

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 Jim R.



**Calendar of Events
December**



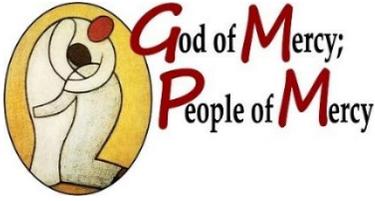
4th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

11th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

**18th - 4th Sunday of Advent
Dignity Council Meeting**

**25th - Christmas Day
Mass @ 6 p.m.**





One year ago, December 8, 2015, Pope Francis ushered in the Jubilee of Mercy, opened wide the Holy Door, and encouraged Catholics world-wide to make a conscious effort to live lives of mercy. It has been an extraordinary year! Under the guidance and example of the Holy Father we saw some changes in practice and policy in our church. The Spirit has been alive and

working in our own Archdiocese. There has been dialogue where in the past there were only closed doors. Ordinary Catholics have had the opportunity to have their voices heard through our most recent Synod. This is not to say that everything they said, especially with regards to the LGBTQ community, will effect changes within the hierarchy, BUT...it is a beginning. And for this I am grateful.

What does it mean now that the Year of Mercy is concluded? Can we go back to doing what we've always done and pretend our lives have not been affected? Absolutely not! We can and should continue to live mercy, show mercy, and be mercy. To be honest, I truly believe our own Dignity Community has been a beacon of mercy since its very inception. We have been the embodiment of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Just in the past year we have *fed the hungry* in a literal way through our non-perishable food collection. But we've also fed those who hunger for companionship and a place to belong. We have given *drink to the thirsty* through our donations of bottled water for the people Flint. We have *sheltered the homeless* through our support and donations to the Pope Francis Center. Many of you have *visited the sick* and those recovering from surgery. You have taken them Holy Communion. You have been a compassionate and listening friend to those who suffer psychological illnesses. Maybe we haven't *visited those who are in a literal prison*, but I know we've sat with those have been "prisoners" in hospitals, hospices, or nursing homes...giving them the ability to experience a bit of respite from the chains that bind them. Our community has experienced many losses this year. Beloved Dignity members have died; we have lost friends and family members. Throughout our struggles and pain, we have prayed for each other, consoled each other, and supported each other...*we have buried the dead.* **(Continued p. 3)**

We have *given alms* through our many outreach programs—the Christmas giving tree, support of Freedom House, donations to the IHM AIDS Ministry Project, and numerous other activities.

Even though the Jubilee of Mercy has concluded we will continue living the Corporal Works of Mercy. Perhaps nothing really has changed for this community, but it sure is good to know that we've been getting it right all along—for over 42 years!



Claudia



19 participants attended the Dignity Detroit Fall Retreat on November 12, 2016 at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills. The theme was "Being In, and Extending the Year of Mercy". Sr. Maureen Mulcrone, our facilitator for the day, is a Sister of Mercy with many insights on the topic. As the retreat occurred on the weekend after the election, it was indeed a place and time both to receive mercy, and consider how to live in specific ways that show compassion going forward. It was a beautiful day, so participants had the chance to walk outside on the grounds and labyrinth, and have quiet moments in the chapel. Plenty of food was provided, so mind, body and spirit were nourished. The Dignity Retreats always offer an opportunity to get to know one another at a deeper level.

A Moment with Michael...

Happy Holidays, Friends!



I'm pleased to announce the start of our annual Giving Tree Program. All of the tags for the Giving Tree went out on the 1st Sunday of Advent (right before our Thanksgiving Potluck). We hope that all tags will be picked up and that you can help these individuals in need this holiday season. All gifts are due back to the chapel no later than Sunday, December 11. This way, I can ensure that the gifts make it to their respective parishes and individuals. Thank you for your generous support this holiday season. The holidays can be especially tough for some people, and, because of you, someone's Christmas will be much brighter. Warmest Holiday Wishes,

Michael



The annual *White Elephant Auction and Pizza Party* will be held after Mass on Sunday, December 11. Mass will be in the chapel, after which the auction will be held in the Library Lecture Hall. Bring one gaily wrapped "fabulous find" and plan to bid on those brought by others. Who knows? Some of the especially lovely items of years gone by may make a return appearance.

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

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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!

Ken Wojciak

Interior/exterior painting

Free estimates

313-319-7712

KenWojciak@gmail.com