



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 of each month between 3:30 - 6:00p.m.

For more information, see Michael Tabaczynski.



**Calendar of Events
July**

3rd - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**17th - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dignity Council meeting
@ 4:30**

**General Membership
Meeting after Mass**

24th - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

31st - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Things used to seem so simple...

The older I get, the more I seem to think about my childhood and how awesome it truly was. We were reminded to look both ways before crossing a street. We used to play hide and seek with all the neighborhood kids and our boundaries were a two block radius. We were told to call home (using a party line, mind you!) when we rode our bikes to our friend's house. Remember being told, "Be home when the street lights come on?" What a total joy it was to get a quarter from our parents or grandparents and being able to buy a boatload of penny candy or an entire candy bar or a bottle of Coke! During those "good old days" it seemed as if everyone in the neighborhood knew and kept a watchful eye on all the kids—not just their own—and if we misbehaved we knew we had lots of explaining to do when we got home.

I know I'm really dating myself here, but I also remember "gas wars" and service stations where uniformed attendants washed your windows, checked your oil, and filled your tires with FREE air. And then the kiddies were treated those wonderful Saf-T Pops!

In school, under the watchful eyes of the "good Sisters" we saved our pennies and nickels to buy "pagan babies." When we heard that special tone over the PA system we quickly filed into the designated hallways and crouched with our hands and arms over our heads for a tornado-drill. We dutifully practiced fire-drills, marching like little soldiers out of the building in complete and total silence. Truth is, we were threatened within an inch of our lives if we dared to make a peep! Some of you may even remember air-raid drills with blackout curtains and practicing the "duck and cover" pose.

My, how things have changed...

My thoughts are no longer focused on how simple things used to be. I now dwell on the recent events of the massacre in Orlando and what seems to be a plethora of school shootings, drive-by shootings, and small children injured or killed by guns that weren't locked up. Quite frankly, I am saddened and angered by the present state of affairs.

The State of Michigan requires schools to hold a minimum of five fire-drills and two tornado-drills yearly. Additionally, all schools must hold a minimum of three lock-down drills per year. If you are unaware of what these drills entail just ask any student. I've heard a few stories where some kids are cavalier about the whole procedure—not a good thing—and other stories where smaller children are terrified and have nightmares as a result of the drill.

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But as sad as all of this is, it cannot be ignored. To be sure, it is better to err on the side of caution. With this in mind, I urge you to be aware of the following issued by the Michigan State Police in the event of an Active Shooter situation:

- **Run** if a safe path is available. Always try to escape or evacuate even if others insist on staying.
- Encourage others to leave with you, but do not let the indecision of others slow down your effort to escape.
- Once you are out of the line of fire, try to prevent others from walking into the danger zone and call 9-1-1.
- If you cannot get out safely, find a place to **hide**.
- When hiding, turn out lights, remember to lock doors, and silence your ringer and vibration mode on your cell phone.
- As a last resort, working together or alone, act with aggression, use improvised weapons, and **fight**.

God help us.

God of Goodness, You know that the violence in our community is out of control. It is taking our helpless and innocent ones; it is taking our children. And, we confess that beyond the violence in our streets, is the violence in our own hearts. We contribute to a culture of violence whenever we give in to hatred, fear, indifference, and our own self-satisfaction. It seems that we are growing numb to the suffering, the loss, the indignity done to our sisters and brothers and to our Earth. But in our hearts, and in the heart of the community, help us to value life and beauty over instant satisfaction, and to value sharing over greed.

Empower us to acknowledge and affirm our children, our spouses, our neighbors and seek respectful solutions to our conflicts. Create through us a world where it will be easier to be good. Your spirit, given to us is not timid. Therefore, each of us can do something, person by person, family by family, community by community, to realize that we are one – one body, one people, one earth. By Your design, we thrive or we perish together. Holy One, give us the grace of hope. Give us the dedication to goodness and truth as we seek to restore our community to wholeness and life. Enable us in this way, to take back our city from the violence and crippling fear we find in our midst. Trusting that your desire for us is peace, not disaster, we pray this in Your name. Amen.



Claudia



DignityUSA has been sending letters to the USCCB and bishops whose post-Orlando statements did not mention "gay" or "LGBT." See a sample below.

This is an example how D/USA works for us as members and friends of Dignity Detroit. We need to continue to keep DignityUSA as a loud voice for the LGBT community!! Your financial support is appreciated!!!

The massacre in Orlando weighs heavily on nearly everyone. Such hateful violence disturbs the soul, and calls us all to greater love. I appreciate your speaking out, and know that the resources of the Archdiocese surely offer healing to many.

That being said, I do need to challenge you to explicitly acknowledge the reality that nearly all those who were murdered, injured, and witnessed this horrific event were young, Latino LGBT people. The truth of their lives, and the fact that this incident is sending traumatic ripples through the Latino and LGBT communities need to be explicitly acknowledged. Only in doing so can we truly honor the humanity of those who have been lost or are suffering, and offer the fullness of compassion to family and friends trying to cope with unimaginable loss.

I call on you to reach out to the LGBT community and to people of Latino backgrounds with a message that puts our Church clearly on the side of inclusion. Many in these already marginalized communities are feeling even more vulnerable than usual in the aftermath of the massacre, and the hate speech that has followed.

DignityUSA stands ready to assist in these efforts in any way possible. We seek healing in the Body of Christ.

In hope,

*Marianne Duddy-Burke
Executive Director, DignityUSA*

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

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**Please see Michael Tabaczynski if you can help.
Thank You!!!**



Ken Wojciak

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