



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.

Anniversary Dinner/Dance takes place on Saturday, May 4th, at Park Place in Dearborn. Our guest speaker will be the DignityUSA National President, Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues.

Our 39th Anniversary Liturgy will take place on Sunday, May 5th, at 6 P.M We are very honored to have Bishop Thomas Gumbleton as our principal celebrant and homilist for the Liturgy. Bishop Gumbleton will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement award from Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues at the end of our Liturgy.

Calendar of Events- May 2013

**5th—6th Sunday of Easter
39th Anniversary Liturgy**

12th—Feast of the Ascension

19th—Pentecost

26th—Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity



Race for the Cure is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2013 at Comerica Park. If anyone is interested in joining Team Dignity please see Denise. If you are unable to attend the race, please consider making a monetary donation in someone's honor. Please see Denise for further info.

It is important to recognize the wonderful people who support, advocate, and raise awareness about LGBT issues every day. We are very blessed to have many of these people a part of our Dignity community. Please see the two (2) letters below.



I support gay rights because I am Catholic

April 19, 2012 by [Blueberries For Me](#)

I support gay rights because I am Catholic, not in spite of it.

I grew up Catholic. Catholicism was early morning and late night masses, hot cross buns on Good Friday, wearing a pretty white dress for my first Communion, confused friends who wanted to know if I worshiped Mary. It was glowing candles on the dinner table during December, and palms folded into crosses in April. It was simple, and it was good. I believed it then, and I believed it now.

But it is not as simple now as it was then. Now I realize being Catholic isn't defined by whether or not you attend Fish Fridays, but is a complex world of the orthodox and the not-so-orthodox. I am not an orthodox Catholic (used in the sense of one who follows every belief to the letter, not in the sense of the church that became identified as such during the Great Schism). And there is a reason that we have that term "orthodox" or "traditional" (the term my husband's uncle, a religious, used instead of our term which I believe was "crazy conservatives" at brunch last week). Because despite Catholicism's call for us to adhere to one set of beliefs, we do recognize, at least popularly, that there is a myriad of beliefs, experiences, and practices that create Catholicism. All this to say, my beliefs here do not reflect the beliefs of the Catholic Church, which opposes the legalization of gay marriage.

But I believe in it, and other gay rights, because I'm Catholic, not in spite of it.

You see, if the Church had wanted to turn me off of supporting the marginalized in our society, it should not have read the Sermon on the Mount to me each year. It should have silenced Jesus' cry of blessings on the poor in spirit, the persecuted, the meek, the peacemakers, and those who thirst for righteousness.

The Church should not have taught me of the love God has for all of his people. It should have taught me instead that Jesus only came for those who were rich, who were white, who were straight, who were male, who were powerful, who were orthodox.

If the Church wanted me to oppose gay marriage, it should not have taught me that scripture is historical and contextual. It should have taught me instead that it is always

literal, but it did not. It should not have taught me that God is love. It should not have taught me about the dignity of the human person, that everyone deserves a place to live, a place to work, a place to eat without being discriminated against.

It should not have taught me about the beauty of marriage. How the love between two people mirrors the love of God and his people. It should not have instilled me with the morals of faithfulness, commitment, and love if it had wanted me to discourage those practices in others.

The Church taught me instead about personal conscience ([Catechism](#)) and that “A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself” (1790). It taught me that the conscience is inscribed on our hearts by God.

The Catholic Church taught me not to judge. And not in some trite “love the sinner but hate the sin” (but secretly hate the sinner too because that’s just easier) way, but in a deep, true way. It taught me to look inwardly to my own faults, not outwardly to the faults of others.

It taught me to fight for the rights of the least among us. It reminded me that those whom society deemed okay to hate, we were required to love.

Of course, some will say that I am a shining example of the fallen American laity. They will remind me that the Church does not conform to the whims of modern society, and instead follows the teachings of Christ.

To which, I would respond that I agree. The Church is bigger than simple societal whims of oppression, of hate, of bigotry, of fear. I would say that the Catholic Church, at its core, preaches love and acceptance, hope and grace. If it wants me to adhere to another belief set, one of prejudice and marginalization, it should have taught me something else.

I support gay rights because I am Catholic. Not because I do not understand the teachings of the church, or because I simply choose not to follow them out of convenience sake, but because I *do* believe them, because I *do* follow them. And it’s not just me. A [study](#) in 2011 showed that Catholics are more in favor of same sex marriage than any other religious group, and more than Americans as a whole.

If the Catholic Church wanted me to oppose gay rights, it shouldn’t have told me what Christ taught.

Archbishop Vigneron,

I am the proud mother of a wonderful son who happens to be gay. I believe my child is entitled to the same human rights as every other child of God, including marriage. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons are not going to be knocking down any Catholic church doors demanding marriage; they know where they are not wanted. They do have the right to a civil marriage ceremony just like everyone else, and the hierarchy needs to butt out. On the other hand, if you were to actually practice what you preach, you would welcome the glbt community into the Catholic Church with open arms and hearts and discover what a treasure they are and would be for our Church.

Based on your comments in this article, you probably believe I have a "malformed" conscience. And I want you to know that I have the best-formed conscience I have ever had. God sent me on an unbelievable journey, opened my heart and mind and eyes to His/Her truth, and sent various people into my life to help me learn how to think for myself and not blindly believe in "pray, pay, and obey". What you and the rest of the hierarchy are saying does not make sense anymore. God is not limited and small-minded as you would want the world to believe. You don't own God.

The hierarchy has forgotten who Jesus is and what He has done for all of us. His greatest commandment was to love, "love one another as I have loved you", "love thy neighbor as thyself", "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". I am proud to be a Jesus Catholic. Jesus loved everyone, treated everyone the same, did not exclude anyone, did not judge, fought for justice, had a special place in His heart for the poor and the marginalized. What does the hierarchy do to emulate Jesus?

You said "the church offers the saving truth of Jesus". You and the rest of the hierarchy have forgotten who the Church is. WE, the people in the pews, the faithful, are the Church; WE are the Body of Christ. WE do offer the saving truth of Jesus but you are dismissing us. The hierarchy is not the Church; the hierarchy is not God. Let God speak for Himself/Herself.

When you discriminate against the glbt community, it becomes very personal for me. You are being hateful and hurtful towards my son, towards me, towards everyone else who has glbt loved ones. How can you judge who should/shouldn't receive Communion? Jesus gave His gift to all of us. If we were all judgmental people, I'm sure we could come up with the names of several priests, bishops, cardinals, and popes who we think shouldn't be able to receive and/or distribute Communion. Shouldn't we leave those kinds of things up to God ... He/She is much better at it. God needs us for more important work, like taking care of His/Her children here on earth.

You and the hierarchy remain in my prayers. I pray that God will be as good to you as He/She has been to me, that God will somehow get your attention and teach you His/Her truth. I believe the Holy Spirit has been trying to talk to all of you for some time now, but you just don't recognize Her voice because you're determined to stay in your "box" and She's trying to pull you out of that box into Jesus' world, Jesus' Church.

**Chris Dixon
Westland, Michigan**

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

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**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!

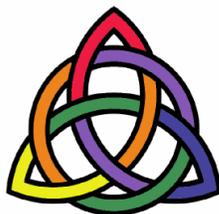
Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

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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