



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
November 2013**

**3rd - 31st Sunday of Ordinary
Time**

**10th - 32nd Sunday of Ordinary
Time**

**17th - 33rd Sunday of Ordinary
Time
Council Meeting @ 4:30**

24th - Feast of Christ the King



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



2013 AIDS Walk Detroit

The final totals are in! The total amount raised by all walkers is \$194,834.00! Our Dignity Detroit team, comprised of 27 individuals (members, supporters and family members) raised an amazing \$12,315.00. Of the 60 some teams registered, our total put us in fourth place overall. Once again, we thank all walkers, both in person and those with us in spirit and all those who sponsored us with financial pledges. You are all amazing people!!!

Community Directory

It is time for our semi-annual publishing of our Community Directory. The Directory is open to both members and non-members and is distributed to only those people whose information is contained in the Directory. We are trying to simplify the process this time around.

If your information is currently in the Directory and is correct, **YOU NEED DO NOTHING.**

If your information is currently in the Directory and you need to correct something or wish it totally removed, please send an e-mail to the address listed in this article with the changes or removal request.

If you wish to be added to the Directory, please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and date of birth (MM/DD) to the address listed below. **SEND ONLY THE INFORMATION YOU WANT PUBLISHED.**

Please send all information to frankdamore@dignitydetroit.com before **Friday, November 15th.**

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!





Save the Date!

All are invited to the Dignity Detroit Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner on Sunday, December 1st immediately following mass in the Madam Cadillac dining hall. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass. The turkey, gravy and dressing will be provided by Dignity. Please see Sonja Langdon or Peter Fedor to sign up. You can also call Sonja at 248-763-9339 to let her know what you plan to bring.

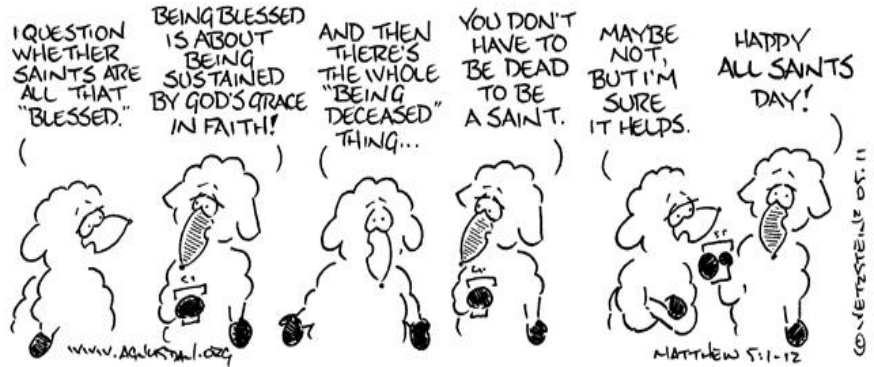
Dignity Detroit needs several volunteers to help serve at St. Patrick Senior Center on Sunday, December 1st from 9 am to 1 pm. Hope you consider coming! Contact Daniel Cuschieri for more information.

The annual Dignity White Elephant auction/pizza party will be held Sunday, December 15, immediately following mass in the library lecture hall on the 2nd floor. Dig deep in your closet to find the special treasure you have been saving just for this event! Bring it wrapped and be prepared to bid on some items, of which will be some gift cards! Pizza, salad and light beverages will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

May 31, 2014 will be Dignity Detroit's 40th Anniversary Celebration! We are excited to announce the Key Note Speaker will be: Bishop Gene Robinson!

He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to God all are alive.

During the month of November, the Church celebrates the communion of Saints—this means that everyone, both the living and the dead, belongs to the Body of Christ. We take time to remember our family members and friends who have gone before us “marked with the sign of our faith.” In a special way, they have formed us and fashioned us; leaving us an example by which to live. They are saints.



What is a saint really? A saint is a Christian role model. Or, as Robert Louis Stevenson put it, *Saints are sinners who keep on trying*. They are the people after whom we model our lives, a person who sets an example for us, a person whom we should emulate. Did these people live their lives hoping that one day they would be declared a saint? Probably not. For example, St. Juan Diego (Feast day, December 9) was a simple Aztec farmer and laborer. He was baptized when he was about fifty years old. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill, on the outskirts of what is now Mexico City. Mary asked Juan to go to the Bishop and to request in her name that a shrine be built at Tepeyac. As the story goes, the Bishop wanted a sign in order to believe that the apparition was true. Mary instructed Juan to pick some roses (it was December) and carry them to the Bishop in his tilma (cloak). When he went to the Bishop and opened his tilma, the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared on it. Juan Diego was an ordinary man chosen to do extraordinary things. It is what God is calling each of us to do.

So, how *does* one become a saint? What is the “official, formal process?” It is quite lengthy and involved and I do not pretend to be an expert on it, but I shall do my best to make the canonization process easy to understand. The process of canonization is complicated and takes time, money, testimonies, and miracles; the church follows a strict set of rules in the process.

Between five and fifty years after a person’s death, a formal request is made to consider a person a saint. The group making the request is often made up of people from the person’s church. The request is made to the local bishop and includes testimony of the person’s dedication to God and exceptional virtue. The bishop decides if there is enough

evidence to prove that the person led a heroic life, if so he asks the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome to open the cause.

If permission is granted the bishop opens a tribunal, almost like a hearing, and calls forth witnesses who will speak about the person's public life. These witnesses must give concrete evidence that the person was virtuous, devout, religious, loving, and kind. If the person "passes" this point he or she is called a "servant of God."

The bishop sends a report of the person's life to Rome where it is presented to nine theologians from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. They study the document, scrutinizing every piece of evidence. If the majority passes it, it is forwarded to the rest of the Congregation. If the entire Congregation approves the document, then the person who is being presented for sainthood is given the title "Venerable."

If one miracle can be attributed to the person, they are "beatified" and given the title "Blessed." For canonization to occur, another miracle needs to occur *after* the person was beatified. If this happens, and the miracle can be substantiated, then the Pope will hold a special ceremony to honor the new saint.

During this month, it is appropriate to remember and recall the lives of those saints who have been formally canonized. At the same time, it is also fitting to celebrate the gifts of our family members and friends who have died. We have been praying for them and asking them to assist us in our lives. Think about these people for a moment. What important lessons did they teach you? How have they influenced you and perhaps changed your lives? Throughout the coming days, remember these people—the moms, the dads, the brothers and sisters, the grandparents, all your relatives and all your friends. Each one of them literally loved you till their death. Ask that they be welcomed into God's loving arms. Reflect on the impact these people have had on you—they helped to shape and mold you into who you are and are becoming. Thank you, God, for sharing these people with us.



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!

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 - 6:00pm.

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