



MAY 2011, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

**Calendar of Events -**

**May 2011**

- 1 - 2nd Sunday of Easter**
  - Rosary Sunday
  - Clothing Drive begins
- 8 - 3rd Sunday of Easter**
  - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
  - Mother's Day
- 15 - 4th Sunday of Easter**
  - Council meeting, 4:30
- 21 - 37th Anniversary Dinner/Dance**
- 22 - 5th Sunday of Easter**
  - Anniversary Mass
- 29 - 6th Sunday of Easter**

**37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Our 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be here before you know it. May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> are the dates. Our Anniversary Dinner/Dance takes place on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at Park Place in Dearborn. Cocktails at 6:30 and Dinner at 7. Our theme for this year's celebration is, "A Light in the Darkness". Our scheduled guest speaker is the Honorable Charles Pugh, President of the Detroit City Council. Our Silent Auction and Raffle is shaping up to the best year. Some of the items include: Red Wing Jersey autographed by Todd Bertuzzi; autographed 8x10 photos of Steve Yzerman and Darren McCarty; gift baskets from Starbucks, Hallmark, Merchant and a special, Made in Detroit basket; as well as several gift cards from various business ranging in value from \$10 to \$100.00.

If you haven't already purchased your ticket(s), we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. For your convenience, a ticket order form is part of this Newsletter. Ticket sales MUST end on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> so that we can call in the final count to Park Place.

On Sunday, our Anniversary Liturgy occurs at the usual 6 pm at Sacred Heart Chapel on the campus of Marygrove College. If you can, we encourage you to bring family and friends with you to Mass. Wonder just how many people the chapel can hold????

**Community Directory**

Our Community Directory will be updated around the middle of May and distributed by the end of the month. An information submission sheet is included with this Newsletter.

If you currently have information published in the directory and nothing has changed, you don't need to fill out a new form. If you would like your currently published information updated or deleted, you must submit a form by Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. You can turn the form in on any Sunday or mail it to the Post Office Box.

As has always been the case, the published Directory is distributed to only those whose information is contained in the Directory.

**Due to the members of council running for re-election were unopposed, it was voted by acclamation at the April General Membership meeting for them to serve another two-year term.**

**Congratulations!**

## **Frankly Speaking**

Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to every one of you! Thirty-seven years of ministry to the GLBT community is quite an accomplishment.

Our journey has taken us from its humble beginnings at the Pink Palace to Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College. Over 50 clergy, including four auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Detroit have shared their ministries with us. As in many organizations, our membership has been somewhat transient, however we still have members that have attended since Dignity Detroit's beginnings. All along, we have tried to provide a welcoming place in which every person can feel accepted and loved.

There have been bumps along the way...after all it is Michigan and we're known for our "potholes". Dignity Detroit continues to strive and survive.

When celebrating an anniversary, one cannot help but look back. Looking at the past enables us to keep the future alive. Dignity Detroit will stay committed to the Gospel while reaching out to our community.

Happy Anniversary!

Frank D'Amore, President

The Anniversary Dinner Dance committee continues to seek donations of new gift items and gift cards for the Silent Auction. If you have an item to donate or have any questions, please see Jim Carlin or Allen Wierzbicki

*Share the joy of our celebration!*

*Invite your friends and family to our Anniversary Mass on May 22!*

The 2011 DignityUSA Biennial Convention will be held in Washington, DC this year from July 1 thru July 4. D/USA is organized to unite gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, as well as our families, friends and loved ones in order to develop leadership, and be an instrument through which we may be heard by and promote reform in the Church. Basically, D/USA is our voice on many issues of importance to us, and it deserves our support.

Registration material for the convention has recently been sent out to D/USA members. Online registration is available and encouraged.

The convention hotel is the Marriott Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel on 9th Street near the DC Convention Center. D/USA has negotiated an amazing room rate for the convention. The Dignity rate for a standard room during the period June 28 thru July 7 is \$125 single or double, plus taxes. On Expedia.com, the current rate for July 4th is \$369! So even if you are attending few or none of the convention activities, this is a great opportunity to enjoy a mini-vacation for a night or two in downtown DC. You are not required to register for the Convention to get the DignityUSA Convention room rate from the hotel.

DignityUSA has to guarantee Marriott the sale of a specific number of rooms. The number of rooms at the \$125 rate is limited. In only a week, over 25% of the available rooms have already been reserved. So if you are interested, you should not wait too long to make your reservations and guarantee that low rate.

In connection with the convention, they want to illustrate Dignity's 42 year history. For this they are soliciting photos of special times and events in Dignity's history. They are looking for pictures of chapter anniversaries, conventions, chapter participation at pride events, national marches, candle-light vigils, papal visits, etc. High resolution electronic copies would be ideal. If you have any pictures, please send them to DignityUSA. Also identifying the event, location and approximate date of photos would be helpful. These would be needed by the end of March.

At the convention, they remember those lost since the last convention. So they are asking for the names and dates of Dignity members who have passed away in 2009-11. Again photos would be great--electronic ideal. Also a descriptor--e.g. chapter founder, chapter leader, community activist, faithful member, etc.--would be great. These would be needed by April 30, 2011--though if you have these now, the sooner the better. Please comb your archives, antics, photo albums and junk drawers for photos.

For more information on the convention and hotel registration, visit [www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)

If you have any questions about being a part of a Detroit contingency, please see Frank D'Amore

## Dignity Detroit and Race for the Cure

It's time to register and become a team member of Dignity Detroit in the annual *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure* held at Comerica Park. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 21. To register online, simply go to **team registration** at [karmanos.org/racefortheuredetroit/index.asp](http://karmanos.org/racefortheuredetroit/index.asp) and follow the instructions.

If you do not have access to a computer or need additional details, please contact Denise Smith.

Dignity Detroit will be collaborating with St. Mark's Parish again with a fundraising opportunity at Comerica Park for select Tiger games.

In 2010, we at Dignity earned \$1,600 for our general fund and hope to increase that amount this year. Much work was performed, but much fun was had! Please consider joining our Dignity team in 2011.

If you are interested, please contact Denise or Frank.

On Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Judy Shepard was at University of Michigan for a speaking engagement that began with a dinner. At the dinner, Judy was given the Jim Toy award in recognition of her efforts for anti-harassing and advocating for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender community. Judy has crusaded for equal rights and anti-harassment causes since her son Matt's attack and death in 1998 in Wyoming. Judy and her husband have worked tirelessly and have gratefully experienced some of the results of this effort. After dinner, those gathered to an auditorium and Judy addressed a large crowd of folks. Mrs. Shepard's address was followed by a question and answer session. Although Judy and her family still feel the pain of their loss, they strive to improve the future by eliminating prejudice and hate. Judy is truly a hero, and really demonstrates a lot of class and love.

Submitted by Mark Small

## **Gay Catholics Express Solidarity with Priest Threatened with Removal from Priesthood for Support of Women's Ordination**

DignityUSA joined other supporters of women's ordination at a Vatican Embassy Vigil to support Rev. Roy Bourgeois

March 30, 2011 -- The leadership of the nation's largest organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Catholics deplored the threat to dismiss Father Roy Bourgeois from the priesthood if he does not recant his support for women's ordination in the Catholic Church.

Marianne Duddy-Burke, the group's executive director, said, "Father Roy Bourgeois has been an inspiring and fearless advocate for justice and service to the world's poor and powerless for more than forty years as a priest of the Maryknoll order. Now that he has spoken out on behalf of justice for women within the Catholic Church, he is being threatened with removal from his order as well as from the priesthood itself."

Duddy-Burke continued, "As Pope Benedict XVI himself has stated, the highest moral authority for Catholics is not the bishops or even the Pope, but the informed conscience of every individual. Surely it is a mockery of this teaching when one of the Catholic Church's bravest and most prophetic priests is being ordered to betray his conscience or face expulsion from the priesthood as well as the community that has been family to him for decades."

Duddy-Burke noted that in his support for women's ordination, Bourgeois represents the beliefs of a growing majority of Catholics, as numerous studies have shown. He is also in agreement with the Vatican's own Pontifical Biblical Commission, which determined in 1976 that there is no scriptural reason that women should not be ordained in the Catholic Church. DignityUSA has long maintained that the Catholic priesthood should be open to both men and women, regardless of sexual orientation or marital status.

Duddy-Burke concluded, "We in DignityUSA, along with many other faithful Catholics, stand in solidarity with Father Roy. We urge his Maryknoll superiors to support him in his declaration of conscience and his courageous, lifelong efforts to bring about justice in the world, as well as within the Catholic Church."

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

*One must wait until evening  
to see how splendid the  
day has been.*

**DignityUSA:**

**P.O. Box 376**

**Medford, MA 02155-0376**

**Phone: 800-877-8797**

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

The theme for our 37th Anniversary celebration has been chosen!

***A Light in the Darkness***

Remember to save May 21 on your calendars for our annual Dinner/Dance festivity. Also, don't forget our Anniversary Mass on May 22!!!





Presents Our 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## *A Light in the Darkness*

*Scheduled Guest Speaker: Honorable Charles Pugh  
President, Detroit City Council*

Join us for an evening of dinner, drinks, dancing and a silent auction!

Saturday May 21, 2011

Cocktails 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm

(Please drink responsibly)

Park Place, Dearborn 23400 Park St (South of Michigan Ave/ West of Outer Drive)

37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liturgy Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

Sacred Heart Chapel, Marygrove College, Detroit.

8425 W. McNichols (at Wyoming)

**Ticket order form for 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance DEADLINE: Sunday, May 15th**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ total cost (\$50 per person)

Mail a check for the total payable amount to **Dignity Detroit** and mail to it to P.O. Box 558, Royal Oak, MI 48068 or purchase your ticket any Sunday before or after our 6 P.M. Liturgy.

# Dignity Detroit Community Directory

## Information Submission Form

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Submit only the information you want published

Please check one:  new  
 update  
 delete

Name #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 (if a couple): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip (Postal) Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address person #1: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address person #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (MM/DD) person #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (MM/DD) person #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation person #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation person #2: \_\_\_\_\_