



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.



**Calendar of Events
September 2014**

**7th - 23rd Sunday of Ordinary
Time/Mass on the grass!**

14th - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**21st - 25th Sunday of Ordinary
Time/Dignity Council Meeting
Volunteer Sunday**

28th - 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Frankly Speaking

“All are Welcome” has been one of the mottos of this organization for many years. Our Vision Statement states: “Spirituality, Equality and Justice Nurtured in a *Welcoming* Catholic Community.” Both of those statements are powerful. The question that comes to my mind is, are they true? Please take the time to consider your actions when you attend our Dignity Liturgy or events. Do you seek out those individuals that are “new” to our community and welcome them and engage the individual in conversation? I am just not referring to the real “lookers.” I am talking about your average shy, timid, nervous as all get out, first time attendee.

I could easily make a seating chart of where our regular attendees sit during our Liturgy and it would be at least 80% correct. Think of your own first visit to a Dignity Liturgy. More than likely, you searched and searched for someplace to worship where you would feel welcome for who you are, and not have to pretend to be someone else to fit in at a local parish. You may have even driven to Marygrove College with the intent of turning in, parking the car and going in, but instead just drove by because of nervousness. One Sunday, you finally did it. You turned onto the campus, parked the car and succeeded in entering the Liberal Arts Building, then the chapel, and even forced yourself to stay for the after-Mass social...only to be ignored by most everyone else in attendance. I feel that as the Dignity Detroit Family we can sometimes forget what it feels like to be an “outsider.”

Many of us have been involved with the organization for many years and have our own “groups” of friends. Some of us have forgotten how difficult it can be for those people who finally work up the courage to attend but leave feeling as though they are not really welcome.

Unfortunately Dignity has gained the reputation, among some people, for being “cliquish.” I have been told on several occasions, by therapists and others who have referred individuals to Dignity, that our family can be “unwelcoming and cold.” While I don’t believe that anyone has that intent, due to busy schedules we often seem to only have the time during our After Mass Socials to “catch up” with our friends. In order for Dignity Detroit to begin to grow and reach out to more people, we must make a conscious change in our behaviors.

I am asking each individual in the Dignity Detroit Family to make an effort to welcome those people who are new or seem to stand on the periphery of the group. I realize that some of us are more comfortable doing such but all of us are able to at least acknowledge someone new. Even just a “Hello, so glad that you joined us this evening” could make a huge difference in someone’s perception of our Family. I challenge each of you to put our Vision into action and exhibit by our behavior that: “All are Welcome!”



Mark your calendars!

AIDS Walk - Detroit 2014

WHEN: Sunday, September 14th

WHERE: Downtown Royal Oak

There is still time to register to be part of the Dignity Detroit AIDS Walk/Detroit Walk Team. There is no cost to become a member of the team. You are welcome to join whether or not you choose to solicit sponsorship donations from friends and family. If you are unable to walk with the team, PLEASE consider making a donation to support the team. Donations may be placed in the AIDS Walk Collection Jar during the after-Mass social, or by going directly to the AIDS Walk site at: www.aidswalkdetroit.org

Once you arrive at the on-line site, check the top teal listing on the right hand side of the screen. Select the Dignity Detroit Team and follow the easy directions to make your donation on-line.

On behalf of the Dignity Detroit Team, as well as the many that will benefit from your generosity: **"THANK YOU!"**



The Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center Walk for Life 2014 takes place **Saturday September 13, 2014** @Pine Grove Park, Port Huron, MI along the beautiful St Clair River adjoining Lake Huron. Registration begins at 8:30a.m. The 2 mile walk begins at 9a.m. You can walk there or any location of your choice. For more info and to get a registration form go to BlueWaterBabies.org or call 810 985 4673 for a hard copy to be mailed to you.

Mass on the Grass & End of the Summer Potluck!

We will celebrate liturgy on the lawn adjacent to Madam Cadillac on **September 7th** at our normal 6pm time. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket on which to sit! If you can arrive early (5pm) to assist in setting things up it would be greatly appreciated!

Please see Patrick to sign up to bring your favorite dish to pass for the potluck. The main dish will be provided!



Random Monthly Meet-Ups

Dignity Detroit's new Social Chair, Patrick Sharpe, has begun a new program of Monthly Meet-Ups. This will give folks a chance to get together outside of the church setting. These events are for whoever wants to participate. All costs associated with the events are the responsibility of the participants. See Patrick for a list of upcoming events! Join in the fun!!!



OCTOBER- Drag Queen Bingo!



Join us at Five15 on Saturday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. Located at 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak MI. This event costs \$20/person! See website for specific details <http://Five15.net>. Sign up and register no later than Sunday, October 5th or until the reservations are filled. See Patrick or Allen W. for information.

Community Directory

It is time to publish an updated version of our Community Directory. For those of you not familiar with the Directory, it is voluntary and only the information supplied to us is published in the Directory. In addition, the Directory is only distributed to those that provide their information for publication in the Directory.

This year everyone currently in the Directory will receive an e-mail asking for confirmation of their directory information. If you did not receive the e-mail, if your information needs to be updated or if your information is not currently listed, please utilize the Community Directory Listing Form which is included in this Newsletter. Completed forms (Legible printing please!) may be placed in collection basket, given to any council member or mailed to us at:

Dignity Detroit
Community Directory
PO Box 558
Royal Oak, MI 48068-0558

Completed forms must be received by Sunday, September 21, 2014. The published directories will be available by the end of September. Thanks for your help.

Dignity Detroit Community Directory

The directory will be shared with only with those other individuals who have completed and submitted this form.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Home**

_____ **Cell**

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, September 21st.

The directory will be distributed by September 30th.

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

The next directory update will be May, 2015

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!

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Please see Daniel C. if you can help.



Thank You!!!



Ken Wojciak
Interior/Exterior Painting
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