

## 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"