

# WE know *someone* who thinks YOU are JUST *to* DIE FOR!

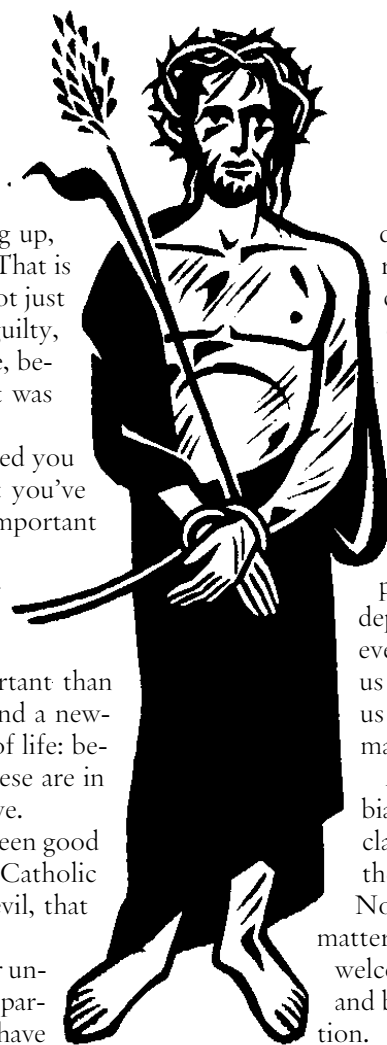
And he did just that. Sure, when you were growing up, you probably learned that Jesus died for your sins. That is certainly true, but did anyone ever tell you he died not just for your sins, but for *you*? Not to make you feel guilty, but to show how much he loved you, just as you are, because you are you? You might say that for him, it was love at first sight.

From the moment you came into being, Jesus loved you unconditionally. No matter who you are, or what you've done, or where you're from, he says that you are important enough to die for.

We are entering into that time of year when we recall how Jesus showed his love for you. It's Holy Week, and for the Church it is the most important time of the entire year. Yes, it's even more important than Christmas, which is all about light and happiness and a newborn Baby. Holy Week is about the dark passages of life: betrayal, loneliness, injustice, violence, and how all these are in the end overcome by the power of unconditional love.

Some see a world locked in perpetual combat between good and evil with the outcome yet to be decided, but the Catholic Church believes that good is more powerful than evil, that good will triumph, that love is stronger than death.

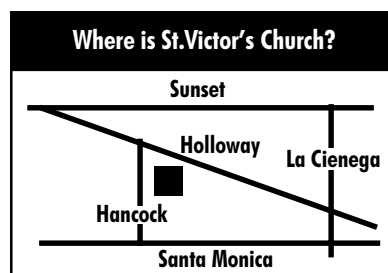
In the gay and lesbian community, many hunger for unconditional love that has often been denied them by parents, partners, politicians and yes, even priests. Many have felt unwelcome even in their own Church, to which they have a right to membership by baptism, chosen by God. But if God is with us, who can be against us? "Who can bring any accusation against those that God has chosen?" St. Paul reminds us. "When God grants saving justice, who can condemn? Are we not sure that it is Christ Jesus, who



died—yes, and more, was raised from the dead and is at God's right hand—and who is adding his plea for us? Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ—can hardships or distress, or persecution, or lack of food and clothing, or threats and violence...? No; we have come through all these things victorious, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:33-39).

At St. Victor's, the gay and lesbian community is welcome to reclaim their right to membership in the People of God, just as you are. No matter what your journey, no matter what your pain or hurt, you are welcome to join us as God heals you and brings about your own resurrection.

The Jewish nation, God's chosen people, wandered in the desert for 40 years. Before he began his ministry, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, a period the Church relives every Lent. If you've spent enough time in your own desert, come and experience the joy of Easter with us. And even if you'll be spending 40 hours in the desert come Easter weekend, that's OK. We'll be waiting for you, because we know you're to die for.



Located in the heart of West Hollywood

## Holy Week at St. Victor's

### **Palm Sunday, April 5**

Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (choral), 12:15 and 5:15 p.m.  
Refreshments after 10:30 Mass  
**Mass for those with HIV and AIDS, their families and friends, with Anointing of the Sick, at 2:30 p.m.**  
**Reception after AIDS Mass.**

### **Holy Thursday, April 9**

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, April 10**

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, April 11**

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

### **Easter Sunday, April 12**

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



## Come home to St. Victor's.

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