

Members of DIGNITY:

February 1970

It is a pretty great thing to get a group of sensitive intelligent people together who are truly aware, who have a broad capacity for helping others and themselves, and who want to enrich their lives. If DIGNITY becomes great, it will not be due to Fr. Pat, but to our members.

Perhaps to summarize a few themes we discussed at our past meeting would be helpful. The big cop-out: "I'm gay and rejected" is a little too convenient to be real. Our obligations, not only as Catholics and Christians, but as human beings is not lessened because we are gay, if anything, it may be increased. Our obligation is simply to love people. So easy to say but at times so difficult to accomplish. I don't mean it is difficult to love the groovy people who are beautiful with magneticism and human attraction. But the gross person who cuts you out on the freeway, the homely slob who turns you completely off. We are light. How many have we left in the dark? We are salt. How many have we left isolated? How many have needed a smile, a kind word, a little understanding, a reason to keep going, and gone away empty? How often has Life knocked at our door to find us not home? God walks on a bridge. We are that bridge, that sign, that sacrament, that word. We are where it is.

The fact is that we have so much to give - we can't let anything stand in the way of our giving. And this must be our moral concentration; not self-devaluation and browbeating because we hopped into bed with a buddy again, but rather a realistic self-searching as to simply how Christ-like we are in our every day dealings with people... ordinary people.

To solve one's problem of confession by simply not going is no solution at all, containing in it the gross assumption that we really never do anything wrong that isn't related to sex. One can make himself the ultimate authority concerning his personal life, which carries the heavy risk of self-deception; or one can find a wise guide and confessor. The latter takes a quantum of effort, as does everything worth while in life.

We all stand alone in the center of the world, because we are gay doesn't mean that we corner the market on loneliness. The more egocentric and selfish we are, the more keenly do we feel the pain of our loneliness. If that pain becomes unbearable, it is because we ourselves have become unbearable. We have stopped giving.

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Our next meeting will be in L.A. George has been kind enough to share his home with us for the evening. For directions see enclosed sheet. Meeting will be February 28th, that's a Saturday, at 7:30. Card-holding members only! Two topics to be discussed are: age and how to handle it; the advantages or disadvantages of telling the "world" you are gay. Be thinking....

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The following guys have transportation problems, or would simply like someone with whom they could drive to meetings. Bill Harker in Los Angeles, phone # 256 - 6626. And Doug Bentz in Anaheim, phone # 776 - 9413