

MODELS OF LGBTQ MINISTRY FOR HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE

The following is a list of models of Catholic LGBTQ ministry that have emerged over the past few decades. Several models can be used at the same time and are provided to help people think about ministry, not to be prescriptive.

- 1) **One-on-one Counseling:** LGBTQ people are ministered to on an individual basis through pastoral care/counseling and reconciliation, always beginning with affirmation.
- 2) **Support Group:** LGBTQ people meet with one another to discuss the issues they face; e.g. alienation, marginalization, fear, personal integration, faith.
- 3) **Education:** In order to welcome LGBTQ people in the school, basic education often needs to be done with administrators, teachers, staff, and the whole school community to make them aware of LGBTQ reality and how this outreach fits into the school's mission.
- 4) **Family Ministry:** LGBT ministry is conducted by providing support to parents and other family members of LGBT people, particularly if these relatives are having difficulty adjusting to the new reality because of faith issues.
- 5) **Gifted Approach:** The spiritual gifts of LGBTQ people are celebrated by recognizing the contributions that LGBTQ people make practically and spiritually, creating space where LGBTQ students can explore their spirituality and identity together, in a safe, affirming way.
- 6) **Prophetic Approach:** Allowing LGBTQ students to speak truth to power, and internalizing what their prophetic voices have to tell us, our schools, our Church, and society.
- 7) **Integrated Approach:** Instead of singling out LGBTQ people or creating special programs for them, a school may make a conscious effort to include LGBTQ topics as one element among many in the ordinary programs; e.g., diversity efforts, social justice projects. LGBTQ topics are "blended in" to existing programs.
- 8) **Social Justice:** School communities work for LGBTQ justice and equality in civic and ecclesial life.