

Many parents of lesbian,
gay, bisexual or
transgender children are
quick to tell you:

They first found hope
and help by
talking with other parents
who have lived an
experience like theirs—
and held fast to their
love for their child.



Listening Parents Network

A resource of
FORTUNATE FAMILIES, INC.

*The wonderful moms and dads
who serve as Listening Parents are
gracious volunteers who support
the mission of Fortunate Families.
To receive a free copy of our newsletter,
or for information about other resources
and programs offered by
Fortunate Families,
we invite you to visit our website:*

www.fortunatefamilies.com

Fortunate Families
P.O. Box 18082
Rochester, NY 14618-0082
585-698-6100

Need
Someone
To Talk With
About
Your Child's
Sexual
Orientation?



For Catholic Parents
with
LGBT Children

The Listening Parents Network

www.fortunatefamilies.com

The Listening Parents Network: Your Chance to Talk with a Mom or Dad who's "Been There"

The Listening Parents Network was created by Fortunate Families, a national ministry of Catholic parents with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender daughters and sons. The Network was created to offer support to other parents—Catholic or not.

Here's how:

What is the Listening Parents Network?

The Network is a group of Catholic moms and dads who have LGBT children. These parents volunteer to lend a listening ear to other parents who may be struggling with questions about their child's sexual orientation—and just “want someone to talk to.” You can communicate with a Listening Parent by phone or e-mail— whichever you wish—in the strictest confidence.

How can these parents help me?

Listening Parents are not professional counselors. But they *can* relate. They understand something about the way you feel. They have personally experienced the fear, the confusion, the doubt and the broken dreams so common to parents when a child “comes out.”

And they have also found answers. They love their child. They have held on to their faith. And often, they have forged new family relationships stronger than before. They can offer you a compassionate ear and non-judgmental support and encouragement.

How do I find a parent to talk with?

First, go to Fortunate Families web site, www.fortunatefamilies.com.^{*} Then, on the gray bar, find “Fortunate Families Network.” Click there to reveal a drop-down menu. Click on “Listening Parents”.

This puts you on the “Listening Parents Network” page. There, you will find a listing of Listening Parents—with a bit of background on each. Just choose a parent you wish to call or e-mail—perhaps one who lives in your area, or has a background of interest to you, or has a child with the same orientation as yours.

It's easy, private and confidential. You needn't be alone with your concerns and questions. If you'd like to talk with the Catholic parent of an LGBT child—or if you know someone who would—look into the Listening Parents Network.

^{} Not computer friendly? Just call 585-698-6100 and we'll help put you in touch with a Listening Parent.*



... On the Importance of Listening Parents

“When my son told me he is gay, I couldn't talk to my family. . . and my Church couldn't talk to me. I didn't know where to turn. I just wanted to talk to another mom.”

. . . mother of a gay son

“Parent-to-parent sharing can be critically important to understanding and acceptance—and for the health and wellbeing of the family.”

. . . child psychologist

“I think the Listening Parents Network is a terrific idea and a very valuable ministry.”

. . . parish family life minister

“Parents who learn their child is LGB or T often find themselves isolated, with nowhere to go for help. They should call a Listening Parent.”

. . . school counselor

“When I called a Listening Parent, I found a father who heard me out without judging or criticizing. Then he shared his own story. It was very helpful.”

. . . father of a lesbian daughter

