



FEBRUARY 2011, VOLUME 36, ISSUE 10

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Calendar of Events -

February 2011

6 - 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Liturgy Planning meeting, 4:30

Rosary Sunday

13 - 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

4:30-5:30 in the Chapel

20 - 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Council Meeting, 4:30

27 - 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Please join us this year for Steppin' Out's 2nd annual event, **Step Inside the Box**. Featuring an amazing shoe box auction, Step Inside the Box will be held at ZMC Pharmacy - on the third floor loft - on February 19th.

Tickets are \$50 and include:

- wine from Hogue Winery, beer, and specialty "Step Inside the Box" cocktail
- strolling buffet from Royal Oak's finest restaurants and caterers
- music from DJ Jim Stone
- a silent auction featuring original shoe box creations
- complimentary valet parking

Please visit www.stepinsidethebox.net for more information, photos from the last event, and to purchase tickets.

You may also purchase tickets by emailing or calling the office: info@aidswalkdetroit.org / 248.399.9255.

Special thanks to our sponsors:

ZMC Pharmacy, Emerald City Designs, 5/3 Bank, Hogue Winery, and Kenneth Cole Reaction.

We all know Dignity Detroit is a volunteer-run organization. From our own membership come those who step forward to help lead this ministry.

The constitution requires that your membership be current by March 1 to be eligible to run. The only other need is that you want to ensure Dignity's success by giving of your time and ability.

Up for election this year are the offices of Vice-President, Secretary and Community Involvement.

President's Corner

In lieu of a formal article, I have chosen to provide updates on various topics. Unless otherwise noted, all updates are being made the last week of January to meet Newsletter publication deadline.

Vision Statement Update (as of December 31, 2010)

Included with this Newsletter is the most recent updated copy of our Vision Statement. As we have done for the past 2 ½ years and will continue to do, we are using the original Vision Statement as a means of reporting our progress and more importantly, as a means of holding ourselves accountable to you the membership. There is one major change regarding the Vision Statement. If you look at the "Prioritized Actions by 2011" section of the document, the third bullet point references discussion groups attended by 25% of the membership. As a result of action taken at the January Council meeting, the Council is removing that item from the "**prioritized**" action list because of the vagueness and almost impossible task of meeting that objective. Since this action took place at our January meeting, the change will be reflected in updated version distributed at the April General Membership Meeting. Council did decide however to continue to see ways to increase participation by our membership in all of the events we sponsor, just not our weekly Liturgy.

37th Anniversary Celebration

Although we have yet to select a theme for this year's Anniversary Celebration (*that will be done by mid-February*), Council is very pleased to announce that Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh has agreed to be our guest speaker. If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars now. On Saturday, May 21, our Annual Anniversary Celebration will be held at Park Place and on Sunday, May 22, our Anniversary Liturgy will occur.

2011 Comerica Park Fundraising Effort

We have twelve volunteers who are willing to work on the Comerica Park Fund-raising effort. This includes not only six returning volunteers, but an overwhelming six new volunteers. We will keep everyone posted when training dates are announced and the actual list of games is available for sign-up. You can still sign up at that point.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of Council.

Frank

The Forum Foundation proudly presents the 16th Annual Valentine's Dance to benefit their GLBT Scholarship Fund. The dance will be held on Friday, February 11th, 7pm until Midnight at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road, Warren.

There will be an Open Bar, Family Style dinner, desserts, silent auction, 50/50 raffle and Gift Raffle.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door (if available).

Tickets are available at Just 4 Us in Ferndale (248-547-5878) and Five 15 in Royal Oak (248-515-2552) or from the Forum Foundation.

Forum Foundation PO Box 3073 Centerline, MI 48015

Vision Statement

Spirituality, Equality and Justice nurtured in a welcoming Catholic Community

Statements of Principle**1. We will explore ways to be innovative with our ministry**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (2nd Sunday of every month)

Observed Solidarity Sunday (Oct. 10th) -- calling for an end to physical/verbal abuse against all of God's children

Held Scripture/Communion Service in absence of a priest

Held mini one-day retreat at Visitation North

Held annual Family/Couples Blessing on Feast of the Holy Family

2. We will encourage ministry, community and social involvement

Promoted and encouraged involvement in AIDS Walk – Detroit.

Collected \$13,650.00 to benefit Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (H.E.L.P) --- 20 Walkers registered on team

Partnered with St. Mark Catholic Church for the Comerica Park concession stand staffing during the 2010 Tigers Baseball Season, raising \$1,600.00

Held end-of-Summer pot luck with crock pot raffle in September

Observed National Coming Out Day on Oct. 10th with toaster oven raffle during after-Mass social

Held Food Drive in October to benefit St. Mark Church food pantry

Assisted with the planning and participated in the Archdiocese of Detroit World AIDS Service at Ss. Simon and Jude on December 1

Provided Christmas gifts to nine families and three individuals from parishes of our Presiders

Published former Membership Directory as new Community Directory

3. We will support and expand membership

Renewed Advertising in Between the Lines as a means of stirring interest in Dignity Detroit

4. We will network with GLBT and social justice groups**5. We will become a respectful voice on GLBT issues****6. We will set goals, develop processes and monitor progress to accomplish our objectives**

Progress reported at every General Membership Meeting

Prioritized Action by the Year 2011

Dignity Detroit will have a public relations plan and all Council members will have received public relations training --- **COMPLETE**

We will have social activities within Dignity Detroit and with partners in the GLBT-friendly community --- **In progress**

Twenty-five percent of the Dignity Detroit membership will participate in discussion groups

December 31, 2010

Our community needs you...



We are in need of volunteers to fulfill the ministries of Acolyte and Sacristan.

As an Acolyte, you...

- ✦ assist the presider during the liturgy
- ✦ hold the liturgical books for the presider
- ✦ prepare the altar and the sacred vessels at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- ✦ serve as a Minister of the Eucharist during communion

As a Sacristan, you...



- ✦ prepare the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things necessary for the celebration of liturgy
- ✦ place the correct amounts of the bread and wine in the sacred vessels
- ✦ dress the altar
- ✦ gather all the necessary vessels and objects for the worship space and place them in their proper place

See Claudia after any liturgy if you wish to serve your community. Training will be provided!

Lots to Celebrate in Washington DC at the DignityUSA Convention July 1-4, 2011

The DignityUSA Convention 2011 in Washington DC is shaping up to be a fabulous 4th of July weekend of celebration and substance.

There is a lot to celebrate. We'll be in the nation's capital on the eve of one of the truly spectacular 4th of July fireworks displays. What's more, we'll be in one of the growing number of jurisdictions in the United States where gay and lesbian couples can be legally married.

From one of the most celebratory passages of the New Testament comes the convention's overall theme: "Love Hopes All Things." Among the topics on the program will be:

- *"Our Place as Change Agents" — how we can help a healing Church become a Christ-like community that empowers all its members*
- *"One House, Many Mansions" — delving into the many blessings of the diversity among our Dignity family*
- *"Are You Listening?" — an intergenerational panel*
- *A discussion with political leaders about what is next on the public policy agenda for LGBT Catholics.*

In addition, convention attendees will hear from canonical and civil legal experts on the latest advances and practical considerations regarding same-sex marriage. A social highlight of the weekend will be a grand reception — "My Big Fat Gay Wedding Reception" — for everyone, whether married, partnered, engaged, or single.

Watch for more details to come on how you can register. Perhaps we can gather a Detroit contingency to attend!

The new Mass translation: More than just words by Pat Marrin

Dominican Fr. Paul Philibert's article in a recent issue of *America* magazine tells why the new translation of the Roman Missal is catching flack for more than just bad grammar and antiquated English.

Philibert makes the case, respectfully but forcefully, that altering the words of consecration of the cup from "It will be shed for you and for all" to "It will be shed for you and for many" is a significant shift in emphasis from the accepted theological notion that Jesus died to save all people, not just a select number, however defined.

In an attempt to preserve as the correct interpretation of the Latin original "pro multis," the new translation stumbles badly over a key doctrinal assertion regarding the universal nature of Christ's redemptive sacrifice.

Whether introducing this linguistic ambiguity into the heart of the Eucharistic prayer is an unfortunate mistake (clearly contradicted by the Catholic Catechism) or a deliberate attempt to insinuate greater exclusivity into Catholic teaching, it will be with us for a generation or two if the new Missal comes on line in every parish in the English-speaking world this year.

We will stumble forward together during Sunday Mass, our "with your Spirit" and "under my roof" changes in familiar responses paling next to this one-word alteration of creedal clarity about whether this Mass is for all or just a select many.

If the change was deliberate -- part of a larger strategy by those who dream of a smaller, purer church, a holy remnant of just those faithful who now find fatal relativism and cafeteria tray morality in any attempt to welcome sinners and seekers of all kinds to the divine Mystery -- then we are on our way to a house so divided that any celebration of the Eucharist as the source of our unity will be impossible.

At least one bishop has been quoted as saying he does not want Marty Haugen's ubiquitous hymn "All Are Welcome" sung at any confirmation he presides at because "all are not welcome." We all might long for the church of the already perfect, but in this world I have never felt confident enough to sort people out in this way.

I do not recognize the Catholic church in such language. Like the publican in Jesus' parable, I sit in the section of pews designated for those who live by mercy. I go to Communion not as a reward for my virtue or orthodoxy but because I am starved for an unconditional love that helps me be good. Up till now, there has always been room in the church for me, for us, for all.

There may still be time to change this.

It is tantalizing to imagine that some Catholic bishops are bothered deeply that Rome and some of their brother bishops believe that the only way to stop what they think is a runaway train is to derail it.

It is even more emboldening to think that many pastors, the workhorse clergy who have been told to harness up and pull this new Missal into compliance, might sit down on the road and say, "Wait a minute, this doesn't make sense."

Seattle's Msgr. Mike Ryan had the courage to suggest this: "Stop the presses; let's talk some more."

The German bishops, Pope Benedict's own local clergy, told Rome "No" over this same issue of all or many.

The Germans know a lot about how to start a reformation, just as Americans know a bit about revolution. Does anyone - except the holy remnant crowd -- really want either in today's fractured church?

What we do want is a family table where, after we talk, agree or disagree about words and ideas, everyone is welcome to Christ's gift of reconciling love.

As I welcome the uncertainties and possibilities of 2011, I long for this Eucharist and for this church.

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm
Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College

8425 W. McNichols @ Wyoming

Contact us at:

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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

2010/11 Dignity Detroit Council

President: Frank D'Amore

Vice-President/Liturgy Coordinator: Claudia Welbes

Secretary: Sr. Therese Kearney, IHM

Treasurer: Glenn Crane

Community Involvement Coordinator:

Denise Smith

Social Chair: Peter Fedor

DignityUSA:

P.O. Box 376

Medford, MA 02155-0376

Phone: 800-877-8797

E-mail: info@dignityusa.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Detroit's east side.

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!!!



Strong feelings, even suffering, are part of the process of finding and liberating our true selves. The awakening of our spirits includes moments of intensity and turmoil, darkness and loss. For us to be willing to undergo fundamental change, we may first have had to "hit bottom". But our pain and frustration have had a positive outcome. We've become aware of the impact of our past decisions on ourselves and others. We've let go of denial. We've begun to entrust ourselves to the care of a Higher Power. All that we've gone through has been worth the resulting freedom of self-awareness and self-acceptance. We know ourselves to our very depths. We are entirely at home with ourselves, no matter what we feel.

