



SEPTEMBER 2012, VOLUME 38, ISSUE 5

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

DignityUSA envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and as beloved persons of God participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and Society.

**Affirmations Older Adult and Seniors  
Helpline**

A representative from the Older Adult and Senior LGBT community is available to answer questions and offer information about issues important to the Older Adult and Senior community. Toll Free: 1-800-398-4297

Offered every Tuesday and Friday from 4 - 7 pm

Is your membership expiring soon? You can renew by logging on to the Dignity/USA website. If you don't have access to a computer, renewal packets are available on the back table in the Chapel for you to mail in.

Anyone who cannot afford the \$50 membership is encouraged to see any member of council for the **confidential** Angel's Fund program. All you have to do is ask!

**Calendar of Events -  
September 2012**

**2 - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary  
Time**

*Rosary Sunday*

**9 - 23rd Sunday of Ordinary  
Time**

*Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament*

**16 - 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
*Council meeting at 4:30*

**23 - 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**30 - 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

We wanted to take this time to share what a wonderful and insightful experience we had at the Dignity Young Adult Caucus (DYAC) meeting in Newark, New Jersey this July. With young adults from across the county we were able to share why Dignity is so important in our lives. With over 20 young adults one topic that was discussed was the meaning of "family." We have found that countless young adults in the LGBTQ community have lost touch with their biological family due to their sexual orientation. Dignity has allowed them to redeem that sense of family again.

There are courageous members in each chapter that the young adults look up to on multiple levels. The message that the DYAC receives from the members of each of our chapters is that we are loved; not only by each other but by God for being exactly who we are. The DYAC is grateful and so moved by the acceptance we receive from this Catholic community, we also discussed how to assist Dignity on a national level in reaching out help more LGBTQ youth with their spiritual growth and connection to this "family." It was very meaningful to meet with a group of people that all have common values regarding; faith, social justice and, equality.

We feel very fortunate to have been apart of this meeting and to be apart of Dignity Detroit, we plan to continue to learn more from other chapters to assist Dignity Detroit and Dignity USA in growing with faith based community.

-Ashley and Kayla

*Can you help at a Soup Kitchen on Saturday, November 24th from 9 am to 2 pm? Your help would be greatly appreciated.*

Saint Patrick Senior Center  
58 Parsons Street  
Detroit, MI 48201-2002

For more info, go to  
[www.stpatseniorcenter.com](http://www.stpatseniorcenter.com)

Thanks for the help!  
Daniel D Cuschieri, LLMSW

There is still time to register and join the Dignity Detroit Team for AIDS Walk/Detroit on September 16. All are welcome to walk with the team.

Go to [www.aidswalkdetroit.org](http://www.aidswalkdetroit.org) to sign up. NOTE: the website will ask you if you wish to make a donation. This is completely optional and is not part of the Team registration.

If you have any questions about joining the Dignity Detroit team, please see Frank D'Amore

## **Mark your Calendars!**

Dates have been set for our 39<sup>th</sup> **AND** 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

Our 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on the weekend of May 4-5, 2013. Our Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and our Anniversary Liturgy follows the next day, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Why so early in May you ask? Very simply, May 18<sup>th</sup> was already taken; the Saturday before is Mother's Day weekend (our Liturgy would be on Mother's Day) and the Saturday after is Memorial Day weekend.

Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on the weekend of May 17-18, 2014. Our Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and our Liturgy follows the next day, Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **OUTFest celebration returns to Braun Court**

**Ann Arbor, MI** - The 18th OUTFest returns to Ann Arbor's history Kerrytown District Saturday, September 29 with a multiplicity of activities and entertainment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied community.

This annual celebration begins in the evening at Braun Court, across from the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market. This year's event will spill into both the Braun Court parking lot as well as the block of N. Fourth Ave. between Catherine St. and E. Kingsley. OUTFest is a longstanding tradition of Braun Court, in honor of National Coming Out Day on October 11.

"National Coming Out Day is so important because it encourages people, young and old, to come out as LGBT, ally, queer or questioning" explains OUTFest Committee Co-Chair Ashley Schwedt. "But what is most vital about celebrations like OUTFest is that people are literally coming out into a community that already supports and affirms who they are". The celebration includes music, dancing, entertainers, food (vendors and Braun Court restaurants), a beer tent, the Grassroots stage with local musicians, speakers, representatives of political campaigns, a children's play area, raffles and a NECTO-sponsored Dance Pavilion with DJ Mark Johnson.

OUTFest began as a project of Jim Toy Community Center (previously the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project) in 1995. The Jim Toy Community Center is a resource for the LGBT residents of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and greater Washtenaw County seeking to provide information, education, social events and advocacy for the community. Since its conception, JTCC's OUTFest has been hosted and produced with the assistance – and at times leadership – of \aut\Bar co-owners Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, large supporters of the center. This year, OUTFest has been organized by a number of JTCC volunteers working in collaboration with the center's board of directors.

OUTFest 2012 is 5 p.m. to midnight, September 29. This event is free and open to the public, though a small fee is necessary for access to the celebration's beer tent. For more information go to <http://www.jimtoycenter.org/> or search Facebook for "Jim Toy Community Center".

Several years ago, there was a rally on the courthouse steps of the town in which I lived. A homosexual couple were seeking to become foster parents. You can imagine the kickback that erupted. But it wasn't just "our community" vocalizing protest. Gathered there were representatives of a religious group from Washington, D.C., to speak out in holy fury. Laced with scripture quotations and shaking the abysmally familiar "God Hates Fags" signs, speaker after speaker raged with some of the most vicious and hateful words I have ever heard.

One of the police officers watching over the proceedings walked up to me and asked, "What do you think about all of this?" I knew this officer. He was a good man but did not consider himself a Christian. So, I turned his question around and asked him what he thought about it. He answered, "This is why you all ought to keep your church and Bible to yourself."

These people, exercising their freedom of speech for which I am so very thankful and for which I would go to the wall, were attaching hateful words and spiteful talk to the name of Christ. Somehow, in the convulsive twisting of the body of Jesus, the message was twisted. I felt ashamed.

The following Sunday, I fumed from my own church pulpit about how we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves — even the people we just positively know that God condemns. As a follower of Christ, my responsibility is to love them and not convict them, I said. Oh, it was a virtuous, unfettered, holy tirade, and I felt so very good after it was delivered.

But over the next few days all my good feelings ebbed. They were replaced by genuine conviction of heart. I realized that what had made me feel so "good," and what eventually disturbed me about myself was this: I hated the people who were hateful. I did not love them; I loved condemning them. My actions were nothing more than a variation of the words and behavior I found so repugnant. We were all wrong.

Opinions, conviction, beliefs: We all have them and the freedom to express them. But the moment our beliefs are used as means to hate others, we have left the path of Christ who taught us that the greatest commandment is to love.

*Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author of multiple books.*

PFLAG parents Mike and Jan Neubecker's home burned to the ground early in the morning of Aug. 14. Neither of them were injured, but the house is a total loss. The Neubeckers were awakened at around 5:30 a.m. by a passing motorist who saw the flames and awoke them by blasting his car horn in their driveway. The couple is staying at a Holiday Inn nearby.

A fund is now set up for Jan & Mike at Level One Bank. Donations can be sent to:

The Neubecker Fire Fund, c/o John McQuiggin, Bank Manager, Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, MI 48220.

Mike also lost his business in the fire, so they have no source of income for a while. Health insurance alone is over \$2,000 per month, in part because of Jan's cancer and other health challenges. These two are community heroes - let's all step up and help them in their time of need.

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

**DignityUSA:**

**P.O. Box 376**

**Medford, MA 02155-0376**

**Phone: 800-877-8797**

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

**Dignity Detroit offers community outreach 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!!!**

**Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center  
Walk for Life**

**Saturday September 8th.**

**Pine Grove Park, Port Huron.**

**Registration at 8:30AM. Walk begins at 9AM.**

**Check out the website for an online registration or contact the center for a hard copy.**

**For more info contact Sue @ 810 985 4673 or send an email to: [bwpsc.admin1@gmail.com](mailto:bwpsc.admin1@gmail.com).**

**[www.bluewaterbabies.org](http://www.bluewaterbabies.org)**



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