

# WHAT if GOD was *one* OF US? *JUST* LIKE ONE of *US*? WHAT *IF* GOD HAD *AIDS*?

A popular dance song playing on a Los Angeles radio station and in our nightclubs asks, "What if God was one of us?" Would he feel lonely? Would he dread suffering? Would he have HIV?

Catholicism has an answer: God *is* one of us. In the person of Jesus, God became a man like us—in all things but sin—to identify with all of us, share our burdens and ultimately to free us through the sacrifice of his very self.

As the head of his mystical body—the Church—he is united to each of the members as we are united to each other; what-

ever affects one affects us all.

So Christ becomes one with those who have AIDS, and our challenge is to make this teaching a reality in our own lives.

The song continues to ask, "If God had a face, what would it look like? And would you want to see, if seeing meant that you would have to believe in things like heaven and in Jesus and his saints and all the prophets?" In answer to these lyrics, Catholics are called to see the suffering face of Christ, the God-Man, in every person with HIV, coping

with the daily demands of combination therapy, or watching as his immune system breaks down, or contemplating the chances of an opportunistic infection. And the Church holds out the hope of ultimate victory over misfortune for every child of God, the triumph represented by the cross of Christ.

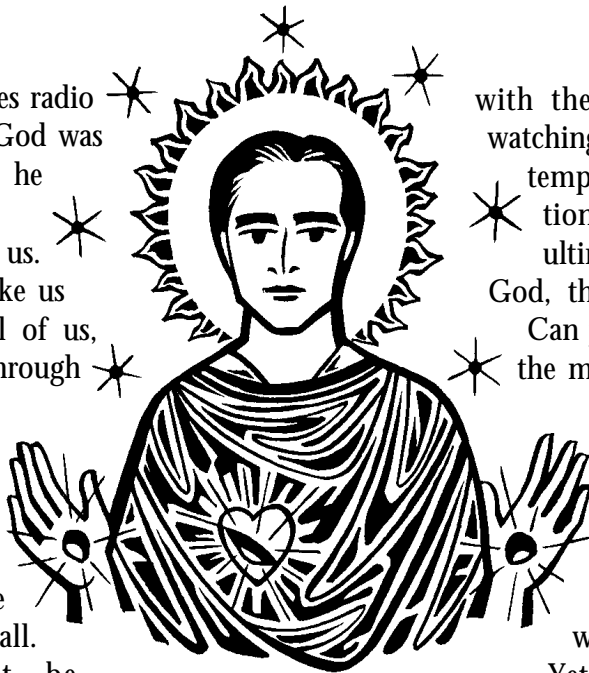
Can you see the face of God in your neighbor and in the mirror? Can it inspire you to believe in the love of God and give you the strength to follow the example of the saints—sinners moved to return God's love in whatever way they could?

If you grew up a Catholic, you may have experienced the pain of rejection from family and even clergy who claimed that you were not worthy of God's love as a gay man or a lesbian. Yet your baptismal rights not only entitle you to a place in the Church of your ancestors, but also challenge you to be the light of the world, a city on a hill. Here in West Hollywood, all those with HIV or AIDS can be a light and a beacon in this city on a hill.

We will celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross with a Mass on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. for those living with HIV and for those who have died from AIDS.

At St. Victor's, the gay and lesbian community can rediscover its Catholic heritage and reclaim its birthright among the People of God. You are welcome, just as you are.

Catholic or just curious, we invite you to try St. Victor's, West Hollywood's oldest institution, where God is one of us.



*And the Word was made flesh, and lived among us.*

## Rediscover Your Heritage at St. Victor's

### AIDS Mass September 15

3 p.m. Mass for those with HIV and AIDS, their families and friends, and in memory of those who have died in the epidemic, with Anointing of the Sick.

Reception follows.

### Regular Sunday Schedule

Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Reception follows the 10:30 choral Mass. Mass is also offered at 12:15 and 5:15 p.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m..

### First Sunday of Every Month

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 1 to 4:30 p.m.

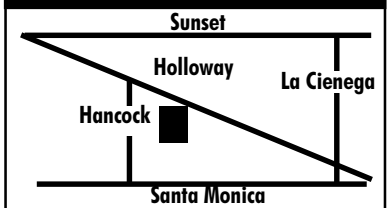
Vespers 4:30 p.m.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 5 p.m.

### Confessions

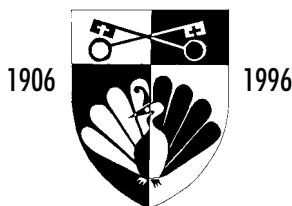
Saturdays 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. and by appointment

## Where is St. Victor's Church?



*Located in the heart of West Hollywood*

90 YEARS OF SERVICE



# Come home to St. Victor's.

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