



**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.*

**New Year's Resolution??**

Your help would be greatly appreciated! At the soup kitchen!

St. Patrick Senior Center  
58 Parsons Street  
Detroit, 48201

For more information, email Daniel Cuschieri at [daniel.cuschieri@cchnet.net](mailto:daniel.cuschieri@cchnet.net) or call 734-740-8852. Thank you!

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
JANUARY 2013**

**1- (Tuesday)** Holy Day of Obligation- Solemnity of Mary-Mass at 6:00 p.m.

**6-** Feast of the Epiphany

**20-** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Council Meeting at 4:30 and  
General Membership Meeting  
after mass

**27-** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time



Jesus.

The Gospel readings this month are so rich in images: Epiphany, the baptism of Jesus, the wedding feast at Cana, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Each merits much consideration, but I'd like to focus on Matthew's Gospel account of the Magi visiting the infant

With each passing year, I begin to like this Feast Day more and more; in fact, many Europeans exchange gifts on Epiphany and not on Christmas. Don't get me wrong, I like Christmas; sometimes though it seems that the real meaning of that Holy Day gets lost amidst all the wrapping paper and bows. (Please don't call me Scrooge!)

Think about Christmas and Epiphany for a moment. On Christmas, we remember the gift that God gave to us—God's own flesh and blood. God became incarnate (human like us) so that we could have the chance of eternal life. That's an awesome gift! On Epiphany, we recall the gifts the Magi brought to God (i.e., the infant Jesus). Notice how the gift-giving went full-circle; God gave humans a gift and the humans returned the favor. Hmm, let's try to bring this forward a few thousand years to 2013.

The gift that God gave to us is the "gift that keeps on giving." Jesus is still here—among us, loving us, challenging us, calling us, redeeming us. Jesus is that friend who never abandons or forsakes us. Jesus is that person on whom we can *always* turn to with our sorrows and joys. Jesus will be the one who, at the end of our earthly lives, will greet us with open arms into our eternal home. Cool gift, right?

Now, what do you give God in return? We don't have to present gifts of Gold, Frankincense, or Myrrh to Jesus, but I am positive that there are many other things that we can offer. Gold, I will admit, would be a fantastic gift to receive. It is a valuable and precious metal, and many people hold it in high esteem. Is there, however, something that you could give *of yourself* that is just as or even more valuable than gold? How about the gift of *time*? Could you give some of yourself and your time talking with a lonely or discouraged friend? Could you offer a haggard store clerk a few seconds of your time by extending a genuine hello and a smile? Perhaps, even for just one evening, you could turn off the television, computer, iPod, or cell phone and spend some quality time hanging out with your family or friends. How about spending time with your God in prayer? All too often we are rushed from one thing to the next that we just don't take time for each other. Time can be as precious as Gold.

Frankincense is a type of incense similar to what we use in church. Visualize the smoke from the incense rising towards heaven and taking our prayers to God. That symbolism comes from Psalm 141. "Let my prayer be like incense placed before you and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice." The gift we can give to others, and ultimately to God, is the gift of prayer. Think for a moment of all the people in our lives who could use our prayers: our partners, our family members, our children, teachers, friends, those who minister in the Church, Government

leaders, the sick, the homeless, those in war-torn countries, soldiers, and health care professionals. The list is really endless. What a simple, yet profound, gift prayer can be. It calls us away from our own self-centeredness and moves us towards a loving compassion for others.

The last gift the Magi brought to Jesus was Myrrh. This gift was really a very odiferous and long-lasting perfume. Now, I am not suggesting that you present someone with a strong-scented cologne. Myrrh was actually used to embalm or anoint bodies, therefore it symbolizes eternity. What gifts could you give to another that could last forever? The gifts of love, compassion, and caring. Look again to the Gospels and you will see that it is precisely these three gifts that Jesus gave to us and calls us to give to others. Every word Jesus spoke and every action Jesus did was out of love, compassion, and caring for God and for others. Can we not at least try to do the same?

So, dear friends, as you recall the Feast of Epiphany, what gifts do you have to offer? My challenge to you this month is to take some time from your hectic schedules and ponder that question. Once you have discerned your gifts, find at least one person with whom you can share them.

Peace,  
Claudia

**This couple was well loved and extremely active in a lot of gay activities especially with Dignity Washington over the years.**

#### **MOM'S LIFE:**

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words about Mom's life. She was born Veronica Esther LeTourneau, on April 6, 1912, in Hibbing Minnesota, not far from the Canadian border. Mom's parents were of immigrant stock—her Mom was from Slovenia back when it was part of the Austro Hungarian Empire and her Dad was French Canadian by descent.



Mom's family was poor but they were strong believers in education and gave Mom the opportunity of going to good schools. Mom told me many times how proud Hibbing was of the new high school that was built there, and Mom attended college back at a time when many women did not do so. Mom's parents managed to arrange for her to study music, and she became a very accomplished piano and organ player, a hobby that she enjoyed for most of her life.

Mom left college just one semester short of graduation because she was offered a Federal Government job in Washington DC during the Depression and she did not feel that she could risk losing that job opportunity by asking them to wait for her to complete that year of school. Mom was an expert typist and it was that talent that helped her get her job in DC.

Shortly after Mom came to Washington she met my father and they got married. They were both hard workers and they encouraged Mom's parents to come to DC where job opportunities were better than in Hibbing. Mom's parents came here & moved in with Mom and Dad. Then, my uncle Al came to DC with his wife, and they too lived with Mom and Dad for a few years during which time they started giving birth to my cousins.

Eventually my Grandparents and my aunt and uncle were able to live on their own, Mom and Dad moved into a different home, and my sister Geraldine and I were born. During my childhood I remember Mom donating her time going door to door to collect money for charity. I also recall her helping out childhood cancer patients by driving them and their parents to and from the doctor. Mom was a Den Mother during my time in the Cub Scouts.

I enjoyed helping Mom in the kitchen and she went out of her way to make our holiday dinners festive. I remember her forming mashed potatoes into the shape of an Easter Bunny and her making edible Easter baskets out of pear halves, filled with cream cheese eggs dyed in a variety of colors. All of the members of our family enjoyed playing cards. Mom, in particular, was an excellent Bridge player, and I remember many a holiday spent playing Michigan Rummy or Bridge with Mom and Dad and their many friends.

It was not easy for Mom and Dad when I first told them that I was gay, but I am very proud to say that they fully accepted me and then went on to work tirelessly for equal rights for Gay people in American society and throughout the world. They were very supportive of me when my partner was dying of AIDS back in the mid 80s.

After Dad died in 2002 Mom moved into Assisted Living at Independence Court. I was happily surprised that she went there of her own free will. She told me that she had made a success of every other aspect of her life and she intended to make a success of this new life, too. Mom came to Sacred Heart Nursing Home in the spring of 2008 after a bad illness. I never expected her to live to be a hundred, but she reached that milestone last April. I miss Mom a bunch and want to say thanks to all of you here at Sacred Heart for taking such good care of Mom during these past 4 and ½ years.

*Paul Colfer*

Memorial Contributions may be made to Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG.ORG) or to Dignity USA (DIGNITYUSA.ORG)

## **Be a Part of the DYAC Dignity Photo Project!**

**WHAT:** LGBTQA Catholics from around the nation coming together to share their inspirational messages.

**How:** Write a 1-2 sentence message stating why you are LGBTQA & Catholic on a dry-erase board. Then take a picture with your message.

**WHY:** With inspiration from the “it gets better” campaign these pictures will be compiled into a video and put on the Dignity VIMEO Channel! We hope to have 100 pictures to compile into a VIDEO TO SPREAD ACROSS THE INTERNET! Our stories as LGBTQA Catholics are powerful and should be shown to each other and the whole world!

**When:** If there is interest shown in being involved with this campaign pictures will be taken at the after mass social.

Ask Ashley or Kayla for more information or to show your interest!! \*Dates and times can be arranged. It won't take much of your time and you never know who your message may help in a time of need!

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm at the Sacred Heart Chapel on the campus Marygrove College--8425 W. McNichols @ Wyoming.

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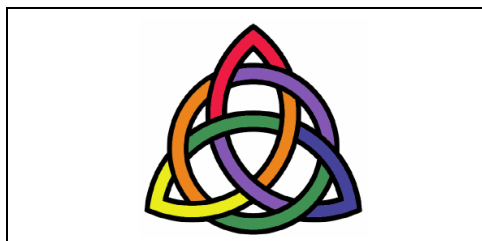
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Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

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!!!



### 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  
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