

NOTE: Please use extra paper if necessary and indicate the number of the question you are answering.

Parents Voice Project: Survey of Catholic Parents with an LGBTQ daughter or son

This survey is for an individual Catholic parent of a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) person. Please make a copy for the other parent if needed, or for any other Catholic parents of LGBTQ persons you may know. The survey can also be completed on-line by going to www.fortunatefamilies.com. If you have questions about the survey, contact us by email at info@fortunatefamilies.com, or call us at 585-244-4427.

Thanks, Casey and Mary Ellen Lopata

Demographic & Family Information

NOTE: Your name and contact information will NOT be shared without your permission.

- 1. Date _____
- 2. Name _____
- 3. I prefer to remain anonymous ___
- 4. Email address (print clearly please) _____
- 4. Your age ____
- 5. Address _____
- 6. Phone numbers (h) _____ (w) _____
- 7. Sex (circle one) F M
- 8. Race (elaborate within category as you wish):
 - Spanish/Hispanic/Latino _____
 - White _____
 - Black/African-American _____
 - American Indian/Alaska Native _____
 - Asian _____
 - Pacific Islander _____
 - Other/Multi-racial _____
- 9. Ethnic background _____
- 10. Total number of sons ____ Ages _____
- 11. Total number of daughters ____ Ages _____
- 12. Number of gay sons ____ Ages _____
- 13. Number of lesbian daughters ____ Ages _____
- 14. Number of bisexual sons ____ Ages _____
- 15. Number of bisexual daughters ____ Ages _____
- 16. Number of transgender f→m sons ____ Ages _____
- 17. Number of transgender m→f daughters ____ Ages _____
- 18. How long ago did you first learn that you had an LGBTQ son or daughter? ____ yrs ____ mos
- 19. Please add any other information you feel would be useful in this category. _____

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Needs/Wants

20. How comfortable were you about having an LGBTQ child when you found out? (circle number on the scale below)

very comfortable	1	2	3	4	5	very <u>un</u> comfortable
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21. How comfortable are you now about having an LGBTQ child? (circle number on the scale below)

very comfortable	1	2	3	4	5	very <u>un</u> comfortable
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22. How comfortable were you with people knowing you have an LGBTQ child when you found out? (circle num below)

very comfortable	1	2	3	4	5	very <u>un</u> comfortable
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23. How comfortable are you now with people knowing you have an LGBTQ child? (circle number below)

very comfortable	1	2	3	4	5	very <u>un</u> comfortable
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24. Are you, or have you been, part of a Catholic-based support group for parents of LGBTQ persons? Y N

25. If yes, how did you become aware of the group, and what does it do? _____

26. If yes to #24, what is your role in this ministry? _____

27. Would you like this ministry listed in a directory on the Fortunate Families web site? Y N

If Yes (with ministry leadership approval), please provide:

Ministry Name _____

Address _____

Contact person(s) _____

Contact Info: Phone _____ Email _____

Web Site _____ Other _____

28. If you do not want this ministry listed on the Fortunate Families web site, please tell us why. _____

29. Are you, or have you been, part of a support group—not Catholic-based—for parents of LGBTQ persons? Y N

30. If yes, please identify and/or describe the group _____

31. How many other parents of LGBTQ persons do you know? _____ How many are Catholic? _____

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Addressing Needs/Wants – Sharing Your Story

32. What sharing was most helpful to you? Which are most important for parents? Which are you likely to do?

NOTE: “Share story” means telling others you have an LGBTQ child and what that meant/means to you and your family.

Sharing	Helped you?	How <u>important</u> is it for parents of LGBTQ persons to do this?			How <u>likely are you</u> to do this?				
	✓	Very	Somewhat	Not at all	Did it	Very	Maybe	Not	
Share story with immediate family member(s)									
Share story with extended family member(s)									
Share story with friend(s)									
Share story with co-worker(s)									
Share story with Catholic LGBTQ person(s)									
Share story with other LGBTQ person(s)									
Share story with Catholic priest / religious / pastoral minister(s)									
Share story with other clergy / religious / pastoral minister(s)									
Share story with your bishop(s)									
Share story with other Catholic parent(s) of LGBTQ person									
Share story with non-Catholic parent(s) of LGBTQ person									
Share story with civic officials									
Share story with supportive Catholic psychologist / therapist									
Share story with other psychologist / therapist									
Share story in confidential setting									
Share story one-to-one with anyone									
Share story publicly									
Do you have any other thoughts or comments about this category? _____									

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Addressing Needs and Wants – Experiences and Activities

33. What experiences and/or activities were most helpful to you? Which are most important for parents? Which are you likely to do?

NOTE: “Write” means letters, essays, etc. to help the reader understand that each issue is not an abstraction but affects the lives of real LGBTQ people and their families.

Experience / Activity	Helped you?	How <u>important</u> is it for parents of LGBTQ persons to do this?			How <u>likely</u> are you to do this?			
	✓	Very	Somewhat	Not at all	Did it	Very	Maybe	Not
Attend Catholic parents support group, if available								
Attend secular parents support group, if available								
Attend workshop / info session on LGBTQ concerns, if available								
Attend retreat / day of reflection for Catholic parents of LGBTQ persons, if available								
Write on LGBTQ issues to priest / religious / pastoral minister(s)								
Write on LGBTQ issues to bishop(s)								
Write on LGBTQ issues to family/friends								
Write on LGBTQ issues to civic officials								
Write on LGBTQ issues to secular newspapers / magazines								
Write on LGBTQ issues to Catholic newspapers / magazines								
Advocate for justice for LGBTQ persons in the church								
Advocate for justice for LGBTQ persons in society								
Publicly challenge anti-gay behavior / speech								
Donate LGBTQ resources to parishes & Catholic schools								
Donate LGBTQ resources to public libraries & schools								
Attend a Gay Pride Parade								
Walk in Gay Pride Parade as parent or Catholic parent								
Wear symbol that shows LGBTQ support (e.g. rainbow pin or ribbon)								
Other _____								

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Involvement Possibilities

34. Which of these types of projects would you be willing to work on?

Project	✓ if Yes
Peer counsel other Catholic parents, collaborating with other counselors by phone or email for mutual support	
Publicly identify as a peer counselor for other Catholic parents of LGBTQ persons	
Work with others to start a Catholic parents support group	
Work with others to plan or implement a workshop / info session on LGBTQ concerns for Catholic parents	
Work with others to plan or implement a workshop / info session on LGBTQ concerns for a parish audience	
Draft letters on LGBTQ issues -- alone	
Draft letters on LGBTQ issues – with others	
Select resources, find funding, and donate them to groups supportive of Catholic parents – alone	
Select resources, find funding, and donate them to groups supportive of Catholic parents – with others	
Organize a contingent of parents to attend and/or walk in a Gay Pride Parade – alone	
Organize a contingent of parents to attend and/or walk in a Gay Pride Parade – with others	
Organize and staff a resource table at parish or community info forum – alone	
Organize and staff a resource table at parish or community info forum – with others	
Write reviews of LGBTQ-related books, articles, films. TV shows, etc. – alone	
Write reviews of LGBTQ-related books, articles, films. TV shows, etc. – with others	
Maintain and supply LGBTQ resources for Catholic parents who request them, locally or via email – alone	
Maintain and supply LGBTQ resources for Catholic parents who request them, locally or via email – with others	
Other things I'm willing to do, working alone, or with others _____	

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Helpful Groups / Organizations

35. What groups or organizations have been helpful to you? (*Google these groups if you'd like to know more about them*)

Group / Organization	How well do you know them?			How helpful were/are they?			Can we give them your name/email?
	Well	Somewhat	Don't	Very	Somewhat	Not at all	✓ if Yes
Diocese: Name _____ _____							
Parish Name _____ _____							
Dignity							
Fortunate Families							
Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)							
Human Rights Campaign (HRC)							
National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries (NACDLGM)							
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)							
New Ways Ministry							
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)							

36. Is there anything else that would be helpful to you at this point in your journey?

37. In what ways can the church (i.e., priests, sisters, and other pastoral ministers, your faith community, and the larger church) make people aware of supportive ministers and resources? _____

38. How can the church (as described above) be more helpful to parents when they seek support? _____

39. Have you read *Always Our Children* (AOC), the U.S. Bishops' "Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers"? Y N

40. If yes, do you believe AOC is helpful for Catholic parents with LGBTQ children? Y N Please elaborate:

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Resources

41. In the areas listed below check the appropriate box if: 1) You found resources helpful to you. 2) You're interested in resources in that area. 3) You'd work with others to identify or develop such resources for parents. (check all that apply)

Type of Resources – check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if:	Helpful	Have interest	Would id/develop
Social sciences (SS) on sexual orientation			
SS on same-sex unions / marriage			
SS on same-sex parent adoption			
SS on human/civil rights			
SS on sexual orientation and pedophilia/ephebophilia			
SS on coming out as an LGBTQ person			
SS on coming out as the parent of an LGBTQ person			
Catholic perspectives (CP) on Vatican/Bishops' teaching/statements			
CP on sexual orientation			
CP on same-sex unions / marriage			
CP on same-sex parent adoption			
CP on human/civil rights			
CP on gay seminarians / priests			
CP on primacy of conscience			
CP on moral decision-making			
CP on morality relative to public policy			
Scripture (SC) on same-sex behavior			
SC on hopeful passages for LGBTQ people			
Stories (ST) of Catholic LGBTQ persons			
ST of other LGBTQ persons			
ST of Catholic parents of LGBTQ persons			
Examples of ministries for Catholic LGBTQ persons			
Examples of ministries for Catholic parents of LGBTQ persons			
Catholic-relevant LGBTQ-related book lists			
Catholic-relevant journal LGBTQ-related article lists			
Catholic-relevant LGBTQ-related video lists			
Other _____			

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42. Please list books that were/are helpful to you (Title/Author) _____

43. Please list articles, pamphlets, etc. that were/are helpful to you (Title, publication, author) _____

44. Please list videos that were/are helpful to you (Title, producer, how to acquire) _____

45. Given your circumstances, and those of your LGBT child(ren), and considering the importance of the activities you rated above, what three things (not limited to those listed above) could you do to enhance the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of LGBT Catholics?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Thank you for completing this survey! Please return to:

**Fortunate Families
239 Highland Parkway
Rochester, NY 14620**

The survey is an ongoing part of the Parents Voice Project, and your voice is important!

If you provided your email or postal address, we'll add you to our Fortunate Families newsletter list. If you'd like to add anything to this survey, please do so on a separate piece of paper.