

Celebrating
40 years of
serving GLBT
Catholics
nationwide



**dignity
detroit**

Celebrating
35 years of
serving GLBT
Catholics in
Metro Detroit

NOVEMBER 2009, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Dignity Detroit issues letter in support of the Women of Religious Vocation

Dignity Detroit stands with the women of religious vocation who are under scrutiny from the Vatican due to their acts of outreach to the various communities and people they see in need. The fact that their ministry has been called into question as being against church teaching is preposterous. They have been doing precisely what all who proclaim faith in Christianity are called to do - to love and serve one another. The Holy Spirit is working through these women to give life, not deny it!

We in Detroit have especially been blessed from the kindness of our local Sisters and women doing the Lord's work. Their love and generosity has taught us that we are all equal in the eyes of God. Our sisters-in-Christ are long overdue for recognition as an integral part of the Catholic Church. These women should no longer be treated as subservient, second-class people. Without them, we cannot be whole as a community of faith.

To all women who have served in Christ's name, we thank you.

Congratulations to Betsy C. for winning the Toaster Oven Give-away at our National Coming Out Day observance on October 11!



At the Second Vatican Council, we were told that "we" are the Church. We, God's people, are the Church. The Creator made each of us in his image and likeness. The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith stated in 1975 that there are "homosexuals who are such because of some kind of innate instinct." That God created me gay/lesbian. He has called us, like Ezekiel and like the Twelve, to stand up and reach out to others.

Marygrove Bookstore to open for Dignity

Marygrove College has agreed to open the bookstore for the benefit of those attending Liturgy on Sunday, November 8th. The store will be open from 7 P.M. until about 8:15ish or until all shoppers are done. In addition to Marygrove Wear (sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts, polo shirts, etc.), the bookstore offers a selection of best seller and bargain books. The bookstore also carries backpacks and a large selection of convenience items.

See you on the 8th for some happy shopping!!

Harvey Milk once said that if every gay/lesbian came out that discrimination would end that day. Trust the God who created you, who loves you, who wills you to draw breath at this very moment. God will heal you interiorly with this truth. God will impart the Spirit, as he did with the Prophet Ezekiel, to stand up. Then God will use you, despite the objections of some religious leaders, to bring that same faith and hope to others.

Father Geoff Farrow
From his post-communion reflections
DignityUSA Convention 2009

"Frankly Speaking" will return in the December issue...

It is important to acknowledge those who support us in our lives. Even if we experience ourselves as independent, there are many who make our independence possible. Let's acknowledge those whose values and actions sustain us, those we meet whose sharing and example inspire us. Let's acknowledge those we trust to be supportive to us in difficulty, those with whom we share sorrows, and those with whom we share laughter. The people who care about us deserve our gratitude. They show us that we are not alone in the world.

We're sustained and strengthened not only by those with whom we have long and deep associations but also by those merely passing through our day. An act of courtesy, a look of kindness, a smile of recognition, a momentary sharing --- these help form our sense of human interconnection and support.

Today, I am not alone. I am held and strengthened by a network of support.

It was announced during the October General Membership meeting that Marygrove President Dr. David J. Fike and Frank D'Amore signed a new rental agreement that covers the period beginning January 1, 2010 and running through December 31, 2014. This ensures Dignity a place of worship in the Sacred Heart Chapel --- *99.99% of the time; another suitable location in the event of a college event in the chapel on a Sunday evening*). Dr. Fike announced that the college will begin a minor restoration of the chapel beginning this Christmas holiday student break. Marygrove and Dignity will create a Chapel Restoration Fund for the remainder of chapel work --- details to follow soon as they become available.

Final Tally of the AIDS Walk/Detroit

Dignity Detroit - we raised \$11,344 with 19 walkers, putting us in 4th place overall. Good job team!

Frank D'Amore was the 2nd place individual walker with a total of \$7,375.

Congratulations and thanks to all who supported this worthy cause!

Dear Dignity Detroit,

With great love and warm wishes, thank you for enrolling my Father, James McKinney, in special prayers and Masses with the Capuchins.

God bless my friends of Dignity and much love from my entire family.

Sharon McKinney

Heads-up for the Giving Tree Program

As I begin to organize the Giving Tree with Joe Gawronski, I can't help but feel the presence of Randy Polega. Many of us were recipients of his kindness as well as, subjects of his mischievous, silly antics. How blessed we were when he exhibited those attributes while organizing the Giving Tree program.

With "Randy on my mind", please join me in participating in the 2009 Giving Tree, which benefits needy families known to our presiders. Invitations have been mailed and as the wish lists are received, we will begin to trim our tree in November.

Let's keep Randy in our hearts as we express our own kindness.

Denise

Calendar of Events - November 2009

- 1 - Feast of All Saints**
Rosary Sunday
- 8 - 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Giving Tree begins
- 15- 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Council Meeting at 4:30,
all are welcome to attend
- 22 - Feast of Christ the King**
- 29 - First Sunday of Advent**
(Cycle C Readings)
Thanksgiving Potluck

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:
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

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. 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!

Dignity Detroit Advent Retreat

Refresh the Spirit, Renew the Soul

December 5, 2009

9:30-3:30

Visitation North (on the campus of Marian High School)

7227 Lahser Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

(Enter at the light for Marian. Come to the first door on the south)

Cost: \$35.00 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Confidential scholarships are available.

A \$15.00 deposit holds your spot.

Return completed form and check payable to Dignity Detroit
by November 15.

Name _____

Email _____

Please indicate if you desire a vegetarian lunch ____yes ____no

See Claudia W. for more information!

YES! I would like to volunteer my time and talents to our Dignity Detroit family in the following areas:

Lector

After-Mass Social Set-up

Commentator

After-Mass Social Clean-up

Eucharistic Minister

36th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Offertory Gift Bearer

Social Activities Committee

Usher

Community Involvement Committee

Acolyte

Representative to other organizations (if needed)

Greeter

Newsletter Committee

Liturgy Set-up

Membership Committee

Choir

Fundraising Committee

Liturgical Decoration

Chapel Cleaning Committee

Liturgical Planning Committee

Eucharistic Bread Baking

Other (Please specify) _____

Please Print Legibly...Thanks!!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Best times to call: _____

E-Mail address: _____

**Please drop in the
collection basket on any Sunday, or mail to:**

**Dignity Detroit
P. O. Box 558
Royal Oak, MI 48068**