



New Ways Ministry

What Do LGBTQ People Want --And NOT Want--From a Parish?

Some Questions for Reflection, Planning, and Journal Writing

1. How much do the leaders of your parish know about the reality of LGBTQ lives? Which leaders know a lot? Something? Nothing? (Leaders include paid pastoral staff and volunteer parishioners.)
2. How did you learn more about LGBTQ people and their spirituality? Is there something from your own journey that may help the leaders you identified in Question #1 who need to learn more?
3. Are there any LGBTQ people in your parish who are public about their identity? What have you learned from them about their experiences in the parish?
4. Are there any people in your parish who you think *might* be LGBTQ or have an LGBTQ member in their family? How can you let them know that you, and others, are supportive of LGBTQ people?
5. What do you think will be the thing about your parish that LGBTQ people will find most attractive? Least attractive?
6. What would be your parishioners' reactions if they heard words like "lesbian," "transgender," "bisexual" in official parish messages? If the reactions are positive, how can you build on that? If the reactions are negative, how can you make it easier for them to hear these words?