



## Discussion Recording Form

Submitted by: Steve Forst | Date: 7-15-18

Chapter or Community: Defenders National

### SEGMENT TWO: TAKING STOCK TODAY Facilitator / Recorder Worksheet

<p><b>1. How is the national movement (called Dignity) different today than it was in the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's? How is your local expression different? How are YOU different?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There seems to be less need for activism and more of a need for a strong, trusted and reliable voice on behalf of members. We are different in that we've helped the organizations respond appropriately.</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Considering the passion and conviction that fueled our growth, how well is our "engine" running, in terms of inspiring passion, involvement, change, etc. – in service to our mission today?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We won't sugar coat the caucus' status. There seem to be a significant number of individuals interested in the leather lifestyle today; however, we're not seeing a large number of them inquire about the Defenders. In terms of passion/service, there's no question about our dedication. It's finding the resources to recruit new talent to the membership that seems to be most challenging. Most of the caucus seems to find all active members with an admirable level of dedication to the organization.</li></ul>



## Discussion Recording Form

### 3. Is the mission and purpose of Dignity still relevant today? If not, why not? If it is, what key challenges and opportunities do you see ahead?

- Yes; however, the focus is different. Human and financial resources appear to be significant challenges. Our longevity and consistent mission are likely to lead to more refined opportunities going forward. Today, they're making sure there's an academic check to some of the statements made by individuals and organizations considered as authorities.
- YES, it is. This is one place where the leather/lewi community has a spiritual foundation. When the question comes from the media, etc., that concerns the Catholic GLBTQ community, DignityUSA is contacted for a response. When persons coming out look for some support and help, Dignity is there. I believe that it is important to maintain this relationship.

### 4. With the benefit of hindsight, how has Dignity changed lives for the better, locally and nationally? Changed the Catholic community? Impacted the LGBTQ social justice movement?

- Similar responses to Q4 in section 1.
- See above Q3 - plus - When I was first coming out after hiding and feeling alone, I found Dignity and I helped establish the first chapter in Columbus Ohio. Dignity helped me not commit suicide! Dignity helps others to integrate our sexuality and our spirituality.

## SESSION FEEDBACK FORM

(To be completed following each Segment discussions)

1) Approximately what percentage of your community participated? How productive was this conversation for your community? As a facilitator, what worked well and why?

- 17%
- The exchange didn't seem to produce anything new. It did confirm a forum to exchanging new ideas if they arise.



## Discussion Recording Form

- 2) What would you do differently next time? Consider preparation, the actual conversation and follow-up.
  - We have a small gathering planned in Cleveland and a caucus conference call this spring. The availability of people to lead and facilitate the discussions seemed limited. We might try an electronic meeting next time.
  
- 3) What are your suggestions for improving the supporting materials, process, and the discussion they were meant to encourage?
  - Instead of a USB drive for any documents, maybe a SharePoint or similar would be easier.