

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 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.

See Daniel Cuschieri for more information



Capuchin Soup Kitchen

**Calendar of Events
October 2013**

**6- 27th Sunday of Ordinary time
Rosary Sunday**

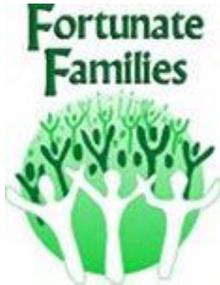
13- 28th Sunday of Ordinary time

**20-29th Sunday of Ordinary time
Council meeting @ 4:30**

27-30th Sunday of Ordinary time



If you haven't already... find Dignity Detroit on Facebook and stay connected with all our latest pictures, news and upcoming events!



Fortunate Families announces a gathering of Catholic parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender daughters and sons. To pray, share, learn, build community & imagine a better church and world for our LGBT children.

When: Saturday November 9, 2013

Where: Christ the King Parish-20800 Grand River at Burt Rd Detroit, MI.

The day will begin at 8:30 and end with Mass (scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.)

A continental breakfast and lunch are included.

There is no charge, but registrations must be received by November 4, 2013. To register and find more information:

- Online at www.fortunatefamilies.com
- E-mail: office@fortunatefamilies.com to request a registration form
- Phone: 585-698-6100 or 248-489-1505

Join us as we share, pray, build community, learn, sing and imagine a better church and world for our LGBT daughters and sons.

Get started on your Christmas shopping early this year! If you would like to begin purchasing giving tree gift cards early this year Daniel Cuschieri will be collecting them!





AIDS Walk Detroit Update

Congratulations to our 2013 AIDS Walk team for another extremely successful Royal Oak AIDS Walk. Although money is still being collected, as of the day of the Walk, our 30 walkers collected just over \$12,000.00 in pledges! A special thanks to Frank D'Amore for raising \$7,100 for this important cause!

All monies collected will be forwarded by the organizers of AIDS Walk to the Health Emergency Lifeline Program (H.E.L.P.). HELP is a non-profit, community-based organization that provides essential services for people who are at-risk, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C in Southeastern Michigan. HELP works with over 1,200 clients each year to provide food & nutrition assistance, housing services, case management, utility assistance, mental health counseling and other resources.

Thanks to all who participated in person, with financial support and just as importantly, in spirit!

The month of October is dedicated to many different causes and observances. A quick Google search yielded over 100 interesting, serious, funny, and downright bizarre things that we could focus on...these are just a few:

Interesting/Serious

AIDS Awareness Month
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Bullying Prevention Month
Celiac Disease Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Down Syndrome Awareness Month
Fair Trade Month
LGBT History Month
National Pregnancy and Infant Loss
Tackling Hunger Month

Funny/Bizarre

American Cheese Month
Bat Appreciation Month
Caffeine Addiction Recovery Month
Church Safety and Security Month
Feral Hog Month
National Sarcastic Awareness Month
National Toilet Tank Repair Month
Raptor Month
Squirrel Awareness Month
Workplace Politics Awareness Month



I will admit that those listed in the second column made me chuckle a bit...especially Sarcastic Awareness and Workplace Politics! The first column, though, specifically relates to a very important observance for the month of October—**Respect Life Month**. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) began this observance 42 years ago and continues to encourage Catholics to eradicate our *culture of death* and replace it with a *culture of life*. While it remains important that we defend the lives of the unborn, the Bishops remind us that it is our duty to protect *all* life and to be pro-life in *all* circumstances.

So, what does all this mean for us? Simply put, we are called to stand up against the destruction of life no matter what form it takes. We are not only called to be anti-abortion, but also anti-death penalty, anti-bullying, anti-domestic violence, anti-euthanasia, anti-everything that harms another person!

It seems to make sense, then, that the items in the *Interesting/Serious* column above relate to pro-life. If we, indeed, wish to call ourselves pro-life, then we need to protect the sacredness of *all* life and recognize that every person is a child of God and should be treated with love, compassion, and respect. Admittedly, that's a tall order. To be honest, I find it quite difficult to feel love, compassion, and respect towards those whose intent is to bring destruction to us. Yet, at the same time, I know that the least I can do is to "pray for those who persecute" us...it is what Jesus asks us to do.

A number of years ago, I went to a conference on the Death Penalty presented by the Michigan Catholic Conference. The discussions, sometimes heated, went in all different directions. Some folks believed that those convicted of heinous crimes should receive life in prison with no possibility of parole while others believed that the lives of criminals were expendable and we should "fry them." The words of one woman quieted the room and humbled everyone. Her son had been brutally murdered and the person who killed him was sitting in prison. In effect she said that years of bitterness and hatred toward her son's murderer still did not bring her son back. It was only after she began to pray that she felt a sense of peace. Her prayer led her to confront the murderer. What she said next surprised us all. She was fully intent on looking the murderer in the eye and condemning him to hell, but instead the words that tumbled out of her mouth were, "I forgive you." Still, she said, her son was not coming back, but she finally had closure, she could finally move on.

During this **Respect Life Month** let us all be aware of any words, actions, and attitudes we display that do not show respect and dignity to others.

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life you gave to all of us. We ask your pardon and forgiveness for our failure to respect and foster all forms of life. Lord and giver of life, help us to value each person, created in love by you. In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life. We pray this in your name. Amen.



Claudia

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in 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

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

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!

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

Thank You!!!



Ken Wojciak
Interior/Exterior Painting
Free estimates
313.319.7712
kwojciak2007@comcast.net