



Serving LGBT Catholics Since 1974

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

DignityUSA envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and as beloved persons of God participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and Society.

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 of each month between 3:30 - 6:00p.m.

For more information, see Michael Frontiera.



**Calendar of Events
November**

1st - All Saints Day

8th - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Dignity Council Meeting @
4:30 p.m.**

22nd - Feast of Christ the King

29th - First Sunday of Advent



Frankly Speaking

It is hard to believe that it is November already! As I write this, we have not hit Halloween yet and most stores already have Christmas decoration displays! Where does the time go?

On Wednesday, November 18th, I am scheduled to have my second back surgery in less than twelve months. The first surgery in December, 2014, was a spinal fusion, covering L4, L5 and S1 with titanium rods placed on either side of my spine and held in place screws in L4 and S1. All was good until mid-July and I somehow herniated L4 out the back which affected all the nerves exiting my spine. I have basically been numb from the waist down since then. Legs are constantly tingling, feet are asleep, but at least I can wiggle my toes on both feet. This surgery will consist of adding screws to L5 and extend the fusion up to L3. The surgeon assures me that this will correct the issues I am experiencing.

Obviously I will be away from Dignity for an unknown period of time. My colleagues will handle things in my absence and do a stellar job. Please give them your support and while you are at it, feel free to offer a prayer or two for my speedy recovery.

Thanks.....

Frank

General Membership Meeting Re-Cap

At the General Membership Meeting held on Sunday, October 18th, the members present approved two proposals brought forth from Council.

- Expenditure of maximum of \$1,500.00 for an AED (Automatic Defibrillator Device) that will be kept under lock and key in the sacristy. Training will also be provided for anyone interested in learning the use of the device.
- Expenditure of a maximum of \$2,100.00 for new Hymnbooks (Gather III). We will be purchasing 100 congregation editions, 10 choir editions and the organ/piano accompaniment editions. We hope to have the new books available for use on the 1st Sunday of Advent (November 29th). As we did back in the late 90's when the current books were purchased, people will be able to donate the cost of a hymnal (\$20.00) in "Honor of", in "Memory of" or just as a "Gift". Labels will be placed in the inside front cover of the book with the information of the donation.

In addition to the two proposals, the following was also adopted.

- We will also be conducting research regarding our existing investment strategy. Our thanks to Rick R., Glenn C. and Allen W. for agreeing to serve on the research committee. Council has asked for a report and recommendation by the December Council meeting so that a report and if required, a proposal can be made for Membership approval at the January General Membership meeting on Sunday, January 18th following our Liturgy that evening.

Lately I've noticed that I have to make a lot of lists...stuff I need to get done at home, tasks I need to take care of at work, and things I need to do for Dignity. To really ensure that I get everything taken care of I follow up my lists with emails sent to myself and beeping alerts on my phone. Certainly there is a sense of accomplishment as I cross things off those various lists, but then I find that I often add additional items to keep my hopping. Some days (ok...many days) when I finally sit down late in the evening I think about just getting away from it all so that I can reenergize, refocus, and relax. I am positive that I'm not the only one who feels this way. What I need, what I think many of us need, is a good retreat!



Fortunately, our annual Dignity Detroit Retreat has been scheduled! Come away with us for a day of prayer, discussion, relaxation, and fellowship. Our retreat will be held on Saturday, December 5 at River House in Monroe. We will begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast (retreat starts at 9:00am) and conclude sometime around 4:30pm. We are fortunate to have

Jesse Cox, campus minister at Marygrove College, as our facilitator. Jesse is a wonderful speaker and I'm sure we won't be disappointed. Our theme is ***"Becoming a 'Mary' in a 'Martha' World."*** Many of us are busy in ministry or with jobs or with families (or all of them!) that we don't take or make the time to relax with and spend time with God. A registration form is included in our newsletter and will also be available in chapel. Please join us as we retreat and refresh!

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord...

The month of November is traditionally a time when we remember in a special way our deceased family members and friends. You are invited and encouraged to write the name(s) of your loved ones in our *Book of Life*. The *Book* will be placed on the altar to St. Joseph and you can inscribe names any time before liturgy begins.

Thank you to all who donated items for our Blessing Bags for the Homeless and helped organize and assemble the bags! In such a simple way, you are helping to bring a bit of comfort to our sisters and brothers in need.



Claudia

Ps...Now that I've finished this article I get to cross something off my list! Hurray! ☺

Dignity Detroit Advent Retreat

“Becoming a ‘Mary’ in a ‘Martha’ World”

Retreat Facilitator: Jesse Cox

Saturday, December 5, 2015

8:30am (continental breakfast)—4:30pm

River House (on the campus of the IHM Sisters)

805 W. Elm, Monroe, MI 48162

Suggested donation: \$20.00 (includes a light meal and helps to defray cost of facility and director)

Scholarships are available.

Return completed form and check payable to Dignity Detroit by November 29.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please indicate if you would desire a vegetarian option for lunch

_____yes _____no

Questions: See Claudia W.

AIDS Walk Detroit

This year's AIDS Walk Detroit is officially in the books as of Friday, October 16th when all sponsorship pledges were due.

Our Dignity Detroit Walk team finished in 5th Place with a grand total \$7,850.00 raised by the thirteen (13) Walk Team Members.

Our thanks to all Walkers who raised funds, to those who walked with us in support, and finally, special thanks to those who sponsored the team with their financial support. We couldn't have done it without you!!!



Mark your calendars!

Our annual Thanksgiving potluck in Madame Cadillac Hall will be held on Sunday, November 29th following our Mass. A sign-up sheet will be available in November for volunteers to sign up for set-up, clean-up and a dish to pass

World AIDS Day

SS. Simon and Jude Catholic Church will once again host a World AIDS Day Service on Tuesday, December 1st, at 6:30 p.m.

Two (2) panels of the National Names Project AIDS Quilt will be on display. There will be scripture readings, inspirational readings, a reading of names and hymns of praise, hope and thanksgiving.

A few volunteers are needed to serve as readers during the service. If you can assist, please send Frank an e-mail at frankdamore@dignitydetroit.com

This has always been a very moving service honoring those who have died from HIV/AIDS, those living with HIV/AIDS and caregivers everywhere.

Meet-Up for December

It was such a fun night last year we've been requested to do this event again. The 43rd Annual Noel Night in Midtown Detroit will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. We will meet in front of the Detroit Institute of Arts on the driveway in front of the steps at 5:00 p.m. Arrive early to find parking and dress for the weather and be prepared to walk between venues. There will be various venues offering entertainment and shopping. if you have any questions contact Patrick Sharpe.

Annual White Elephant Auction

On Sunday, December 6th, we will have our Annual White Elephant Auction/Pizza Party. Your assignment is to find that buried treasure you have, that you just could not bring yourself to throw out. Wrap it Christmas wrapping paper and bring it with you to Mass on that date. The item will be auctioned off, sight unseen, to the highest bidder! This has always been an evening of great fun. It is very interesting and enjoyable to see what items make a return appearance. Don't forget to bring your checkbook with you on that date so that you can make a purchase or two yourself. As always, there will be a few gifts that will be "plants" --- gift cards of various types. You just never know what you will be purchasing.

Community Directory

It is time to update our Community Directory. If you currently have information in the Directory and there are no changes, you need take no action whatsoever. If would like to have information published or changed in the Directory, we have included a Directory Form with this newsletter. Supply only that needs to be updated or the information to be added. You should only add information that you feel comfortable sharing or with the other individuals whose information is listed. Forms are due back by Sunday, November 8th and the new Directory will be published and distributed by November 15th. After this publication, the Directory will not be published again until May, 2016.

Keep in mind that only those individuals who have information published in the Directory will receive a copy of the Directory.

Giving Tree

We will once again have our annual Giving Tree beginning in early November and running until early December. Letters have been sent to all our presiders asking for information regarding a deserving individual or family that they feel needs assistance to have a Merry Christmas.

The tree will be up in the foyer as soon as wish lists are returned back to us. We encourage everyone to take an ornament or two, purchase the items, wrap them up and attached the ornament/gift bag to the package and then bring it to Mass with you. When all is said and done, the gifts will be distributed to the parishes where our presiders work. The parish staff will then make sure that the gifts make their way to the individual or the family in time for Christmas Day.

Your generous support will go a long way to help brighten the holidays for some very deserving folks.

Thanks.....



- ___ Addition
- ___ Change
- ___ Delete

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, November 8th.
The directory will be distributed by November 15th.

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

The next directory update will be published in May, 2016.

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in 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

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

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Please see Michael F. if you can help.

Thank You!!!



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.

Is your membership expiring soon?

You can renew by logging on to the Dignity/USA website. If you don't have access to a computer, renewal packets are available on the back table in the Chapel for you to mail in.

Anyone who cannot afford the \$50 membership is encouraged to see any member of council for the **confidential** Angel's Fund program. All you have to do is ask!

Ken Wojciak

Interior/exterior painting

Free estimates

313-319-7712

KenWojciak@gmail.com