



MAY 2012, VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

Spirituality, Equality and Justice: Nurtured in a Welcoming Catholic Community

Dignity Detroit supports the Women Religious as they face persecution for daring to do the Lord's work. We, particularly, have been blessed with the support of the IHM Sisters. Please, take a moment to return that support. Write letters to the IHM's themselves or go to www.newwaysministry.org to see how you can help.

Easter Flower Donation Program

We are once again sponsoring an Easter Flower Donation program to help beautify the sanctuary during the Easter Season (Easter Sunday through Pentecost). You can donate a plant in memory or honor of someone, or just for the joy of adding to the beauty of the Sanctuary during this most special time of the year. For your convenience, an order form is included with this Newsletter. At the conclusion of our Liturgy on the date you selected, you will be invited to take your plant home with you.

We remind you that this is not a fundraiser and that all funds collected will be spent on flowers.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Calendar of Events - May 2012

- 6 - 6th Sunday of Easter**
Rosary Sunday
- 13 - 6th Sunday of Easter**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Clothing Drive ends
Deadline to purchase tickets for Anniversary Dinner
- 19 - 38th Anniversary Dinner/Dance**
- 20 - Feast of the Ascension**
38th Anniversary Mass
Council meeting at 4:30
- 27 - Pentecost**

The Annual Pride Banquet organizing committee has been hard at work planning this year's Pride Banquet.

The festivities will take place on Thursday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at the Ukranian Cultural Center in Warren.

For further information, to make nominations for the various awards or to purchase tickets, go to: <http://www.goaffirmations.org/site/Calendar?id=143703&view=Detail>

Motor City Pride is coming to Hart Plaza in Detroit on June 3.

Dignity Detroit will have a table and volunteers are needed. Please see Denise if you can help.

It's time to register and become a team member of Dignity Detroit in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure held at Comerica Park. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 26. To register online, simply go to **team registration** at karmanos.org/raceforthe curedetroit/index.asp and follow the instructions. Team registration ends Tuesday, May 8, however you can still register as an individual up to May 26. If you do not have access to a computer or need additional details, please contact Denise Smith at dsmith0698@wowway.com or 586-202-0300.

In light of the recent miscommunication relating to Planned Parenthood, it should be noted that the Karmanos organization also contributes and advocates for many charities. In addition, 75% of the donations remain locally for research, cancer screening, treatment and educational programs for low income and underinsured individuals in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. The other 25% is spent nationally on Breast Cancer Research.

Dignity Detroit to mark 38th Anniversary Celebration

The weekend of May 19th and 20th, Dignity Detroit will celebrate 38 years of ministry to the GLBTQ community of the metropolitan Detroit area.

Our festivities begin on Saturday, May 19th, at Park Place in Dearborn with our Anniversary Dinner/Dance. There will be cocktails, dinner, dancing and a silent auction and raffle. Our guest speaker at the dinner will be Dr. John Corvino, noted author (several books and regular columnist for *Between the Lines*), speaker and philosophy professor at Wayne State University here in Detroit. Dr. Corvino has been speaking and writing on moral subjects since the early 1990s. He has educated and entertained professional organizations, government contractors, churches, and hundreds of college and university audiences.

On Sunday, May 20th, our celebration continues with our 38th Anniversary Liturgy at the usual 6 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Chapel of Marygrove College. Dignity members and regular attendees are encouraged to invite their family and friends to both evenings of celebration!

Our theme for this year's celebration is, ***Changing Lives Together***. Through our ministry (weekly Liturgies, retreats, soup and sermon Lenten series, etc.) and outreach programs (canned goods, clothing and personal hygiene kit items collections; our Christmas Giving Tree program to benefit some of the families in the parishes of our presiders; our participation in the Breast Cancer Race for the Cure and AIDS Walk Detroit fundraisers and even the IHM South African AIDS Ministry Outreach Program) that is exactly what we do. Working together as a united community of faith, we are ***Changing Lives Together***.

Council Elections

Since we only had one candidate for each of the open Council Offices, the members present voted to suspend our constitution so that we would not have to incur the cost of a mail-in ballot election. Our new Leadership team effective July 1, 2012 is as follows:

President: Glenn Crane

Vice-President: Claudia Welbes

Treasurer: Rick Roos

Secretary: Sr. Therese Kearney, IHM

Community Involvement: Denise Smith

Social Chairperson: Peter Fedor

Glenn, Rick and Peter were elected to a two-year term ending June 30, 2014. Claudia, Sr. Therese and Denise have one more year in office and will serve until June 30, 2013.

Congratulations Glenn, Rick and Peter!!!!!!

Community Directory

It is time for our semi-annual updating of our Community Directory. For your convenience, a Directory form is included with this newsletter. Please fill out the form with whatever information you would like published. You can also change or delete any information currently in the directory with the same form. All completed forms **MUST** be returned by Sunday, May 20th, so that the Directory can be updated before the end of May. Just a reminder that the both members and non-members can have their information published in the Directory and only those whose information is contained in the Directory will receive a copy of it. Thanks.....

Dignity Detroit is a group who loves to socialize. The opportunities we have to gather, chat, and introduce ourselves to “new-comers” are numerous: in the foyer before liturgy, the after-mass social, Anniversary Dinner/Dance, and the various pot-lucks. Some folks have even participated in discussion groups or go out for a meal after liturgy. And although we do love to socialize, our primary mission is to gather as Catholic Christians to worship our Creator who loves and sustains us.

Dignity Detroit is “Spirit-filled community, striving to live a vision of spirituality, equality and justice in welcoming Catholic Community.”

Our Liturgy Planning group kept all of this in mind when we gathered prior to the Lenten season. Our Lenten liturgies began a little differently; we began in silence, eliminating the elements of “welcoming those around us” and the Gathering Song. Now that we’re into the Easter season, we sing the triumphant “Alleluias” with enthusiasm and joy. However, we are not resuming the greeting we’ve done as liturgy begins. While it is important, indeed crucial, to be a welcoming community, we can extend hospitality in the foyer before and after mass. This change is not meant to stifle us, but to assist us in preparing to celebrate the Eucharist. Another equally important item is that we ask that you please be seated before the 6 o’clock start of Mass. It is easy to get caught up in conversation, but for Mass to start on time, we need you in the chapel !

The Liturgy Planning group also discussed the Rite of Peace and the singing of the *Lamb of God*. Our pastoral musician, Kevin, takes his cue to begin the *Lamb of God* from the priest-president. When he is at the altar, after exchanging the greeting of peace, Kevin begins the music. Yet, we are still busy with our own greetings...continuing to do so even after the music has stopped. Please, out of respect for the priest-president, take your cue from Kevin. When the music for the *Lamb of God* begins we should move back to our place within the assembly.

As we continue to gather and celebrate the Easter season, let us recall these words from the *Acts of the Apostles* proclaimed to us on Easter... “*You know what has happened.*”

Night surrendered to day, dark to light, fear to courage, death to resurrection.

Peter, who was afraid to admit he knew the Lord, now fearless, proclaims you boldly, across the barren hills, each place he goes in every action he takes.

**Lord, Give us your Spirit too, give us your life as you gave it to Peter.
Let us show your story with our lives.**

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm

Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College

8425 W. McNichols @ Wyoming

Contact us at:

Postal Mail: P.O. Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558

Voice-mail: 313-278-4786

E-mail: dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com

Website: www.dignitydetroit.org

We are a 501 (c) 3 organization

Dignity Detroit meetings:

Our meetings are open to all

Council -

Third Sunday every month @ 4:30 pm

General Membership -

Third Sunday of January, April, July and October,
immediately after Mass

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit

Our volunteer participation needs your help on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month between 3:30 - 6:00.



Please see George K. or Denise S. if you can help. Thank You!!!



Dear Parishoners of Dignity Detroit,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, patients, volunteers and staff of FernCare Free Clinic, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of \$300 in support of our operations.

Not only do we provide direct treatment to our patients, but your contribution allows us to provide resources and referrals to hundreds of others in the community. Every dollar we receive helps keep the doors open to over 200 patients who otherwise would be denied access to routine, preventative care or treatment of serious, chronic illnesses. FernCare provides a place for them to receive the healthcare they deserve.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Babut, Treasurer

Dear Dignity Detroit,

I can't thank you enough for making my first DignityUSA Board meeting a most enjoyable and welcoming experience. From beginning to end, your hospitality was totally appreciated. There was the grand tour of Detroit, the shuttle to Bravo Cucina Italiano Restaurante, wonderful conversation and sharing with so many of your members.

Meeting all of you was truly a highlight in my visit to Detroit, and certainly a gift from God!!

Love and Peace, Patricia Russell

Dignity Detroit 38th Anniversary Dinner Dance

May 19, 2012

Changing Lives Together

Park Place Banquet Hall

23400 Park Street

Dearborn, MI 48124

Guest Speaker: Dr. John Corvino, PhD

Philosopher, Moralist, Gay-rights advocate, noted author, *Between the Lines* Columnist and Wayne State University Professor/Department Chair

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Number of tickets requested @ \$50.00** _____

Make checks payable to and mail to:

Dignity Detroit

P O Box 558

Royal Oak, MI 48068

Vision Statement

Spirituality, Equality and Justice nurtured in a welcoming Catholic Community

Statements of Principle

We will explore ways to be innovative with our ministry

Have had Scripture/Communion Services in the absence of a priest
Special 10th Anniversary of 9/11 commemoration
Provided background information to all members regarding changes in Liturgical verbiage
Implemented new Roman Missal
Lenten Soup and Sermon Program

We will encourage ministry, community and social involvement

Attendance at DignityUSA Convention in Washington, DC
Raised \$11,200 during AIDS Walk Detroit to benefit Health Emergency Lifeline Program
Held Candy collection drive to benefit children at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen
Held Canned Good Collection to benefit the Sisters of Christian Love
Sponsored Giving Tree to benefit families and individuals in parishes of our presiders
Encourage male individuals to participate in a dissertation survey about Spiritual and Emotional Experiences of Gay men for a doctoral student in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola University
Publicized Catholic Open and Affirming (COPA) Lenten Program at Ss Simon & Jude Church exploring Biblical teachings on homosexuality.
Held Personal Hygiene Kit Collection drive to benefit Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG)

We will support and expand membership

Sent e-mails out to members with 9/1/2011 expiration dates reminding them to renew
Held end of summer bar-b-q
Held Thanksgiving Pot-luck dinner

We will network with GLBT and social justice groups

Forwarded Equality Michigan Survey to distribution list for their consideration to participate
Forwarded e-mail on Bishops activities and statements directed to the GLBT community
Sent letter of support to MCC-Detroit and Rev. Mark Bidwell
Participate in the Gay/Straight Student Alliance Leadership Summit of S.E. Michigan Youth Summit
Encouraged all on our distribution list to sign a petition calling for an end to bullying of LGBT Youth, sent to us by Fortunate Families and Equally Blessed
Assist with coordination of (and participated in) Archdiocese of Detroit World AIDS Day service on December 1st
Participated in Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender All College Conference sponsored by MSU.
Sent donation to Affirmations in support of their new Executive Director, David Garcia.
Sent donation to FernCare, a free clinic in Ferndale
Signed on as a sponsor of the Call to Action Michigan Conference; Saturday, April 21st; St. Anastasia Church in Troy.

We will become a respectful voice on GLBT issues

We will set goals, develop processes and monitor progress to accomplish our objectives

Progress reported at every General Membership Meeting

Dignity Detroit Community Directory

The directory will only be shared with individuals who fill out this form.

Please feel free to share as much information as you wish.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

please designate if cell or home number

E-mail: _____

Birthday(s) (month/day): _____

Completed forms may be placed in collection basket, given to any council member or
mailed to us at:

PO Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558

Deadline for submission is **Sunday, May 20th**.

The directory will be distributed by May 31st.

If you are already in the directory, please submit any changes you would like to make.

If you would like to be removed, please write only your name and "Remove"

The next directory update will be November, 2012.