

July 2018



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.



Summertime has finally arrived as well as Ordinary time in the Church's liturgical calendar. Our Anniversary Dinner and Mass Celebrations have come and gone as have our Pride Month events last month in Ferndale and Detroit. Thank you for everyone's participation and support for these events! Despite the lower Anniversary Dinner attendance, we managed to cover the dinner expenses with a strong Silent Auction and gift card raffle. We could not have done it without you!

Please remember that while you might be out of town on some upcoming Sundays enjoying time away with friends and family; our weekly Mass continues each and every week. With this weekly schedule and a lower turnout with the Summer activities, our weekly/monthly expenses do not decrease. Just a reminder that your support is needed for us to continue our work each week.

Please let Claudia know in advance if you are unable to make your scheduled assignment (Usher, Gift bearer, etc.) in a given week and do your best to find a substitute. Carolyn does an excellent job in sending out the weekly reminder mid-week for the upcoming Sunday Mass of your scheduled role that week.



July

1st — 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th — 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th—15th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Council Meeting at 4:30; General Membership Meeting immediately following Liturgy

22nd—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Dignity Detroit received an \$11.22 check for the period of February to April 2018 for 3 households that have linked their Kroger Plus card to our chapter.

Can you imagine what the quarterly check might have been if we had more linked cards? Participation in this program **does not affect** your own point earning (gas savings, etc.).

www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Dignity Detroit's Kroger # is 12223

Instructions on how to change/add the rewards designation are shown in our May 2018 newsletter and can be located at **<http://www.dignitydetroit.org/archive>**

We get Mail.....

The following e-mail was sent to Frank D'Amore:

Sooooooo very, very good to be with you and the Detroit community last night. The Board spoke of the amazing welcome and embrace we experienced. Thank you for the warm hospitality.

Marianne

Marianne Duddy-Burke
Executive Director, DignityUSA
Pronouns: *She, her, hers*
www.dignityusa.org FB: DignityUSA



Membership Incentive Program

The leadership team of Dignity Detroit is instituting a Membership Incentive Program effective July 1st. If you become a member or renew your membership in Dignity Detroit in any given month, you will become eligible to win a \$25.00 gift card. All names of new members or renewed members in a given month that appear on the National Roster we receive around the 15th of the following month, will be put in a hat and one individual will be chosen. If you have been thinking of becoming a member or have simply forgotten to renew your membership, wait no longer. New and renewed memberships can be completed at <https://www.dignityusa.org/join>



September 9th
Annual Mass on the Grass and
End of Summer picnic.

Dear God,

Thank you for creating me, for giving me life, for giving me my body, for placing me in the world, in these particular circumstances, for so many blessings, for calling me to live life to the fullest and to walk the path of life in peace with you.

Thank you for being with me on my journey, with all its ups and downs, all its mountains and valleys.

Thank you for family, friends, communities, education, health, food, housing, and dignity.

Thank you for the kindness of others, for the support of loved ones, for the beauty of creation, for the road to peace.

Thank you for letting me see your beautiful creation --- the oceans and mountains, the deserts and forests, the sky and the canyons.

Thank you for letting me enjoy so many creatures --- the dogs, cats, horses, elephants, coyotes, bobcats, snakes, hawks, owls, ravens, sparrows, blue jays, dolphins, and whales.

You have been with me every step of my journey. You have never left me.

I have left you over and over again, but you kept coming back, calling me to your side. You sought me out and watched over me with your unconditional love.

You have only shown compassion, mercy and love to me. You were never mean, never violent, You never threatened me, never hurt me.

You have encouraged me every step of the way. When I took the time to listen, I heard your encouraging words. I knew you were there. You have taken care of me. You have been my protector, my shield, my rock, my refuge.

Thank you for accompanying me on my journey through life. I love you forever because of that And I ask you to stay with me until that moment when I see you face to face.

Until then, guide me, help me, protect me, and bless me. Show me how to best serve you and my sisters and brothers, and be my faithful companion and dear friend from now on.

Amen

\$100 conference pre-registration is back!

June marked 49 years of post-Stonewall pride and progress. DignityUSA is also celebrating 49 years: 49 years of support and advocacy for LGBTQI Catholics.

Next year though--2019--is the big one. **DignityUSA's 50th anniversary is going to epic and we don't want you to miss it!**

DignityUSA wants all our friends and supporters in Chicago, July 5-7, 2019. Our celebration wouldn't be the same without you, and that's why **we're re-opening pre-registration at a special rate of \$100, with a 10% discount off regular registration fees--our Pride Month gift to you. Pre-register today!**

The pre-registration discount is available through the end of July.

<https://www.dignityusa.org/preregister2019>



Bishops, Catholic Leaders Decry Family Separation at the Border

One cannot escape the coverage of the current separation of children and their families at the southern border by ICE and HSA. Parents may be deported to their country of origin, while the children are placed in “camps” that resemble dog pens and policy prevents even holding or consoling them. There is some question that record keeping in this chaotic situation can even assure family reunification. Everyone can agree that current immigration policy needs a thorough review to more fairly allow immigration as well as secure our borders. Funding a wall preferred by the president should not hold children hostages. Using family separation as deterrence has not worked so far. Senator Diane Feinstein has introduced legislation co-sponsored by all 49 Democrats and no Republicans. There are two Republican bills under discussion but President Trump has said he would not sign them, even if passed. Some Republican congressmen have spoken out against the practice, like John McCain, and Susan Collins (Maine) and all the living First Ladies have come out against it.

Catholic leaders have responded to challenge this cruel practice, which, according to the head of the American Pediatric Association, amounts to child abuse. Sr. Simone Campbell, of Nuns on the Bus, has spoken out, as well as Fr. James Martin, SJ. He schooled Attorney General Sessions on using scripture to justify the practice. The United Methodist Church, which Sessions belongs to, has put him up on “trial” for violating church tenets.

Bishop Daniel DiNardo, president of the USCCB, and Bishop of Galveston-Houston, put out the statement, excerpted here, after this month’s Bishops Meeting. Fort Lauderdale, FL. “At its core, asylum is an instrument to preserve the right to life. The Attorney General’s recent decision elicits deep concern because it potentially strips asylum from many women who lack adequate protection. These vulnerable women will now face return to the extreme dangers of domestic violence in their home country. This decision negates decades of precedents that have provided protection to women fleeing domestic violence. Unless overturned, the decision will erode the capacity of asylum to save lives, particularly in cases that involve asylum seekers who are persecuted by private actors. We urge courts and policy makers to respect and enhance, not erode, the potential of our asylum system to preserve and protect the right to life”.

Bishops, Catholic Leaders Decry Family Separation at the Border (continued)

Additionally, he joined Bishop Joe Vásquez, Chairman of USCCB's Committee on Migration, in condemning the continued use of family separation at the U.S./Mexico border as an implementation of the Administration's zero tolerance policy. "Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral."

Many other groups like religious communities, heads of colleges and universities and many others have spoken up. The Southern Baptist Convention, Presbyterian Church, Union for Reformed Judaism, among them.

So, what can people like us do to help? There are several organizations that can use our help. Here are a few.

- ♦ Families Belong Together: (www.familiesbelong.org) a site for protest, organizing.
- ♦ The RAICES Family Reunification and Bond Fund: (<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/bond/fund>) fund is raising money to support families seeking reunification and in need of bond money.
- ♦ The Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, is on the front lines for post-court support and seeking donations for families once released. They set up an Amazon Wish List but Sr. Norma Pimental (interviewed on TV) has said they have been inundated by donations of items. They could really use donations. You can go to catholiccharitiestrgrv.org to donate.
- ♦ Stay informed about action on the bills in congress and call 202-224-3121 to make your opinions on this subject known.
- ♦ Demonstrations are planned in Washington DC on June 30 and some are being planned in other cities.

Anytime a group on the margins is mistreated, we should remember that we, too, are on the margins, No one thought Nazi Germany would go to the lengths they did to eliminate groups they compared to animals, including "homosexuals". This current policy and practice is not who we are as Catholics, or Americans.

Detroit PRIDE 2018

In the past weeks, Dignity-Detroit had an information table at both the Ferndale and Motor City Prides.

Volunteers handed out literature, answered questions, and invited interested people to our Sunday Mass. It was an eye-opener to realize how little we are known in the larger gay community – although that community includes a number of people who want to integrate Catholicism in their lives. We spread the word.

Thanks to Dan Mehringer and Frank D'Amore for helping to set up at both Prides, and to Greg Jacoby for helping to take it down. Thanks to Carolyn Shalhoub and Rich Heide for staffing our table.

If you should see some new faces at Mass, try to remember how it was when you first came to Dignity. Welcome them!

Mike McCleer

FrontRunners (and Walkers)

Looking for friends to jog with or walk with.....look no further. The FrontRunners (and Walkers) group meets at the corner of Sixth and Washington Streets in Royal Oak every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm and Saturday morning at 9:30 am. If you are interested in further information or would like to join the group, please contact (call or text) Chris at (813) 523-8853 or Dave at (248) 928-4076.



AIDS Walk Detroit 2018

Registration is now open for this year's 2018 AIDS Walk Detroit. The Walk takes place on Sunday, September 16th in downtown Royal Oak. There is a new registration site so if even if you have walked in the past, you will need to re-register this year. Simply visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org and click on a "Join a Team". Search for Dignity Detroit and register. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAKE A DONATION TO REGISTER.** The option is there if you choose to make a donation.



**Our Re-vamped website is now
available to view!**
www.dignitydetroit.org

Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday
evening at 6:00pm in the 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

Email: dignitydetroit@yahoo.com

Website: www.dignitydetroit.org

Ken Wojciak

Interior/exterior painting

Free estimates

313-319-7712

KenWojciak@gmail.com

