



SEPTEMBER 2011, VOLUME 37, ISSUE 5

SERVING LGBT CATHOLICS SINCE 1974

Spirituality, Equality and Justice: Nurtured in a Welcoming Catholic Community

The Walk for Life benefiting the pro-life Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center takes place on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Pine Grove Park. (1204 Pine Grove, Port Huron)

Registration starts at 8:30am and the walk begins at 9:00

For more info, you may contact the Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center at 730 Griswold Street, Port Huron 48060 or call 810-985-4673.

www.bwpc.info

DignityUSA Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that the DignityUSA Board of Directors will be holding their October meeting here in Detroit the weekend of the 14th through the 16th.

All sessions will take place at the Doubletree Hotel, located on the corner of Ford Road and the Southfield Expressway. We are hoping that some of the folks can stay for our Liturgy on Sunday evening.

As the dates approach, we may be looking for some folks to make airport runs on Friday (arrivals) morning and again on Sunday afternoon (departures).....we will keep you posted.

The meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

This Advent will bring changes in the language of the Missal and our music.

The Dignity Detroit Liturgy Committee has been working on how we will adapt to these changes.

Throughout September, we will be getting the word out to the membership. Look for e-mail blasts, announcements and handouts at Mass.

Calendar of Events -

September 2011

- 4 - 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Rosary Sunday
- 11 - 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 18 - 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Council Meeting at 4:30
- 25 - 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Volunteer Sunday
End of Summer Potluck

When so many in the Catholic Church seek dialogue on important issues,
why is the hierarchy denying and frustrating that plea?

Shouldn't it be more characteristic of Christians that, when there is disagreement among
us, we come together to discuss our differences?

Where is the compassion and understanding preached by Jesus?

The hierarchy insists on being the enforcers of selected canons of church law
rather than pastoral shepherds of the People of God. Hence, vast numbers of Catholics
(more than 30 million in the U.S. alone) have walked away from the Roman church in the
past several years with more leaving each day.

Is this an intentional drive to Cardinal Ratzinger's "smaller/purer" church?

Many Catholic reformers want nothing more than a fair hearing on the issues that are of
concern to them; The continued abuse of OUR children by clerics and the protection of the
abusers by Bishops, A fearful law-driven exclusive church unlike the Inclusiveness of
Jesus, Discrimination of Women and Gays and Lesbians, The Ordination of ALL called to
Priesthood regardless of gender and sexual orientation, The misuse of OUR donated
monies, the closing of OUR churches for no good reasons, Lack of transparency and
accountability by the hierarchy, Vatican dominance, A liturgy being made less and less
relevant to OUR lives today, and a church less and less Christ-like.

The growth of Small Faith Groups, Intentional Eucharistic Communities,
and Home Liturgies is a direct result of the many years of discrimination, marginalization,
excommunication, silencing, and ignoring by church leaders.

Many un-ordained educated Catholics know more about the Faith than the clerics now
being graduated from seminary programs of old high-clericalism.

The Bishops seem to live In Fear of Rome and seek to control us with Fear.

It is unChrist-like and not working.

We seek a way of ending this scandal within the Catholic Church.

Rome talks to the "schismatic and heretical" Society of St. Pius X, Anglicans, the Ortho-
dox churches, and others, but not Baptized Catholics seeking a more Christ-like Church.

John Chuchman

Advertising Angels

We are once again looking for Advertising Angels to help defray the cost of our *Between the Lines* monthly advertisement. The cost (which has not gone up for three years now) is \$1,550.00. Included in this price are 12 ads (1st issue of each month) and a free listing in the Pridesource Yellow Pages publication that is published annually.

If you can make a donation to help defray the cost of the advertisement, it would be most appreciated. We have already had two people step forward with a donation of \$100.00 each. Please know that whatever the amount, it will help.

If you are able to donate, please make your check payable to Dignity Detroit and put it in an envelope, write Advertising on the front of the envelope and then either hand it to Frank D'Amore or drop it in the collection basket.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sunday, September 18th is the date. Downtown Royal Oak is the place.

Registration is now open for anyone interested in joining the Dignity Detroit AIDS Walk team. All you need do is visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org, click on register and then on join our team. There is no cost involved in registering to walk. There will be an option to make an initial donation, however it is not necessary to do so. **September 4 is the deadline to register!**

We would like to have enough people on our team so that we can participate in the Quilt Opening Ceremony by opening a panel or two.

If you cannot join us in walking, please consider making a donation in support of the Dignity Walk team. You can do that online, by dropping your donation in the large collection container at the After-Mass social, or give it to Frank D'Amore or Denise Smith.

As always, thanks for your support in this most worthwhile event.

(Another reason) Why Dignity is Important

By Peggy Burns, Operations Manager of DignityUSA

As Operations Manager, I get many phone calls and emails, some asking for information about the organization or looking for affirming churches in their area, others sending surveys, and some wrong numbers looking for pet food products. Recently, one phone call really made an impact and I would like to share it with you.

Ruth called asking if I knew of a priest who would say the funeral mass for her mother's partner. Ruth is Jewish and the dying woman a Catholic. She had asked a priest to say the mass, but he refused because her mom and partner were lesbians in a committed relationship. Ruth had no idea where to turn to for help. She found our number and thought she would give us a try.

I asked Ruth where they were located. As soon as she said Long Island, I knew who to call for help. Honour Maddock, National Board Member, and her partner Kathleen, live in Long Island and I figured if anyone could help, it was Honour and Kathleen. I gave Ruth their number, telling her to say Peggy sent her. Honour called the next day to say they were playing phone tag, but she would keep me posted.

The following weekend I attended a National Board Meeting in Washington, DC. I saw Honour and she filled me in on what was happening to Ruth and her family. They had a hard time connecting with Ruth, but when they did they had a name of a priest friend for her to call. Meanwhile, Ruth has already met the priest and told him her story. He was more than willing to help. And he was the priest they were going to recommend.

Ruth's mother's partner died that week and she had a Catholic burial.

I received an email a few weeks later from Ruth's mother, letting me know how thankful she was for our presence and how kind we were during this difficult situation. She said, "I just wanted to personally thank you for your blind love and support during this time." Ruth also wrote, and was kind enough to send a donation in honor of Kathleen & Honour.

Not all my calls are for this immediate of a situation, but I am so grateful for the chapters and members of Dignity who are always there when I need them. Many chapters took such calls during the early years of the AIDS crisis and we still field them today for different reasons. This is only one example of why our presence is so important.

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm
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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Dignity Detroit offers community outreach for our less fortunate brothers & sisters at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Detroit's east side.

Our volunteer participation needs your help on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month between 3:30 - 6:00.

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



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

Mark Twain

Our prayers and thoughts go out to those affected by Hurricane Irene.

When donating to help those in need, it is wise to investigate various organizations to determine where your gift will do the most good.

