



OCTOBER 2011, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 6

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

**DignityUSA Board of Directors**

We are pleased to announce that the DignityUSA Board of Directors will be holding their October meeting here in Detroit the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

All sessions will take place at the Doubletree Hotel, located on the corner of Ford Road and the Southfield Expressway. We are hoping that some of the folks can stay for our Liturgy on Sunday evening.

As the dates approach, we may be looking for some folks to make airport runs on Friday (arrivals) morning and again on Sunday afternoon (departures).....we will keep you posted.

The meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

**Dignity Detroit is once again collecting Halloween Candy for the Capuchins.**

**Between now and October 23rd, please consider bringing bags of bite-size candies to donate.**

**Thank you!**

The Annual Dignity Detroit Food Drive begins Sunday, October 2 through Sunday, October 30. This year, the Sisters of Christian Love will be the recipient of our drive. Items on their wish list include, but are not limited to, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, peanut butter and jam, cereal, oatmeal, soups, crackers, individual fruit cups, spoons, water and rice krispie treats.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our community outreach!

**Calendar of Events - October 2011**

**2 - 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Rosary Sunday**

**9 - 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Solidarity Sunday**

**16 - 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**23 - 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Council Meeting at 4:30**

**General Membership Meeting, immediately following Mass**

**30 - 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time**

The University of Michigan Dearborn's Gender & Sexuality Alliance is bringing Gene Robinson, the first openly gay priest ordained in a major Christian denomination, to speak at the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus on October 5. Following the bishop's afternoon speech and discussion, Robinson will attend the student organization's evening reception to raise money for the LGBT youth shelter Ruth Ellis Center.

Bishop Robinson is the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire in the Episcopal Church of the U.S, which is one of the most progressive major Christian denominations in the country. The church has backed legislation to protect LGBT people and allows gays and lesbians to be ordained ministers.

- Bishop Robinson entered office in March 2004. That November, Bishop Robinson was consecrated as the Bishop of New Hampshire - and as the first openly gay bishop in LGBT history. He wore a bulletproof vest under his clothing at the ceremony.

- Since then, Bishop Robinson's career has hit many highs and lows. He was the only bishop in the Anglican Communion not to be invited to the 15th decennial Lambeth Conference in November 2008. One month later, Robinson was asked to lead the opening prayer at President Obama's Inaugural Celebration.

- In 2010 at the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire in Concord, Bishop Robinson announced that he would step down in January of 2013. He will be 65.

- **Bishop Robinson will speak Oct. 5 at 3:30 p.m. in the BorgWarner Auditorium of the Institute for Advanced Vehicle Systems Building.** The reception will begin that evening at 6 p.m. in the University Center's Kochoff Hall. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served following a brief speech from a representative of the university's GSA and a few words from the bishop. Bishop Robinson will remain at the reception to personally meet attendants who wish to speak with him.

- A \$20 suggested donation is asked for at the door of the reception, all of which will be donated to the Ruth Ellis Center to support the number of services they offer to the LGBT youth of the metro Detroit area. Silent auction items will also be presented around the reception, the proceeds of which will also benefit the REC.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet one of the nation's most important gay leaders, and benefit local efforts to assist homeless LGBT children and teens in the process.

For more information keep tabs on [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) and [umdgsa.weebly.com](http://umdgsa.weebly.com) or contact Benjamin Jenkins, Event Coordinator at 734-776-8104 or [bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu](mailto:bmjenkin@umd.umich.edu)

## Advertising Angels

We are once again looking for Advertising Angels to help defray the cost of our *Between the Lines* monthly advertisement. The cost (which has not gone up for three years now) is \$1,550.00. Included in this price are 12 ads (1st issue of each month) and a free listing in the Pridesource Yellow Pages publication that is published annually.

If you can make a donation to help defray the cost of the advertisement, it would be most appreciated. As of this newsletter printing, we are half-way to our goal with \$780 collected.

If you are able to donate, please make your check payable to Dignity Detroit and put it in an envelope, write Advertising on the front of the envelope and then either hand it to Frank D'Amore or drop it in the collection basket.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

During the year of Jubilee (2000), our pope at the time, Blessed John Paul II, announced a revision of the *Roman Missal*, this is the red book that the priest uses at the altar which contains all the prayers of the Mass (formerly known as the Sacramentary). According to the US Bishops' official webpage, this new edition "contains prayers for the observances of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Votive Masses and Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. ***The English translation of the Roman Missal will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people.***"

Use of the new Missal will be instituted throughout the English-speaking world on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) this year. As has been done in the past, we have adapted the peoples' responses so that they will be reflective of our spirit of inclusivity. New "pew cards", with the peoples' prayer responses will be available in the chapel. The sung mass settings are also changing and we will all begin *learning* the new music on September 23. The Archdiocese of Detroit is allowing parishes to begin *using* these settings on October 23.

We invite you to visit the USCCB's website to find out more information about what these changes are: [www.nccbuscc.org/romanmissal](http://www.nccbuscc.org/romanmissal). You may also wish to visit the following websites for additional information:

- 1 [www.adw.org/prayer/newromanmissal\\_elearning.asp](http://www.adw.org/prayer/newromanmissal_elearning.asp) (a series of informational videos from the Archdiocese of Washington that you can view online.)
- 2 [liturgy.nd.edu/web-catechesis/](http://liturgy.nd.edu/web-catechesis/) (from the University of Notre Dame)
- 3 [www.resurrectionparish.net/Documents/AODMissalAnnoun2011.pdf](http://www.resurrectionparish.net/Documents/AODMissalAnnoun2011.pdf) (Archdiocese of Detroit)

Change is often difficult, and while it may be of little comfort, be assured that we are not alone; all Catholic communities in the English-speaking world are making this transition. Pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit that we, here at Dignity Detroit, will grow even stronger in our faith and devotion to Jesus, the Christ.

## **Frankly Speaking**

In our August issue I mentioned that I was in Washington, DC over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend for the Dignity/USA Biennial Convention/Family Reunion. The weekend of August 5-6-7, brought about another type of family reunion.....my 40 year High School Class Reunion. We started on Friday evening with a very informal gathering at a local bar in Dearborn. It was interesting to see how people had changed. What was even more interesting was seeing how some people did not change at all. They looked exactly like they did in high school. On Saturday, we had the official reunion. What a blast! Saw even more people on Saturday than Friday. The weekend concluded with another informal gathering at the City of Dearborn Homecoming Celebration. Yours truly skipped the Sunday event due to heat and humidity.

I am telling you all this to set the stage for the week after the reunion. I had started a Facebook page strictly to keep abreast of all the Class Reunion activities. On the Wednesday after the reunion, one of my classmates posted a comment on his wall regarding the supposed rumor that Bert and Ernie of Sesame Street were going to get married. The classmate's comment was something to effect, "will these people stop at nothing to get to our children?" At first I ignored the posting. However, the more I thought about it, the madder I got. Below is my response to my classmate.

*"This is the first I have heard of the Bert and Ernie idea. I would be willing to bet that if it is true, it is an attempt to help educate young children who have two same-sex parents. As for "recruiting", that is so absurd I almost did not even comment. The AMA and the American Psychology Association determined years ago that being gay, lesbian, etc., is not a mental illness. Current research is primarily in agreement that one is born with their sexual orientation. Why would a person choose a lifestyle that opens them to be harassed, bullied, ignored by their families, discriminated against by their employer, refused admittance to a hospital emergency room where their partner might be laying near death? In my 40 some years since I came out, I have had one acquaintance (I won't even refer to him as a friend anymore) turn his back on me. Also, my own father did not speak to me for almost three years when I told him....thank God he eventually came around and then even asked me to be his best man at his second marriage. If people were more willing to educate themselves a little and open their closed minds, this discussion would not even be taking place".*

Until next time.....

Frank D'Amore

## **Volunteer Sunday**

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, those in attendance at Mass were asked to make a commitment of service to our Dignity Detroit community. This is something that we have done for several years now. It is no secret that with the exception of our organist/choir director, we are an all-volunteer organization. Six individuals made a commitment to step forward and serve as the Leadership team, but six folks cannot do it alone...WE NEED YOU!

Included in this mailing is a copy of the Volunteer Form that we used on September 25<sup>th</sup>. There are 22 different ministries where help is needed. Some are very public....lector, commentator, Eucharistic Minister, etc. Some are much less visible. Hopefully, there is something on the list that interests you. Please review the list, give it some serious thought and prayer. Once you complete the list, you can bring it to Mass with you on any Sunday and turn it in to a Council member or simply drop it in the mail at the address provided on the form.

Together, there is no end to what we can accomplish!!!

### **AIDS Walk Detroit**

On a beautiful, sun lite Sunday morning over 3,000 people walked to make a difference in the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS. Although official numbers won't be known until mid-October, the eighteen individuals on the Dignity Detroit Walk Team raised just over \$10,000.00 to benefit the Health Emergency Lifeline Program (HELP). We even had special t-shirts provided from HELP that included our Dignity Detroit logo. Over 100 people showed off our logo all over downtown Royal Oak. It doesn't get much better than that. Thanks not only to the Walkers, but to those who made a financial contribution in support of the team.

### **Solidarity Sunday**

*From the DignityUSA website.....*

Solidarity Sunday is a faith-based anti-violence initiative. Because we understood that, contrary to popular belief, most Catholics are appalled by anti-gay attacks, DignityUSA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a way of making our opposition to anti-gay violence visible.

Solidarity Sunday is held every year on the Sunday before October 11 (National Coming Out Day). The next Solidarity Sunday will be on October 9, 2011.

Solidarity Sunday is dedicated to the memory of the many who have lost their lives through violence because of who they were or who they were perceived to be. May their deaths not have been in vain. Let us work together to end verbal and physical violence against anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders!

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

**Our lives begin to end  
the day we become  
silent about things that  
matter ---**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

Dignity Detroit's Annual Fall Retreat  
is slated for Saturday,  
November 12.

This year, we are returning to "The  
Barn" at the IHM Motherhouse  
Campus in Monroe.

Details and registration forms to  
follow via e-mail and at Mass.

Don't miss this opportunity for  
enriching your spiritual journey!

**DignityUSA:**

**P.O. Box 376**

**Medford, MA 02155-0376**

**Phone: 800-877-8797**

**E-mail: info@dignityusa.org**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for  
our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the  
Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Detroit's east side.

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!!!





P. O. BOX 558  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48068

**YES!** *I would like to volunteer my time and talents to our Dignity Detroit family in the following areas:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lector                        | <input type="checkbox"/> After-Mass Social Set-up                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commentator                   | <input type="checkbox"/> After-Mass Social Clean-up                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Minister          | <input type="checkbox"/> 38 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offertory Gift Bearer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities Committee                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Involvement Committee                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acolyte                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative to other organizations (if needed)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Committee                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy Set-up                | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical Decoration         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Cleaning Committee                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical Planning Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Bread Baking                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____  |   |

**Please Print Legibly...Thanks!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best times to call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please drop in the collection basket on any**

**Sunday, or mail to:**

**Dignity Detroit**

**P.O. Box 558**

**Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558**

# Dignity Detroit Fall Retreat

- ‡ Do you need a chance to reconnect with God?
- ‡ Do you desire a quiet, comfortable place to pray and reflect?
- ‡ Feeling like you need some time away from the rush of life?
- ‡ Would you like the opportunity to get to know your Dignity Community a little bit better?

If you answered yes to any of these questions,  
then mark your calendar !

We will have the opportunity to pray, meditate, and celebrate !

November 12, 2011

9am-5pm

Visitation ~"The Barn"(on the campus the IHM Mother house in Monroe)

529 Stewart Rd., Monroe, MI 48162

Retreat Facilitator: Jesse Cox,

Director of Campus Ministry~Marygrove College

Details and registration will be coming soon and made available at the chapel and to your email inbox.