



JUNE 2012, VOLUME 38, ISSUE 2

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

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

Frankly Speaking

Well, this is it...my last article as the President of Dignity Detroit. Please notice that I did not say, "This time around". This is really it.

I couldn't be any more proud of this organization than I already am. There have been good times and some rough times, but each time, Dignity Detroit stood tall and proud through it all. I would never be smug and think that it was because of me alone. It was because year after year, we have had a Leadership Team and faithful members and friends who took their commitment to the organization and God to heart.

I am confident that in the coming year, Glenn, Claudia, Sr. Therese, Rick, Denise and Peter will continue working to strengthen the organization and charter new areas of growth both in the ministry aspect of the organization and just as important, the outreach efforts. To refresh your memory, as mentioned at our last General Membership Meeting, Glenn, Rick and Peter were voted into office by acclamation. I pledge my support to the entire Leadership team, new and continuing Officers and will be of whatever assistance I can be if called upon.

I am grateful that you have allowed me to serve as President of Dignity Detroit. I have always tried to put my focus on what I felt to be the greater good of the organization. I treasure the friendships that have been forged over the years and the new ones that will form through my continued, but limited, involvement in this wonderful organization.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.
Yes, the Sacred Heart Chapel gets a bit warm, but we hope to see you in between vacations and barbecues!

Calendar of Events - June 2012

3 - Trinity Sunday

Rosary Sunday

Motor City Pride

10 - Corpus Christi (Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

17 - 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Council Meeting @ 4:30

24 - Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist

**“The Barn” at the IHM Motherhouse campus is closing!
For those of you who have spent many a Dignity Retreat
there will remember this wonderful oasis.**

Through June 10, all are invited to participate in the following events honoring Visitation: *“Visitation: Telling the Story – A Visual Display”*

During these weeks all are invited to spend time reviewing the events of Visitation’s history and expressing your own rituals of leave-taking. The display is available in the Barn Chapel, and also as a video presentation at www.ihmsisters.org.

During the weeks of the display, the Visitation Barn Chapel will be open to the public at the following times:

Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.

Thursdays, 6 – 8 p.m.

Sundays, 2 – 4 p.m.

These public viewing hours will coincide with the weeks of the display. Those wishing access at another time can arrange this by contacting River House at 734-240-5494 or riverhouse@ihmsisters.org

The Annual Pride Banquet organizing committee has been hard at work planning this year's Pride Banquet.

The festivities will take place on Thursday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at the Ukranian Cultural Center in Warren.

For further information, to make nominations for the various awards or to purchase tickets, go to: www.goaffirmations.org

Motor City Pride is coming to Hart Plaza in
Detroit on June 3.

Dignity Detroit will have a table and volunteers
are needed. Please see Denise if you can help.

Dear Dignity Detroit Family,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the President's Award. This is a tremendous honor, especially coming from you. I have never received an award before and I am still stunned. It is very humbling to know that you think the little things I do actually make a difference. You are the best!

As I said at the dinner, I still remember that scared mom who came to Dignity for the first time, not knowing what to expect, what I'd hear or see, wondering what my son was going to "turn" into. You were all so kind, and welcoming, and patient. You never preached at me, never told me what to think or not think, what to say or not say. You were simply yourselves. You taught me by example. You taught me that my son is the same wonderful person he has always been because you are all the same wonderful people you have always been. You took away my fear eventually, and then my heart and mind were free to learn the truth. Yes, it took me a long time ... but can you even imagine what it was like for me to finally recognize and accept that I'm the one who needed to change! ME! This good, Polish, Catholic girl! And you were there for me then too.

You have all changed my life. Thank you for continuing to be part of my journey. Thank you for helping me to become a much better person than I used to be. Thank you for this great honor. I am forever grateful.

I love you all,

Chris Dixon

Maybe Buddhists and Hindus are just as stubborn as Christians, but I don't think so. We Christians are about as inflexible as they come. Of course many are all too happy with this assessment, equating rigidity with holiness. I'm just not so sure.

Consider our friend Galileo. Remember him from your middle school science class? This father of modern astronomy proposed the heliocentric or sun-centered galaxy. The earth, he said, revolves around the sun, not the other way around. This got Galileo in gobs of trouble. The church, you see, took the Bible quite literally back in the 17th century. And the Bible says: "The world cannot be moved" (Psalm 93; 95 and 104). So, pitched against the Bible, the pope, and Christendom, Galileo and his telescope were put on trial for heresy. After the inquisition, his research was condemned as unorthodox, his books were refused publication, and he was sentenced to prison, though later the punishment was commuted to house arrest. It could have all been much worse, had Galileo, under threat of his life, not recanted.

What do we do when facing truths that do not fit into the framework of our truth, our "biblical worldview," whatever that is? The short answer is that we typically refuse all things that don't suit our perspective, labeling it sacrilege. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not one who thinks that one truth is as good as another so long as sincerity is involved. But I am one who is quick to admit that my particular view of truth is inherently flawed, because I am flawed. We all are.

Truth is out there, and it must be pursued. But most of us in the Jesus camp think that truth is locked in a dusty footlocker and stuffed underneath the church altar. It is a fixed, hard as stone list of propositions without adjustment, no matter what Galileo's telescope or anybody else's research says.

Do you ever vacuum? If you do, I bet you've done this before: You're gliding along on the living room carpet busting dust mites when your trusted Hoover encounters a fuzz ball it just can't do anything with. What do you do? You pick it up. You roll it over in your fingers. You inspect it as closely as possible. Then, inconceivably, you do what we all do: You put it back down on the carpet and roll over it again, and again, usually with the same results. We do the equivalent when encountering truths that do not fit into our view of the world. We stop, pick them up, inspect them, and then failingly persist in making it fit. We never stop to consider that we can't get the job done with the equipment we have always used. The problem may not be the novel truth we have encountered. The problem may be our stubborn resistance to reconsider what we believe. The problem might be that the truth to which we have held so tightly, isn't true after all.

Some of the beliefs we embrace we do so only because it is the official party line. We often believe what we do because it is what we have been told to believe. Or we come to our personal conclusions because that smiling preacher on television or behind a pulpit tells us it is the truth. That's not enough. Granted, this can be frightening. Launch into an examination of all that is locked away in that musty locker and you might get accosted by the establishment. Start assailing the flawless truths of your church, and you may find yourself seated next to Galileo at a heresy trial.

But don't be afraid, because truth can take it; at least those truths worth holding on to. Anything that can't take it should be discarded any way. And especially don't be afraid of examining new truth either. These may be the very wind you need to blow the dust off the past.

Oh, and back to our friend Galileo; things worked out for him in the end. The church ultimately recanted itself, and admitted it was – gasp! – wrong. On All Saints Day, 1992, Pope John Paul II finally gave in, admitting that yes, in spite of everything, the earth does rotate around the sun. It only took a little more than three centuries to get this modest affair neatly squared away.

By Ronnie McBrayer

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm

Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College

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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

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.



Please see George K. or Denise S. if you can help. Thank You!!!



"For the vast majority of Catholics, the social justice teachings of the church trump the conservative and institutional inertia of the Vatican and its hierarchy . . . Indeed, 63% of Catholics in this country support marriage equality, a rate that is 10% higher than that of the general public. Catholics will no more heed official Archdiocesan opposition to marriage equality than they do the church's head-in-the-sand proscription against birth control."

Leo N. Egashira,

Publications Committee Chair,
quoted in "Catholics and Marriage Equality"