

LGBTIQ+

Reflections taken from "Building a Bridge." By James Martin, SJ (HarperCollins, 2018)

Reflection 1

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

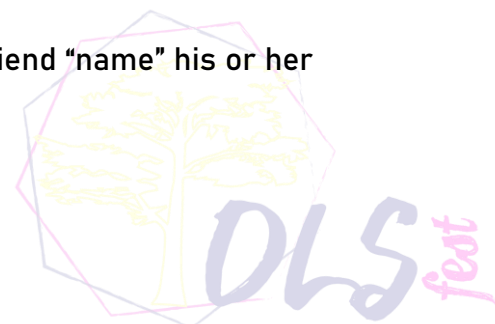
Exod. 3:7, 10, 13-15

Questions

1. By what name do you call God? Lord? Creator? Friend? What is God's name for you?
2. Can you name a few of the people who have been the most helpful in your spiritual journey? Name them in God's presence and offer thanks for their help.
3. when you think of your sexual orientation or gender identity, what words do you use? Why? Can you speak to God about this in prayer? #
4. What was it like for you to 'come out' or share your sexuality or identity for the first time? What was that "naming" like for you? Can you share with God your experiences, both positive and negative? Can you rejoice with God over the positive ones, and grieve with God over the negative ones?
5. Try imaging yourself, in prayer, in Moses's place. What would it be like to talk to God directly? How do you think you might feel while God spoke? What would you have said or asked?

For families, friends and allies:

1. How did you feel when you heard of your family member or friend "name" his or her sexuality or gender identity?



2. Did that “naming” change or deepen your relationship with that person? What does that say to you about your own relationship with God?

Reflection 2

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Cor. 12:12-27

Questions

1. Saint Paul speaks powerfully of the different gifts that every member of the church brings and can contribute to the church. What gifts do you bring? Can you thank God for these gifts?
2. How have you exercised these gifts?



Inclusive Community Resources

3. Has anyone every prevented you from exercising your gifts in the church? Can you express how you feel about hat to God?
4. Paul says that the “members” of the body (or church) who have been the least respected should be honoured the most. Does that make sense to you?
5. Do you feel like you are a part of the “body” of the church? Why or why not? What, or who, helps you feel more a part of the church? When have you most felt a part of the church?
6. What gifts from others in the church have helped you move closer to God? That is, who has helped you on your journey?

For families, friends and allies:

1. How have LGBT people brought their gifts to your life and your ministry? How do you recognize those gifts?
2. Has your ministry lost out on gifts because of prejudice? What might you do to combat those prejudices?

Black Lives Matter

- *Resources prepared by the Lasallian District of North Eastern America:*

www.fscdena.org/resources/racial-justice/

- *Two articles that gives suggestions how you can contribute to the BLM movement wherever you are:*

www.highsnobiety.com/p/black-lives-matter-europe/

www.timeout.com/things-to-do/how-to-support-black-lives-matter



Palestinian

- *Petition on Annexation of the West Bank:*

<https://palestinecampaign.eaction.online/stopannexation> *CAFOD's Work:*

- *CAFOD's Work*

<https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Where-we-work/Middle-East/Israel-and-Palestine>

- *Film:*

5 Broken Cameras by Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi (15+)

- *Blog:*

<https://blog.eappi.org/>

Women

- *Book:*

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

- *Link containing various articles which feature feminism:*

www.theguardian.com/world/feminism

- *Film:*

Battle of the Sexes by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris (12A)

- *Podcast:*

<http://thehistorychicks.com/about/>

- *Various articles about the development with regards to the Catholic church and women:*

www.catholicnewsagency.com/tags/women-in-the-church

