



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 Frontiera.



**Calendar of Events
August**

2nd - 18th Sunday of Ordinary time

9th - 19th Sunday of Ordinary time

**16th - 20th Sunday of Ordinary time
Council meeting**

23rd - 21st Sunday of Ordinary time

30th - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary time



Frankly Speaking

Printed below in this Newsletter is the statement adopted by Council regarding the recent Supreme Court Decision regarding marriage equality, Marygrove College and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM's). The statement speaks for itself and really needs no further introduction. The statement was made public for the first time at the recent quarterly General Membership Meeting. The statement was also sent to Dr. David Fike, outgoing President of Marygrove College, Dr. James Birge, interim President of the College and Sr. Mary Jane Herb, President of the IHM Sisters. All three have expressed their support of the statement.

As members of your Dignity Detroit Council, we applaud and echo the words of Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of DignityUSA:

DignityUSA, the organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics, cheered today's Supreme Court's sweeping decision that strike down state bans on same-sex marriage, and makes marriage equality the law of the land throughout the U.S.

"As Catholics, we celebrate the increase in justice that this ruling ushers in. We rejoice with all of the couples and families who will be able to access the legal protections that marriage will afford them. Mostly, we are thrilled that the Supreme Court has recognized that the love and commitment of same-sex couples is absolutely equal to that of other couples."

In as much as we agree with the position of DignityUSA and the Supreme Court of the United States of America, we feel it is necessary to make the following statement in light of our unique circumstance of being allowed the privilege to worship freely in a Catholic environment:

As we have enjoyed an affirming and life-giving relationship with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as well as the Administration of Marygrove College and our many priests/presiders, the Dignity Detroit Council will respectfully comply with the Catholic Church with regards to Sacramental Marriage and the Blessing of Holy Unions.

We realize that this may be a disappointment for some members of our community, however we wish to remain in good standing with and respectful to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Marygrove College and our priests/presiders.

Questions, comments or concerns should be directed to the Council of Dignity Detroit.



*Food, glorious food!
We're anxious to try it.
Three banquets a day --
Our favourite diet!
Just picture a great big steak --
Fried, roasted or stewed.
Oh, food,
Wonderful food,
Marvelous food,
Glorious food.*

(from the musical, *Oliver*)

I'm sure many of us remember that musical based on the book *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. This song came to me as I reflected on some of the Gospels we will hear this month from the Evangelist John. Once again, Jesus told the Apostles that he was the Bread of Life and that anyone who ate that bread would live forever.

So what's the connection between the song from *Oliver* and the readings? I think the obvious one is that the Bread of Life, the bread that Jesus gives us, is truly "food, glorious food!" Maybe sometimes we take that for granted. We come to church week after week, we listen to the readings, learn from the homily, and then prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we are really attentive to what is going on. Do we really *hear* the Word of God? Do we *really* try to pay attention and understand the words that the presider is praying during the Eucharistic Prayer? Are we *active* participants in the drama that is unfolding before us week after week or are we merely passive observers? These are tough questions, but ones that merit some soul-searching.

Many of us are "cradle Catholics" and, as such, have a tendency to take the gift of our Liturgy for granted. I am not saying that we necessarily have to sit in adoration before the Eucharist, nor am I saying that we must take part in all the devotions our church has to offer. What I do maintain is that we will only get out of the Liturgy what we put into it. So often I hear from young people that Liturgy is boring; the homily uninspiring, the music not "upbeat" enough, and we always do the "same old thing." I counter their points with a simple question: What are you doing about it? In other words, how are you actively participating in the Liturgy? If we expect to be entertained then we have missed the point. We cannot, indeed, we must not come to church and just sit there; we must take an active role. This means responding to all the prayers, singing the songs, and really trying to understand how God is speaking to you through the Scriptures. Is it always easy to do this? No. Is it always necessary to do this? Yes. This is what we are called to do each time we come before God. My challenge to you is to come to

Liturgy with an open heart, actively enter into the drama that is taking place, respond with enthusiasm to the prayers and singing, and listen to the ways God is speaking to you





New Year's Resolution

How are you doing on that New Year's resolution you made on January 1st to take better care of yourself mentally and physically? As for the physical part, we have in our very midst an ARAA certified trainer (with AquaFitness Certification coming next month) in our midst.... Xavier Swiecki. Xavier says, "Your body and the floor - that is the ultimate gym. Dedicate one hour - 1 HOUR - for yourself. Whether it is once a day or once a week, I can help you get motivated and stay motivated in your journey to more fit and more confident days which are within anyone's reach. I can come to your house or meet you at your gym. Do it for nobody else but yourself and begin your fitness journey today." If you are interested in talking to Xavier, you can do that most Sundays after Mass or you can e-mail him at xavierjs76@gmail.com Good health to all!!!



Mark your calendars!

After Mass Social Reminder:

Please send your name and phone number if you would like to provide the after mass social. We count on people to take turns for our fellowship. All you have to do is bring food item(s) and we will take care of the rest of the set up. PatrickSharpe@Outlook.com.

Monthly Meet Up for September

Where: 37th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival, 12600 Dixie Highway, Holly MI 48442

When: Saturday, September 19th, Shamrocks & Shenanigans weekend, 10:00 a.m.-7:00p.m.

Advanced tickets: Adults \$19.95, children 5-12 \$11.50 available at Kroger, Walgreens, Menards & Goodwill. More information: www.michrenfest.com.

Annual Mass on the Grass & Summer Potluck Picnic

Sunday, September 20th. There will be sign-up sheets for set-up, clean-up and potluck items so start thinking of what to bring.

AIDS Walk Detroit

This year's Royal Oak AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, September 13th....only seven weeks away. If you haven't registered to join the Walk as a member of the Dignity Detroit Walk team, please consider doing so. There is one small difference this year...there is a \$25.00 registration fee. If for whatever reason, you cannot walk with us, please think about sponsoring the team with a tax deductible donation. Please visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org to pledge your support or to register to walk.

42nd Anniversary Celebration Our 42nd Anniversary Celebration will take place the weekend of May 14-15, 2016. Our Annual Dinner/Dance will be on Saturday evening, May 14th and our Anniversary Liturgy will follow on Sunday, May 16th (also the Solemn Feast of Pentecost)

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

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Please see Michael F. if you can help.

Thank You!!!



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.

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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Interior/Exterior Painting
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