

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.

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.

See Daniel Cuschieri for more information



Capuchin Soup Kitchen

**Calendar of Events
March 2014**

2nd-8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

**5th - Ash Wednesday Mass at
7:00p.m**

9th-1st Sunday of Lent

**16th - 2nd Sunday of Lent
Council Meeting**

23rd - 3rd Sunday of Lent

30th - 4th Sunday of Lent

THINK ITALY.....THINK PASTA.....THINK FUN.....THINK OCTOBER!

Dignity Northern Virginia (NoVa) is inviting us – and our friends – to join some of their members and friends on a 9 day trip to Italy in October!

Harry Benjamin, NoVa Dignity member and president of *Departure Point Travel*, will lead a group of interested travelers to Rome (and the Vatican), Venice, Milan and Stresa (resort on the shore of Lago Maggiore) from October 10 through October 19. The itinerary is filled to the brim with sites ancient and new, delicious meals, great companionship and an all-inclusive price (\$4,799 per person, shared room, from Detroit - by way of Washington, D.C., to join the NoVa group).

Brochures and registration forms are available from us after Masses on the weekends. The *Departure Point* website is currently being updated, but all information will appear on the updated site when completed.

Departure Point Travel, PO Box 3103, Oakton, VA 22124-9103
(703) 242-4203

departurepoint@aol.com

<http://www.dp4travel.com>

P.S. A two night pre-Italy visit to Washington, D.C., to visit many of the city's sites is available to interested tourists. Prices will be available on the website when its updating is complete.



And the Winner is...

As you know, we sponsored a contest in January looking for a theme for our 40th Anniversary Celebration at the end of May. There were ten (10) entries submitted. To ensure fairness, the names of the individuals were removed and the organizing committee voted. Claudia W. submitted, *IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE*. Her rationale follows:

As gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Catholics we believe that we, too, are blessed by God. Our lives and ministries are to be valued no less than "mainstream" Catholics. We have Sunday liturgy, devotionals, and opportunities to build the reign of God much like any other church. Additionally, our outreach to those around us equals or surpasses many other Catholic churches.

All people...gay, straight or otherwise are God's children. At our own baptisms we were commissioned, like Jesus, to be priests, prophets, and kings (or queens). We are not denied this because of our sexuality. It is our duty, indeed our right, to reach out and minister to each other through the sacraments; to proclaim the Good News of salvation for every person; to act and speak like we are true children of God. On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter said, "It is good for us to be here." We are blessed because we are priests, prophets, and kings and truly, for the good of the world-wide church...it is good for us to be here!

Lenten Ideas for Adults!

Fasting

- ✦ fast from watching television one night each week so that you can spend time on a Lenten practice, as praying, reading the Bible, serving others
- ✦ fast from being angry or upset with people who have hurt or offended you, and pray for the courage to forgive
- ✦ fast from feeling guilty and angry at yourself for things you have done wrong, instead remember God's great love for you
- ✦ fast from using foul language and put-downs and start affirming the good in other people
- ✦ fast from buying new things like clothes, music, magazines, or jewelry and make a donation...
- ✦ fast from spending money on entertainment and make a donation of time or money that serves others
- ✦ fast from holding resentments and start practicing forgiveness
- ✦ fast from gossiping or being dishonest and start the practice of always being truthful and honest
- ✦ fast from a favorite snack food or drink and set aside the money you would have spent to donate to a special charity

Praying

- ✦ read the Lenten Scripture readings through Lent; here's a list for each week of Lent:
 - (1) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (Ash Wednesday)
 - (2) Matthew 4:1-11 (1st Sunday)
 - (3) Matthew 17:1-19 (2nd Sunday)
 - (4) John 4:5-42 (3rd Sunday)
 - (5) John 9:1-41 (4th Sunday)
 - (6) John 11:1-45 (5th Sunday)
 - (7) Matthew 21:1-11 (Passion Sunday)
 - (8) John 13:1-15 (Holy Thursday)
 - (9) John 18:1—19:42 (Good Friday)
- ✦ participate in Ash Wednesday services
- ✦ participate in the Stations of the Cross during Lent
- ✦ participate in the Lenten Sunday liturgies
- ✦ participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent
- ✦ spend fifteen minutes a day praying during Lent: give thanks to God for all your blessings, pray for a specific personal need prompted by the day's experience, and pray for those who are in need or suffering in your community and the world

Serving/Almsgiving

- ✦ donate personal possessions, such as clothes, books, shoes, to people in need
- ✦ dedicate time for service during Lent, e.g., working at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter, helping people in your neighborhood such as the elderly
- ✦ donate food or money saved by fasting to the parish or community food pantry, food bank, or homeless shelter
- ✦ volunteer to read books and magazines to the elderly who are no longer able to read
- ✦ support the work of the hospice movement to provide compassionate low-cost, in-patient and at-home care for the terminally ill
- ✦ give the gift of sight by donating old eyeglasses or unused frames to the local Lion's Club who recycles them to the poor
- ✦ support the work of the Ruth Ellis Center or Covenant House as they house and care for homeless youth



Anniversary Celebration Silent Auction

During the past several Anniversary Dinner/Dance Celebrations, we have held a Silent Auction/Raffle to not only help defray the costs of the Dinner/Dance, but to add to the festivities. At our upcoming 40th Anniversary Dinner/Dance on Saturday, May 31st we will once again have a Silent Action/Raffle.

If you are a business owner, good friends with a business owner, or a very frequent patron of a local business, you can help make the Auction/Raffle an enormous success. Gift baskets, gift cards, etc. are all welcome.

Attached to this newsletter is an appeal letter with all the details and a donation form to be filled out. All donations will be recognized in the program to be distributed at the Dinner/Dance. All forms must be turned in by May 1st so that we can adequately plan the layout of the program book and facilitate the layout of the Auction/Raffle items. The actual items are not needed until the week of the Dinner/Dance.

Trying to be as politically correct as possible, the Auction/Raffle is meant to be a fundraiser, not a garage sale for items you no longer need.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Smith or Frank D'Amore.



Tax ID: 382406909

February 8, 2014

Dear Business Owner,

Dignity Detroit is a ministry that promotes spiritual growth within the straight, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community of Metropolitan Detroit. In addition to our weekly Liturgies, our organization conducts/funds several outreach programs every year. In 2013 those efforts included: partial funding of the IHM AIDS Ministry Outreach Program in South Africa; volunteering on Fridays at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen; conducting clothing, food and personal hygiene collections; supporting and participating in the Race for a Cure and AIDS - Walk Detroit and most recently, another very successful Christmas Giving Tree program that benefited families in the parishes of our presiders.

On the weekend of May 31st and June 1st of 2014, Dignity Detroit will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of ministry. Our theme this year: ***It is Good for Us to Be Here.*** The celebration begins on Saturday, May 31st, with our annual dinner dance. Over 150 people will be in attendance that evening. As a part of the festivities that night, we will be having a Silent Auction. The proceeds from the auction assist Dignity Detroit with the funding of our many ministries and out-reach programs.

We are asking for your support to help make our auction a success. You can assist us by making a donation of goods, or services to be auctioned off. Your name, the name of your business as well as the address of your business will be listed on the auction item as well as in the program booklet that will be distributed to all who attend the dinner dance event. We will send you an acknowledgement of your donation and, since Dignity Detroit is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization, a receipt of your requested value for your income tax purposes.

To ensure that all information will be received before the program goes to press, please respond before Thursday, **May 1, 2014.**

Please help us keep our proud tradition of love and service alive and growing. We hope that you will be able to step forward and help ensure the success of the Silent Auction. To make a donation, or for further information please contact Frank D'Amore at (313) 530-6715.

Most gratefully,

Dignity Detroit Council

Dignity Detroit
40th Anniversary Silent Auction
Response Form

(please print)

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Person: _____

Item Donated: _____

If item can be mailed, please mail them to: Dignity Detroit
Attn: Anniversary Committee
P. O. Box 558
Royal Oak, MI 48068

If item needs to be picked-up, please call Frank D'Amore at (313) 530-6715.

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in 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.

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

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!

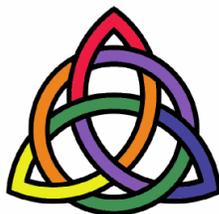
Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

Our volunteer participation needs your help on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month between 3:30 - 6:00pm.

Please see Daniel C. if you can help.



Thank You!!!



Ken Wojciak
Interior/Exterior Painting
Free estimates
313.319.7712
kwojciak2007@comcast.net