

As kids, [my husband] and I were both raised Roman Catholic. My family (French Canadian) and his (Italian) can trace our families' involvement with the Church back many generations. From attending Mass and receiving the sacraments to church picnics and volunteering, the Church has been a part of our spiritual and social lives. However, as we grew older we became more and more aware of the fact that, as gay men, we couldn't really be ourselves fully, as God had created us, in our church. We didn't feel unwelcome for being gay, in fact, we felt the opposite. However, there was always the lingering fact that we could never get married in our faith, at least not anytime in the near future. Also, while we considered our orientation and relationship a gift from God, others considered it a disorder. We still considered ourselves Catholic, but never truly felt fully at home.

After dating for almost 20 months [my husband] and I got engaged. (We both knew in our hearts that this was our destiny from the moment we met.) We rarely went to church early on in our relationship, but we still prayed, hoping we'd find where we belonged. We considered changing denominations, but nothing we found quite felt the same way as the Catholic Church did. Fortunately, while browsing the internet for a solution, we came across Church of the Beloved, ECC. It almost seemed too good to be true: A Catholic Church where we could be honest and open about who we truly were. We attended Mass, and felt completely welcome and at home. We decided from day one that this would be our new spiritual home