

# GAY MINISTRY

A WORKSHOP FOR PRIESTS IN THE SAN DIEGO ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE

FRIDAY  
JUNE 18, 1976  
2 - 4 PM



CARDIEN CENTER  
2422 Congress  
(Old Town)  
San Diego

A Luncheon will be served, free of charge, for those interested in the Hall from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. (RSVP 448-8384).

Sponsored by

**DIGNITY of SAN DIEGO**

The following is an excerpt from PRIESTS, HOMOSEXUALS, AND COUNSELING by Br. William Roberts, CSSR, a Redemptorist Brother and Chaplain of DIGNITY/Baltimore

"If a priest realizes that he is ignorant about the subject of homosexuality, he should start a personal reading program.

Priests should realize that ineffectual or negative counseling may seriously harm the homosexual man or woman who comes to them for help. They may read into this type of counseling a rejection by God which might cause them intense psychological stress and feelings of alienation.

Priests who presume to dispense quasi-psychological advice without a training in psychology are in danger of harming the homosexual. A perfect example of this would be the shock treatment advice.

Those priests who believe that they have all the answers are the most dangerous to homosexuals. They leave the homosexual little to do but follow their dogmatic advice. Hopefully these priests will see the damage their advice does and become more humane in their attitudes towards homosexuality.

The priest who hides behind the traditional morality of the Church regarding homosexuality, but who himself has severe doubts on its validity, is not being true to himself or fair to the homosexual.

As a counselor, the priest has the obligation to keep abreast with current findings about homosexuality whether these findings are sociological, psychological, legal, medical, or theological. Advances are made in every profession; the Church is not immune to this healthy process."



# Program

- 12:30 PM LUNCHEON
- 2:00 PM INTRODUCTION(orientation)
- 2:30 PM FILM PRESENTATION  
'Catholic Homosexuals in the Church Today'
- 3:00 PM COFFEE BREAK
- 3:10 PM PANEL DISCUSSION  
'A Look at Life from a Gay Perspective'  
Panelists: Walter A Kay (DIGNITY President)  
Carla Kaesbauer (self-affirmed lesbian)  
Erik Landau (college student)  
Denise Dixon (teacher of nursing)
- 3:30 PM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Break into small groups for dialogue and questions.



"Being subject to misunderstanding and at times unjust discrimination has resulted in overreaction on the part of some persons of homosexual orientation. It is not homosexuality which should be one's claim to acceptance or human rights or to being loved by us all; it is the fact we are all brothers and sisters under the Fatherhood of God. Our community must explore ways to secure the legitimate rights of all of our citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, while being sensitive to the understanding and hopes of all involved.

On a more personal level, we wish to express our concern and compassion for those men and women who experience pain and confusion due to a true homosexual orientation. We pray that through all the spiritual and pastoral means available they will recognize Christ's and the Church's love for them and our hope that they will come to live in His Peace."

-Bishop Francis J. Mugavero  
of Brooklyn, N.Y.  
February 11, 1976

"...the criterion for human normalcy, for 'natural' acts and behavior, will be found just here: does this or that particular act, does this or that given mode of behavior, promote love and help people to become lovers? Or does it work against love and growth in love?"

-Dr. Norman Pittenger

"It is necessary to add at this point that homosexual men and women are in greater need of self-knowledge and personal wisdom than other people. In our culture gay people are often gravely wounded and must wrestle with themselves before the freedom to love and to forget themselves becomes accessible to them."

-Fr. Gregory Baum,  
Theologian

"Education must replace homosexual myths with homosexual realities; most homosexuals do not fit the stereotyped images; very few homosexuals are child-molesters; not all homosexuals are promiscuous."

-Sr. Jeannine Gramick, SSND  
Chaplain, DIGNITY/Baltimore