



JANUARY 2012, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 9

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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



Wishing you a New Year filled
with Health and Happiness
Your Dignity Detroit Council
Frank, Claudia, Glenn, Peter,
Denise and Sr. Therese

Dignity Detroit has made a donation to FernCare, a free clinic located in Ferndale. On the last page of the newsletter is a wish-list for supplies the clinic needs via donations year-round. The clinic is also in need of volunteers to help with various tasks at the clinic. If you are interested in how you can help, contact the clinic directly or see Claudia.

Thank you!

Calendar of Events - January 2012

- 1 - Mary, Mother of God**
Rosary Sunday
Anniversary Theme Contest begins
- 8 - Feast of the Epiphany**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 15 - 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Council Meeting at 4:30
General Membership Meeting, immediately following Mass. No social
- 22 - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
- 29 - 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
March Madness Raffle ticket distribution begins
Blessing of Throats

NOTED SCHOLAR TO PRESENT BIBLICAL SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS

On January 29, from 4-7 at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Dr. Robert Dykstra, eminent Professor of Pastoral Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, will present an evening of lecture and open discussion on human sexuality. His presentation will cover basic definitions concerning gender identity, the spectrum of theological positions on sexual orientation, and concerns related to sexuality and the church. Dr. Dykstra is a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He served for a number of years as a minister, youth minister, hospital chaplain, and pastoral counselor. Dr. Dykstra's academic interests include: pastoral care and counseling, contemporary psychoanalytic theory and developmental psychology, pastoral preaching, and the integration of biblical and theological precepts with contemporary research in the human sciences. In addition to his evening presentation, Dr. Dykstra will preach at the 10am and 8:30am services at First Presbyterian. All are welcome at these services and at 4pm. The evening event, however, is most appropriate for high school youth and adults. Anyone wishing to attend Dr. Dykstra's evening presentation should contact First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham at 248.644.2040 or www.everybodyschurch.org. Admission is free.

March Madness Raffle

We will once again be holding a March Madness Raffle. The actual raffle will take place on Sunday, March 25, 2012 (Palm Sunday). Prizes this year are cash awards of \$500.00, \$250.00 and \$100.00. As always, we are asking everyone, members and non-members alike, to take at least one book of 30 tickets to sell or purchase. Tickets are \$1.00 each. If you sell or purchase all 30 tickets, you need only turn in \$25.00....that's five (5) free tickets or \$5.00 cash. Of course, we will not be upset should you decide to turn in the entire \$30.00. Keep in mind that if you add up the cost of the tickets and the prize fund, the expenses associated with the raffle amount to \$1,200.00 before any tickets are sold.

As we have done in past years, at least one-half of the money raised will be donated to the IHM South African AIDS Ministry Outreach Program. The other half will be deposited in our treasury for future use.

Since the raffles were started in 1987 (24 overall; a raffle was not held in 1994), we have raised almost \$44,000.00! The total for last year's raffle was just over \$1,945.00...our 11th best ever. Can we beat last year's amount? Only you can help make this fundraiser a success!

The Leadership team thanks you in advance for your generosity.

Make sure that love anchors everything during Christmas

You can show it. You can sing about it. You can cry about it. You can hide it. You can run from it. You can try to take it. You can even fake it. It will pursue you. It will fool you. It will betray you. It will make your world go around. It will fill your heart. It will make your day. It will change your life.

Paul McCartney sings that it is all we need. Paul Anka warned us not to gamble with it. Pope John Paul II said it could never be defeated. And the Apostle Paul wrote of it as the greatest gift imaginable, destined to last forever. So I guess the Pauls have it: Love will win the day.

Love has been the inspiration for more songs and sonnets than you can shake a stick at. But, strangely enough, for all of its power, love is not always the first emotion we think of during the holidays. "Joy to the World," "Peace on Earth," "O Come all ye Faithful" — the traditional phrases and tunes of the season have much to say about our feelings this time of year. But love, oddly, is missing.

Love is even missing when we exchange gifts. Sometimes we give a gift only with the hope of getting something in return. Or, like children, we become so fixated on receiving, that we give not even an inkling to the thought of giving to others (Come to think of it, St. Valentine might have cornered the market on this love thing over Saint Nicholas; maybe that is why the theme is absent this time of year).

Yet, Christmas, if it is anything, is about love. The well-worn passage from the Gospel of John says it better than anyone else could: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." And returning to the Apostle Paul, when speaking of this wonderful gift of God, he burst forth with praise, "Thank God for His Son — a gift too wonderful for words!"

I remember when my baby boy was placed in my arms for the first time. It was an event that struck me speechless. This bundle of flesh and blood, carried by my wife for those long months, resistant to arrive, trapping her in the labor unit for days, was so helpless, ruddy and wrinkly in my hands. But he was so beautiful, a gift too wonderful for words.

I wonder if that is how our heavenly Father felt as his Son struggled on that early Bethlehem morning to take his first breath. Expelled from the warmth and safety of Mary's womb, into the cold, hard reality of creation — a gift of love to the world — was even God speechless?

As Mary gently stroked the face of deity, did the angels place their wings over their mouths in silence? When shepherds gathered to pay homage to their King, did the heavenly choir, forever singing praises to God, momentarily hold their breath? As Joseph scratched his head in bewilderment, did the cherubs do the same?

Even if the Father and all of heaven were speechless at that moment, Jesus was speaking loud and clear. In the cry of a newborn baby was God's best and most articulate Word. He had love enough to enter creation, to communicate with it, to suffer because of it. The Creator of the universe stepped across space and time to be with you.

God is not a dementia-struck, teetering old man wandering the hallways of heaven who has lost control of his capacities and his world. He is in that world, celebrating our victories, enduring our hardships, and bearing our hurts.

God might not always answer our questions or rescue us from trouble, but he always identifies with us and can never abandon us. All the Pauls are right: This is a gift too wonderful for words.

This is an excerpt from Ronnie McBrayer's new book "The Jesus Tribe."

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

Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Because so many groups want to help the Capuchins over the holidays, Dignity Detroit took a hiatus over the holidays. **Our regular schedule resumes on Friday, January 13.**

Does "Xmas" cross Christ out of Christmas?

Not at all -- The abbreviation of Xmas for Christmas is not irreligious.

In Greek, the first letter of the word Christ is `chi`, which is identical to the Roman `X`.

`Xmas` was originally an ecclesiastical abbreviation that was used in tables and charts.

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

Dignity Detroit offers community out-reach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit

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. Thank You!!!



“ _____ ”

No, it is no mistake that there is not a title on this article. Once again, we are sponsoring a contest to name the theme for our Anniversary Celebration. This year marks Dignity Detroit's 38th year of ministry to the GLBT community of metropolitan Detroit. The contest will run through the end of January. The individual who submits the winning theme will receive two free tickets to our Anniversary Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 19th at Park Place in Dearborn. Please also include a paragraph or two to serve as the rationale behind your submission. All entries should be made to Frank D'Amore. Before the committee reviews all entries, the names will be taken off so that no one on the committee will know who submitted each theme.

Need some inspiration?? Listed below are the themes over the last 30 years.....

- Years 1-7: No record 8: Love Works if we Work at It 9: Building a City of God
 10: A Time to Celebrate 11: Side by Side and Forward with Dignity
 12: We are Family 13: And the Greatest of these is Love 14: Celebrate the Gifts
 15: Growth thru Faith 16: Into Full Bloom 17: And Continuing to Reach Out
 18: Embracing our Diversity 19: Colors of Our Lives 20: The Way We Were
 21: Celebrating our Diversity 22: Threshold of a Dream
 23: Somewhere Over the Rainbow 24: We Are Called
 25: Growing in Faith Together 26: People of Hope 27: Sharing Our Story
 28: Renewed by the Spirit 29: A Voice in the Desert
 30: We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe 31: We Walk By Faith
 32: All Are Welcome 33: Spirituality, Equality and Justice: Embracing Our Vision
 34. We are God's People
 35. Faith with Dignity. Hope in Dignity, Love through Dignity
 36. Where Charity and Love Prevail 37. A Light in the Darkness

FernCare Medical Clinic Holiday Wish List

Gifts can be mailed to our business address: 445 W. Woodruff, Hazel Park, MI 48030

Or dropped off at the clinic any 1st or 3rd Saturday of the month between 9 am and 12 noon

Monetary donations can be mailed to our business address or through PayPal on our website homepage.

Generic Single Use Clinic Supplies

1. Non latex Nitrile disposable gloves - medium and large sizes
2. Disinfectant wipes

Specific Medical Supplies

1. ACCU-CHECK Comfort Curve diabetes test strips
2. A set (with dispenser) of pharmacy warning labels
3. Prescription vials - 8, 13, 20, 40, 60 dram sizes
4. Monetary donations dedicated to purchase prescription labels for our new software system.

Office Supplies

1. 8x 11" poster quality paper
2. Avery (#5160) 1 x 2 5/8 Easy Peet Laser Address labels
3. 64 cent stamps
4. First class postage stamps
5. 13 gallon garbage bags
6. 20 gallon garbage bags
7. Reams of 8 x 11" computer paper - white
8. Swifter disinfectant wash suitable for the Swifter Wet Jet mop
9. 11x13" mail envelopes
10. Black ink ballpoint pens
11. #10 business envelopes

Gift Cards for CVS, Rite Aid, Target and Walgreens

We have a Board member who is really, really good at using a combination of gift cards and coupons to purchase clinic supplies

And of course always the very obvious.....money

Each clinic session (NOT each patient) costs about \$1600.00. We see between 25 - 35 patients each session.

FernCare Free Clinic, Inc. . 248.677.2273 . www.ferncare.org

Business Address: 445 W Woodruff . Hazel Park, MI 48030

Clinic Address: 459 E. Nine Mile Road . Ferndale, MI 48220