

June - 1970

Members of DIGNITY:

The FORMATION COMMITTEE, a result of our past very successful Los Angeles meeting, after their private sessions have a three point proposal for this coming meeting's discussion. The proposed purposes and goals of DIGNITY will be divided into three levels of activity as follows: (1) RELIGIOUS: to help Gay Catholics become better acquainted with their Faith in relationship to their present life-style; to understand Gay life as seen in the light of Catholic Faith and Morals. (2) EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL: to equip Gay Catholics with the knowledge and motivation that will move them to Catholic action in the Gay community and society in general: e.g. comforting elderly gay people, counseling the younger members of the Gay society, helping Gay couples in partnership difficulties, etc. (3) RECREATIONAL: to provide social outlets and recreational activities for our members wherein not only meaningful relationships will be built, but where positive reinforcement for our life style, life goals, and ideals will be embodied in a setting of fellowship and love.

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On Saturday, June 20th at 7:30 PM our Los Angeles meeting will be held at ONE, Inc., 2256 S. Venice (phone 735 5252). This will be our first OPEN meeting and thus ONE has been kind enough to let us use their facilities as we do expect a large turn-out. This meeting, although "open" is not open to the general public but only to personal friends of our present members. It might seem unusual to have guests at such a "formation" meeting, however it is an exciting idea to have them at a "ground floor" meeting where things will really be happening. There will be no San Diego meeting in June.

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Gay persons are gifts which the Father sends to me - wrapped! Some are wrapped very beautifully; they are very attractive when first seen. Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper. Others have been mishandled in the mail. Some Gay persons are gifts which come very loosely wrapped; others very tightly. But the wrapping is not the gift! It is so easy to make this mistake. It's so easy.... Sometimes the gift is very easy to open. Sometimes I need others to help. Is it because they are afraid? Does it hurt? Maybe they have been opened before and thrown away. Could it be that the gift is not for me?

I am a person. Therefore, I am a gift too! A gift to myself, first of all. The Father gave myself to me. Have I ever really looked inside the wrappings? Afraid to? Perhaps I've never accepted the gift that I am.... Could it be that there is something else inside the wrappings than what I think there is? Maybe I've never seen the beautiful gift that I am? Could the Father's gift be anything but beautiful? I love the gift which those who love me give to me. Why not this gift from the Father?

I am a gift to other persons. Am I willing to be given by the Father to others? A man for others! Do others have to be content with the wrappings... never permitted to enjoy the gift? Every meeting of persons is an exchange of gifts. But a gift without a giver is not a gift. It is a thing devoid of a relationship to anyone.

Friendship is a relationship between persons who see themselves as they truly are: gifts of the Father to each other for others... Brothers! A friend is not just a gift to me but to others through me... when I keep my friend - possess him - I destroy his "giftness". If I save his life for me, I lose it; if I lose it to others I save it.

Gay persons are gifts, gifts received and gifts given. Friendship is the response of a person-gifts to the Father Giver.