

**"We discern God's presence in the life of our gay son by witnessing the beauty of his existence as it unfolds before our eyes in the context of our loving family."**

**Mary Murphy**  
Bureau participant

**"Personal stories of people who have a GLBT family member are one of the most effective tools we have to reach out to those who have negative opinions about gay people."**

**Susan Kramp**  
Bureau participant

The  
Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities

# **Parent Speakers Bureau**



**A forum whereby experiences and insights are shared by Catholic parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) children**

## About CPCSM

Founded in 1980, the **Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities (CPCSM)** is a non-profit, grassroots, independent coalition dedicated to promoting ministry to, with, and on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) persons and their families and friends—primarily those of a Catholic background.

CPCSM is composed of Catholic parents of GLBT persons, supportive clergy, community allies, and Catholic GLBT persons—some of whom have children of their own. Our work has included a variety of services from family support groups to “safe staff training” of Catholic high school professionals, from parish outreach initiatives to a range of educational forums.

Through such justice and educational initiatives, CPCSM seeks to create just and safe environments within the Catholic Church and society in which the dignity and integrity of GLBT persons and their families are recognized and affirmed.

### **Catholic Pastoral Committee on Sexual Minorities (CPCSM)**

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## Why invite CPCSM's Parent Speakers Bureau to speak at my Church?

Currently within both our church and society, issues relating to homosexuality are promoting important discussions. Unfortunately, many of these discussions are divisive in nature and/or distorted by misinformation.

Given this reality, members of CPCSM believe that now, perhaps more than ever, it is crucial to share with our fellow Catholics the wisdom of our twenty-three year ministry to and with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) Catholics and their families.

We are a coalition of Spirit-filled people grounded in our Catholic faith—one which we recognize and celebrate as richly diverse, living, and growing. In many ways our faith has been nurtured and sustained by our outreach to and engagement of individuals and groups across the Catholic spectrum—from the Archdiocese to the Dignity/Twin Cities organization, from traditionalists to members of Call to Action.

During this time of discussion within the church about GLBT issues, we believe that the perspectives gained by CPCSM's long history of inclusive outreach and engagement can inform and enrich parish communities.

We also believe that such perspectives can encourage the valuing of those voices and experiences of parish members who are sexual minorities or who have family members who are sexual minorities.

Accordingly, CPCSM has established a Parent Speakers Bureau—one comprised of Catholic parents dedicated to sharing their experiences and insights on how the realities of homosexuality and Catholicism have interacted and impacted their lives and the lives of their GLBT children.

The parents who comprise the bureau are also open to listening to the concerns and experiences of parish communities as together we seek to discern God's transforming love within the lives of our GLBT brothers and sisters.

If you would like CPCSM's Parent Speakers Bureau to speak at your church, or if you would like to be a bureau participant, contact CPCSM's Pastoral Coordinator, Michael Bayly at 612-201-4534

**"As loving parents of  
GLBT persons, we are  
significant role models  
for others . . .  
Love is our guide."**

**Mary Murphy  
Bureau participant**