



FEBRUARY 2010, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 6

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Yes! Dignity will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a service in the Sacred Heart Chapel at 7 pm
All are welcome!

From your generosity, we raised \$1,050 for the Haitian earthquake relief. This money will be forwarded to Bishop Gumbleton so that much needed medical supplies can find their way to those so desperate for our help. Thank you for making the world a little bit better!

Our general theme for this Lent season is
"Hope For A Shattered World"
Based on the paschal mystery and readings. Our world events (natural disaster, unemployment, homelessness, poverty, etc.) lead us to rely on Christ as our Hope.
We travel through suffering and death because we hope in the resurrection.

Preparing for Lent... Imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent we've experienced. Imagine that there will be many graces offered to you this year.

Lent will be this wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it. So, in these days before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy and look at how much of our lives really need changing.

If we look at Lent as an "ordeal" or a time to dread in some way, then we've already been pre-disposed to get anything out of it. The days before Lent are a time to anticipate that something wonderful is about to happen. Is it really about giving up candy, or is it something better than that? Begin to imagine what God wants to give us. This is something to truly look forward to. If we focus too much on ourselves and what we are going to do or not do, we risk missing the gift God wants to give us.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and making preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require slowing down a bit and listening to our inner spirit. "What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, the answer to that question is simply 'going to church and get ashes on my forehead.' Look deeper inside yourself to make it more special.

It doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for Lent. Only that we have desire and focus. God can do so much with that if we give Him room in our hearts. When we wake up each day, ask for His grace to guide us. Before we go to bed, give thanks for all that we have.

Excerpted and adapted from, Praying Lent, Creighton University Online Ministries

Event: LGBT & Faith Project Reception & Dialogue

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2010, 1:30 p.m. To 4:00 p.m.

Organizer: Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

Location: Detroit Institute of Art, 5200 Woodward Ave.

The members of the LGBT & Faith Project, funded by the Arcus Foundation, will host a special reception and dialogue program. Event participants will use art to explore issues of faith and inclusion, as well share dialogue on LGBT inclusion in congregations and faith traditions. This will be a chance for people of faith to come together in a beautiful setting to learn from one another and share perspectives - but also have fun! Sexual orientation has been such a divisive issue in so many religious congregations, this will be a first step in bridging that gap. This will not be a debate or religious service, but rather a dialogue and exploration. The event will be free of charge, but participants will need to reserve space.

For more information, please contact Craig Anderson at

canderson@miroundtable.org

*Life is what we
make it. Always
has been, always
will be.
Grandma Moses*

The Forum Foundation presents 'The 15th Annual Valentines Dinner Dance'

This event benefits The Forum Foundation's GLBT Scholarship Fund

Friday, February 12, 7pm - Midnight

Open Bar, Family Style Dinner, Dessert and Dancing!

Also a Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and a Gift Raffle

Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Rd, Warren

Tickets are \$40 advance, \$50 at door, if available

Purchase yours at Just 4 Us in Ferndale or Five-15 in Royal Oak

The General Information line is 586-572-9932

Make checks payable to: The Forum Foundation

Calendar of Events - February 2010

**7 - 5th Sunday of Ordinary
Time**

Rosary Sunday

**14 - 6th Sunday of Ordinary
Time**

**17 - Ash Wednesday, Mass at
7pm in Sacred Heart
Chapel**

21 - 1st Sunday of Lent
Council meeting, 4:30
Hygiene Drive begins

28 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

DignityUSA:
P.O. Box 376
Medford, MA 02155-0376
Phone: 800-877-8797
E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

2009/10 Dignity Detroit Council
President: Frank D'Amore
Vice-President/Liturgy Coordinator: Claudia Welbes
Secretary: Sr. Therese Kearney, IHM
Treasurer: Glenn Crane
Community Involvement Coordinator:
Denise Smith
Social Chair: Michelle Snyder

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

For many years, Dignity Detroit has served our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Soup Kitchen on Detroit's east side.



Our volunteer participation needs your help on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons each month between 3:30 - 6:00.

Please see George K. or Denise S.

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 annual March Madness Raffle is just around the corner. Tickets will be available soon for this fundraising event. As in years past, at least half of the proceeds will be donated to the IHM South Africa AIDS Outreach Ministry. The remaining funds will be added to the Dignity Detroit treasury. Thank you in advance for supporting this event !

Cash prizes for the lucky winners will be \$500, \$250 and \$100 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. The drawing will take place on Sunday, March 28 immediately following Mass.

A reminder that March 1 is the deadline for membership for those seeking council elections this year. Up for election of a two-year cycle are President, Treasurer and Social Chair.

To our friends at Dignity Detroit,
Thank you so much for adopting a family for us this Christmas. It was greatly appreciated!

God Bless from All of Us,
St. Vincent de Paul
St. Simon & Jude Church

The "Little Black Books" for Lent are here and will be distributed on the two Sundays prior to Ash Wednesday. Be sure to pick one up to use in your daily reflections.

Chapel Renovations

- Phase I of the chapel restoration project is complete. The side walls and the back wall in the choir loft have been scrubbed. The Stations of the Cross have also been repaired and the wood frame around each Station has been painted. Additional lighting has been installed in the choir loft.
- Phase II will concentrate in the Sanctuary. The walls, all three permanent altars will be cleaned. Work will also take place on the light fixtures.
- Phase III will concentrate on the stained glass windows

When I begin to lose track of the path to God, I must remember to start looking where I know He lives if He is anywhere: in the sound of laughter.

Laughter cleanses us of discouragement, anger, apathy, and grief, making room for new feelings and thoughts. Laughter frees us from self-consciousness, anxiety, and stress. Laughter helps heal our physical ailments --- it massages internal organs and strengthens the life force flowing through us. Laughter teaches us to take our troubles lightly, releasing our spirits from the weight of the world and of ourselves. Laughter unites what has been separate, connecting us to one another and to our true selves. Laughter calls forth our desire to live. Laughter, then, is a source of miracles. Surely, it's one of the places where we can meet our Higher Power.

Today, I let laughter heal me.

Reconciliation services will be offered this Lenten season before Mass from 5:15 to 5:45 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (February 28 and March 14).

To help enrich our spirituality, we will also meet weekly for a half-hour after-Mass lectionary Bible study on all Sundays of Lent. We will discuss the readings for the following week to prepare ourselves to receive the Word. All are welcome. We are looking for your support and feedback to continue this throughout the year.

For more information, please see Claudia Welbes

It's time for our Annual Hygiene Collection Drive. Beginning February 21, bring your donations to Mass to help our brothers and sisters at St. Leo's Outreach Ministry. Please see Denise Smith if you have any questions.

February history with Dignity...

February, 1971 - Los Angeles co-Adjutor Archbishop Timothy Manning forbids Fr. Pat Nidorf, a founder of Dignity, from further associating with the group. The Dignity group decides to continue as a lay-led ministry.

February 19, 1972 - First Annual Meeting held in LA. Seventy-four members attend, including twenty two priests. The membership committee reported 198 members, including twenty-five priests, four brothers and two seminarians. Twenty states, the District of Columbia and seven countries (Phillipines, Australia, Canada, West Indies, England, Holland and Switzerland) are included in the chapter locations.

The February 15, 1973 issue of *Commonweal* carries an article by theologian Gregory Baum entitled "Catholic Homosexuals". The national newsletter calls the article 'a milestone in the Gay Catholic movement'.

February 1980 - DignityUSA opens a national office in Washington, D.C.

The February 1981 national newsletter includes a special insert on "Women of Dignity". It recaps contributions made by women to Dignity at the national, regional and chapter levels.

On February 19, 1984 a column by Ann Landers encouraged a closeted gay man to contact Dignity, Inc., saying "You'll meet compassionate and understanding people there who will calm your fears and help you find a comfortable niche in society". Dignity received over 600 letters in response!