



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.

See Daniel Cuschieri for more information.



Capuchin Soup Kitchen

**Calendar of Events-
January 2015**

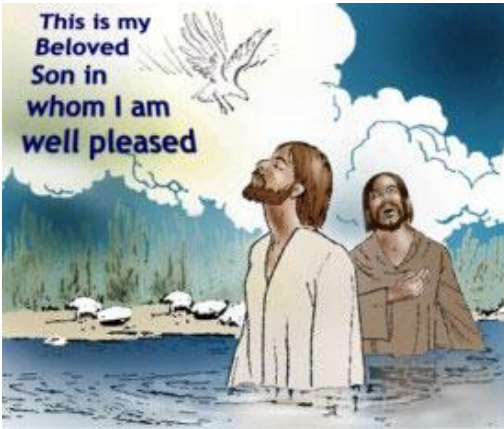
4th - Feast of the Epiphany

11th - Baptism of Jesus

**18th - 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Council & General Membership meeting**

25th - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary time

Frank Speaking.....surgery successful; recovery in progress.....pearls of wisdom will return in February.....Happy New Year!!!!!!



Our Christmas season comes to an end with our celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. No matter how many times I hear or read the various Evangelists' version of the Baptism narrative I am always struck with the words spoken by God immediately after Jesus was baptized: ***You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.***

Imagine for a few moments some of the most challenging things you have ever done. Picture the surroundings. What did it look like or smell like? Do you remember any particular sounds? Was anyone present with you? What were you feeling—frightened, exhilarated, nervous, relieved? Did anyone say anything to you? Can you recall their words?

Some of you are parents...do you remember the encouragement you received when you welcomed your first child into your home? Think back to when you were a child...can you remember who was there shouting support when you *finally* learned to ride a two-wheeler without training wheels? Does anyone recollect some of the congratulatory remarks made when you landed your first "real" job?

I've not met a person yet who does not like compliments, words of encouragement, or the proverbial "pat on the back." We thrive best when the good things we do are noticed. Jesus, I imagine, was no different. Here is a man who goes to John to be baptized in the Jordan River. The type of baptism John was giving was one of repentance; surely Jesus did not need to have sins washed clean. Yet, in his desire to be one with us, Jesus wants to be baptized. Now, the pivotal sentence in this Gospel is: ***"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*** WOW!! The baptism of Jesus is a story of God's encouragement and support. That same God who spoke from the heavens at that moment is the same God who speaks to us, "You are my beloved children with whom I am well pleased." Maybe God speaks to us through the love of our partners or children, through the kind actions of friends or even through the compassion of strangers.

The challenge for us, I believe, is to always act in ways that will be pleasing to God. This is no short order in today's world; in fact, it seems that our society makes it easier for us to be faithless children instead of faithful children. Fortunately, we have each other to lean on, to pray with, and to call on for support. For this, we should be incredibly thankful.

As we continue in our individual faith journeys I invite you to reflect on how faithful you are to your own baptismal covenant—are you doing everything you can to be one of God's beloved kids?



Claudia

[White Elephant Auction Pizza Party & Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest - recap](#)

After mass on December 14th we gathered in the Library Lecture Hall for pizza, salad, soda pop and cookies. The evening started out with four contestants, John Z., Tom S., Barb S. and George K. entering the Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest. The audience vote went to George K. who wore a swanky green Elf sweater. He accepted his gold nutcracker trophy for the ugliest holiday sweater. Our auctioneer, Santa Glenn C. started the auction with the help of the Lead Elf Exchequer, Rick R. and his assistant, Jack D. keeping the records where lots of bidding for the "perfect" holiday present ensued. In the end lots of fun ensued and we raised \$658.00. Thank you to all who helped make this tradition a success.

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.

January 2015 Meet Up

When: Saturday, January 10th

Where: Belle Isle Park – Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (hours: 10 am – 5 pm), Belle Isle Aquarium (10 am – 4 pm), Dossin Great Lakes Museum (11 am – 4 pm)

For admission to the State Park you need a State of Michigan Recreation Passport or buy a day pass on the island. There is no admission for the 3 places listed.

Meet at the Conservatory at 10 am to tour at your leisure and head on over to the other places.

February 2015 Meet Up

When: Saturday, February 7 (11 am – 11 pm)

Where: Meridian Winter Blast in Campus Martius

Meet inside the Compuware Building, time TBD

Admission: donate 3 canned food items or 1 children's book or \$2 (Benefiting Matrix Human Services)

There will be music, warming areas, ice sculpture, ice skating, and food.

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!

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Thank You!!!



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