

# 2020 – 2021

## Open Hearts LGBT *Ministry*



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

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

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME – ALL EVENTS AT THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR URBAN MINISTRY UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE**

### **WELCOME PICNICS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS, EVENTS**

- Kick-off Picnic (virtual Zoom)...Sept 20 – 6 pm
- Picnic at Marilyn and Tony Pinto's Home. TBD due to Covid. They look forward to hosting in the future this annual picnic for Open Hearts at their home.
- Year End Picnic...June 13 – 6 pm (Hoping it will be in person)
- Sunday Fellowship... 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 6 pm. Currently being done virtually through zoom. In the past we have had them in person after the 5 pm Mass on Sunday. Folks bring a dish to share if they can. Free will offering accepted. Content varies by month. Check the bulletin.

Dates: 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13

## **HARTFORD PRIDE – VIRTUAL PRIDEFEST 2020**

- Saturday, Sept 12...In the past Open Hearts has had a booth at this annual pridefest. This year check out [www.HartfordPride.org](http://www.HartfordPride.org) for information on this years virtual event

## **FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES**

- Join us for a relaxing social evening of free fun and education too.
- We have shown films and documentaries of interest to the LGBT community in the past. We hope to organize NETFLIX film watches during the year. Get on our email list for details.

## **LGBT RETREATS**

- Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center has conducted day long retreats for the LGBTQ+ community and their families in West Hartford, CT in the fall in the past. See [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) upcoming retreats schedule.

## **TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

- Friday, Nov 20 is the national Transgender Day of Remembrance. We plan to have a special prayer service commemorating this important day. We need to continue to support and keep in our prayers all our trans brothers and sisters, especially those of color.

## **PARISH EVENTS OF INTEREST**

- Family and Friends of the LGBT Community meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, Sept-June. Normally, they meet in the Franciscan Center. Currently, meetings are virtual. Individual parents are available to meet upon request for support and encouragement. For more info contact Rich at [info@spsact.org](mailto:info@spsact.org).
- Open Hearts and Family and Friends of LGBT Community to sponsor a panel discussion around LGBT Stories of Faith. Details to be announced.

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS:**

This is a yearly tradition. Open Hearts Ministry hosts a reception following this Sunday evening parish wide event in December. We ask members to bring finger food, an appetizer, dessert or beverage. More details to follow.

## **LGBT CATHOLIC INTER-PARISH COLLABORATIVE (IPC):**

Open Hearts Ministry is a member of the greater NY area (CT, NY, NJ, PA) IPC. The IPC 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.” Open Hearts folks attend these quarterly meetings and participate in IPC events, including NYC Pride March. See [www.lgbt-ipc.org](http://www.lgbt-ipc.org) for more info. Next virtual meeting is Sat Oct 17 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm. Please join if you can. Contact Aidan at [info@spsact.org](mailto:info@spsact.org) for zoom link.



*Catholic Inter-Parish Collaborative Marches in 2017 NYC Pride March*

#### **OTHER EVENTS TO NOTE:**

- Sept 26 Suicide Walk “Out of the Darkness” Walks in Hartford sponsored by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. For more details visit [afsp.donordriv.com](http://afsp.donordriv.com).
- Oct 11 National Coming Out Day
- Mardi Gras Event – Come help decorate and celebrate! TBA
- Open Hearts is in contact with True Colors of Hartford, CT in hopes of participating and supporting their outreach programs to LGBTQ+ youth. This is an opportunity to spread the welcoming message of the gospel to those who may be in need of spiritual nourishment.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> CT LGBTQ Film Festival is scheduled for October 2-10, 2020. This has been rescheduled from June 2020 by Out Film CT that is affiliated with Cinestudio at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. Check their website for updates [www.outfilmct.org](http://www.outfilmct.org).
- Open Hearts Rosary – join us for prayer at 1:15 pm after mass on TBD.

*Contact Aidan at [info@spsact.org](mailto:info@spsact.org) for questions and to sign up to receive email notices on events and to receive info on in-house Spring Retreat for LGBTQ+ folks. All are Welcome!*

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**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)**

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