



MARCH 2010, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 7

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? We could use a few extra hands to help with the planning of our 36th Anniversary Dinner Dance. Please see Michelle Snyder for details.

Keep in mind our Easter Mass on April 4

Please feel free to invite your family and friends to our celebration of Christ's Resurrection!

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.

Compassion is the basis for all morality

Arthur Schopenhauer

When I was a child, Lent was a time for giving things up...candy, dessert, cursing, etc. In these modern times, the Church encourages us to do the opposite. Instead

Frankly Speaking... of denying ourselves something that we find pleasurable we are asked to give of our self, to be of service.

Fr. Sergio, in his homily on Ash Wednesday, so aptly spoke that Lent should be a time of conversion. We are to change those things which are detrimental, keeping us from being more like Christ. During his earthly ministry, Christ visited the sick, fed the hungry and showed compassion to those whom society had rejected. We have many of those same options of service today.

The Lenten season is a wonderful time to become involved in service to others...a service that we can continue throughout the year. My hope is that each of us will examine our own lives during this time of conversion and, as spring approaches, experience a new birth in our ministry to others.

Sponsor a Board Member! Submitted by dignityusa on Fri, 01/01/2010

At its last meeting this fall, DignityUSA's National Board decided to begin raising funds to help defray the cost of traveling for our Board members. As many of you might know, due to the financial stress DignityUSA has experienced in the past few years, we have been asking our National Board members to pay for their own expenses when we meet in person, three times a year. Depending on where the Board member lives and where the meeting is taking place, the cost of airfare, hotel, meals, and incidentals can easily run over \$1,000 per trip.

We have been fortunate enough to have been able to have a group of talented and generous individuals who have been willing and able to assume both the personal and financial responsibility of being a Board member for many years now.

We understand, however, this is not the way we want to run the organization indefinitely. We are very aware that because of the financial burden that being a Board member entails, we are leaving out a number of talented individuals who would be able and willing to serve us well at the national level. We do not want finances to be the only reason why a skillful Dignity member chooses not to run.

It is for this reason that the Board has decided to enlarge the meaning of the Talent Acquisition Fund to include funds to help pay for some of the costs of our Board members. "Board expenses" is a new line item in our 2010 budget. In addition to that, we would like to introduce a new "Sponsorship" program. We imagine that there are members out there who might have the financial means to pay for the cost of being a National Board member but do not have the inclination to run for the Board themselves; or some of you who have served on the Board before but have no desire to do it again. But maybe you would be inclined to "sponsor" the expenses (partially or totally) of someone else. Perhaps you have a young leader from your chapter who you think would contribute a lot at the national level and you want specifically to sponsor him or her; or maybe you just want to contribute money to the TAF with a directive that the money be used to help sponsor a Board member. We can use your help. Please consider becoming a "Sponsor of a Board member." It is a good way to develop new leadership and ensure the future success of DignityUSA.

For further details and/or to make donations to the Talent Acquisition Fund or Sponsor a Board Member Project, please contact Peggy Burns, Operations Manager, at , by phone (202-861-0017) or (800-877-8797), or by mail at Operation Manager, DignityUSA, PO Box 376, Medford, MA 02155-0004.

Let us hear from you. And thanks.

Confession to another person, to a priest or a psychiatrist, is full of revelation. The self-understanding ... brings cure and forgiveness! ... Confession to divinity, to the essential life of what one loves and hopes, on a level other than the human, is full of revelation ... has power to change one's life. When we learn to forgive ourselves, we can then see that God already has.

Letting go of burdens, secrets, or shame is a way to cleanse the self. Traditional contexts for cleansing the self include religion and psychotherapy. Speaking with a trusted friend or keeping a journal also serves the process of letting go. Prayer, including writing letters to a Higher Power, can help us release guilt or anxiety. Writing letters to people living or dead, but not sending them, is a healing act, as is Tashlikh, the Jewish New Year custom of throwing bread that symbolizes misdeeds into a body of water that carries them away. If we wish, we can create our own rituals for letting go of spiritual burdens. Releasing secrets held within from fear or shame opens doors to healing, self-forgiveness, and new opportunity.

Today, I let go of mental and spiritual burdens.

Calendar of Events -

March 2010

- 7 - 3rd Sunday of Lent**
 Bible discussion after Mass
 (Rosary to return in April)
- 14 - 4th Sunday of Lent**
 Reconciliation at 5:15
- 21 - 5th Sunday of Lent**
 Council meeting, 4:30
- 28 - Palm Sunday**
 Hygiene Drive ends
 March Madness drawing,
 immediately after Mass

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 each month between 3:30 - 6:00.

Please see George K. or Denise S. if you can help with this important com-



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 in full force. Tickets are now available 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 for supporting this event !

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. The drawing will take place on Sunday, March 28 immediately following Mass. Tickets returned by mail must be received by March 23 to be included in the drawing.

Intent-to-Run forms are now available for those eligible to run for Dignity Council.

Up for election of a two-year cycle are President, Treasurer and Social Chair.

Mark your calendars for May 16

That's our 36th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Park Place in Dearborn

Details coming soon...

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

DignityUSA Transgender Committee

A volunteer Transgender Committee within DignityUSA is in the formation stage.

It is the fruition of the Transgender programming during DignityUSA's 40th Anniversary Convention in July 2009 in San Francisco.

The purpose of the committee is to increase awareness of, provide education, and advocate for Transgender issues in DignityUSA in order to make the organization and its chapters welcoming and affirming spaces for transgender Catholics.

The committee is seeking volunteer female-to-male persons to provide balance and better representation and support of FTM issues. Please contact Clarice by e-mail at claricerd@hotmail.com

**Reconciliation will be offered before Mass from 5:15 to 5:45 on
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

Throughout Lent, we are gathering your donations at Mass for our annual Hygiene Drive to help our brothers and sisters at St. Leo's Outreach Ministry. Please contact Denise Smith if you have any questions.

It's that time again to update the Member Directory. The form can be found on the following page and will also be available on the hand-out table at Mass. One must be a paid member of Dignity Detroit to participate. The form will only be distributed to those on the directory. Please feel free to include however much information you wish to be published.

If you are already in the directory, you don't need to fill out a new form. Only if you wish to be removed from it, in which case simply write your name and 'remove'. You may drop the form in the collection basket or mail in to our PO Box.

The deadline for form submissions is March 28. The directory will then be distributed via e-mail or snail-mail beginning April 4. If you have any questions, please see Steve White

Dignity Detroit Membership Directory

You must have a current, paid membership to be included

The directory will only be shared with current members who fill out this form

Please feel free to share as much information as you wish

Name(s): _____

Address:

Telephone: _____

please designate if cell or home number

E-mail: _____

Birthday (month/day): _____

Completed forms may be placed in collection basket or mailed to us at:

PO Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558

Deadline for submission is Sunday, March 28

The directory will be distributed beginning Sunday, April 4

If you are already in the directory,

you do not need to submit a new form unless any of your information has changed.

If you would like to be removed, please write only your name and "Remove".

The next directory update will be October 2010.