

Dignity Chicago Third Jubilee Discussion Summary Points

1. Question 1: How do we need to change to take advantage of the present and tackle opportunities for the future:

Individuals are increasingly doing things electronically and interested in more online active participation opportunities.

Community overall is less liturgically driven (Think outside the box versus every Sunday liturgy)

There is a need to tackle issues eg immigration and separation of families in an organized voice which anti-Christians and the church is not addressing. Find these and other issues and how they relate to our mission and generate interest around these.
(Ex: all LGBT people placed on a bus in Mexico)

Lean more towards social justice issues with an LGBT focus

Pragmatic problem: institutional church facing millennials “voting with their feet.”
Should we welcome to all?

Opportunities:

Strength: our 50 years respected history known throughout the world.

We are only organization that maintains a unique Catholic voice on sexuality and spirituality for LGBT population---are only ones who do it and can speak freely ---to ensure always a place from a Catholic perspective that is positive on sexuality.

In the beginning, even one person (ex: John McNeil) whose book got people talking. Increasingly over time, there has been more of a profound silence of people who will say to the church this is not right.
*Have a seminar of theologians who come together and publish online some very strong statements saying what is not right...stand up for what you believe in...be more Christian

18-25 is a key range of activism. Millennials are starting to settle down and hibernate...need to focus on post millennial...the next generation. *Define who are audience is going forward.

Key priority is to review values from our history and carry these forward

Ex: Value inclusion---everyone is welcome re of sexual orientation.

We are a faith based community and number one reason for existence. Faith centered existence. Keep as a focus in our mission and purpose

We have a strong and active network of people in the city....expand through this network in outreach activities.....more partnering. Look at ways we have interacted with groups we founded in the past (Ex: Chicago House founded by Dignity members and two friends...responded to a need that no one else took charge of...people from Dignity did

***What do we see as the needs going forward?**

More Outreach

Partnerships:

Connect with Parents of LGBTQ children eg PFLAG---formulation of a speaker's bureau (did in past but wouldn't listen unless ordained but times have changed)

College age audience to connect with esp in rural areas: educate on Catholic and LGBT issues.

College campus ministries so become solid active supporters ---provide young people with the tools

Home church opportunities to connect/network

Connect/partner with the young adult caucus

**Dream: Dignity becomes a household word so they would know it is a place to go or for kids to go etc....

Meet ups

More robust advocacy/educational programs run out of national but connect locally. Give more autonomy to national—people are less place focused

No presence in Rio Grande Valley (except San Antonio)

How do we find a model that is sustainable and keeps people engaged.

Need to look at how we are organized (ex: if technologic based...how are we going to keep people engaged?)

Connect with other organizations (partner) to give Dignity more visibility. (Ex: Lakeview Food Pantry etc...)

Take Dignity "on the road"