

## **A Selection of LGBT Catholic Resources**

### **Organizations:**

**New Ways Ministry** – Founded in 1977 by Sr. Jeannine Gramick, SSND, and Fr. Robert Nugent, SDS. *NWM* educates and advocates for justice and equality for LGBT Catholics, and reconciliation within the larger church and civil communities. Its website includes lists of LGBT-friendly parishes and colleges in U.S. - <https://www.newwaysministry.org>

**Fortunate Families** – Originated in 1992 by Mary Ellen and Casey Lopata and other Catholic parents. A Catholic family, friends and allies ministry that supports LGBTQ+ by facilitating respectful conversation and sharing personal stories within dioceses, parishes and communities, especially with bishops, pastors and Church leadership. Website includes “*Our Stories*” - <https://www.fortunatefamilies.com> ; <http://bit.ly/FrMartin-FortunateFamilies>

**DignityUSA** – Founded in 1969 by Fr. Patrick Nidorf, OSA. It was organized to unite LGBTQ+ Catholics, as well as their families, friends and loved ones in order to develop leadership, and be an instrument through which they may be heard by and promote reform in the Church. - <https://www.dignityusa.org>

**Call to Action** – Founded in 1978, *CTA* educates, inspires and activates Catholics to act for justice and build inclusive communities through a lens of anti-racism and anti-oppression principles. - <https://cta-usa.org/focus-areas/lgbt-justice/>

**Global Network of Rainbow Catholics** – Originated in Rome, Italy, in 2014 - <http://rainbowcatholics.org> . It includes New Ways Ministry.

**PFLAG** – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Founded in 1973 by a mom publicly supporting her son, it is the nation’s largest such family org. - <https://pflag.org> - Colorado Springs Chapter meets monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 7:00 pm: <http://www.cspflag.org/>

- <http://bit.ly/PFLAGawardtoFrMartin> ; <https://pflag.org/resource/faith-our-families>

**Human Rights Campaign** – Founded in 1980, *HRC* is the nation’s largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. - <http://www.hrc.org>

- <https://www.hrc.org/resources/coming-home-to-catholicism-and-to-self>

### **Publications:**

**“Building a Bridge – How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity”** – Fr. James Martin, SJ, 2017, revised and expanded, 2018.

- **VIDEO:** Fr. Martin’s address to the *World Meeting of Families* in Dublin, Ireland, August 2018, at the invitation of the Vatican (48 min): <http://bit.ly/2WFzBJC>
- From *America Magazine*, 4/6/18, Fr. Martin speaks to Church teaching on the gay orientation as an “objective disorder”: <http://bit.ly/FrMartin-OfficialChurchTeaching>

**“Faith Beyond Resentment: Fragments Catholic and Gay,”** James Alison, 2001. [Author is a gay Catholic theologian and former Dominican priest.]

**“Fortunate Families – Catholic Families with Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons”** - Mary Ellen and Casey Lopata, 2003.

**“Are there Closets in Heaven? – a Catholic Father and Lesbian Daughter Share Their Story”** - Carol Curoe and Robert Curoe, 2007.

**“Gay and Catholic – Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith”** - Eve Tushnet, 2014. [The author abides with Church teaching and embraces celibacy.]

**“Changing Our Mind – a call from America’s leading Evangelical ethics scholar for full acceptance of LGBT Christians in the church”** - David P. Gushee, second edition, 2015.

**“The Bible’s YES to Same-Sex Marriage – an Evangelical’s Change of Heart”** – Mark Achtemeier, second edition with study guide, 2015.

**“Embracing the Journey “** – A difficult but ultimately beautiful story shared by Greg and Lynn McDonald, Christian parents of a gay Christian son, 2019. [Evangelical]

**“Always Our Children – a Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers,”** US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997 -

<http://bit.ly/USCCB-AlwaysOurChildren>

**“Always Our Children – 20 Years Later”** – further background and reflection by Mary Ellen and Casey Lopata, 2017 - <http://bit.ly/2uCR1dQ>

**LGBT-friendly Catholic communities** in the Pikes Peak region:

These communities did not ask to be mentioned here, nor did I ask their permission. Their inclusion is based solely on my personal observation:

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

719-633-8711 - <http://bit.ly/SacredHeartinCOS>  
2030 W. Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs 80904

**Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Community**

719-495-2351 - <http://www.ourladyofthepines.org>  
11020 Teachout Road, Black Forest 80908

**Benet Hill Monastery – Benedictine Sisters**

719-633-0655 - <https://www.benethillmonastery.org>  
3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs 80921

**Also:**

**Loving and Affirming Catholic Support Group for Parents of LGBT –**

Began at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in 2014. Normally meets 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00 pm; now at a private home. Contacts to confirm meeting date and for address or for more info:

Bill – [gnarlybill@hotmail.com](mailto:gnarlybill@hotmail.com) - 719-650-8883 or

Gayle – [bobgayler@msn.com](mailto:bobgayler@msn.com) - 719-599-0692 (leave message)

***The Primacy of Conscience***

*“Over the pope as the expression of the binding claim of ecclesiastical authority there still stands one’s own conscience, which must be obeyed before all else, if necessary even against the requirement of ecclesiastical authority. Conscience confronts [the individual] with a supreme and ultimate tribunal, and one which in the last resort is beyond the claim of external social groups, even of the official church.”*

Archbishop Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), *“Commentary on the Documents of Vatican II,”* ed. Herbert Vorgrimler, 1968, on Gaudium et Spes, part 1, chapter 1.

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