

Celebrating  
40 years of  
serving GLBT  
Catholics  
nationwide



**dignity  
detroit**

Celebrating  
35 years of  
serving GLBT  
Catholics in  
Metro Detroit

OCTOBER 2009, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

***Frankly Speaking...*** While searching the internet for possible ideas for this article, I came across this prayer and thought it appropriate to share with all of you. It is human nature to pray for something we want. How often do we just pray to say thanks?...

"Just this once, Lord, I want to come to you without problems simply to say,

Thank you...

For your forgiveness when I fail.

For the sheer joy of sleep when I'm terribly tired.

For the silent strength of humility when pride overtakes me.

For the justice of your laws when men are cruel.

For the remedies for sickness when I am ill.

For the simplicity of orderliness when I face confusion.

For the assurance that you have made a place especially for me when I feel inadequate among my peers.

For the joy of helping others when I see people in need.

For the earthly evidences of your will when I'm trying to find out what life is all about.

For the reality of your world when I stray too far into fantasy.

For the rightness of reasonableness when I panic too quickly.

For the fun that refreshes when everything gets too serious.

For the renewal in moments of silence when I'm dizzy from being too busy in a hectic world.

Thank you, Lord, for all these things. Most of all, thank you for your abiding presence that makes every day I live a day of thanks."

In closing, I would like to give thanks to Steve White who has graciously approached Council and volunteered to resume publishing a monthly newsletter. Council unanimously agreed that it was time to return to a monthly newsletter to help improve communication within the organization. Thanks, Steve!

Frank

"All of us, gay and straight alike, have come here today to affirm ourselves before God in faith; to accept ourselves without regrets or self-pity; and to seek a good and full life in keeping with our potential for growth and God's call"

Monsignor Clement Kern, circa 1974

....his words still ring true today

Dignity Detroit's Annual Non-Perishable Food Drive begins October 4 and will continue thru October 25.

The drive this year will benefit Ruth Ellis Center. The Center is one of only four social service agencies that assist LBGTQ teens and young adults who are confronting homelessness.

Volunteers at the Center assist them by providing housing, clothing, food etc. to prepare them for independent living.

Check your local grocery store flyers for sale items! For details, see Denise.

*Thank You for your support of our community outreach!*

**As of September 23, the top 3 teams for AIDS Walk/Detroit**

**Affirmations** - \$16180.20 with 116 registered walkers

**H.E.L.P.** - \$12,650 with 15 registered walkers

**Dignity Detroit** - just over \$11,000 with 18 registered walkers

Totals are still coming in as of press time and are likely to be higher. Frank D'Amore was the 2nd place individual walker with a total of \$7,040.

Congratulations and thanks to all who supported this worthy cause!

9/1/2009

Dear Members of Dignity,

I wish to thank you for your kind thoughtfulness in presenting me with such a beautiful and special stole after Mass on August 30.

I was completely surprised. Please know that I will treasure it the rest of my life.

Gratefully,

Fr. Richard

**Save the date!**

Our next retreat is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, at the IHM Visitation North Spirituality Center in Bloomfield Hills, on the campus of Marian High School.

The theme will be Advent related. Watch the November newsletter for more information.

**Volunteer Sunday will be returning on October 18**

If you've thought about becoming involved with our Liturgy, Social and/or Community Involvement activities, please step forward. Talk with those already involved and get their perspective. Chat with our Council members to see what they need help with. To your surprise, the task may only look tough to do but is actually quite easy!

Everyone is welcome and has something to worthwhile to offer. The opportunities to do something are quite flexible, so why not give volunteering a try?!

If you're already a volunteer — Thank You!!!

This is our community, and it takes all of us to lead it!

Look for the upcoming Volunteer Form for more information or see any member of council.

**Calendar of Events - October**  
**2009**

- 3 -** Media Training Seminar
- 4 -** 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Food Drive begins  
Rosary Sunday
- 11 -** 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
National Coming Out Day  
Solidarity Sunday celebration  
at Mass
- 18 -** 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Council Meeting at 4:30, all are  
welcome  
  
General Membership Meeting,  
after Mass. *All are encouraged  
to stay in attendance*
- 25 -** 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Food Drive ends

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

**Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College  
8425 W. McNichols @ Wyoming**

**Contact us at:**

**Mail: P.O. Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558**

**Voice-mail: 313-278-4786**

**E-mail: [dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com](mailto:dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.dignitydetroit.org](http://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](mailto: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 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

**The search is on for an official patron saint of Detroit. Below is a letter from Archbishop Vigneron, courtesy of the Archdiocese website [www.aodonline.org](http://www.aodonline.org). The deadline for submissions is December 8 and can be done via the website.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

It has been the ancient practice of the Church to seek the intercession of a saint or a group of saints canonized together, such as the North American Martyrs, for a particular need or needs. Similarly, saints have been assigned to various entities in the Church, including dioceses, for intercession and protection. Going back as far as Cardinal Mooney's tenure as Archbishop of Detroit, the question has been raised: *Who is the patron of the Archdiocese?*

St. Anne has certainly been considered by many, through many generations, to be the patron of the Archdiocese but she has never been officially designated as such. In seeking designation of a patron by the Holy See, I am required to carry out a broad-based consultation with the faithful of the Archdiocese.

The faithful of the Archdiocese now have the opportunity to submit names of saints as possible patrons. After these submissions have been collected, I will review them with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Presbyteral Council, and Council of Vicars. I will then ask the Holy See to designate our choice as patron for the Archdiocese.

Parishes, Catholic schools, our religious houses, Catholic institutes and associations, and individuals, young and old, are all invited to propose a patron saint. I encourage all who will engage in this discernment to prayerfully entrust the matter to the Lord, keeping the history, character, and needs of the entire Archdiocese in mind.

Asking God's blessing upon you, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of All Saints, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**†The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron**  
Archbishop of Detroit

### **Why a patron saint?**

Many saints intercede for our Archdiocese. A patron saint, however, is known as a special intercessor, aware of our needs, placing them before God. Everyone is aware of some well-known patrons: Saint Patrick in New York and Washington D.C., where the Irish influence was so strong in building up the churches; Saint Louis is the obvious choice for the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, as is Saint Francis of Assisi for San Francisco. Because our needs are many, we too should identify our special saint, standing among the elect "...before God's throne" (Rev. 7:15).

### **Whom should we choose?**

It should be a saint who is identified in some clear way with the area, our need, and our work. It might be a saint who has been historically identified with the Church of Detroit, such as Saint Anne, patroness of the oldest parish in Michigan, or Saint Antoine, patron of the original church in the southern part of the archdiocese, or Saint Joseph, protector of another of our oldest churches on Lake Erie. It may be a saint who reflects the ethnic mix of Detroit or one whose work was well known. One thinks of Father Solanus Casey, though he is not yet canonized and not eligible to be named patron. Others might be Saint Benedict the Moor of Italy, or Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro of Mexico, or Saint Maximilian Kolbe of Poland.

### **How do saints intercede?**

We do not worship saints, obviously, nor do we attribute to them any divine powers. But if we ask friends to pray for us while they are on earth, and we believe in the communion of saints — then asking holy men and women to pray for us after their deaths when they are in the presence of God makes perfect sense. We have "friends in high places," why not make use of them!