



FEBRUARY 7, 2020  
GNRC NEWSLETTER  
Nº7  
CATHOLIC LGBTI NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



It's great to share with you the most recent activities related to the last GNRC Assembly, the development of our organization and some news from our committees and allies.

- We know that many of you are keen to keep in touch with the fruitful outcomes from Chicago. So, [here](#) is a summary of the agenda activities, the regional pre-conferences, the workshops work that will guide our future agenda, the speeches presented by Mary E. Hunt, Miguel H. Diaz and Bryan N. Massingale, the Official Album, the statistics on our gathering plus the greetings and the impressions from the delegates.
- We are also happy that a [new Board was elected on July 4th for the period of 2019-2021](#) by our members delegates during the end of our Third Assembly plenary session. Five regional and two gender/sexual diversity representatives now direct and manage the different projects and committees that are the structure of the GNRC.
- Also, the Membership committee had a lot of work during 2019: So, we welcome [ACGIL](#) (Spain), [Alpha Omega](#) (South Korea), [Crismhom](#) (Spain), [Fortunate Families](#) (USA), [Ichthys Sevilla](#) (Spain), [NijiiTomo](#) (Japan), [Red Arcoiris](#) (México), [Regenbogenpastoral Österreich](#) (Austria) and [We are Church](#) (Ireland)! We now have [more than 40 different Rainbow Catholic Communities](#) working for inclusion and justice for LGBT+ in the Catholic Church.
- The Finance and Fundraising committees have been reviewing the best alternatives to find ways for our organization to secure new funds to support the ongoing network projects. We will soon have a Paypal based Donate Button on our Website. In the meanwhile you can find our Bank data information - in case any potential supporter would like to donate us - on the GNRC Website under the [Contact](#) section.
- The Media team worked to ensure that all our activities were published on the GNRC Website, Social Media and other communication platforms in line with our current [Privacy Policy](#). Also we encourage you to follow us on our [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) and update us in case you launch any new Social Media account linked to your community.
- Many of [our Member Groups were "Present!"](#) by being visible and affirmative during their local Pride Parades. Elsewhere, the echoes from the Vatican Document "Male and Female He Created Them" continued through 2019 generating different responses. Our allies, [Claire Jenkins](#) and [Fr Luis Correa Lima sj](#) sought to inspire and encourage the Church to reflect on its position concerning LGBT+ matters in the light of theological, scientific and sociological understandings.
- The Board now has a call to all our current official Members to attend the **Second GNRC Online Assembly to be held on April 25th, 2020. Please save the date!** The Board needs to present, for your final approval, changes to our GNRC Mission and Constitutive Documents, which was requested during the Chicago gathering. At this meeting we will also be advised about who will be the host of our Fourth Assembly in 2021.

To close we share with you the message from our Co-chairs, who wish us a happy end to the festive season: ***"We leave behind the Christmas period of hope and promise and ahead of us lie exciting and new challenges. We want to take this opportunity to extend our prayers and wishes to each one of you, and your loved ones, for a truly blessed and happy 2020."*** Ruby Almeida and Christopher Vella.

#### GLOBAL NETWORK OF RAINBOW CATHOLICS 2020 ®

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Facebook: [GlobalNetworkofRainbowCatholics](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalNetworkofRainbowCatholics)

*The Global Network of Rainbow Catholics (GNRC) brings together organizations and individuals who work for pastoral care and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people and their families. We work for the affirmation, inclusion, dignity and equality of our rainbow community in the Roman Catholic Church and in society. The GNRC was founded in Rome in October 2015, and ratified and adopted the Constitution and Internal Regulations in Munich- Dachau in December 2017. GNRC was officially registered in Italy as an international Third Sector organization on the 17 December 2017.*

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## LGBT+ Catholic Issues Worldwide (Chicago Regional Pre-conferences)

Due to the geographic spread of our membership groups and the different time zones involved, as well as technical communication challenges and the time constraints in the busy lives that many lead, it has been hard for some of our LGBT+ Catholic communities to connect in a regular and convenient manner. So, before the Assembly, each caucus had one day to discuss, share and report on activities in their region and report back to GNRC on their region's current realities and significant issues.

Later, after the Assembly, the international panel conference held jointly with DignityUSA was an excellent opportunity to present to a large audience the struggles, achievements and challenges that each region faced. We would like to thank all our GNRC members who volunteered and shared their testimonies in front of the GNRC and DignityUSA audience.



DignityUSA/GNRC joint conference (from left to right): North America, Marianne Duddy-Burke (DignityUSA, USA) and Bob Shine (New Ways Ministry, USA); Africa: Joanita Ssenfuka (FARUG, Uganda) and Ryan Kollano (Upper Rift Minorite, Kenya); Asia Pacific: Benjamin Oh (Acceptance Sydney, Australia) and Eva Callueng (Rainbow Catholics, Philippines); Latin America: Fernando González (Padis+, Chile) and Carlos Navarro (Red Arcoíris México, México); Europe: Luca Galli (Cammini di Speranza, Italy) and Michael Brinkschröder (HUK, Germany).

This is a brief summary, based on the pre-conference meetings and the joint conference, gives us an insight into what is going on in each region:

- **Africa:** Almost at the end of our Assembly we witnessed the terrible consequences of homophobia in countries where homosexuality is still prosecuted under the cold silence of the Church. Alphonse Mihigo – from the Democratic Republic of Congo – showed us the terrible impacts and sufferings of the LGBT community and how even himself has had to deal with continued threats due to his advocacy and pastoral care work.
- **Asia Pacific:** They insisted on how important it is to urge the institutional Church to take an unequivocal anti-discrimination stance on LGBT+ folks as well as review the educational seminaries / religious schools on teachings about our issues. Their local clergy is still very guided by the official teachings coming from the Vatican, so an answer to documents such as “Male and Female He Created Them” is an always urgent need.
- **Europe:** They declare that female and wider gender identity inclusion is an ongoing task. At the same time, they deal with the many different political situations that impact on the general LGBT+ issues as well as the relationships of their lay people with the clergy and their clergy with the Vatican. Also, they consider that their experience allows for an opportunity for the other GNRC members for networking and sharing of information and knowledge.
- **Latin America and Caribbean:** The agenda is ruled by major regional political issues. Strong conservative groups, especially the so-called Anti Gender Ideology movements, try to pull back the advances on LGBT+ civil rights and Church expressions of inclusion. Meanwhile the Migratory Waves inside the continent have diminished the minimal conditions of survival for historical discriminated groups, where LGBT's are on the front.
- **North America:** Even if they have some of the oldest LGBT+ Catholics communities and friendly parishes worldwide, they must deal with the aging membership and how to approach the younger generations. They recognize how important it is to keep building an active line between the LGBT+ communities and the hierarchy as previous approaches are easily lost whenever a friendly Church official goes into retirement or is removed.

The desire for good lines of communication, and to encourage the regions to be proactive in this process, is a continuous task that the GNRC offers to our members in this space. The network will keep developing awareness inside and outside the LGBT+ Catholic community about the many different situations that our brothers and sisters face worldwide.

## Third Assembly Input and Results (Chicago Workshops)

For two days, our member representatives gathered in five different workshops to evaluate, discuss and propose the guidelines for the Network during the next three years. Each group consisting of 7 to 8 individuals, started with greetings and introductions, which was followed by an initial prayer. Then the workshop Moderator referred briefly to the objectives and agenda for the next two days. We'd like to thank each Moderator for their motivation, commitment and creativity to lead each theme and to coordinate the feedback documents that were requested after the Assembly.

In this section, we will review each workshop's results in terms of the major proposals that will help inform the GNRC strategic agenda.

### Mission (Moderator: James Alison)

- **Keep the GNRC inner communication lines "On" beyond the Assemblies.** The advantage of knowing people around the world is we can personally approach for collaboration or thinking things through. The personal contact by physical meetings or electronic contacts must be developed. Availability and mechanism for consultation and/or collaboration as colleagues working together (not in terms of 'experts')
- **Full LGBTIQ+ representation.** The shape of gay, lesbian, transsexual life is something we must create in our network and share through our GNRC multiple platforms. Only then we can start to change in the wider church. This is an urgent need. We discussed creating useful strategies that open opportunities to engage in supporting LGBTIQ+ Catholics.
- **Make Proud and Prophetic more than an Assembly statement.** In Christianity the sacred is where love is lived because it's found everywhere, sometimes even inside the institutional church, but never where purity codes rule. The point of being brave is not to make their cowardice look foolish but to create a situation where their cowardice no longer matters.

### Visibility (Moderator: Eva Callueng)

- **The importance of GNRC visibility as the major unified voice of Rainbow Catholics.** Our Church works in a global level but is centralized in the Vatican, then a unified voice is needed beyond the local efforts our local communities may make among laics and the clergy. Together we are stronger, especially under a collaborative context. The Constitution, and the birth of our group is an example of how the GNRC works as a precedent for those LGBTI Catholic groups that work in disguise or are hesitant to meet on a monthly basis.
- **The way we portray the GNRC must be an example of its wide diversity.** Our diversity is portrayed to everybody, so we move away from the prevalent white/gay/men perspective that prevails among LGBT+ ONG's. We also have the chance to share our different Church charisms and regional contexts. Both points make help us understand that our local communities obey a history and a local context, but there are special tools and best practices that could also be shared and contributed.
- **Our groups history, experience and knowledge are our best assets.** We need to recognize the different approaches to the LGBT Catholic phenomena and the transcription/translation into different languages to improve accessibility. Then, local testimonies can make it possible to recognize the common issues and the specific situations faced by Catholic LGBT+. Meanwhile, we must deal with the threats that the most experienced groups are facing, with ageing members and the new ones are aplenty with younger people.
- **The need of a strategic Media Plan.** We need to set our Media Planning in a more strategic way considering clarity of our target (The Vatican, general Clergy, Laics and other LGBT+'s), the message/language content (prepare official positions and statements in advance of potential controversies and discussions), the tools (Press Releases, Website, Social Networks, Digital Campaigns, Leaflet) and a calendar of implementation (The Yearly Catholic Calendar and exceptional events such as Synods and Vatican Documents launches).

### Outreach (Moderator: Robert Shine)

- **GNRC functions positively as a global front to counter the hierarchy's global front. However, change comes from the grassroots in a democratized network that practices subsidiarity.** Outreach to and support of the grassroots is thus a central component of any GNRC strategy. A strong global presence requires strong local, national, and regional groups. As of now, GNRC needs to learn more about the grassroots. Many feel not enough is known. But GNRC needs to be a key resource strengthening member groups.
- **Explore necessary regionalization given the diverse opportunities/challenges of different contexts.** Need "middle management" of regional and national organizers to (a) identify existing Catholic groups, (b) invite them to GNRC membership, (c) build a database of contacts, including ecumenical/interfaith/secular groups, who can help find more groups, and (d) seed and accompany new groups. Board should also consider regional assemblies to increase engagement. Difficulty is that GNRC is a secondary commitment for most people. Could member groups have a person dedicated to GNRC support?
- **Develop principles for organizing.** Rather than universal strategies and tactics, principles can be adapted to unique contexts. Principles could include: respectful and humble communication, personal testimony, a focus on personal invitations to collaboration, employing GNRC-developed information materials, etc. Most members in our group heard of GNRC by word of mouth; this personalized approach is difficult, but the main way outreach needs to be done.
- **Identify the benefits of membership in addition to clearly articulating the mission/vision in an accessible way.** Offer a package on the website with promotional information that could be referred to after one-to-one invitations. This material should include videos and be in several different languages. Benefits include being a resource sharing network that allows for solidarity work and reciprocal learning.
- **Influence the formation of priests, seminarians, and pastoral workers.** These groups are often ill-equipped on gender and sexuality, but opportunities for regular engagement with member groups could lead to them being resources and could start/strengthen groups in their area.

### Spirituality (Moderator: Argel Tuason)

- **The Importance of GNRC thru its Prophetic role.** The GNRC works within the Church as faithful Catholics (not as non-Catholics), allows for a diversity of voices in the conversation and should listen to the Holy Spirit. This calls us to attend to the "signs of the times". The Network ought to work for theological change (specifically: rethink our theological understandings of gender using psychology, sociology, lived experience, history, etc.).
- **Strengths of GNRC including its internal and external resources.** We need to keep sharing information with one another: Spiritual, liturgical, communal, social, theological, etc. We also need to engage more deeply in ecumenical dialogue. Some of us are already doing this in our small groups – we can share this information at GNRC.
- **Our Hopes for the GNRC.** Search and implement the best spiritual and liturgical practices. One such spiritual practice is the contemplative form of prayer called Christian Meditation. One concrete idea offered is a possible collaboration of the GNRC with the World Community for Christian Meditation.
- **We need to be more aware of the Language we use.** Practice and include non-binary language in prayers, official documents, gatherings, and personal conversations. It is a must to encourage others to be more inclusive and be aware of LGBTQ+ – phobia; not just homophobia.

### Capacity (Moderator: Michael Brinkschröder)

- **Assisting member-groups in fund-raising.** This support was considered crucial for new local organizations to start with grant applications for projects. This best practice should be institutionalized in the future through a regular office hour through which GNRC offers grant writing assistance to its member groups and offer organizational and practical advice for leaders of member groups.
- **Rapid PR Response Team.** The statement of GNRC on decriminalization needs to be tied to a news event or a campaign, otherwise it can't create an interest. Vatican statements are a good opportunity for the

GNRC to attract media attention. But for this we need a rapid response team that can release a statement within less than 24 hours.

- **LBTO – Women’s Leadership Training.** Such leadership trainings are needed for strengthening the position of women in the groups of Rainbow Catholics on all levels, starting with local groups, national and regional as well as global. Lesbian women often need a reference lesbian to feel comfortable enough to get involved. A women’s pre-conference before the 4th Assembly would also be helpful and could be the crowning conclusion of the regional trainings. Another format could be a mentoring program.
- **GNRC Office in Rome.** This should be a priority for the next Board of GNRC. It would enable our organization to do advocacy for decriminalization and the protection of human rights addressed to the Dicastery’s and the international religious orders as well as to promote best practice examples of rainbow pastoral work. It would also be a good place for holding theological conferences and work together with Embassies of supportive countries.
- **Financial Administration.** The GNRC needs a clear accounting system. As soon as we get more than one grant, the financial administration gets more complicated and needs a clearer system. The GNRC may need to buy a program for it. The Board may ask its internal auditors for advice as well as other advisors who had implemented similar systems. Also, the extension of the Italian accountant role needs to be reviewed to get the best from it.
- **Strategic Plan.** The GNRC needs an overall strategic plan that includes all areas of goals (not only the decriminalization campaign). This should be developed in a way that assures the participation of all the member groups and our allies.

## The GNRC announces its New Board, Co-chairs and Officials

We are happy to announce that a new Board was elected on July 4<sup>th</sup> for the period of 2019-2021 by our members delegates during the end of our Third Assembly plenary session. Five regional and two gender/sexual diversity representatives will from now on direct and manage the different projects and committees that structure the GNRC.

- Africa Region: Dumisani Dube – [Holy Trinity Catholic Church](#) (South Africa)
- Asia Region: Eva Callueng – [Rainbow Catholics Philippines](#) (Philippines)
- Europe Region: Michael Brinkschröder – [HuK](#) (Germany)
- Latinamerica Region: Carolina Cuarenta – [Red Católica Arcoiris](#) (Mexico)
- Northamerica Region: Marianne Duddy-Burke – [DignityUSA](#) (USA)
- Gender Diversity: Ruby Almeida – [Quest](#) (England)
- Sexual Diversity: Christopher Vella – [Drachma LGBT](#) (Malta)



We recognize the incremental female representation in the elected Board which we consider a proud and prophetic fruit of our Third Assembly. We now urge our GNRC members to maintain the high commitment expressed during the workshops, discussions and elections in Chicago.

Later, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, the new Board held its first Skype meeting for the internal election of the Co-chairs and Committees Officials.

- Co-chairs: Ruby Almeida and Christopher Vella
- Secretary: Marianne Duddy-Burke
- Communications: Carolina Cuarenta
- Treasury: Dumisani Dube

The Legal representation will be assumed by Christopher Vella.

The new Board deeply appreciates the achievements and ongoing work of the previous Board members – Andrea Rubera ([Cammini di Speranza](#) – Italy), Fernando González ([Padis+](#) – Chile), Ryan Kollano ([Upper Rift Minorite](#) – Kenia), Francis De Bernardo ([New Ways Ministry](#) – USA), Joseanne Peregin ([Drachma Parents Group](#) – Malta) and Benjamin Oh ([Acceptance Sydney](#) – Australia) – who will help the new Board during the handover process.



## Guest Speeches

We had the presence of two theologians – Mary E. Hunt and Miguel H Diaz – who presented interesting topics related to being Proud and Prophetic. Later, on the 50th Anniversary of DignityUSA, they made additional presentations with Bryan N. Massingale during a theological panel.



From left to right: Mary E. Hunt, Miguel H. Diaz and Bryan N. Massingale

### Mary E. Hunt

Mary is an American feminist theologian who is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, Maryland, US. A Catholic active in the women-church movement, she lectures and writes on theology and ethics with attention to social justice concerns.

- [Proud and Prophetic: A Rainbow Reflection](#) (Third Assembly)
- ['And the truth shall set you free': Dignity's Gift to the World](#) Conjoint Activity with DignityUSA)
- [Theologians' Panel Remarks](#) (Theologians Panel)

### Miguel H. Diaz

Miguel is an American theologian, diplomat and commentator who served as United States Ambassador to the Holy See. He was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on August 5, 2009. He was the first Hispanic U.S. Ambassador accredited to the Holy See.

- [Jesus's Prophetic Solidarity with Outsiders](#) (Third Assembly)
- [The Mystery of God, Human Dignity, and Sexuality](#) (Theologians Panel)

### Bryan N. Massingale

Bryan is a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He received his doctorate in moral theology from the Academia Alphonsianum (Rome). His approach to social ethics focuses upon the impact of religious faith as both an instrument of social injustice and a catalyst for social transformation.

- [The Challenge of Idolatry for LGBTI Ministry](#) (Theologians Panel)

## Third Assembly Official Album

Check the images of the work done in Chicago alongside the moments and places where we entered in communion by praying and celebrating the bless of being together. You will witness as well how we also had time to meet the city, their LGBT Center and have fun while sharing before, during and after the working agenda.



- [Prayings and Ceremonies](#): All our sisters and brothers contributed with their unique gifts to give a wide and diverse cultural representation during the morning prayers, liturgies and other symbolic moments.
- [Assembly Work](#): Through the Pre-conferences, Workshops and the Extraordinary Assembly Meeting the GNRC had four days of hard work that engaged, committed and strengthened our organization.
- [Chicago Tour and Recreation](#): Even under the rain our attendants joined the local Pride festivities with the Chicago community showing the diversity of our Network.
- [Making Friends and Memories](#): Out of the official agenda, the GNRC representatives and delegates meet each other so new friendships were born which we hope will continue till our next Assembly.



Third Assembly Official Picture

## A Gathering in Numbers (Feedback Part I)

Our last gathering in Chicago was an amazing and memorable occasion for everybody who was there. Here are some useful statistics from our three gatherings that demonstrate how representative they were of our wide network, and the LGBT+ Catholic spectrum.

Groups	2015	2017	2019
GNRC Present*	25	32	22
GNRC Non Present	0	0	17
Non Members	2	6	2
Individuals	6	4	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>

Region	2015	2017	2019
Africa	4	10	6
Asia Pacific	12	12	7
Europe	46	51	16
Northamerica	7	5	14
Southamerica	6	15	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>52</b>

Gender Identity	2015	2017	2019
Cisgender Male	55	73	12
Cisgender Female	19	19	40
Trans-gender/sexual	1	1	0
Intersex	0	0	0
Non Binary	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>52</b>

Sexual Orientation	2015	2017	2019
Lesbian	17	16	10
Gay	47	66	35
Bisexual	2	3	2
Heterosexual	8	7	5
Other	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>52</b>

\*The 2015 GNRC Present Groups represents those who subsequently became GNRC members in 2017.

### Major Points

- 32 groups were members of GNRC who were present when we signed the Constitutional Papers in Dachau – Germany, 2017 – at Chicago the membership increased to 39 official members. By the end of 2019, our membership has grown to 41 groups with the inclusion of Alpha Omega (Korea) and Fortunate Families (USA).
- Of the 39 active member groups we had in June 2019, 17 could not attend the Assembly due to logistic issues such as the denial of travel Visas – 4 delegates from Africa couldn't attend despite being on full GNRC scholarships. Then there was an overlap of local LGBT+ Catholic/Christian agendas – the European Forum held its annual meeting in London just one week prior to our Assembly. This made it economically prohibitive for many European groups to attend both meetings.
- 52 LGBT+ people attended the Assembly, comprising 40 cisgender males and 12 cisgender women. Unfortunately, this time we did not have any representatives of transgender or intersex brothers or sisters. So, the diversity of gender identity representation is an important issue to consider for future assemblies and scholarship offers. In the case of the sexual orientation diversity, we had 10 lesbian women, 35 gay men, 1 bisexual woman, 1 bisexual man, 1 straight woman and 4 straight men.

These statistics demonstrate the need for GNRC to keep working toward a greater presence of women, a better representation and visibility of our BT+ brothers and sisters, a more considered approach and understanding of how VISA demands adversely affect our African members. These issues will be at the forefront of considerations for the hosts of our next Assembly host along with the considerations of scheduling in local LGBT+ activities.

On a more positive note, the Assembly had good feedback about female empowerment – even though women were statistically a minority – they had a high level of leadership and visibility during the workshops and general activities, and four of the seven elected Board members are cisgender women.



## Proud and Prophetic Impressions (Feedback Part II)

More than fifty people from all over the world gathered in Chicago for the Third Assembly of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics. You can read here the affirmative and positive impressions from its attendants as the work done keeps inspiring us to continue the GNRC work.



*"Coinciding with the 50th anniversary conference of DignityUSA, and the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, the Third Assembly was a very powerful and inspiring experience that I will never forget. I know it will lead to stronger relationships and cooperation within GNRC, and greater effectiveness for GNRC as a global voice and advocate for LGBTQI Catholics."*

Jeffrey Stone, DignityUSA - USA

*"Meeting fellow rainbow catholic advocates from around the world during the GNRC Assembly was inspiring. Knowing that there are others like me gives me strength and courage to continue the fight for inclusion and justice. Although we have gone back to our respective countries, these kindred spirits will always be close to my heart."*

Miel Feria, Rainbow Catholics Philippines – Philippines



*"Every time GNRC gets together in assembly, you feel the Spirit of God inspiring all of us to go forth in announcing the Gospel of Jesus to the world, especially to LGBTI+ people who are still not fully understood and accepted by the Church."*

Lula Ramirez, Grupo de Acao Pastoral de Sao Paulo – Brazil

*"I welcome the simultaneous occurrence of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall riots and the 50th anniversary of DignityUSA: when an honest commitment for civil rights and a deep reflection about faith and homosexuality go hand in hand the whole society gains an advantage."*

Luca Galli, Cammini di Speranza – Italy



*"The 3rd assembly was another opportunity for us to meet in person, learn more about the progress of GNRC and to elect a new board as well as sharing ideas on how progressively the network will run."*

Joanita Ssenfuka, FARUG – Uganda

*"I very much appreciated meeting you and others from outside of North America. For me, it was like being back in 1965-1970, experiencing a strong sense of community and communion at the Eucharist. I also enjoyed the presentations made by the three guest speakers both at the Cenacle retreat center and at the hotel on the last day."*

Frank Testing, Dignity Canada Dignité – Canada



*"The assembly was incredible in terms of its theme and welcoming approach to everyone with relevant and inspirational topic areas. It was very well presented and focused, with the organizing hosts doing a fantastic job making everything work. Thank you again for all your great work and that of the committee."*

Paolo Alacqua, Acceptance Sydney – Australia

*"The working groups, which supplied us with remarkable outputs during the hard workdays, made us understand that our major difference is only the distance, but our similarities are more and make us stronger. It was a work guided by God, to help and invite us to act. Not only doing what is written but going further."* Maritza Fuenzalida, Pastoral de la Diversidad Sexual – Chile



*"I really enjoyed the conference as it was a source of inspiration and a chance to somehow strengthen my conviction that LGBT Catholic advocacy makes sense. It gave me a sense of belonging, knowing that there are others out there doing the same work and having similar joys and struggles."* Martin Kolenic, Gay Christian Slovakia – Slovakia

*"This Third Assembly was so full of God's Blessings, it gave me more tools about how to coordinate my community and gave me more visibility of how all other people in the world are facing some issues that we may have or had. In few words, this was a Divine experience."* Rodrigo Baker, Efeta – Mexico



*"It was a joyful inter communitarian gathering, with the meeting of new faces and names as well as the work that is on deployment in each country. I am convinced that the GNRC will soon reach a faster rhythm and we all will see how we reach our common and shared dreams for transformation."* Luis González, CRISMHOM – Spain



*"The experience in Chicago was very enriching. The space to know the realities in different countries and to exchange experiences that facilitate our daily life in local communities, made possible to renew our faith in our difficult journey. What strengthened me most was the knowledge that we are not alone, that we are many all over the world and we want the same, to be an integral part of our church."* Isabella Tymburiba, Rede Nacional de Grupos Catolicos LGBT – Brazil

## Our Gratitude and Acknowledgement

We would like to thank all those who made our Assembly happen, especially our hosts **DignityUSA** and our sponsor the **Arcus Foundation**. We must also express our gratitude to **The Sisters of the Cenacle** who so warmly welcomed us at the Retreat and Conference Center – as well as to all the team from **the Center on Halsted** – Chicago's LGBT center where we celebrated our closing dinner thanks to the contribution of **Daniel Bender**, **Human Rights Campaign**, **Dignity USA**, **The Legacy Project** and **Stoli Vodka**.



Special mention goes to our keynote speakers, theologians **Mary Hunt**, **Miguel Diaz** and **Bryan Massingale**, to **Petrus Russ** our musical person in charge and preaching leader, to our photographers **Deborah Winarski** and **Leakey Licky** for the wonderful images captured through their cameras. We know that we are missing many names that helped and supported us – before, during and even after the end of the Third Assembly. So many of you made it a remarkable experience and an occasion to keep growing and building the home that is our GNRC. Our love, hugs and greetings go to all of you.

We wish you a Happy 2020 to all our GNRC members, friends and allies. May the blessings of Holy Spirit reach out to all our LGBT+ Catholic/Christian Communities worldwide.

### GNRC NEWSLETTER N°7

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