

**Subj:** RE: Channel 12 interview  
**Date:** 3/19/04 3:39:15 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** [pmartinez@monroecc.edu](mailto:pmartinez@monroecc.edu)  
**To:** [Mbvisel@aol.com](mailto:Mbvisel@aol.com)

Will you be doing more marriages this weekend – thus figuring it'll take them until Tuesday to decide whether to haul your butt to court for violating the sanctity of marriage and undermining the very core of civilization? You sure are a radical! ☺

Marion, I have to tell you that I was raised Catholic. Had some issues with Catholicism completely unrelated to my orientation. Got married, got divorced a dozen years later, and then turned to Mormonism.

These days I joke that I'm a recovering Catholic and Mormon. I've always considered myself sort of a rubber-band type of "Christian." That being, someone who takes an interest for a while, then falls away, then becomes interested again, then falls away. I think a large part of it was some internalized "shame" thinking that somehow I was an abomination in God's eyes (okay, THAT is my Catholic upbringing) and that I wasn't worthy to even speak His name (there's the Mormon in me) and so I sort of stopped talking to God. Sort of like the disobedient child that refuses to look their parents in the eyes because they know they've been bad and don't want to see the disapproval and disappointment in their parents' eyes.

We attended a Marriage Equality rally here in Rochester almost a month ago. A Unitarian pastor spoke, and stirred something within both of us. Lisa even commented "Almost makes you want to start going to that church." Then we got the phone call from the New Paltz Equality Initiative and found ourselves right smack in the middle of realizing just how much support we have from the church and the clergy, and we found comfort also in beginning to realize that maybe we need to stop listening to the hard-line Christians who stopped speaking God's words a long time ago and began to mix their own in and credit Him with it.

What you women have done is beyond anything we could have ever expected from clergy. And now, we don't joke about "maybe" starting to go to the church. We looked up where our closest one is, and think we've found a home. We found a home, NOT because they teach what we want to hear, but because they teach what we have believed deep in our hearts our whole lives.

We want to be involved in this movement, and we want to perform service to others that have the same hopes and dreams we have. You helped us to realize one of ours and we want that for all of our GLBT brothers and sisters.

We hope you don't mind if we continue to correspond with you. Also, if there's anything we can do up this way to help out, please ask us. We'll do anything within our means to help advance this movement.

Love and hugs!

Pat and Lisa

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Mbvisel@aol.com](mailto:Mbvisel@aol.com) [<mailto:Mbvisel@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2004 2:44 PM

**To:** Martinez, Patricia (ETS: Word Processing)

**Subject:** Re: Channel 12 interview

Hi, I've had a busy but good week too. As far as the legal defense \$\$ is concerned, we 3 ministers have pro bono legal counsel. I'm not sure what will happen with the charges and if their will be fines levied, and if the ministers charged will pay the fines (or go to jail).

But contributions should go to the New Paltz Equality Initiative ([NPEqualityInitiative@yahoo.com](mailto:NPEqualityInitiative@yahoo.com)). Or have folks send checks to the NPEI in care of

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 America Online: Mbvisel