



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.



Wishing each and every one of you a very Blessed Christmas!!

Frank, Claudia, Rick, Marylou, Daniel and Patrick

General Membership Meeting Re-cap

At the General Membership meeting on Sunday, October 26th, the membership present voted to allow Council to spend approximately \$1,500.00 to have our processional cross refurbished and to purchase oil inserts for all of the candlesticks.

The procession cross was donated to us by Bill LaForte in his will. The cross is over 20 years old.

Shortly after our arrival here at Marygrove some 17 years ago, several members stepped forward to underwrite the cost of having all of the candlesticks refinished. A question was asked recently why the candlesticks are hardly ever used. With the oil inserts, we will be able to use the candlesticks more often at a fraction of the cost.



Holiday Liturgy Schedule

The following is our schedule of Liturgies over the Christmas Season:

Thursday, December 25th, 6 p.m.—Christmas Liturgy

Sunday, December 28th, 6 p.m.—Feast of the Holy Family. Everyone is encouraged to bring family and friends with them to Liturgy today. There will be special blessing bestowed on the congregation as well as a special blessing bestowed on all couples present.

Thursday, January 1st, 6 p.m.—Feast of the Solemnity of Mary

Sunday, January 4th, 6 p.m.—Feast of the Epiphany

Please plan on joining us for as many of the above Liturgies as your schedule permits.

Frankly Speaking

On Wednesday, December 17th, I will undergo spinal fusion surgery. The neurosurgeon will fuse L4/L5 and L5/S1. I will be out of commission anywhere from two (2) weeks to three (3) months.....to what extent, who knows, but rest assured I am going to do everything the doctor tells me to do and probably more.

I have met with Council and we have gone over everything that is required between December 1st and January 31st. I am confident with the talented people that serve with me on Council; you won't even know I am gone.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with nothing but good health and an abundance of happiness.

Frank



For the 4th Sunday of Advent this year we will hear the Gospel reading from Luke of how the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary and he told her that she was going to have a baby. Oh, and not just any baby—**GOD'S** son. Now Mary, of course, was confused because she had “no relations with a man.” The story continues with Gabriel announcing to Mary that she has conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and that Elizabeth, her cousin, who was *very old* was also pregnant and that “nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary’s simple reply is, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word.”

Wow! That’s a story! When I taught my high school kids this, I challenged them to explore it further. While I do not doubt Mary’s implicit faith in God, I do have to wonder if she was not just a bit frightened. Think about it...Mary was probably between the ages of fourteen and sixteen. She was *betrothed* to Joseph, a much older man of probably nineteen to twenty-one. This means that her engagement to him was as binding as marriage. How would she tell him?

“Joseph, ummm, I’m pregnant, and you’re not the father.” “Oh, and who is?” “Well, funny you should ask. An Angel came to me and told me that God is the father and my son is to be God’s son.” Imagine Joseph’s reaction. *(Continued p. 4)*

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Joseph had every right to turn Mary in to the authorities and have her stoned to death. In his mind, Mary broke Judaic law; he assumed that she was no longer a virgin and had been involved in an adulterous relationship. Fortunately, we get the whole picture when we read Matthew's Gospel and see that an Angel appeared to Joseph as well and told him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her."

Imagine further, Mary going home and telling her parents, Anne and Joachim, about the conversation she had with the Angel. What do you think most parents would say if their child came home and told them that they or their girlfriend were pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit? I shudder to think how parents today would react to a statement like that. And think about poor Mary, what kind of stress would she be under trying to raise *God's son*? Talk about being under a lot of pressure to be a good parent!

Yet, my friends, in all of this, Mary said, "Let it be done to me according to your will." She never said, "Not me, Lord, I'm too young." She never shied away from God by countering, "Why do you have to pick me, I'm not worthy; can't you get someone else?" In fact, when most of us would have run away from such an awesome and tremendous responsibility, Mary simply trusted that her God, the God of her ancestors, the God of all the faith-filled women before her, would not let her down.

Mary is the ultimate role model for each of us—not because she remained a virgin, not because she raised God's son, not even because she had the courage to give birth to a child in a hostile climate. Mary is the definitive role model for us because she said "yes" to God without hesitation; she gave herself to God without reserve; she became the bearer of God's word.

During this Advent season, ponder this: How can I be more like Mary? How can I say "yes" to God and be more faithful to God's will for me? You may surprise yourself with the answers.

*Peace,
Claudia*



Mark your calendars!

“Random Monthly Meet-Up’s” Dignity Detroit’s Social Chair Patrick Sharpe has begun a program which will generally be one social event a month. This will give folks a chance to get together outside of the church setting. These events are for whoever wants to participate. All costs associated with the events are the responsibility of the participants.

December’s Monthly Meet Up

The 42nd Annual Noel Night in Midtown is on **Saturday, December 6th** from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. We will meet in front of the DIA at 5:00 p.m. Arrive early to find parking, prepare to walk and dress for the weather. We’ll wander around the various venues and bring in the holiday season.

Annual White Elephant Auction / Pizza Party and Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest

Please join us for the annual White Elephant Auction and Pizza Party on **Sunday, December 14th** following Mass in the 2nd floor Library Lecture Hall. Dignity Detroit will provide the pizza, salad and soda pop. Please bring one (1) wrapped item you want to “pass along” to be auctioned off by Santa. Don’t forget to bring your checkbook to bid on items for yourself. This year we will have an ugly holiday sweater contest so dress in your ugliest, gaudiest, or unique holiday themed sweater and those in attendance will vote for the winner and they can claim their award. So start planning and we’ll have a fun time.

After Mass Socials

If anyone is interested in bringing a treat for the after mass social in the future let Patrick know and he will get you signed up!

Our 41st Anniversary Celebration will take place the weekend of May 16-17, 2015. Keep your calendars clear that weekend!!!

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College.

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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 - 6:00pm.

Please see Daniel C. if you can help.



Thank You!!!



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