### Step 4: Meet with your Pastor or PLD

- 4.1 Set up your meeting with your Pastor or Parish Life Director
- 4.2 Don't go alone! We recommend others who are interested in forming this Ministry also attend.
- 4.3 Share your stories and your presentation.
- 4.4 If your Parish has a Parish Council, will they need to be included in this decision?

### Step 5: What happens now?

Pastor  
says YES!

Community  
says YES!

#### Let's get started! Things to consider:

- Who is your target demographic?
- Where will you meet? How often?
- Ministry name
- Mission Statement & Goals
- Leadership
- Kick-off event
- Advertisements & announcements

#### Pastor says no.

- Lack of Pastor's support is a common challenge. Not having the Pastor's support can be detrimental to the success of the Ministry overall. Continue sharing your stories with your Pastor(s) of what it means to have this Ministry in the Parish.

#### Pastor says yes, but Parish Community says no.

- It will be difficult to have a Ministry within a hostile community. Involve your Pastor & other Priests in leading the efforts to create support for the Ministry.
- Get involved in the community. Make connections with other Ministries (they can be valuable allies & you can provide resources for their members). Plan activities & participate in Parish events. Educate the community by hosting panels or workshops on LGBTQ+ identity, doctrine, or the importance of Pastoral Care.

*If there is still no support, perhaps consider a neighboring Parish which has also acknowledged the need for a LGBTQ+ Ministry and combine efforts there.*