



JULY 2010, VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

**General Membership Meeting**

The next General Membership Meeting will take place on Sunday, July 18th immediately following the conclusion of our Liturgy that night. The meeting is open to everyone, members and non-members alike. All members are especially encouraged to attend. There are only four (4) such meetings a year and they normally do not run more than 30-45 minutes. These meetings are meant to inform and, if you so choose, give you the opportunity to make your voice heard on how Dignity can be a better and stronger ministry. So, we invite you to take a more active role in YOUR organization and participate in these meetings.

Some of us may base our faith on whether or not we're given what we pray for. If a Higher Power hasn't answered our prayers, we wonder what the use is of continuing to have faith. But faith is a matter of surrender, not of control. Let's remember the process we've gone through in order to reach this day. Let's look at some of the many ways life has surprised us so far --- not always instantly fulfilling our wishes, but often showing us the path to something more healing and life-giving than what we prayed for.

To live in faith doesn't mean clinging to the self-centered belief that our Higher Power always give us what we want when we want it. Faith is understanding that there is a purpose and timetable for our lives that we may not yet have the vision and wisdom to understand. Faith is trusting that there are outcomes greater than those we can conceive of.

**AIDS Walk - Detroit**

Registration is now open for AIDS Walk - Detroit in downtown Royal Oak on Sunday, September 19th.

When registering online, click on "join a team" and then find Dignity Detroit. It's that easy!

If you do not have access to a computer or otherwise have any questions, please contact Denise Smith or Frank D'Amore.

Faith is willingness to leave those outcomes to a Higher Power while --- with courage, energy, and patience --- we take actions to achieve our goals.

The June 13 "Mass on the Grass" went very well. The weather was great as we gathered on the front lawn at Marygrove. Thanks to all who helped move the necessary items from and back to the chapel. Afterwards, for our appreciation party, we enjoyed pizza, watermelon and cake! The winner of the BBQ grill was Steve White.

As of the printing of this July issue, the office of Social Chair is open on the Dignity Detroit council for the July 2010 - June 2012 term. If you think you may be interested in taking on this part of our ministry, please see Frank D'Amore. This role oversees functions like the White Elephant Party, End of Summer Potluck, the Anniversary Dinner and, of course, our weekly socials.

Not ready for a council role yet ? If you can otherwise help out with social functions, especially the after-Mass social clean-up, we would be very grateful.

It is with deep gratitude that I received the *Good Samaritan Award* from Dignity Detroit.

I cannot let it go unmentioned that I share this award with all of you who donated the returnable bottles.

Your own generosity is what allowed our homeless brothers and sisters to enjoy a little sustenance. I was simply the messenger!

God Bless you!

Sr. Therese

- (1) Recognize your Creator. Think on this: There is a supreme power in the universe that is bigger and more powerful than your small mortal self. This step makes you humble.
- (2) Seek opportunities to put more love into the world. Strive to be a vessel of love, to fill the world with more compassion and kindness. This step makes you loving and lovable.
- (3) Set aside time each day to spend in spiritual reflection and contemplation. Dwell in the presence of the divine: Your path may be to pray, meditate, read spiritual material, take a long walk through nature --- or all of the above --- but an optimum practice includes both morning and evening sessions of at least 20 minutes each. This step makes you strong.
- (4) Become more accepting. With every interaction, surrender any tendency to judge another person. Pray for a more accepting heart. This step makes you gracious.
- (5) Forgive anyone you have not forgiven. Whenever you withhold forgiveness, you keep yourself bound to your own feelings of guilt. This step makes you kind.
- (6) Recognize your mistakes. Admit where you yourself have been wrong, and be willing to be corrected. This step makes you responsible.
- (7) Try to see the good in others. When you're tempted to judge someone, make an effort to see their goodness. Your willingness to look for the best in people will subconsciously bring it forth. This step makes you positive.
- (8) Take stock of your thoughts and behavior. Each night ask yourself, when were you negative when you could have been positive? When did you withhold love when you might have given it? When did you play a neurotic game instead of behaving in a powerful way? Use this process to self-correct. This step makes you grow.
- (9) Bless the world. Pray not just that your own life will be blessed but that blessings be poured on everyone. This step makes you beautiful.
- (10) Use each interaction to be the best, most powerful version of yourself. Try to rise to the occasion. Be the most wonderful expression of you that you're capable of. This step makes you a conduit of God's love.

Written by Marianne Williamson , published in Oprah Magazine ---May, 2010

## Calendar of Events -

### July 2010

**4 - 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Rosary Sunday

**11- 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**18- 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Council Meeting at 4:30**

**General Membership Meeting, immediately following Mass**

**25 – 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

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

#### **2010/11 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:** TBA

#### **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 community needs you...

We are in need of volunteers to fulfill the ministries of Acolyte and Sacristan.

### As an Acolyte, you...

- ✦ assist the presider during the liturgy
- ✦ hold the liturgical books for the presider
- ✦ prepare the altar and the sacred vessels at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- ✦ serve as a Minister of the Eucharist during communion

### As a Sacristan, you...

- ✦ prepare the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things necessary for the celebration of liturgy
- ✦ place the correct amounts of the bread and wine in the sacred vessels
- ✦ dress the altar
- ✦ gather all the necessary vessels and objects for the worship space and place them in their proper place

See Claudia after any liturgy if you wish to serve your community. Training will be provided!



All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word:

freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope.

- Winston Churchill

The light of God surrounds me.  
 The love of God enfolds me.  
 The power of God protects me.  
 The presence of God watches  
 over me.  
 Wherever I am, God is.

### Election Committee Report

As prescribed in our constitution, a member of the Election Committee must announce any election results on the 1st Sunday of June. This year was no different even though the election was basically called off mid-stream due to the withdrawal of one of the candidates for the only contested office (President).

As part of the announcements at the June 6 Liturgy, Carolyn Shalhoub, representing the Election Committee, informed those gathered that Frank D'Amore and Glenn Crane have both been re-elected to their respective offices of President and Treasurer. There was no candidate for Social. One of the first tasks the new Council will have when their term of office begins on July 1 is to fill that vacancy.