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PROGRESSIVE CATHOLICS UNSWAYED BY VATICAN'S RECENT WELCOME TO ANTI-GAY, ANTI-WOMEN ANGLICANS

Vow to continue struggle for women's equality in the Church at Milwaukee Conference

Two weeks after the Vatican announces welcome to anti-gay and anti-women Anglicans, the largest annual gathering of progressive Catholics launches its conference today with vow to continue their campaign for equality.

"Jesus did not discriminate," says Call To Action's Executive Director, Jim FitzGerald. "Instead, Jesus welcomed everyone to the table and so should our churches."

"We applaud the efforts of Anglicans who have stood up for the rights of women, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in their Church. We, too, look forward to the day when the Catholic Church as a whole will welcome these same people into open leadership within our own Church."

Call To Action has been on the forefront of church justice causes for women and the LGBT community for over 30 years. At its annual conference this weekend they will welcome over 2,000 Catholic priests, nuns and lay people for three days of prayer, workshops, and action.

Friday night's keynote speaker is Roy Bourgeois, the Maryknoll priest who has been threatened by the Vatican with excommunication over his support of women's ordination. Frank DeBernardo, Director of New Ways Ministry for LGBT Catholics will speak Saturday.

Polls show that 61% of U.S. Catholics believe that women should be priests (National Catholic Reporter Survey) and 83% do not want discrimination against gays (Contemporary Catholic Trends Survey).

More than 30 other speakers, workshops, action caucuses and prayer sessions will take place throughout the weekend at the Midwest Airlines Conference Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

For a detailed schedule and other information see
www.cta-usa.org/conference

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Call To Action (CTA) is a Catholic movement working for equality and justice in the Church and society. An independent national organization of over 25,000 people and 50 local chapters, CTA believes that the Spirit of God is at work in the whole church, not just its appointed leaders.