



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2016

L'Arche Portland to Honor St Andrew Catholic Church with Spirit of L'Arche Award May 19

Portland, OR, – The 2016 Spirit of L'Arche Award will be presented to St. Andrew Catholic Church on Thursday, May 19 at L'Arche Portland's annual Spring Social. The Spirit of L'Arche Award was created in 2014 to honor "a person or organization in Portland that embodies [L'Arche Portland](http://www.larche-portland.org)'s mission to announce and share the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities." Past recipients include [PHAME](#) and [Dorothy Coughlin](#).

The community of St. Andrew Catholic Church has been an integral part of the L'Arche Portland family for 30 years. People with intellectual disabilities from the L'Arche Portland community and beyond are invited to actively participate in parish life and worship – some serving as Eucharistic ministers, offertory hosts, or lay readers, others participating through dance or in the welcome and prayer life of the congregation.



St. Andrew
Catholic Church

St. Andrew parishioners have been actively involved within the L'Arche Portland community, supporting our mission and homes through their relationships, volunteering and gifts. The relationship between L'Arche Portland and St. Andrew is one of mutual benefit to its members, which this award both celebrates and calls us to deepen.

L'Arche Portland will present the award at our Spring Social, a festive celebration of our community of people with and without intellectual disabilities. RSVP by May 15 at <http://www.larche-portland.org/springsocial> or by calling 503-251-6901.

Event Details:

Spirit of L'Arche Spring Social
Thursday, May 19, 6-8 PM
Madeleine Parish Hall
3123 NE 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97212
RSVP at www.larche-portland.org/springsocial or 503-251-6901
Donations gratefully accepted at the event or via www.larche-portland.org

About L'Arche Portland:

At L'Arche Portland, people with and without intellectual disabilities work together to create home, build community, and share life. Those with intellectual disabilities form the heart of our shared life and invite others into mutual relationships. We welcome each person's unique gifts and challenges, and offer opportunities for personal transformation. We trust in God and live as a sign that love, respect and

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interdependence are the path to a peaceful and just world. Our model of sharing daily life creates a culture of equality, founded on a belief in our need for one another and the importance of belonging. The L'Arche Portland community is part of an international L'Arche federation, with 149 communities and 20 projects in 35 countries.

"Being in L'Arche has shown me that relationships are not formulaic, and we should just accept people as they are. I had to learn that we are not here to teach core members to "be normal" or make them more like us. It is to accept them as they are and open ourselves to them." -- Aaron Flores, former assistant

"L'Arche (Portland) is a place where they want you." -- Marilyn Pettruzelli, core member

For more information about L'Arche Portland and the Spirit of L'Arche Spring Social, please visit www.larche-portland.org. Get involved with L'Arche Portland today! Attend or sponsor an event; invite us to present to your community group, church or school; volunteer; or become an assistant.



Members of the L'Arche Portland community worshipping at St Andrew Catholic Church

Media Contact: Amy Geoffroy, Director of Development & Communications, L'Arche-Portland
503.251.6901 | amy.geoffroy@larche-portland.org

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