

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.

For more information see Michael Frontiera



**Calendar of Events
February**

7th - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th - Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 7pm

14th - 1st Sunday of Lent

21st - 2nd Sunday of Lent and Council meeting

28th - 3rd Sunday of Lent

Frankly Speaking

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes during my recovery period following my back surgery in November. I am currently completing my third week of physical therapy and have one more week to go. Progress is slow, but at least there is progress. I am actually looking forward to going back to work the latter part of February. I have had enough Law and Order (the original, SVU and Criminal Intent) and NCIS marathons to last a long, long time. Even the Golden Girls series helped to break the monotony.

I also want to thank my colleagues on Council for picking up where I left off last November. They did a fantastic job in my absence.

Finally, I want to thank the best caregiver a patient (sometimes less than cooperative, although I have seen no proof of such behavior could ever have). Thanks Rick!!!

A Moment with Michael.....

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who donated gifts for the giving tree. We were able to cover 44 individuals this year. Because of you and your generosity, these individuals were able to enjoy their Christmas.

Second, I want to thank those of you who donated cases of water for the City of Flint. Aaron and I were able to deliver over 30 cases of bottled water to the National Guard at the fire department, as well as the money that was donated at Mass.

And finally, in the past, we have done a hygiene drive during the season of Lent. This year will be no different. Starting Ash Wednesday and for the 5 weeks following, I ask you to bring in travel sized toiletries and personal hygiene products for BOTH men and women. This year, we will be partnering with the Pope Francis Center which is run by one of our presiders, Fr. Tim McCabe.

I want to thank you all in advance for any hygiene donations you bring to Mass. It is always greatly appreciated. If you have any questions at all, please let me know at Mass, or feel free to contact me.

Truly,

Michael



March Madness/Spring Fling Raffle

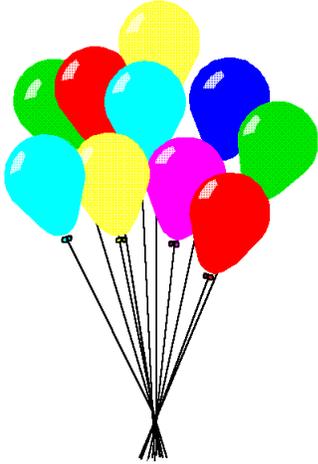
We will once again be sponsoring a March Madness/Spring Fling Raffle. We modified the name since the traditional drawing date of the last Sunday in March would mean the raffle would take place on Easter Sunday. Therefore we moved the raffle out one week. Cash prizes of \$500.00, \$250.00 and \$100.00 will be awarded at the drawing which will take place during the after-Mass Social on April 3rd. As we have done in the past, we are asking everyone to take at least one book of 30 tickets to sell or purchase. If all 30 are sold/purchased, you need only turn in \$25.00. The remaining \$5.00 or five free tickets are yours. Of course, we will not mind if you turn in the entire \$30.00....the extra money will go towards offsetting the costs associated with the raffle. Again this year, at least ½ of the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the IHM South African AIDS Ministry Outreach Program. Ticket stubs and monies are due by Tuesday, March 29th to ensure inclusion in the raffle. The remaining proceeds will be deposited into our treasury for future use. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a typo in the letter that was distributed with the tickets. The letter states that the raffle is on Sunday, April 6th. As the article above states, the raffle is on SUNDAY, APRIL 3RD. Sorry for any confusion.



Council Elections

Although Council Elections do not take place until the month of May, please remember that if you are even remotely considering running for office this year, you must be a dues paying member of Dignity Detroit by March 1st. This year the offices of President, Treasurer and Social Chair will expire on June 30th. Please consider taking the next step in your involvement with Dignity.



42nd Anniversary Celebration

Although the month of May might seem to be a ways out, it will be here before we know it. Our 42nd Anniversary Celebration will take place the weekend of May 14th and 15th. Our Dinner/Dance will be held on Saturday, May 14th and the culmination of our celebrations, the Anniversary Liturgy will be on Sunday at the usual time and place.

The organizing committee held their first meeting in mid-January and with the concurrence of Council, the following has been decided.

- We will once pass on having a guest speaker. After trying it last year and hearing people's feedback, we figured it was the way to go. Folks seem to spend more time at the hall, dancing, bidding on the Silent Auction and just having a good old time.
- Something new this year is that you can purchase a table that seats eight (8) for the price of seven (7) tickets...a savings of \$50.00. Start talking to family and friends and round up the seven other people to join you at a table.
- Finally, help is needed with the Silent Auction and Raffle. These are the two events that help us to at least break even or make a little money to help with our ministry. If you own a business or know someone who does, please consider donating an item (or gift certificate) that we can use in the Auction/Raffle. Think about even contacting businesses that you frequent often enough where the staff knows you by name. We have letter of explanation available that contains our tax ID so that the business owner will know that we are a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization and that the value of anything they donate is tax deductible. If you have any questions, please contact either Frank D'Amore, Allen Wierzbicki or Jim Carlin.

I just spent the last hour and a half wracking my brain trying to figure out what I wanted to write for the newsletter this month. I had two articles going at the same time, both were on completely different subjects and half-way through each I thought, "Yuk...even I don't enjoy reading this drivel." In the midst of a short prayer, begging the Spirit to inspire me, my miniature schnauzer, PJ, decided she needed to go outside and take care of business. "Great," I thought, "I certainly don't need this interruption." And so, on a very cold night, at 11pm, while walking the dog, the Spirit intervened!

"Mercy," she said. "Say a thing or two about Mercy...and keep it short!" Wow!



God of Mercy;
People of Mercy

Pope Francis has called for this year to be a Jubilee of Mercy. How, then, to define Mercy? Fr. James Keenan, SJ, tells us that "Mercy is the willingness to enter into chaos of another." What kinds of images come forth in your mind? Perhaps it is the homeless in our midst.

Maybe it's our brothers and sisters in Flint who do not have clean drinking water. Then again, it could be the deplorable conditions in Detroit Public Schools. Can you enter into the chaos of the person who is suffering from mental illness, physical illness or disability? Can you enter into the chaos of the person who has no job or the individual who worries about aging parents or the kid who hates school because he's being bullied?

And then, to take Mercy a step further...can you not only be willing to enter into the chaos, but do something to bring about calm, peace and healing?

As we journey through Lent, may this be our prayer:

Prodigal God, we give you thanks for the wideness of your mercy and the extravagance of your welcome. Remind us of the ways in which our arms can embrace others who may feel excluded from the circle of your love. Amen.

(HRC~Out in Scripture)



Claudia

The article below was prepared for last year's Call to Action Conference. Although written for that audience, it is reprinted here with permission to create an awareness in all of us.

**My Pronoun is....
A Step Toward Becoming an Ally with the Trans Community**

Pronouns Matter! Pronouns mean a lot to the transgender community. It is one thing that ALL transgender individuals CAN change regardless of one's socioeconomic status. All other physiological care, even to get the diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria in order to have a physiological transition requires financial resources, which are often limited for many Transgender youth and young adults, especially within transgenders of color community. But proclaiming the correct pronoun is FREE and ALL trans individuals can do this. It makes us feel welcomed and affirmed with solidarity, when cisgender people use the correct pronouns. Many transgender individuals face a lot of disregard/indifference to their pronouns from everyday society, just because of one's appearances not meeting the gender normative stereotypical standards of the culture we live in.

Why Are We Doing It? If you have met an Out Transgender individual, he/she/they might have introduced themselves by saying their name and their pronoun, or carried a name tag with their pronoun specifically written on it. However, this forces transgender individuals to out themselves regardless of their wish to do so or not in a place filled with strangers.

We as CTA-ART have decided to wear name tags with pronoun specification and also to introduce ourselves with our Name and our Pronouns, in order to make the CTA conference a safe place for trans individuals who may not want to out themselves.

We are here to invite you to join this effort to stand in solidarity with our beloved Trans community.

Step 1. Write Your Pronoun! We ask you to write your specific pronoun that you would like to be referred as, on your Call To Action Conference name tag. Wear them proud!

Step 2. Introduce Yourself With Your Pronoun! Whenever you meet someone at this conference, please try to remember to introduce your name as well as your pronoun that you'd like others to refer to you as!

Step 3. Ask About Pronouns! It is okay to ask what pronoun the trans individual would like to be called. It is better than assuming wrong pronouns just because of appearances. So, why not make a habit of asking pronouns, if you see someone without a pronoun tag? You can say you are asking it to be in solidarity with the trans community, and it could be an educational moment for you to teach others about being attentive in order to be inclusive of the trans community!

Step 4. Own the Apology! If you make a mistake on someone's pronoun, apologize and own that apology. Please try hard not to "explain away" the misgendering, should it ever happen. Each time misgendering happens, it hurts trans individuals, sometimes to the point of feeling more dysphoric about body parts which make them feel trapped. Misgendering is an action that says "You are not passing as male/female/genderqueer". The intention of non-harm doesn't change the result of the hurt received. Don't try to nullify your sincere apology by explaining it away. A sincere apology is a precious, inclusive act, so just own it and commit to not to make the same mistake again.

Terminologies:

Transgender: A broad umbrella term for persons who have a self-image or gender identity not traditionally associated with the gender that they were assigned at birth.

Transsexuals: Someone whose gender identity is other than the gender assigned at birth. While many transsexual individuals want to alter their body to fit the gender of their mind, NOT all want or feel the need to go through medical transition.

Gender Queer: People who identify as being both a man and a woman, as being neither a man nor a woman, or as belonging completely outside of the gender binary.

Transition: The time period when an individual changes their gender expression in order to live as their authentic gender, authentic self. Transition can happen in many ways; some go through medical transition, and some do not. Some do not feel the need to.

Pronouns:

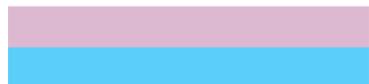
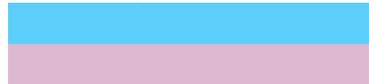
Subjective: She, He, They Ze

Objective: Her, Him, Them, Hir/Zir

Possessive: Hers, His, Theirs, Hirs/Zirs

Reflexive: Herself, Himself, Themselves, Hirsself, Zirself

Created by: Lui Francesco Matsuo and Jennifer Reyes Lay



Edited by Call To Action Antiracism Team

Note: Lui has attended Mass at Dignity and was recently at the White Elephant Auction. He is a member of CTA Vision Council, and also the Dignity USA Young Adult group (which is always looking for new members). The Dignity USA Young Adult group meets via Google Hangout every month. Lui is on Facebook, and can be messaged via that application.

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

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

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 Michael F. if you can help.
Thank You!!!



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.

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!

Ken Wojciak

Interior/exterior painting

Free estimates

313-319-7712

KenWojciak@gmail.com