

Vision Statement

To make welcome gays, lesbians, their families and friends into the full life of the Community of St. Michael's and the larger Catholic Church.

What We Do

Monthly Meetings

The **third Tuesday** of every month at 7:00pm (check the schedules on each church entrance for meeting room.)

Meetings are centered around sharing our stories and listening intently to the journeys of each person.

Resources

Provide resource lists to groups and individuals

Regular knowledgeable speakers in various disciplines related to homosexuality and the Church

Maintain resources in the St. Michael's library

Enrichment for the Spiritual Lives of Gays, Lesbians, their Families and Friends

Guided meditations and reflections

Annual retreats

Fellowship and Social Interaction

Regular dinners and picnics

What the Church Says

Homosexuals, like everyone else, should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights. They have the right to respect, friendship, and justice. They should have an active role in the Christian community.

*To Live in Christ Jesus
A Pastoral Letter on Moral Values
National Conference of Catholic Bishops
November 11, 1976*

They [homosexuals] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.

Catechism of the Catholic Church , no. 2358

It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs. It reveals a kind of disregard for others which endangers the most fundamental principle of a healthy society. The intrinsic dignity of each person must always be respected in word, in action and in law.

*Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons.
Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
October 1, 1986*

We call on all Christians and citizens of good will to confront their own fears about homosexuality and to curb humor and discrimination that offend homosexual persons. We understand that having a homosexual orientation brings with it enough anxiety, pain and issues related to self-acceptance without society bringing additional prejudicial treatment. (*Human Sexuality: A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning, 1991, p. 55*)

To Parents: Accept and love yourselves as parents (of gay and lesbian children) in order to accept and love your son or daughter. Do not blame yourselves for a homosexual orientation in your child.

To Ministers: Welcome homosexual persons into the faith community, and seek out those on the margins. Avoid stereotyping and condemning. Strive first to listen. Do not presume that all homosexual persons are sexually active.

To our homosexual brothers and sisters: Though at times you may feel discouraged, hurt, or angry, do not walk away from your families, from the Christian community, from all those who love you. In you God's love is revealed. You are always our children.

*Always Our Children
A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers
A Statement of the Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family
National Conference of Catholic Bishops
September 10, 1997*

Contact Information:

We Are Family

Ministry for gays, lesbians, their families and friends

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
4491 Springfield Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060
(804) 527-1037

Or

Jeff Trollinger, Ministry Chair
3728 Old Parrish Trace
Gum Spring, VA 23065
(804) 556-2332
(804) 402-2980 – cell

Email:

WeAreFamily.StMikes@gmail.com

Additional Resources:

Always Our Children, A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers. Washington DC: USCCB, 1997

Borhek, M. V. 1993. *Coming Out to Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents.* NY: Pilgrim Press.

Coleman, G.D. 1995. *Homosexuality: Catholic Teaching and Pastoral Practice.* New York: Paulist Press.

Eichsberg, R. 1990. *Coming Out: An Act of Love.* NY: Penguin Books.

Fairchild, B. and N. Hayward. 1989. *Now That You Know.* NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Into this world,
this demented inn,
in which there is no room
for him at all,
Christ has come uninvited.
But because he cannot
be at home in it
because he is
out of place in it,...
His place is with those
who do not belong,
who are rejected
by power because
they are regarded as weak,
those who are discredited,
who are denied the status of persons,
tortured and exterminated.
With those for whom
there is no room,
Christ is present in this world.
He is mysteriously present
in those for whom
there seems to be nothing
but the world at its worst.

-Thomas Merton

We Are Family

**St. Michael the Archangel
Catholic Church
Ministry to Gays and
Lesbians**

