

They say a MOTHER always KNOWS. SO will the *mother* of GOD have a *problem* accepting ME as I AM?

If you grew up Catholic, you may remember May crownings and some kind of sentimental songs about Mary. Perhaps you keep a rosary around the house, God knows why. You may find yourself drawn to those Madonna and Child stamps at Christmas for reasons you can't explain.

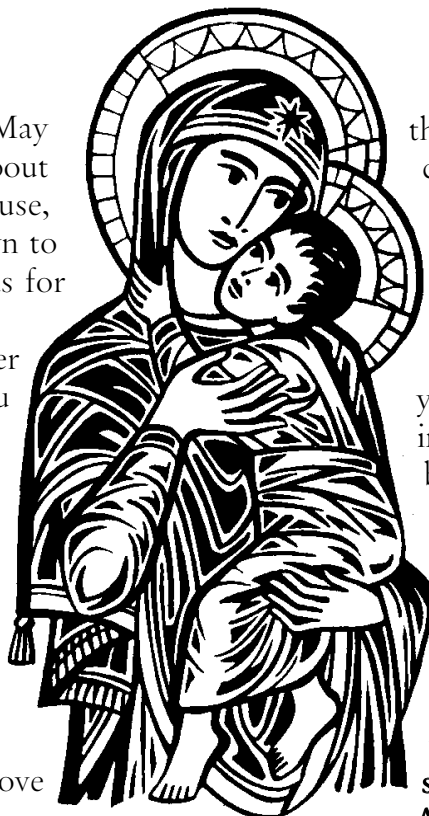
Could it be—whether or not your own mother accepts you as a gay man or a lesbian—that you hunger for a mother's unconditional love? Do you long for the reflection of God's love in a mother's gaze?

Especially for gay men and lesbians, the world seems to hold a lot of conditional love. The biggest "if" often boils down to a question of sexual orientation: "If you were straight, we would love you." Some even claim that God makes this a condition of his love.

But the Catholic faith proclaims that God's love does not come with strings attached. Yes, he wishes for us to be the best we can, to avoid wrong and do what is right, but he loves us equally whether we succeed or fail.

God cannot hate. God knows you from all eternity; he calls you by name, as you are. He loves you. And his mother is at his side, longing to hold you as she cradled him, close to her heart.

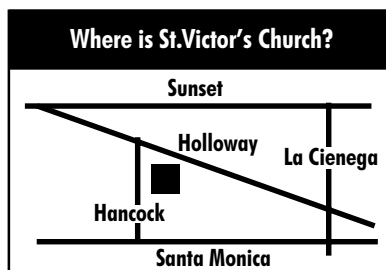
Some have experienced the rejection that is conditional love, even from relatives or clergy who made them feel unwelcome in



the Church of their ancestors. At St. Victor's, we can't make the past go away; many gay and lesbian people have suffered pain at the hands of people who should know better. But we can provide a safe place for the community to heal and grow in the light of unconditional love, to reclaim your right to membership in the People of God, your birthright by baptism.

During Holy Week, we invite you to witness with our Mother Mary the humiliation and eventual triumph of her Son's death and resurrection. **Pray with her as she shares your pain at our AIDS Mass on Palm Sunday, March 23.** And on Easter, share her joy at her Son's resurrection, a taste of the joy *you* will experience when you are reunited with your departed loved ones. (You can remember them in the Lady Chapel at St. Victor's, a memorial to those lost to AIDS.)

And if, as the Gospel recalls, you can follow Mary's example and ponder all these things in your heart, perhaps you will hear her calling you home to St. Victor's.



Located in the heart of West Hollywood

Holy Week at St. Victor's

Palm Sunday, March 23

Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (choral), 12:15 and 5:15 p.m. Mass for those with HIV and AIDS, their families and friends, with Anointing of the Sick, at 3 p.m. Receptions follow the 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Masses.

Holy Thursday, March 27

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Last Supper with choir, 7:45 p.m. Mass also at 12:10 p.m. Confessions from 7 p.m. **Good Friday, March 28** Way of the Cross at noon Meditations on the Seven Last Words, 12:30 p.m.

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with choir, 1:45 p.m.

Liturgy also at 7:45 p.m. Confessions from 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 29

Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection, 7:45 with choir and soloists Confessions 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 30

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with choir and orchestra) and 12:15 p.m. (also with choir and orchestra)



Come home to St. Victor's.

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