



## Open Hearts

GLBT *Ministry*

### CATHOLIC INTER-PARISH COLLABORATIVE:

Open Hearts GLBT Ministry is a member of this tri-state area (CT, NY, NJ) Collaborative .The Collaborative has the following mission statement: “We are a Roman Catholic parish collaborative grounded in the Gospel message of love and welcome for all God’s children. We encourage dialogue to promote effective models of LGBT ministry.” Representatives from Open Hearts attend these quarterly meetings and participate in events sponsored by the Collaborative. See [www.lgbt-ipc.org](http://www.lgbt-ipc.org) for more information.



*Catholic Inter-Parish Collaborative  
Marches in 2013 NYC Pride Parade*

We invite anyone who is interested in being part of this group to join our leadership team as they travel to New York City to participate in these meeting. Dates of meetings to be announced in advance. RSVP to Michael.

### OTHER EVENTS TO NOTE:

- SPSA Ministry Fair – Volunteers Needed after each Mass 10/11-12
- Winter/Spring In-House LGBT Retreat – Details to Come!
- Mardi Gras Event – Come help decorate and celebrate! TBA
- Check out our bulletin board of current events and our library of LGBT Faith Literature at each monthly meeting.
- Look for details on upcoming service projects involving *AIDS – Project Hartford, Peter’s Retreat, Tabor House, Hands on Hartford, Katherine’s Place and House of Bread.*
- *New Ways Ministry*, Philadelphia retreat, Sept 19-21, “Our Place at the Table”, for LGBT Catholics, their parents, pastoral ministers, and interested persons. See [www.newwaysministry.org](http://www.newwaysministry.org) for details.
- The OUT Film, first Thursday of every month, at Cinestudio at Trinity College, Hartford, CT (Also, The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival takes place there the first week of June, 2015)
- Coming monthly meeting topic: Nov - “Mindfulness”

**For more information and updates on additional programming, call the Church office at 860-756-4034 or visit : [www.spsact.org](http://www.spsact.org)**

# Open Hearts

GLBT *Ministry*

2014 – 2015



## *Ministry Statement*

The Open Hearts GLBT Ministry provides educational opportunities to build and develop greater visibility and understanding of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) experiences within our church community, and to develop faith-building outreach programming to the diverse spectrum of the GLBT community.

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**St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church And the  
Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry,  
285 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103**

*Above Photograph – Christ sitting on a rainbow, from a Stained Glass Window in the St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church Chapel*



# Open Hearts GLBT Ministry

As a Catholic parish committed to justice, Open Hearts Ministry of the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministries will actively provide and promote faith opportunities that build community for those who may have experienced spiritual disconnection.

## WELCOME BACK PICNIC

We welcome you to our September 14 “kick-off” picnic/meeting for the 2014/2015 season taking place at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry beginning at 6 pm. Share fellowship, food and ideas for new programs and events for the coming year. This is a great opportunity to visit our ministry for the first time. *All are welcome!*

## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Join us for a time of fellowship at the Franciscan Center on the **second Sunday** of the month at 6 pm. Bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share with the group.

Next Meeting is on **Sunday, October 12** – We will show the film “**Taking a Chance on God**”, a documentary profile of John McNeill, pioneer gay priest. We will also get to meet the film’s Director, Brendan Fay.

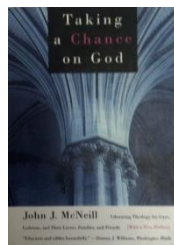


This film tells the story of 85 year-old John McNeill, Catholic priest and pioneering advocate for LGBT human rights. The film traces his life – from a childhood in Buffalo, his months as a prisoner of war in Nazi Germany, his call to priesthood and his ongoing passion for justice and equality.

Dates of future Open Hearts meetings are: November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:

This is a monthly series that continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6 pm in the Franciscan Center to discuss John J. McNeill’s book, **Taking a Chance on God, Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians and Their Lovers, Families, and Friends.**



## LOCAL OVERNIGHT RETREAT:

“*Being LGBT: Living Authentically*”, is the title of this two night, weekend retreat to be held at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. It will begin with dinner at 6 pm on Friday, September 26 and run until noon on Sunday, September 28.

Registration can be made on-line at [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org).

There is a charge for this retreat.

Fr. Francis Gargani, CSsR, who is superior of the Redemptorist Community in Brookly, NY will lead the retreat. The following description is offered. “*Faith in the God of the Jewish/Christian Scriptures invites us all to live as a community of love and compassion in the God whose dream is for all to live in holy communion. Such faith calls us to authentic identity and affirms us all as daughters and sons of God, with dignity, freedom and co-responsibility. Through ritual prayer, reflective input sessions, shared discussion, personal time for prayer and quiet, and social gatherings, this retreat offers a special opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to celebrate their identity and deepen their experience of community in the living God.*”

This retreat is geared both toward LGBT persons and those who walk the journey with them.



## LESSONS AND CAROLS:

A yearly tradition continues again. Open Hearts Ministry will be hosting a reception following this Sunday, December 14, 7:00 pm event. You are asked to bring finger food, an appetizer, dessert or beverage. More details to follow.

For more information on any activity, or to RSVP for an event, please contact Michael at [canarywings@gmail.com](mailto:canarywings@gmail.com)

Please check our website and church bulletin for the most up-to-date information

[www.spsact.org](http://www.spsact.org)