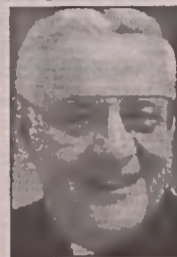


North Carolina News Notes

by Lainey Millen . Q-Notes staff

Mass planned at St. Peter's

CHARLOTTE — The 10th Annual St. Ignatius Mass for gays and lesbians, family and friends will be held on July 26 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St. A reception will follow in Biss Hall.



This mass, which was started by two deceased parishioners, Father Eugene McCreesh (pictured) and David Brown, serves as a welcome in the Catholic church. It is sponsored by the Diocesan Ministry for Gay & Lesbian Catholics which McCreesh helped to form.

St. Ignatius was born in 1491 in Spain as Inigo de Loyola. Later on in his life he served in the Spanish military. While recuperating in Loyola from a war wound, the only reading matter was a book on Jesus, which he began to read with much interest. He wanted to imitate the ways of the saints. He found himself at a crossroads where he was faced with the choice between killing a Moor or taking another road. He let his mule make the decision, who took the one of sparing his adversary. He immediately went to the Benedictine shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, offered his confession and knelt throughout a night in vigil at an altar. It was at that place that he left his sword and knife, gave all his fine clothes to the poor and dressed in rough attire, along with sandals and a staff. His battle with the concept of charity and Christian understanding was finally put to rest.

He spent the rest of his life dedicated to spiritual pursuits and was the founder of the Jesuit order. Their mission was to find good in all things.

This former soldier and courtier died on July 31, 1556 after a long illness. He was beatified on July 27, 1609 and canonized on March 12, 1622.

The feast day is celebrated by the Catholic church and the Jesuits annually on July 31. St. Peter's is a Jesuit parish.

For more information, call Kevin Melody at 704-596-3845.

Conference slated for Brooklyn

STATEWIDE — The National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries (NACDLGM) will hold its annual conference from Sept. 21-24 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The theme for this year's conference is "Good News Stories — Promise of Hope."

It is hosted by the Diocese of Brooklyn and will be held at St. Francis College and New York City Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge.

This ministry, which encompasses work with lesbian and gay persons and their families, is the most challenging and needed work now being done in the Catholic church.

NACDLGM leads the way in this ministry within the church, acting as a network and resource for individuals, parishes, schools, religious orders, hospitals, retreat centers, social justice ministries, family life ministries and dioceses. They work to make people feel welcome in the church and help families to understand that their lesbian and gay members are always welcome. Association members are

active in creating welcoming communities for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families.

Founded in 1994, NACDLGM now counts members in 84 parishes and 52 dioceses in the U.S. and Canada. Charlotte's diocese has been a previous conference host.

NACDLGM membership is open for those doing ministry and those who support the ministry with public awareness, prayer, volunteer efforts and financial contributions.

At the conference, attendees will be engaged in liturgies, plenary and focus sessions on specific aspects of ministry and church life and fellowship with other ministers and leaders.

Focus sessions, both in English and Spanish, include advocacy within faith communities, urban and youth ministries, transexuality and Catholicism and same-sex marriage.

Father Fred Daley, a 31-year priest from Syracuse, will share his story of struggle with and acceptance of his sexual orientation and coming out publicly.

Plenary speakers will be John Allan "J.A." Lostus, S.J. (psychologist in private practice); Susan Ross (Professor of Theology at Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.); Diane Hayes, J.D., Ph.D., S.T.D. (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology in the Department of Theology at Georgetown University); and Most Rev. Joseph M. Sullivan (ret., Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Brooklyn).

To register or for more information, visit www.nacdlgm.org.

Ladies, get listed

CHARLOTTE — The Lesbian and Gay Community Center is developing a directory of women's businesses. This referral listing will provide to those who inquire, the name and contact information for such services as home repairs, plumbing, painting, wallpapering, service industry specialties and more.

For more information or to get listed, contact Ruth Derrow at RuthDerrow@vnet.net.

Another South is possible

DURHAM — The first Southern regional Social Forum for peace and justice activists was held in Durham June 16-18. The gathering brought together workers, immigrants, Katrina survivors, youth, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from throughout the Southeastern U.S., according to a report in *Workers World* on 6/20/06.

The Forum, which took place at North Carolina Central University, brought together many leading grassroots organizations. Workshops and spontaneous discussion groups came from the self-directed action of the participants. People involved in particular struggles organized dozens of workshops.

On Sunday a panel discussed the opportunities and tasks presented by the upcoming U.S. Social Forum to be held in Atlanta in 2007.

For more information, visit www.ussocialforum.org. To read the June 15 Black Workers For Justice statement for this event, visit www.workers.org.

Vendors for PRIDE Charlotte sought

CHARLOTTE — PRIDE Charlotte will take place Aug. 26 at Gateway Village. They are

see next page >

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