

Celebrating
40 years of
serving GLBT
Catholics
nationwide



**dignity
detroit**

Celebrating
35 years of
serving GLBT
Catholics in
Metro Detroit

DECEMBER 2009, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 4

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Merry Christmas to our entire Dignity Family!

White Elephant Auction - December 13, immediately following Mass

Dig out those treasures you have wanted to get rid of, but just couldn't bring yourself to throw out. Find that beauty that you purchased at last year's auction. Either way, wrap it in Christmas gift paper and bring it with you to Mass on Sunday, December 13th. Santa will auction the gifts, sight unseen, to the highest bidder. This has always been an evening of great fun. Pizza and pop will be provided. You just bring the gift wrapped treasure and of course, your wallet or checkbook so you can also make a purchase or two.

Rumor has it that a couple of elves are stashing a few wonderful treasures such as gift cards and Entertainment Books in the pile of gifts to be auctioned off.

Frankly Speaking...

I like Christmas! Christmas is something new that comes each year to an old world. It is like new-fallen snow upon an old tree; a new flower on an old plant; new shoes on aging feet; a new home in an old town; a new light on a dark street; new hope in a hopeless situation.

I like Christmas! It was introduced by a prophecy, heralded by the song of an angel, and announced by the birth of the Savior.

I like Christmas because it sparkles and glows! It comes only once a year, and still its radiance warms the child's heart and fills their mind with pleasant dreams of joy and happiness.

I like Christmas because Christmas is Christ! In Christ, I see the beauty of the gospel which began in Bethlehem of Judea when His spirit glorified that little town and His coming sanctified a lowly manger.

I like Christmas because it bears Christ's name, symbolizes His love, proclaims His truth, and showers His gifts upon the world. Although earthly kings ignored Him and the proud could not understand Him, the common people heard Him with hungry hearts and gladly received Him.

I like Christmas because it meets my deepest needs! It cures me of greed and selfishness, fills my empty soul with peace and compassion, and renews my faith and hope in an uncertain world.

Those are just a few of the reasons that I like Christmas! On behalf of Claudia, Glenn, Sr. Therese, Denise, Michelle, I hope that you take the time to pray and reflect on what a very special time of the year that the Christmas season brings. We, your Dignity Council, wish you and yours a most Blessed and Merry Christmas as well as a New Year filled with Health, Happiness and Good Fortune!

Frank

Continuous Communion

By Ed Hays NCR Online, November 25, 2009

Spiritual Reflections

Life is perpetual communion. First, you are constantly in communion with your feelings, thoughts and yourself. Further, you are endlessly in communion with others in conscious and unconscious ways you are also living communion with the created world in which you are immersed, even if you, like most of us, view creation simply as stage scenery for our little human dramas.

Finally, you are in unrelenting communion, even if you are unaware of it, with God and the Spirit of God. Life is constant Holy Communion because the world was created to be cosmic Communion between God and every creature and entity in the world. This communion flows from life as a seamless unity of every person, creature, plant, animal and star. Holy Communion is more than simply another religious ritual; it is the model for and the definition of all life.

So ask your, "Am I self-excommunicated?"

Holiday Liturgy Schedule

Friday, December 25th, 6 P.M. Christmas Day

Sunday, December 27th, 6 P.M. Feast of the Holy Family (Bring family and friends to mass with you) A special blessing to be bestowed on all present

Friday, January 1st, 6 P.M. Solemnity of Mary

Sunday, January 3rd, 6 P.M. Feast of the Epiphany

The above Liturgies will take place in the Library Lecture Hall located on the 2nd floor of the Liberal Arts Building due to renovations taking place in the Chapel.

Calendar of Events - December 2009

- 5 -** Retreat @ Visitation North
- 6 -** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 8 -** Immaculate Conception
- 13 -** 3rd Sunday of Advent
White Elephant Party,
immediately after Mass
- 20 -** 4th Sunday of Advent
Council Meeting at 4:30
- 25 -** Christmas Day Mass
- 27 -** Feast of the Holy Family

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

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

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We are a 501 (c) 3 organization

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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

Prayer for lighting the Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for sending your Son to free us from the darkness of this world.

Let your blessing come upon us as we light this wreath, may it be for us a sign of the bright promise of Christ whose coming we await.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

First Week of Advent (purple candle)

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

Second Week of Advent (purple candle)

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.

Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Third Week of Advent (pink candle)

Father of love, you made a new creation through Jesus Christ your Son.

May his coming free us from sin and renew his life within us, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent (purple candle)

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed his life at the service of your plan.

Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**