



Discussion Recording Form

Date: 2-11-18

Chapter or Community: Defenders National

SEGMENT ONE: RECALLING OUR ROOTS
Facilitator / Recorder Worksheet

1. What was the initial need that DignityUSA was organized to meet and that drove our rapid growth from a local community in L.A. to a national network of chapters? What “fueled our engine”?

- Sense of community
- Ability to build off ideas that seemed to have worked in other areas
- Building relationships that have lasting potential
- Resource sharing

2. How did the mission of Dignity evolve over time? What drove those changes in how we did our work? Consider dynamics in the organization, in the Church, and in society. In what ways might your chapter/community/caucus have contributed to this evolution?

- We became more of a support structure organization and less of a group that facilitates local activities and services.
- The need to function as an activist organization changes as political and social climates change.
- Many caucus members contributed to chapter and DUSA leadership over the years.
- Many caucus members are seen as local leaders in other areas (including the professional and occupational settings) of their communities.
- Consistently speaking truth and standing up for our beliefs.

3. The theme of our 50th Anniversary Conference is “True to the Spirit, True to Ourselves”. In what ways has “being true to ourselves and true to the calling of the Spirit” evident in our history and your local history?



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- The goals/objectives that align between DUSA, the caucus and the chapters haven't changed significantly. The foresight of early organization leaders seems to have been validated.

4. Locally and nationally, how has...

- **Dignity changed lives for the better?**
 - **changed the Catholic community?**
 - **impacted the LGBTQ social justice movement?**
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- The national organization and chapters provided a compass for many members.
 - The organization(s) encouraged caucus members to think about how to make communities better and help model government policy and actions to truly function for the greater good.
 - We've influenced some critical thinking by some leaders and those in theology.