



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
FEBRUARY 2014**

- 2nd – Presentation of the Lord**
- Blessing of Candles (Candlemas)
 - Blessing of throats (St. Blase)

9th -5th Sunday of ordinary time

16th -6th Sunday of ordinary time and council meeting

23rd -7th Sunday of ordinary time



Are You Worth Your Salt?

If salt goes flat, how can you restore its flavor?

Many people suffer from a lack of identity and a clear sense of purpose. They wander aimlessly, feeling as though they have no reason to exist. In today's gospel, Jesus offers those who would follow him identity and purpose. "You are salt. You are light. You are a city set on a hill." The Romans of Jesus' day had a saying, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." Jesus affirms his followers that they are the most valuable commodities in the world. They are good for something. In fact, in Roman society, soldiers were paid in salt. (From whence comes our word salary). One used to hear the saying, "He is not worth his own salt." But Jesus says we are worth salt, not only to him but to the world. We have an important role to play in this world. For the Romans, salt was also a symbol of purity. It is in our purity that we affect society around us as salt affects the food we sprinkle it on.

There was a book out a few years ago with a catchy title "Out of the Shaker and into the World." I didn't read it, but I imagine that it spoke of our need as salty Christians to get out of the church building and into the needs of society. Salt that stays in the shaker is of little value. Likewise, Christians whose religious experience is limited to Sunday morning are also of little value. It is only as salt is applied to the food that it preserves the food or enhances its flavor. In Jesus' day there was, of course, no refrigeration. Unless salted, meat would spoil. It is only as we involve ourselves in society that we keep it from spoiling. This, I'm afraid, becomes an indictment against us as we look at the condition of society today. Somehow, while the majority of Americans claim to be Christian, we have had too little effect. Our religious experience is too private and too compartmentalized. God is for church on Sunday but not for the office on Monday. Jesus warned against this very thing. "If salt loses its flavor, who can restore it?" He warns us not to fear being radical. Our Christianity is to mean something. Our presence should be known...not, however, in an obnoxious way. Salt is the enhancer of food not the food itself. Salt loses itself in the flavoring of the food. So too Christians are to lose themselves in the service of others.

Jesus also calls us the light of the world. We are, by our good works of charity and justice, to bring light into the darkness around us. We are, in the words of Isaiah, to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and remove oppression. When we do these things, then we are lights, not illuminating ourselves but the pathway to Christ. When we do such works the world will certainly take note and Christ will be glorified.

This highly visible kind of Christianity will make us like cities set upon a hill. The Roman practice in conquering a new territory was to set up a little outpost of Rome on the highest part of the captured city. There Roman expatriates would so live the Roman life, with its culture, language, and traditions, that those around them would become envious and desire to live this way also. Thus the Romans were able to influence and more effectively govern new territories. Christ lays this strategy out to his disciples as his plan of action as well. We are to go into the world and set up alternative societies. We are to so live the Kingdom kind of life that people will want to become part of it.

Peace Connections: Making the connection between the Sunday Readings and issues of peace and justice.

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Mark your Calendar!

Please consider running for Dignity Detroit office. The positions of President, Treasurer and Social Chair are up! You must be a member by **March 1, 2014** to run.

Ash Wednesday takes place on March 5. Please join us for liturgy and the distribution of ashes at 7pm in Sacred Heart Chapel.

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!



March Madness Raffle

We will once again be sponsoring a March Madness Raffle fundraiser. The drawing itself will take place on Sunday, March 30th during the after-Mass social. Three cash prizes will be awarded. First prize is \$500; Second prize is \$250 and Third prize is \$100.00. At least one-half of the proceeds from the raffle will once again be donated to the IHM South African AIDS Ministry Outreach Program.

We are asking everyone, members and non-members to take at least one book of thirty (30) tickets to sell or purchase. Tickets are \$1.00 each. If you sell or purchase all thirty tickets, you only need to turn in \$25.00....that is five free tickets for yourself or \$5.00 cash for your efforts. Please keep in mind that we will not turn down the full \$30.00 since as with anything else, these raffles have costs associated with them.

Tickets will be distributed mid-February and the stubs and money will be due back in by Tuesday, March 25th to insure inclusion in the raffle drawing.

Thank you in advance for your generous and continued support!

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College.

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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!

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



Thank You!!!



Ken Wojciak

Interior/Exterior Painting

Free estimates

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