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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Call To Action Statement Regarding New Ways Ministry and Cardinal George**

Call To Action stands in solidarity with New Ways Ministry this week after Cardinal George of Chicago issued a statement dismissing their pastoral ministry programs and casting doubt on their Catholic identity.

“New Ways Ministry is a standard bearer for what it means to be Catholic,” says Jim FitzGerald, Executive Director of Call To Action. “Gay and lesbian Catholics often find themselves verbally and sometimes physically assaulted by those who believe in the homophobic and hurtful teachings of some church leaders. New Ways Ministry, like the Good Samaritan, has witnessed the suffering of gay and lesbian Catholics, their parents, families and friends, and has tended to their spiritual wounds. They are a model for the entire Christian community.

“New Ways Ministry stands in a long line of Catholics such as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Theresa of Avila who found themselves distanced or threatened by church leaders, only later to be heralded as saints and models of Christian values.

“Our God and tradition call us to live similarly; to respond to the suffering in our midst, regardless of the personal consequences, so as to model the love of Christ that transcends and heals all injustices. Today, we recommit ourselves to our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers in Christ. We invite Cardinal George and all Catholic leaders to join us in this holy work.

For more information, see:

Cardinal: ministry to gays inauthentic teaching

<http://ncronline.org/news/cardinal-ministry-gays-inauthentic-teaching>

Gay group director responds to cardinal's criticisms

<http://ncronline.org/news/gay-group-director-responds-cardinals-criticisms>

*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 53 local chapters, CTA believes that the Spirit of God is at work in the whole church, not just its appointed leaders. Visit our website at [www.cta-usa.org](http://www.cta-usa.org).*