

The following is from a relatively new book; INTIMACY by priest theologian, Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen. I think it show the acceptance of Gay people by modern theologians.

"How does the homosexual experience himself in the world? Perhaps the core-feeling is lonesomeness. He has no real private life where he can be with himself. Very often his favorite place is the bar, not the home. He rambles through the world, restless, anxious, wanting to be intimate with everybody but not able to develop real friendships with anyone. Always looking, never finding. Always out there; never in the center. With the first look at a stranger he thinks about the most intimate contact, and in the most intimate contact he feels completely alone.

"Nowhere is the homelessness of man so deeply understood as in the Gospel. Christ came to make this world a better home to life in. On the other hand, he left this world to prepare a home for us - 'In the house of my Father there are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you'. If we show the homosexual how deeply Christ understood his homeless existence and help him to become more sensitive to the essential condition of our Christian existence, which is that of a pilgrim, a searcher and seeker, a real relationship might emerge.

"Time an again the homosexual shows how much he suffers from the prejudices of his surroundings. Perhaps a really understanding attitude can bring Christ closer to the homosexual than any attempt to change him.

"But finally and most important: The central or only message of Christ is "Love one another as I have loved you". The life of the homosexual is one great cry for love. In a deficient and failing way he reveals this desire. There are perhaps few people who have to experience their incapacity for real love in such a bitter and painful way as the homosexual. When we can make visible behind his so often destructive acts the desperate desire for love, we also can make free his way to Christ.

"If a man has chosen the homosexual way of life, prefers homosexual circles and homosexual friends and does not show any desire or willingness to change, it does not make sense to push him or try to change him. It is much more important to relate to him on hte basis of reality, to show understanding and to prevent any form of rejection of him as a human being, who needs love and charity perhaps more than anybody else. Our general attitude toward homosexuality should be free from anxiety and fear, not to speak of disgust and rejection. By a relaxed and understanding relationship to our homosexual fellow man, we might help him more than by an overly moralistic concern which requires change as a condition for friendship.

"If we are committed to the word of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, we are invited to understand the homosexual existence as an expression of our basic human condition... which is in essence a cry for the liberating power of faith, hope and life." - Fr. Nouwen: INTIMACY Fides Pub.Inc. Notre Dame, Indiana - \$2.50

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At the past June 20th meeting, officers were appointed for DIGNITY - L.A. Bob Pelletier: General Chairman, Frank Pickell: Membership Chairman and Treasurer, Bob Mitchell: Secretary, Gil Estrada: Recreation Committee, and Gabe Estrada: Social Involvement Committee.

At the June meeting several signed for chess, tennis, ping-pong, cards, and scrabble. If you would like to get together occasionally for an evening of companionship with new friends, give Gil Estrada a call in Long Beach: 422 5807.

N.B. Gil Estrada volunteered to host the July 25 meeting at 42 W. Arbor St in Long Beach (422 5807). Business/involmtnt meeting will begin at 7:30. Our regular discussion/sensitivity meeting will start at 8:00 followed by Mass. Hope to see everybody at the July 25th meeting - we need you to help DIGNITY grow and mature. As a Gay Christian you have your own dynamic personality, individuality and talents to share with us. This interchange of mind and heart requires your activè participation.

N.B. San Diego meeting will be on July 24th at 7:30. It will be held at Paul's home: 3020 Reynard Way. Phone 298 3752. Fr. Pat phone: 291 7985