

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 of each month between 3:30 - 6:00p.m.

For more information see Michael Tabaczynski.



NOVEMBER



6th - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

13th - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**20th - Feast of Christ the King
Dignity Council Meeting**

**27th - First Sunday of Advent
Thanksgiving Potluck**



Annual Fall Retreat

Our annual Fall Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2016, at Mercy Center, which is located on the grounds of the Mercy Sisters property in Farmington near Middlebelt and 11 Mile Rd. Come away with us for a day of prayer, discussion, relaxation and fellowship. We will begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast, with the retreat starting at 9:00am; it will conclude around 4:00pm. Our theme is aligned with the Year of Mercy, and so we are pleased to have a Sister of Mercy as our facilitator. Maureen Mulcrone is a Sister of Mercy and a native of Detroit where she lived and ministered for many years. She is a member of Christ the King parish in Northwest Detroit. Maureen's ministries have included teaching, health care, fundraising for Mercy Education Project and the Sisters of Mercy, and writing. Maureen first met Dignity as a graduate student when she was invited to become a chaplain for the Boston chapter. For your convenience, a registration form is included with this email. Registration ends on Sunday, November 6.



World AIDS Day

December 1st is World AIDS Day and once again SS Simon & Jude Catholic Church in Westland will be hosting a combination Reconciliation Mass/AIDS Memorial Service at 6:30 p.m.

As part of the service there will be three (3) tables of candles located between the altar and the ambo. The candles will represent those who have died from this horrid disease. The tables were built Fr. Gerry Bechard himself. There will also be an opportunity at some point during the liturgy where the names of those who have died from AIDS will be read.

All are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or need more info you can call Fr Gerry yourselves at SS. Simon & Jude Parish at 734.722.1343.



Mark Your Calendars

Dignity Detroit's Thanksgiving Potluck will take place on November 27. Please be prepared to bring a dish to share with your Dignity Community. We look forward to sharing a meal with friends.

Dignity Detroit's Annual Christmas White Elephant event will take place on December 11. Please consider bringing one present to be auctioned off. All proceeds will benefit your Dignity Detroit Community. Pizza, Salad and pop will be provided.

Community Directory

It is time to update our Community Directory. If you currently have information published in the Directory and there are **no** changes, **you need take no action whatsoever**. If you would like to have information published in the Directory, we have included a Directory Form with this newsletter. Supply only the information you feel comfortable sharing with the other individuals whose information is listed. Finally, if you would like your information removed from the Directory (either some of it or all of it), fill out the form with just your name and the new information or just check "delete" in the upper left hand corner of the form. Forms are due back by Sunday, November 13th and the new Directory will be published and distributed by November 30th.

Keep in mind that only those individuals who have information published in the Directory will receive a copy of the Directory.

He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to God all are alive.

That line from Luke is an awesome image! It is a reminder to us that, as Catholic Christians, we are a people of the resurrection. We believe that our physical death is not the end; we will be reunited with our family and friends at the end of time. This is a fundamental doctrine of our faith.

Of course, we are sad, perhaps even angry or discouraged when someone we love dies. Fortunately, our Catholic faith offers us rituals to comfort us in our mourning and healing. Every year, we place the Book of Life on the altar of St. Joseph. We are all invited to inscribe the names of our beloved deceased into that book and then we remember all of them in our prayer intentions during liturgy. This is a concrete reminder to us that our God is a God of the living...both of we who remain on earth and those who live with God in heaven.

There are, as well, many other ways that our loved ones are remembered. I used to drive past St. Hedwig cemetery in Dearborn Heights on my way to work every day. In November, folks would place large red vigil lights on the graves of their family members. In the early morning, the cemetery would be aglow with the red hue of these candles and it was always a reminder for me to pray for the souls of the deceased.

It is also a beautiful gesture to have a liturgy celebrated for the deceased. Often those liturgies are held on a date which holds special significance: the deceased's birthday, wedding anniversary, or anniversary of death. We recall them in prayer as we await our reunion with them.

A custom surrounding the dead that I find intriguing is *Los Días de los Muertos* or The Day of the Dead. This custom is common to Mexican Catholics and can even be seen in and around Mexicantown in Southwest Detroit. *Los Días de los Muertos*, celebrated November 1 & 2, is a time when Mexicans believe the "wall" between the dead and the living is lifted; the spirits of dead relatives will return home to visit.



Families will welcome their honored guests by building altars or *ofrendas* (offerings) and decorate them with *zempasúchil* (marigolds), candles, toys, religious pictures, *papel picado* (intricate cut tissue paper), personal mementos and photographs of the deceased. Favorite foods of the deceased will also be placed on the *ofrenda*: perhaps tamales, fruit, nuts, candy, sugar skulls, and *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead). The dead will arrive home to "eat" this food. Although the food remains behind, it is said that it no longer has any flavor.

In many small Mexican villages, people spend the day at the local cemetery, cleaning the environment and tombstones in preparation for the arrival of their loved ones. In no way is this necessarily a sad, somber mood. Sometimes there may be a Mariachi band and huge meals brought to the cemetery; the entire family gathers to celebrate the life of the one who has died, they celebrate resurrection.

Let us, too, remember that our God truly is a God of hope, a God of life, a God of resurrection. *Deliver us Lord from every evil and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*



Claudia

_____ Add

_____ Change

_____ Delete

Dignity Detroit Community Directory

The directory will only be shared with individuals 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 13th.

The directory will be distributed by November 30th.

If you would like to be removed, please write only your name and check "Remove" in the upper left corner of this form

The next directory update will be May, 2017.



voices for justice, sharing our stories

**FORTUNATE FAMILIES DETROIT
PRESENTS**

a day of reflection, dialogue and prayer for Catholic families
with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender daughters and sons

THEME: Our Transgender Children ...Always Our Children

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Christ the King Parish, 20800 Grand River at Burt Rd. in northwest Detroit

1 pm-5pm followed by Mass and Dinner

Speakers:

--Fr. Vic Clore, Pastor, Christ the King Parish

--Parent of a transgender child who will share his story.

--Rick Joseph, Michigan Teacher of the Year, who has played a major role in supporting the State of Michigan Guidelines for Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for LGBT Students.

Registration fee:

--\$15 per person

Limited scholarships are available. For information on scholarships or local event details, call 313.670.2613.

For more information or to obtain a registration form
email info@fortunatefamilies.com, call us at 518-694-5508

Dignity Detroit Fall Retreat

November 12, 2016

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Mercy Center

28650 W. 11 Mile Rd. Farmington, MI

Retreat Facilitator: Maureen Mulcrone, RSM,

Theme:

Reflections on Mercy in the Year of Mercy

Suggested donation: \$20.00 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Scholarships are available.

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

Name _____

Email _____

Please indicate if you desire a vegetarian lunch ____yes ____no

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

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

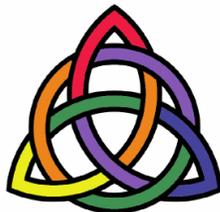
Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

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

Please see Michael T. if you can help.
Thank You!!!



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.

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!

Ken Wojciak

Interior/exterior painting

Free estimates

313-319-7712

KenWojciak@gmail.com