

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's Annual Hygiene Kit Drive begins Sunday, February 17 and will continue thru Easter Sunday, March 31.

The drive this year will benefit The Ruth Ellis Center which provides residential and drop-in programs dedicated to GLBTQ youth.

Your participation is greatly appreciated!!

**Calendar of Events-
March 2013**

**3- 3rd Sunday of Lent &
Rosary Sunday**

10- 4th Sunday of Lent

**17- 5th Sunday of Lent &
Council Meeting**

24- Palm Sunday

31-Easter Sunday

It is, I believe, rather easy to see how *God loves us*. We can notice God's love for us in the beauty of each day, in the smiles of our family and friends, in the kindnesses that others extend toward us. Ultimately, we know that God loves us by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Knowing that *God loves us*, however, is not what I would like you to reflect upon. Instead, take some time to ponder this: *How do others know that you love God?* That, my friends, may be a bit more difficult to answer.

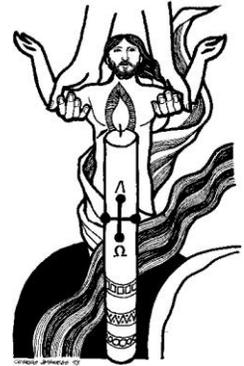
Soon we will be entering the holiest week of our church year, and during this week we have three incredibly important days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. I believe that in these three days, the Scriptures and liturgies point to ways that we can show we love God. On Holy Thursday, during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we hear from John's Gospel how Jesus washed the feet of his apostles—a simple act of service. Jesus had given them “a model to follow,” one that we should follow too. Catholic churches throughout the world will reenact this ancient ritual during liturgy as a reminder that we are to be people of justice and service; people who love God and love our neighbor—the basic commands of Jesus. We should live lives of service to God's people; that is how others will know that we love God. If we continue reading the Last Supper discourse from John's Gospel, we hear Jesus say, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (Jn. 15. 12-13) We can love God by loving others; it's that simple.



As the week continues, we enter into the somberness of the Good Friday liturgy. Here, we are reminded of Jesus' death by crucifixion, a most horrible way to die, yet one that Jesus accepted freely. We can see that Jesus loved God because he did what God wanted him to do; Jesus followed God's will. Following what God wants us to do is sometimes difficult, for a couple of reasons. First, we may not even know what God's will is for us. Understanding and coming to know this takes time, prayer, and patience (believe me, I've been there). Secondly, once we determine what God wants us to do, we have to be willing to submit to his will and do it. Now,

that's sometimes hard as well! The Scriptures are rife with examples of people who tried to run away from God. God, however, always wins and somehow always gets his way. Following God and God's plan for our lives is a way we can show our love for the Creator.

Finally, many of the faithful will gather in parishes on Holy Saturday to rejoice in the resurrection and to welcome into our church those who have been preparing in the R.C.I.A. program. These folks love God and are not afraid to announce their commitment in front of a particular faith community. They have been faithfully preparing to become members of the Catholic Church and we, as part of this same church, welcome them with open arms and hearts. Together we build up the reign of God, making it a compassionate and powerful presence in this world. Together we show those around us that, as members of Dignity Detroit, we love God.



A simple mantra that I try to live by is *I Am Third*. This means that I put God first in my life, others second, and myself third. It isn't always easy and I will confess that I am not always successful, but I try to make it the guiding principle for all of my actions, decisions, and thoughts. This is how I love God. How do you show your love for God?

 *Claudia*



MARK YOUR CALANDERS!

On May 5th for our 39th anniversary liturgy our principal celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Thomas Gumbleton!

Please be reminded to respect Sacred Silence in the Chapel.



There are some of our members who come early to the Chapel so they can spend some time in prayer; please be respectful of them by keeping conversation to a minimum (or visiting in the foyer before liturgy). Additionally, please silence cell phones prior to entering the Chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!



March Madness/Spring Fling Raffle

We will once again be sponsoring a March Madness/Spring Fling Raffle.

The raffle will take place on Sunday, April 7th as part of the after-Mass Social. We are asking everyone, members and supporters, to take one book of thirty (30) tickets to purchase or sell. Tickets are \$1.00 each and if you sell or purchase all 30 tickets you only need turn in \$25.00. That is five free tickets or \$5.00 cash for your time and efforts. It goes without saying though that if you should choose to turn in all \$30.00, no one will mind. The prizes are cash awards of \$500.00, \$250.00 and \$100.00. The winner need not be present to win.



As in years past, at least one-half of the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the IHM South African AIDS Ministry Program. The remaining funds will be deposited in our treasury for future use.

If you are so inclined, donations are also welcome to help offset the expenses associated with the raffle.....ticket printing, license fee and of course, the prize fund.

With your support and generosity, we hope to make this one of our most successful raffles ever!

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

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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**

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!

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!!!



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