

September 24, 2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Casey Lopata  
585-698-6100 [info@fortunatefamilies.com](mailto:info@fortunatefamilies.com)

### **Parents' Comfort Level with Gay Child's Sexuality Grows with Time**

*Rochester, NY:* Catholic parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender children, over time, can become “significantly more comfortable” with their child’s sexuality, according to survey results released this week by Fortunate Families, a nationwide ministry providing support and resources to Catholic parents since 2004. “While not the only factors, the study indicates parents often grow more comfortable when they are able to share their story with others and when they know at least one other parent of a homosexual child,” said Casey Lopata, co-founder of Fortunate Families.

The survey, Lopata said, “provides statistical confirmation of some parental attitudes we typically assume, plus it reveals a few surprises and a number of new findings that will prove helpful to families and useful for ministry programs.” Titled the “Parents Voice Project,” the study was compiled from survey returns from 229 parents with 242 gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender children during the late summer of 2006.

The survey also measured the perceived value to parents of using available support groups and organizations, including an appraisal of the help provided by local churches. Among the key findings, according to Lopata, “Catholic parents found Church support scarce, localized and a hit-or-miss proposition. They grieve that the institutional Church’s inadequate response has distanced many parents from the Church and driven many of their daughters and sons away.” Complete survey results were released nationally to U.S. Catholic bishops, interested parents, and parish and diocesan groups. For more information, email [info@fortunatefamilies.com](mailto:info@fortunatefamilies.com).