

May 2022



Serving LGBTQI+ 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.***



***Please join us for Liturgy on May 15 as we
celebrate our 48th Anniversary!***

For Your Reference

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----------|-------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Income | \$ | 602.00 | Kroger Community Rewards | \$ | 0.00 |
| Expenses | \$ | 1,445.00 | Amazon 😊 Smile | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| Under/ (Over) | \$ | (842.00) | | | |
| | | | Total Community \$\$ received | \$ | 0.00 |



- 1st — 3rd Sunday of Easter; Peace and Justice with Dignity Liturgy at Sacred Heart Chapel at the School at Marygrove; 6 p.m.
- 8th — 4th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day
- 15th — 5th Sunday of Easter; Peace and Justice with Dignity Liturgy at Sacred Heart Chapel at the School at Marygrove; 6 p.m. 48th Anniversary Celebration
- 22nd — 6th Sunday of Easter
- 29th — Ascension of the Lord; Memorial Day Weekend



Council Elections

Council Elections took place at the General Membership Meeting held on April 5th since none of the offices were being contested.

Re-elected to serve two year terms:

President: Frank Treasurer: Jack Social: Mary Lou

Congratulations to the three of them!!

Comerica Park Pride Night

Comerica Park and the Detroit Tigers are once again sponsoring a Pride Night on June 1st. The Detroit Tigers will host the Minnesota Twins with a 7:10 p.m. first pitch. Tickets are \$25.00 and are baseline box seats. Please let Frank know by **May 12th** if you wish to join us. frankdamore@dignitydetroit.com

Ferndale Pride

Saturday, June 4th is the date. Nine Mile Rd West of Woodward is the place. We are in desperate need of assistance with setting up our tent (must be up by 9:30 a.m.), staffing the information table (currently scheduled for 1-8) and taking down the tent at the end of the day (scheduled for 8 p.m.). If you can help out with any of these three tasks, please contact Frank (frankdamore@dignitydetroit.com) by Thursday, May 27th. If we do not get enough volunteers we will simply not participate in the celebration.





It might be spring – at least by the calendar, but in light of the recent snow, I am withholding my opinion. May is a big month for us at Dignity Detroit. We will be celebrating our 48th Anniversary on May 14 at our Dinner Dance, and on May 15 at our Anniversary Mass and reception. I don't know how many (if any) of our current group were around at the very beginning. Maybe Frank has the names of the original members. I would really like to hear the story from them of how our group started, why they felt the need to do so. We do know that the attitude of society, and especially the Catholic Church, was hostile to LGBTQ+ persons. They were seen as “criminals” and “deviants.” Even though the “Summer of Love” and Stonewall had occurred, and society was becoming more tolerant, it took time to filter down to the larger population.

At anniversaries we look back, and remember the good times, and the bad. Dignity Detroit can celebrate the welcome they received from Msgr. Kern at Most Holy Trinity Church, where the first Masses took place. We can celebrate all the years of liturgy together there and at Marygrove College – Sacred Heart Chapel (thanks to the support and welcome of the IHM Sisters). We can celebrate the annual dinner dances, picnics, after Mass socials, parties, Drag Queen Bingo, Valentines dances, and later, commitments, baptisms, First Holy Communions. We remember our children, Liam, Nick and Joanna, growing from little ones to their current ages. We remember all the wonderful priests who have celebrated liturgy with us, even as their own responsibilities at their parishes grew and changed, and they aged. We can remember with satisfaction drives to provide the poor and homeless with socks, food, Christmas gifts, and money, like we have annually provided to the IHM Sisters South African AIDS project. We remember the support from Dignity USA, and the national conventions and visits from the National Board. We remember all those who were part of these occasions with us with a smile, including those who have now gone to their eternal reward.

Of course, not all memories are happy ones. The “Halloween Letter” to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral *Care of Homosexual Persons* by Joseph Ratzinger, head of the congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, of October, 1986, resulted in most Dignity USA chapters being removed from Catholic parishes. Dignity Detroit was fortunate to remain at Most Holy Trinity for several years more, but eventually, with changes in leadership, needed to move and the IHM Sisters provided a wonderful home at Marygrove College. Early 2020 brought a new attempt at “Pastoral Care” by the Archdiocese, followed quickly by COVID, which deprived everyone of in-person worship and changed life as we know it for over two years. During this time our aging community got older, assessment of personal risk of COVID varied, confusing guidelines from church and health organizations were circulated, and as in most institutions and groups, only a fraction of people returned. We think about Sr. Mary Ann Ford, and Sr. Therese Kearney, retired to the IHM Senior Care Facility. We think of Sonja, Greg, Richard, Jim, Rick, Kevin, and Steve and so many others.

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Anniversaries are also times to look forward. What do we want our next years to be like? In two years, we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary. The answer to this rests not just with your elected officers, as we are aging too, but with each one of you. What are you able to do to keep the organization alive and not just alive, but thriving? It takes people each time we have liturgy to perform a number of roles from planning seasons and holidays, preparing music, coming early to set up the chapel and serve as greeters, minister as lectors, acolytes, commentators, musicians and then clean up after. There are things like keeping the piano tuned, sound system functioning, and reporting leaks. We also need to coordinate with St. Peter Claver Parish, which also rents space from Marygrove as we do. We appreciate those who have stepped forward to fill these roles. In addition to liturgies, though, there are other opportunities to demonstrate our commitment as a Catholic LGBTQ+ organization. PRIDE is coming up. People are needed to set up and staff our table. With decreased participation, we could only commit to participating in one of the two local PRIDE celebrations, Ferndale PRIDE, on June 4, from 1 – 8 pm. This is one of the few occasions where we are not just with our own membership, but witnessing that one can be both “gay and Catholic”, as our banner states. The conversations I’ve personally had at that booth with parents and young persons tell me this is an important activity. The Dinner Dance is coming. This will be the first time in nearly 3 years that we can truly socialize together. COVID precautions, as appropriate, will be taken, though what is appropriate now is not as clear as we wish it were. The auction, as in years past, will offset the cost, but donations of items and gift cards are needed, and people to buy the items!

The council is committed to having our Anniversary event, even if it does not break even, for the sake of seeing everyone, and celebrating together.

Our sibling, Families With Dignity, now a caucus of Dignity USA, is doing valuable work supporting persons who lost their jobs at Catholic institutions because of being LGBTQ+, working with Catholic schools to make sure there are mechanisms to support students and provide accurate information, and participate with other organizations.

I am asking you to think about what you want and need from this organization. What are you thinking? And what you are able to give to support it.

See you in church, and at the dance!

Carolyn

UPDATE ON FAMILIES WITH DIGNITY

April 2022

1. Since the attack on LGBTQ Catholics by Bishop John Doerfler of the Diocese of **Marquette**, we have worked to encourage and support Concerned Catholics of the Diocese of Marquette (CCDM). This is an organized group attempting to engage with the bishop both to understand the thinking that went into his anti-LGBTQ policy statement and to ask for amendments in the policy. They are our neighbors here in Michigan, and we want to do everything we can to support them.

We ourselves wrote directly to Bishop Doerfler, telling him courteously but firmly our view of the hurt his words have caused and expressing hope that he will reconsider and amend the announced policies, especially those regarding the sacraments. I also attended a CCDM Zoom meeting concerning their proposed meeting with the bishop.

An articulate CCDM member, Renee Richer of Gladstone, MI, is herself a queer woman, mother, teacher, scientist, small-business owner, and farmer who will be one of those meeting with Doerfler.

We engaged Renee as a speaker for our March general-membership meeting. She spoke of her personal journey as a queer woman in a rural area of Michigan, her reaction to the bishop's statement, and her intention to pursue the matter with him as a member of the Concerned Catholics group. We in turn offered her whatever support she and the group need in their attempt to right the wrong that has been done.

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I'm pleased to report that Renee has joined us as a member of our FWD caucus – the first LGBTQ family head to do so in our history. This reflects a goal on our part to welcome as members not only straight people with LGBTQ children – our traditional membership – but families led by LGBTQ persons as well. We hope to invite more LGBTQ families into the organization as opportunities to do so occur.

2. The speaker at our general-membership meeting on April 24 will be **Judy Lewis**, outreach and education officer of SAGE Detroit, which all of us know as the sole organization devoted locally to advocacy for LGBTQ seniors. While FWD's mission focuses on youth, we're looking forward to learning more about issues faced by our people at the other end of their lives.
3. **UDJ**. Our work with U of D Jesuit High School is on hold, but still very much alive, pending the settlement of internal issues our counterparts there are dealing with at this time.

Linda Karle-Nelson



Prayer in Honor of Those Whom Jesus Loved

Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

Jesus who loved the Samaritan woman, outcast proclaimer of your name,
Let us love and support all those who proclaim your name to the gay and
lesbian community.

Jesus who loved the lepers whom others called unclean,
Let us see the glory of creation everywhere in everyone.

Jesus who loved the one condemned with him and promised him heaven by virtue
of his faith,

Give us the faith to broaden our vision of the reign of God.

Jesus who loved the hemorrhaging woman, long ignored and thought to be
intrinsically disordered,

Give us hearts large enough to embrace those whom the world calls
bent.

Jesus who loved the tax collector the community feared,
Enable us to put down our fear of those who are different from
ourselves.

Jesus who loved the Roman soldier, foreigner and oppressor,
Help us to love those who make exiles of our gay and lesbian
brothers and sisters.

Jesus who loves us in all our humanness, all our glories,
Enable us to love those whose glories we have failed to see.

You who called women disciples in a male world,
Who confronted leaders of the synagogue with their sins of injustice,
Who sent out your disciples to the whole world,
Give us the grace to confront their rejection, to ease their loneliness, to
calm their fears, and to belie their sense of abandonment.

Give us all the grace to own our sexual identity, whatever its orientation, as
another manifestation of your goodness.

Give us the vision to recognize and reject the homophobia around us and in
our own hearts, as well.

May we and the church of Jesus open our hearts and homes and
sanctuaries to the LGBTQ+ community, to the glory of God they bring in
new voice, with different face.

Let us bless the God of differences.

AMEN

Two Ways to HELP Dignity Detroit without spending any more \$\$\$\$....



- Register your Kroger Plus card at:
⇒ www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- If you don't have a Kroger Plus card—you can sign up for one at any location's customer service counter.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- **Dignity Detroit's Kroger # is TD036**
- Remember to use your Kroger Plus each time that you visit Kroger. Using the above # **does not** change anything regarding Kroger Fuel Points that you also earn.

- Use the following web address:
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- Make sure that you are signed in to your Amazon account
- Designate Dignity Detroit as your desired charity recipient
- Shop as you normally would and we receive a portion of the proceeds.
- However, you need to ensure that you shop at :
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Complete details regarding the next Peace and Justice with Dignity service are printed in this newsletter.

Please join us!
All Are Welcome!

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