



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 October 10th and 24th between 3:30 - 6:00p.m.

See Daniel Cuschieri for more information.



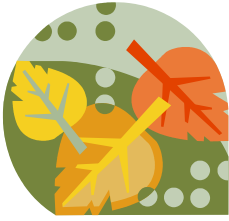
**Calendar of Events
October 2014**

5th- 27th Sunday Ordinary Time

12th- 28th Sunday Ordinary Time

19th-29th Sunday Ordinary Time

**26th- 30th Sunday Ordinary Time
Council Meeting @4:30 and
General Membership
Meeting immediately after
Liturgy (both delayed one
week)**



Frankly Speaking

I was fortunate to spend the last two weeks in June traveling throughout Italy. One of my stops was the ancient walled city of Assisi. Assisi is not a tourist destination but more a city for pilgrimages. The only motorized vehicles were scooters and I was able to walk the very clean city streets without the crowds of tourists and sidewalk vendors. It is one of the most beautiful and peaceful cities I have ever visited in my life. Saint Francis of Assisi has been my guardian angel ever since grade school (St. Barbara in Dearborn) when we had to pick our favorite saint.

While in Assisi, I purchased a novelized biography of St. Francis. The book tells of the humble beginnings of St. Francis and how he gave up all of his possessions after hearing the scripture reading where Jesus tells his followers that they must “give up all material things” if they want to live as a “Disciple.”

Could you give up all you material goods to be a “Disciple?” I seriously doubt that I could, yet St. Francis and many others that chose to follow him did exactly that. They were able to give up everything they had: house, clothes, food, shoes, everything they owned. I think some individuals did so after much prayer while others had the faith to just walk away from their earthly goods to live a life of faith and devotion.

I do not believe that we need to go to such an extreme in our time to become a Disciple of Christ. I feel that discipleship today is based more on our attitudes and our actions towards others. I like to ask myself some of the following questions:

Do I constantly find fault in the actions of others?

Do I exhibit Christ-like behaviors in my daily life?

Do I treat others as I would treat myself?

Being a Disciple is a tough thing to do.....anyone on that journey?



AIDS Walk Detroit

Although final totals will not be known the end of October, the Dignity Detroit Walk team did great once again this year. There were fifteen walkers on the team and those fifteen individuals raised \$8,602.00!! As of right now, that amount ranks our team as the fourth highest team total. Nice going gang!!!!



Mark your calendars!



Please consider donating to the Halloween candy drive for the Capuchin Kitchen! Bring in any amount of unwrapped candy now through the month of October. Any questions contact Daniel C.

“Random Monthly Meet-Ups” Dignity Detroit's new Social Chair Patrick Sharpe has begun a new program which will generally be one social event a month. This will give folks a chance to get together outside of the church setting. These events are for whoever wants to participate. All costs associated with the events are the responsibility of the participants.

OCTOBER- Drag Queen Bingo!

Join us at Five15 on Saturday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. Located at 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak MI. This event costs \$20/person! See website for specific details <http://Five15.net>. Sign up and register no later than Sunday, October 5th or until the reservations are filled. See Patrick or Allen W. for information.

November- Movie Night!

Location and movie are TBD

Our 41st Anniversary Celebration will take place the weekend of May 16-17, 2015. Keep your calendars clear that weekend!!!

Annual Canned Good /Non-Perishable Food Items Collection

We will once again conduct our annual canned good/non-perishable food item collection on the **four Sundays in October (beginning on Sunday, October 5th and concluding on Sunday, October 26th)**. Council has chosen Freedom House in Detroit as the beneficiary of the items collected. We have been honored to have residents of Freedom House of Detroit attending our weekly Liturgies since September. We are especially honored to have these fine folks as official members of Dignity Detroit! The brief mission statement and history below is from the Freedom House/Detroit website. As always, your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Mission

Freedom House is a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world seeking legal shelter in the United States and Canada. Our mission is to uphold a fundamental American principle, one inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, of providing safety for those "yearning to breathe free."

Guided by our belief that all people deserve to live free from oppression and to be treated with justice, compassion and dignity, our goals are to offer a continuum of care and services to persons living in our shelter, as well as to other refugees in need, and to advocate for systemic change that more fully recognizes the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2012, we became a partner in the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium servicing victims of human trafficking.

History

In 1983, horrified by reports of political torture and murder in El Salvador, a group of Detroiters came together to help refugees who had fled that country and were arriving in the city in droves due to its proximity to Canada. Existing homeless shelters were unable to meet the particular legal, medical, language and resettlement needs posed by this refugee population. Residents of Windsor, Ontario, with the same concerns joined with the U.S. group to form the Detroit/Windsor Refugee Coalition, specifically for refugees and asylum seekers. The Canadians' assistance was especially valuable because, at the time, asylum in Canada was more readily available. Refugees who could not secure asylum in the United States were taken to the Canadian Customs and Immigration Station in Windsor, where someone from the coalition would offer them housing.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Corktown was the coalition's first site for its office and temporary housing for the refugees. The Rev. Glendon Heath, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, was the coalition's first coordinator. The passionately dedicated Sr. Kit Concannon assisted Fr. Heath and became coordinator when he moved to a diocesan appointment.

The coalition's reputation spread rapidly throughout the U.S. and the number of refugees seeking assistance grew. The housing at St. Peter's Church quickly became inadequate, so the coalition moved to the unused Ste. Anne's convent in southwest Detroit, which remains our home today. During the incumbency of Janet Ray, a tireless, visionary and committed coordinator, our name was changed to Freedom House. In 2012, we became an official member of the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium (NTAC) servicing victims of human trafficking.

Since our founding the refugees arriving at Freedom House have reflected the areas of conflict and turmoil in the world. From the El Salvadorans of the 1980s, we saw many refugees from the Middle East in the 1990s and Somalians after the crisis in that country in 1992. Today the vast majority of our residents come from sub-Saharan Africa, especially Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Cameroon. We also see several refugees from Latin America and the Middle East. We continue to assist refugees who wish to enter Canada, but now nearly all of our clients seek asylum in the United States.

There is a song we've sung at chapel a few times entitled, *The Summons*. The lyrics to the first verse are:

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Jesus is, indeed, calling each of us to serve him and one another. To this end, your Council is asking you to commit yourselves to one year of service to this community.



I am pleased that so many of you have, in the past, served our community in leadership roles at liturgy, assisting with the after-mass social, helping with fund-raising, serving at the soup kitchen and other out-reach programs, and organizing and lending a hand with the anniversary celebrations. Compared with other parishes we have an extremely high number of folks who volunteer.

We need you to make that commitment again and fill out the Volunteer form that can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. Please take a moment to fill out the form and mark those ministries where you have an interest. Don't worry if you've never done a particular thing before WE WILL TRAIN YOU!

We especially need volunteers in the following areas:

- Sacristan...this person sets up all the liturgical vessels and books before liturgy
- Acolyte...this person assists the priest/presider at the altar and serves as a Eucharistic Minister
- Greeter...this person arrives early to liturgy to welcome people and hand out the hymnals
- Choir...I'm sure Kevin would welcome anyone who has a desire to lead us in song. No experience is necessary. The choir generally meets at 5pm each week to have a brief rehearsal.
- Liturgical Decoration...these people decorate the chapel for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Creativity allowed!!!

There are two "new" ministries I added to the form which deserve attention. We could really use additional volunteers who will serve as *after-mass sacristan* and *launderer*. The after-mass sacristan is responsible for purifying all the liturgical vessels after mass and returning everything to its place in the sacristy. Ross has been serving in this role for as long as I can remember and I'm sure he would appreciate some assistance. You will be trained in the proper way to complete this ministry. The launderer is responsible for washing/drying/ironing all the altar linens and altar cloths. Currently Sonja and Marylou are taking care of this, but we would certainly welcome others who wish to share in this important ministry. Again, you will be trained.

Please bring the completed form to the chapel the next time you celebrate liturgy with us and either give it to a member of Council or place it in the collection basket.

Thank you, again, for sharing your time and talents!



YES! I would like to volunteer my time and talents to our Dignity Detroit family in the following areas:

- Lector
- Commentator
- Eucharistic Minister
- Offertory Gift Bearer
- Usher
- Acolyte
- Greeter
- Liturgy Set-up (Sacristan)
- Choir
- Liturgical Decoration
- Liturgical Planning Committee
- After-Mass Sacristan
- Launderer
- Other (Please specify) _____
- After-Mass Social Set-up
- After-Mass Social Clean-up
- 41st Anniv. Celebration Committee
- Social Activities Committee
- Community Involvement Committee
- Representative to other organizations (if needed)
- Newsletter Committee
- Membership Committee
- Fundraising Committee

Please Print Legibly...Thanks!!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Best times to call: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Please drop in the collection basket on any Sunday, or mail to:

**Dignity Detroit
P. O. Box 558
Royal Oak, MI 48068**

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 Daniel C. if you can help.



Thank You!!!



Ken Wojciak
Interior/Exterior Painting
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