



GLBT Ministry

Always Our Children is one of many programs the ministry sponsors.

The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi has had an active and welcoming GLBT Ministry for a dozen years. We reach out to provide spiritual nourishment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their families and friends. We seek to affirm the intrinsic value and self-worth of all people and to welcome them into full participation in the faith community. We offer a yearly retreat, the Lenten reflection series "Out of the Tomb," and regular spiritual and social events. Learn more at www.stfrancisglbt.org.



About the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

The parish is served by the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province. Masses are at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sundays. Weekday masses are at 9 a.m. in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.



**The Catholic Community
of St. Francis of Assisi**
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Raleigh, NC 27613

www.stfrancisraleigh.org

(919) 847-8205

Always Our Children



*A support program for
GLBT people, families
and friends*



Sponsored by the
GLBT Ministry of
the Catholic Community
of St. Francis of Assisi,
Raleigh, N.C.

Q&A

How do the meetings work?

Each support group meeting is led (depending on the size of the group) by one or two trained facilitators. The facilitators aim to make everyone feel at ease and encourage participation.

What do people talk about?

Group members listen to one another tell their stories and share concerns. The meetings encourage participants to explore questions within a Catholic context.

How can I learn more?

For more about the program, go to the St. Francis website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org and look under “Family Life” to “Gay and Lesbian Parent Ministry.” You can also contact Joe Pietrus at (919) 609-8425, Jane Paris at (919) 847-7431 or Chuck Small at (919) 859-4889.



A welcoming, affirming Catholic presence

Simply put, St. Francis of Assisi's *Always Our Children* program wants gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to know they are loved, their gifts are valued, they are welcome in our community, and we support them in their daily lives. The program provides a confidential setting in which GLBT people and their parents, families and friends support one another by sharing their concerns and experiences in a confidential, Catholic setting. Our program is named after the U.S. bishops' 1998 pastoral letter *Always Our Children* and reflects our membership in two families, the family into which we were born and the family into which we were baptized.

The program has two activities: group meetings and personal meetings. Group meetings are at 3:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month (except for holiday weekends) in Room 403 of Anthony Hall. Personal meetings are available with members of St. Francis' GLBT Ministry for those who desire. Such meetings take place at a neutral site and follow the guidelines of the Diocese of Raleigh's Safe Environment Program. While our principal audience is the St. Francis community, we welcome others looking for a GLBT support program, including students at universities and colleges. We also reach out to secular organizations with Catholics among their clientele or membership.