



Dignity/Washington

A Community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Catholics, Our Families, and Friends

March 19, 2020

Dear Dignity/Washington Community,

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has radically changed not only our lives but the lives of every country on our planet. Ironically this terrible pandemic has hit during the season of Lent traditionally a time when folks give up parts of their life for a short 40-days. I don't think anyone ever thought we would be asked by our government and world health officials to give up so much of our lives for an undetermined period of time.

Yet here we are.

This week, the Dignity Board of Directors and Co-Chairs of the Liturgy Committee convened conference calls to decide how to proceed for the next few months. After much rich discussion, we decided the following:

- Communal Mass in person is suspended until after Easter; however:
 - ◊ Each Sunday, a small group of volunteers (5 or fewer), showing no symptoms and reporting no known exposure to the virus, will tape a Mass that will be available on Facebook at 6:00 p.m. EDT. The Liturgy Committee will determine each week who these people will be.
 - ◊ The Liturgy Committee will also start planning how we will celebrate virtually Holy Week (Palm Sunday, the Triduum, and Easter).
- Regularly scheduled activities at the Dignity Center are suspended (Movie Night, the monthly Board Meeting, the Book Club, and the Lenten Soup Night Series*).
- All other groups who rent/utilize our space will be asked to suspend their activities.
- Our Center Administrator will have access to the Center on a modified weekly schedule to continue the necessary support of Dignity.
- Dignity will produce a modified Sunday Bulletin to be distributed by email with the most current information for our community.

* **Please note** that the coordinators of Lenten Soup Night Series are making plans to conduct the remaining three sessions virtually. If you are interested in participating virtually, please contact Denis Pringle (dppringle@juno.com) or Jeff Vomund (Jeffvomund@gmail.com) for specific details.

Finally, we will begin an outreach to members of the community, especially those who live alone and may be at a greater risk for contracting the virus. More information on this will be coming. In the meantime, we urge all members living by themselves who are 60 years of age or older to strongly consider downloading the **Snug Safety application** to their smartphone as Jim Sweeney previewed during our last in-person Mass on March 8.

We know that not having a public Mass at St. Margaret's each Sunday and canceling regularly scheduled events at The Center are big sacrifices. However, as a Christ-Centered Community we have a responsibility to one another, our city, and our country to do everything we can to "flatten the curve" of this virus by observing the guidance from our nation's scientific and government leaders. In fact, if we can limit the infections here by working together though being physically apart for a little while, our sacrifices will be part a shining aspect of the power of the Resurrection we love to celebrate each year at Easter!

Keep in touch any way you can; stay well!

Christ's Peace,

Daniel Barutta
President