



NOVEMBER 2011, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 7

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

**A Note of Personal Thanks**

To everyone who assisted with the DignityUSA National Board of Directors meeting the weekend of October 14, 15 and 16, I want to offer my personal thanks for an outstanding job. The National Board was extremely impressed with the fact that our local chapter provided transportation from and to the airport as well as the dinner on Saturday evening. I have received several notes of thanks from those in attendance.

Although I could not be with everyone that weekend due to a family function in California, I have never been more proud of this organization.....leadership and members alike!!!! Job well done!!!!

Frank

It is time once again to update our Community Directory (formerly known as our Membership Directory). Every November we start over and in May of every year, we call for updates only.

On the last page of the Newsletter is a Community Directory Information form. If you wish to be included in the Directory, please fill out the attached form and return it to us no later than Sunday, November 20th. Please only include the information you want published on the form.

Again, we are asking that even if your information is currently being published, please fill out a form. We want to ensure that all information is current.

Only those who turn in a form will receive the directory.

**Comerica Park Fundraiser**

Although the Tiger baseball season is official now over, it was a most exciting year!! Dignity Detroit enjoyed a great partnership with our friends from St. Mark Catholic Church not only during the regular season, but during the two additional playoff games we worked. Working together, over \$5,100.00 was raised with Dignity Detroit's share amounting to \$2,448.40!!! Thanks to Frank, Thom, Rick, Ralph, Glenn, John, Patrick, Denise, Michelle, Skip and George. You are all MVP's.

**AIDS Walk – Detroit**

Congratulations to the 2011 Dignity Detroit AIDS Walk Detroit team! 19 people raised \$11,200.00 to benefit Health Emergency Lifeline Program (HELP).

Special thanks to the top three fundraisers: Frank D'Amore: \$5,505.00; Christine Komisarz: \$1,720.00 and Rick Roos: \$1,290.00.

Whether you walked and raised money, just walked with us or supported the team with a donation.....THANK YOU!!!!

**Calendar of Events - November 2011**

**1 - All Saints Day**

**2 - All Souls Day**

**6 - 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Rosary Sunday**

**13 - 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**20 - 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Council Meeting, 4:30**

**27 - 35th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**DignityUSA Addresses President Obama on LGBT Issues**

DignityUSA and our Equally Blessed partners recently wrote to President Obama, expressing support for his decision not to support DOMA in federal court, as well as other Administration actions that affirm LGBT equality. The letter highlights the fact that the President's actions are in line with the beliefs of the majority of American Catholics, who increasingly support LGBT people and families.

Equally Blessed's letter follows one from Archbishop Dolan, president of the US Catholic Bishops Conference. The Archbishop's letter claims that the Administrations stances undermine families and threaten religious liberty, positions refuted by Equally Blessed.

The text of Equally Blessed's letter follows.

September 26, 2011

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently Archbishop Timothy Dolan of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote to you to oppose your administration's progress toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The bishops do not speak for us, nor for the majority of other faithful Catholics who support loving, same-gender families. In fact, a report released last month by the Public Religion Research Institute shows that 52% of Catholics support marriage equality, and that more Catholics believe that the church's position on homosexuality is too conservative than believe it is right.

We support marriage equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people not in spite of being Catholic, but because we are Catholic. As Catholics, we believe that we are all beloved children of God, and we want the laws of our land to mandate fairness, justice, and equality for all. Your administration's refusal to defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is an important step toward the justice we seek, and we applaud your decision.

The demise of DOMA would, in fact, strengthen the institutions of marriage and family about which Catholic bishops say they are concerned. Unlike the bishops, Catholic lay people look at same-gender couples not in terms of sexual activity, but in terms of the quality of their relationships. We see that committed and legally protected same-gender relationships benefit not only the individuals involved and their families, but also our entire society. A step toward justice for LGBT people is also a step toward the strong family units valued by our Catholic social teaching and by so many faiths.

We continue to be perplexed by the bishops' protest that their religious freedom is being infringed by the inexorable move toward equality for LGBT people. The Defense of Marriage Act is only 15 years old, and none of us recalls Catholic bishops complaining that their religious liberties were infringed before it was passed. We fail to see how those liberties can be infringed if it is overturned or repealed. Wrapping their political agenda in the cloak of constitutional rights diminishes the bishops' stature as leaders.

Archbishop Dolan's letter does not speak for us on many issues, but we were perhaps most dismayed by his thoughtlessness in lecturing you about the need for children to be raised by a father and a mother. You have written and spoken eloquently about being brought up by your mother and grandparents, and we know you understand from personal experience that children thrive and succeed in all kinds of families—including those headed by LGBT parents. We are grateful to your administration for abandoning the discrimination and prejudice of DOMA, and we look forward to your leadership in more progress on behalf of justice and equality for all Americans.

Faithfully,

The partners of Equally Blessed

Francis DeBernardo

Sr. Jeannine Gramick, SL **New Ways Ministry**

Casey and Mary Ellen Lopata **Fortunate Families**

Jim FitzGerald **Call To Action**

Marianne Duddy-Burke **DignityUSA**

## Advertising Angels

We are once again looking for Advertising Angels to help defray the cost of our *Between the Lines* monthly advertisement. The cost (which has not gone up for three years now) is \$1,550.00. Included in this price are 12 ads (1st issue of each month) and a free listing in the Pridesource Yellow Pages publication that is published annually.

If you can make a donation to help defray the cost of the advertisement, it would be most appreciated. As of this newsletter printing, we are half-way to our goal with \$780 collected.

If you are able to donate, please make your check payable to Dignity Detroit and put it in an envelope, write Advertising on the front of the envelope and then either hand it to Frank D'Amore or drop it in the collection basket.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

During the year of Jubilee (2000), our pope at the time, Blessed John Paul II, announced a revision of the *Roman Missal*, this is the red book that the priest uses at the altar which contains all the prayers of the Mass (formerly known as the Sacramentary). According to the US Bishops' official webpage, this new edition "contains prayers for the observances of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Votive Masses and Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. ***The English translation of the Roman Missal will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people.***"

Use of the new Missal will be instituted throughout the English-speaking world on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) this year. As has been done in the past, we have adapted the peoples' responses so that they will be reflective of our spirit of inclusivity. New "pew cards", with the peoples' prayer responses will be available in the chapel. The sung mass settings are also changing and we will all begin *learning* the new music on September 23. The Archdiocese of Detroit is allowing parishes to begin *using* these settings on October 23.

We invite you to visit the USCCB's website to find out more information about what these changes are: [www.nccbuscc.org/romanmissal](http://www.nccbuscc.org/romanmissal). You may also wish to visit the following websites for additional information:

- 1 [www.adw.org/prayer/newromanmissal\\_elearning.asp](http://www.adw.org/prayer/newromanmissal_elearning.asp) (a series of informational videos from the Archdiocese of Washington that you can view online.)
- 2 [liturgy.nd.edu/web-catechesis/](http://liturgy.nd.edu/web-catechesis/) (from the University of Notre Dame)
- 3 [www.resurrectionparish.net/Documents/AODMissalAnnoun2011.pdf](http://www.resurrectionparish.net/Documents/AODMissalAnnoun2011.pdf) (Archdiocese of Detroit)

Change is often difficult, and while it may be of little comfort, be assured that we are not alone; all Catholic communities in the English-speaking world are making this transition. Pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit that we, here at Dignity Detroit, will grow even stronger in our faith and devotion to Jesus, the Christ.

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](mailto:dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com)

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

Have faith in God;  
God has faith in you  
Edwin Louis Cole

**DignityUSA:**

**P.O. Box 376**

**Medford, MA 02155-0376**

**Phone: 800-877-8797**

**E-mail: [info@dignityusa.org](mailto:info@dignityusa.org)**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin 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.

Dignity Detroit's Annual Fall Retreat is Saturday, November 12.

This year, we are returning to "The Barn" at the IHM Motherhouse Campus in Monroe.

The registration form is included with this newsletter.

Not sure where 'the barn' is located? Do you wish to car-pool? Please let Claudia or Frank know and arrangements can be made!

*Don't miss this opportunity for enriching your spiritual journey!*

Please see George K. or Denise S. if you can help.  
Thank You!!!



# Dignity Detroit Community Directory

The directory will only be shared with individual 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(s) (month/day):** \_\_\_\_\_

Completed forms may be placed in collection basket, given to any council member or mailed to us at:

PO Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558

Deadline for submission is Sunday, November 20th.

The directory will be distributed by November 30th.

**If you are already in the directory, please fill out and submit  
a new form to ensure we have your correct information.**

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

The next directory update will be May, 2012.

# *Dignity Detroit Fall Retreat*

## *Who Do You Say God Is?*

*(Reflections on our relationship with the Creator)*

November 12, 2011

9am-5pm

Visitation ~ "The Barn"

(on the campus of the IHM Motherhouse in Monroe)

529 Stewart Rd., Monroe, MI 48162

*Retreat Facilitator: Jesse Cox*

*Director of Campus Ministry ~ Marygrove College*

Suggested donation: \$20.00

Continental breakfast and lunch will be served

Scholarships are available.

Return completed form and check payable to Dignity Detroit by November 6.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you desire a vegetarian lunch \_\_\_\_yes