

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.

GIVING TREE REMINDER!

Please bring your wrapped gift with the giving tree tag, by **December 2nd**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



**Calendar of Events-
December, 2012**

2- Rosary Sunday

9- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9- White Elephant Auction

23- Assistance is needed in decorating the chapel for the Christmas season. This will take place immediately following liturgy.

Dear Friends of Dignity Detroit,

It is that time of year again when we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Dignity Detroit has had many celebrations in 2012. We have continued our charitable work with a clothing drive, food drive, Race for Cure, AIDS Walk, IHM Sisters South African AIDS outreach (March Madness), Capuchin Food Kitchen, Comerica Park Fundraising, Christmas Giving Tree, etc.

Our Potlucks bring us together as a community to share a meal and socialize. We have grown as community and have had new “friends” join us at our weekly Masses.

We are the only Chapter of Dignity USA that has the blessing of celebrating mass in a Catholic space. Marygrove College continues to welcome us onto their Campus.

Dignity USA continues in their great work advocating for an inclusive church. As treasurer of the national board, I see firsthand the work that is accomplished, it is truly amazing. Your membership in the National organization allows the work to continue.

There are many ways in which people support Dignity Detroit. I want to thank each and every person who supports Dignity Detroit. We bring together great people every week to share in an inclusive Catholic mass.

Let your friends and family know that “All are Welcome” at Dignity Detroit.

I wish you, your friends and families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Glenn Crane
President



ADVENT, from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” Many of us have celebrated this season of the church year many, many times. From the time I was a wee child until now, it seems my family has celebrated Advent the same way...in a hurry, hustling and bustling here and there making all kinds of preparations for Christmas. And it all began the day after Thanksgiving (this year was no exception).

Traditionally, we arise before the crack of dawn to catch the “black Friday” deals, fight the crowds, and come home exhausted, albeit laden down with packages. Over the following weekend the decorations go up and we set up the crèche. The infant Jesus doesn’t make it into the crib until Christmas so it always looks like Mary and Joseph are staring at the floor! The magi are off in the distance and progress a little further each day until the feast of Epiphany when they actually arrive at the manger. Christmas cookies are baked and stowed away until the Eve and gifts get wrapped in a manic wrapping marathon. To be honest, I don’t like any of it. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not a Grinch, but it seems to me that I’ve been long missing the point of the Advent season.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptizer calls out:

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

We are called to prepare the way for Jesus, to make the paths straight for him, to fill in valleys, take down mountains and hills, and smooth out rough patches. Then, when all is complete, we shall see the salvation of God. This isn’t necessarily a lesson in geography! (In Michigan, with the exception of rough roads, we pretty much meet all those expectations; we have no mountains to speak of and most of our roads, especially in Metro Detroit, run pretty straight!) So what is this all about and how do we apply it to our lives today?

John the Baptizer’s message calls us to conversion and repentance. We are to make our lives ready for the coming of Christ. We are to prepare ourselves to meet God incarnate. We are called to let God into our lives and remove any obstacles which prevent us from seeing him clearly. So how are we to do this? This Advent season **SLOW DOWN**. Take time to enjoy the season; take time to pray; take time to spend with your family. Of course, we have to prepare our houses for Christmas, but more importantly we need to open our hearts and lives so that God, in the person of Jesus, can truly transform us.

Peace,
Claudia

***Celebrate Christmas Liturgy with your
Dignity Family***

As is our tradition, we will be having our Christmas Liturgy on December 25 at 6:00pm in Sacred Heart Chapel on the campus of Marygrove College. Join us as we celebrate the great gift God gave to us in the person of Jesus!



NEWS AND NOTES REGARDING LITURGY

- ✦ After December, we will be ceasing our monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. While your Council believes that this quiet time for prayer is beneficial and important, there has been an overall lack of interest and attendance. The chapel is always open at least an hour before Sunday liturgy for those who wish some quiet time with the Lord. If there are any individuals who would like to see Adoration continue and would like to oversee this ministry, please see any member of Council and you will be instructed on proper set up of the chapel for this.

- ✦ It was recently brought to the attention of Council that the “noise level” in the Chapel prior to Liturgy is not conducive to prayer. There are some members who do arrive early to pray so out of respect for them, please maintain silence in the Chapel as much as possible.

Reflections on our annual Dignity Detroit Retreat...

How blessed, indeed, were the 16 individuals who participated in our annual retreat on November 17 at Visitation North. Over the years, our retreats have been facilitated by many deeply spiritual people, both lay and religious, who shared their thoughts with us on a multitude of themes. This year was no different.

Fr. Stephen, who is one of our presiders, spoke on the theme of “How our Image of God Affects How We Pray.” Stephen’s two reflections, interspersed with personal anecdotes and a healthy dose of Irish wit, challenged us to look deeply at how we perceive God and then, in turn, how that image is reflected in our individual prayer styles. He spoke of an operative image and an espoused image. The former is an image of God we acquired when we were young. Perhaps our personal image of God was influenced by paintings or pictures we saw of God, Jesus, and Mary in our homes, books, or in churches. Often these images are of a majestic, distant God who stands at the ready to smite us for even the littlest offenses. Our prayers, then, were perhaps rote, memorized prayers or ones begging for mercy and another chance to set things anew.

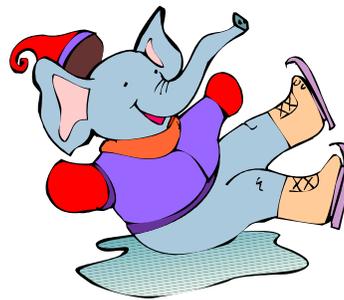
The espoused image we have of God is more mature; it has developed over time and is generally influenced by life experiences. Many of those who attended retreat spoke of a personal God as one who is not limited by the constructs of our minds. In other words, we can’t pigeon-hole God and say that God is *either* this *or* that. God can be mother, father, brother, sister. God can be present to us in the stillness of our hearts and in the din of everyday life. God is very near to us, yet often times we fail to see the Sacred that surrounds us; we are too busy caught up in the “messiness” of life to see that God is present in all things and at all times.

Our time together closed with Eucharistic Liturgy. For me, it was the most profound liturgy that I’ve been to in quite some time. It was a simple service with no music, I didn’t have to run around making sure all the various ministers were present, and there was no concern about saying the “right words” to all the prayers! We were transformed through our time together and didn’t just share Communion...we became Communion—a life-giving, albeit imperfect, Body of Christ.



WORLD AIDS DAY

On Saturday, **December 1st**, the Archdiocese of Detroit, SS Simon and Jude Catholic Church and Dignity Detroit will sponsor a World AIDS Service. The service will take place at SS Simon and Jude Catholic Church located at 32500 Palmer (just West of Merriman Rd) in Westland. The service will begin at 7 P.M. and will include a reading of names of those who have died of AIDS and there will be a panel from the AIDS Quilt on display. If your schedule permits, please plan to join us.



WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

Our Annual White Elephant Auction will take place on Sunday, **December 9th**, as part of our after-Mass social. The auction will take place in the 2nd floor Library Lecture Hall. Pizza, salad and pop/water will be provided. Your assignment is to find that absolutely beautiful (????) treasure that you have in the house that you have no use for, but just can't bring yourself to just throw out or that item you bought at last's year auction. Wrap that one item in Christmas wrapping paper and bring it with you to Mass on the 9th. Santa will auction all items off.....sight unseen.....to the highest bidder. This has always been an evening of great fun. Don't forget to bring your checkbook as well so that you can make a purchase or two.

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm
Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College
8425 W. McNichols @ Wyoming
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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

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!

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!!!



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