

morality and necessity of the Covid-19 vaccine. Strickland also appeared on a video arguing that one cannot be a faithful Catholic and also a Democrat and, this past December, at the “Stop the Steal” rally, in Washington, D. C., echoed Trump’s and the republican party’s false claim that the presidential reelection was stolen by the Democrats.

To say that Christianity in America is in deep crisis is to state the obvious. Even worse is to politicize the Eucharist in the name of an interpretation that misrepresents its profound spiritual and social meaning. It is nothing short of tragic that some Catholic and Evangelical leaders and their followers make up the legion of hatemongers of the Jewish, Black, and Asian Americans and continue to support policies which betray Christian, democratic ideals, and the value of each human life, besides misrepresenting the grand ideals of the Founding Fathers. The use of the Bible in order to justify discrimination and hatred, or violence against human life, is never justified.

In the Eucharist, the faithful gather in love and solidarity to receive the bread and the wine, the mysterious and visible symbols of the real and mystical presence of Christ in the midst of the community. It is essentially a communal, social rite/sacrament. In order that he have life, Christ gave his own. Our modern society has constantly failed to denounce social, structural sin, and most religious denominations center their attack on individual sin, arguing for the need of individual prayer and repentance. But the New Testament denounces “the sin of the world in its structures: the synagogue, the empire, slavery, that is, the sin which today is committed within socio-political and economic structures that marginalize and victimize millions of human beings. Pedro Casaldáliga, ex-Bishop of São Félix do Araguaia, Mato Grosso,

## CAN JOE BIDEN RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?



Brazil, reminds us that the prayer of the Offertory of the Catholic mass (“This bread we offer, which earth has given and human hands have made”) clearly indicates that the Eucharist is a social sacrament that brings the community together to celebrate the presence of Christ, who unifies and activates the faithful by the power of the Spirit.

Theologian Ched Myers (Binding the Strong Man – A political Reading of the Gospel of Mark – Orbis, 1991, p. 364) notes that the last time Jesus met with his disciples around the table has become the center of the Catholic liturgy, namely, the Eucharist. However, Mark’s narrative of the Last Supper is not – as the words of consecration during mass seem to imply – a memorial, a backward-looking remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice by the apostles and future generations – but rather a call for forward-looking action: “Mark articulates his new symbolic center, and overturns the last stronghold of symbolic authority in the dominant order, the high holy feast of the Passover. In place of the Temple liturgy Jesus offers his “body,” that is, his messianic practice in life and death.”

Let’s hope that the Conference of American Bishops stop contradicting the Vatican, follow the example of Pope Francis, and that their final “Instruction on the Eucharist,” which is due in November, will stay away from the partisan politics that they have been playing these last five years. The Eucharist is and must be gathering of the Christian people

In the presence of the Trinitarian God

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## Lauryn Harold Farris July 8, 1956 – July 27, 2021

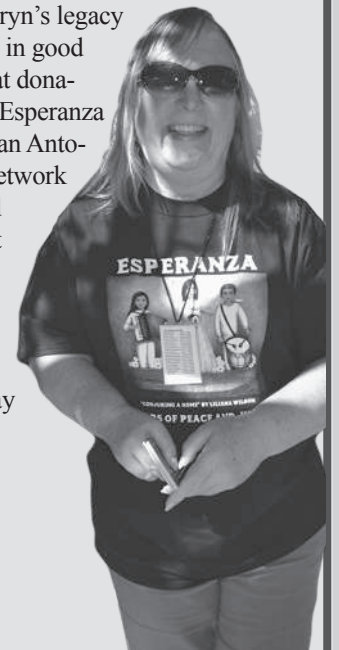


Lauryn Farris, a dedicated queer activist and Esperanza buena gente touched many lives. In her lifetime, she saw same sex marriage legalized allowing her and her wife, Kerry Farris, of 39 years to be legally married in 2015.

Locally, Lauryn worked on the passage of the San Antonio Non-discrimination Ordinance in 2013 and worked with groups like PFLAG San Antonio, the Transgender Education Network of Texas, CAUSA and the Queer Corazones of the Esperanza Center. A lead organizer for *Son Tus Niños También: Trans Kids Back To School*, Lauryn facilitated discussions between teachers, parents and their children on how best to work with trans children in the schools. As buena gente of the Esperanza, Lauryn helped out at the annual Peace Market, the Big Give Campaign and the monthly Noche Azul concerts.

Lauryn’s wife, Kerry, and their children, Mark and Harold, and two grandchildren, Austin and Theo, will continue Lauryn’s legacy of activism fighting for those who have been silenced or felt

voiceless. They will continue to extend love to all no matter their race, sexuality, religion, or gender expression. A beloved Nana, parent, child and activist, Lauryn’s legacy will live on in those that can still get in good trouble. The family has requested that donations in her memory be made to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, PFLAG San Antonio or the Transgender Education Network of Texas. The Esperanza staff, board and buena gente extend our heartfelt sympathies to Lauryn’s family and community. Her spirit will endure in all whom she touched and her shining light will not be diminished. ¡Lauryn Harold Farris, presente! May she rest in power and pride!



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