

Women's Caucus  
Jubilee Reflection Questions Summary  
March 2018

The Women of Dignity were emailed the questions. We thought we would get more reflective answers than with a conference call. Some women indicated they answered these questions with their chapters, therefore didn't answer again.

**1. What led you to Dignity?**

- Seeking Community
- Seeking Spirituality in a safe space
- Seeking Acceptance

**2. Consider the dynamics in the organization, the church, in society when:**

**a) Dignity was formed in 1969 or when you first came to Dignity:**

- **1969-** Being part of Catholic Church was important and encouraged.
- However the Patriarchal Church & Dignity Chapters discouraged women from involvement.
- **Women who joined recently-** seeking spiritual home and found more women in leadership.
- Boston Chapter was better than most.
- Suffolk Long Island Chapter eventually became 90% Women.

**b) How has purpose of Dignity evolved?**

- Changed from a safe space for gay men & lesbians while waiting for Catholic Church to accept us.
- Moved away from the need to be accepted by hierarchy - became "church" to our members.
- Became Progressive Communities
- More diverse expressions of faith & sacramental life
- More Spiritual

**c) What drove these changes?**

- Lost of respect for hierarchical church.
- Adding CWC to National Board and to Regional Leadership.
- Teaching chapters about Inclusive language for readings & songs.
- More women in leadership at Chapter & regional level.
- More women on the National Board.
- **Spiritual Empowerment.**

**d) In what ways might our group of women have contributed to this evolution?**

- Women have been the backbone of many chapters – through few in number they guided, pushed & prodded changes.
- Getting into leadership.
- CWC
- **Recommitted to Women's Caucus.**
- Having Retreats, Gatherings, Conference Calls.
- Joining with WATER.

**3. In what ways has being true to ourselves and true to the calling of the Spirit been evident in our history as Women of Dignity?**

- Women have pushed the organization to be more inclusive: adding Lesbian to the mission statement, then Bisexual, then Transgender and then “people of all sexual orientations, genders and gender identities.”
- Showing Women can be Spiritual in many different ways.
- We stayed in Dignity to lead the way.

**4) Locally & Nationally how have the Women of Dignity changed our lives for better?**

**a) Changed the Catholic Community?**

- Involvement with WATER, WOC, WCC, CCL, Future Church, etc , the Women of Dignity and supporters have made the Catholic Community more aware of women’s capabilities & equality in leadership.
- Women of Dignity are on the forefront on the future Catholic Church – small faith communities that have Spirit filled Liturgies, challenges to help our faith grow, and be Community.

**b) Impacted the LGBTQ social justice movement?**

- By being the Voice for LGBTQ Catholic community on a national level with Marianne speaking for us.
- So much work to be done.
- By working with other Progressive Groups.

**Although the Women of Dignity are less than 50% of Dignity’s membership their impact has been impressive and important.**