

Report of Phase Three Jubilee Process for DignityDenver : *The Path Forward*

January 16, 2019

Reported by: Terry Mischel on behalf of the DD Board of Directors. Notes recorded by Brad Cameron.

DignityDenver met on Sunday January 13, 2019 after its regularly scheduled liturgy to discuss the questions presented by the DUSA Board of Directors for the third phase of the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Process. The chapter previously had discussed and reported on phase one "*Recalling Our Roots*" and phase two "*Taking Stock Today*".

The topic was introduced by moderator Terry Mischel and approximately 15 members participated in the discussions. It was noted that these questions were to be approached primarily from the perspective of addressing DUSA's BOD, who would subsequently use the information when doing strategic planning during the 2019 Conference and in subsequent meetings.

**Question 1.** How do we need to change to tackle the challenges of the present and take advantage of the opportunities we have?

Comments:

Why are LGBTQI people interested in DignityUSA? What are we offering them that should draw people closer?

We continue to need to speak out in as loud a voice as possible and as often as is necessary. Our media presence gives our followers and supporters a sense that their voices are being heard.

**Question 2.** What should the key priorities of DignityUSA be in the next few years? What's most important to us and what values from our rich history do we want to ensure are carried forward?

Comments:

Concentrate on figuring out how we can be relevant to people in our situation.

What are the priorities (our message) that we must keep representing to the institutional church? I.e. the gifts of LGBTQI persons that we bring to the church and society.

Continue our young persons focus and programs. Keep promoting the Dignity Young Adult Caucus and its activities. Keep doing the Young Adult Programs and meetings.

Forcefully make the distinctions between sexual predators and the healthy outlook of LGBTQI persons. We must continue to fight the invalid and unhealthy message/tendency within the institutional church and bishops that want to "blame" the clerical abuse problem on gay priests or gay people.

The lack of young adult involvement with church institutions – in general – is well known. While determining what DUSA's programs will be, we need to be realistic that there may not be a wide attraction within the population. Continue the outreach anyway.

Continue the spirit of Vatican II in emphasizing the church moves from the bottom up. We speak for the church.

Seek listening to outside experts in the fields of sociology, theology, etc. What worked in San Diego at the St John the Evangelist parish where Aaron Bianco was able to build a community? Is there something in his outreach that DUSA could do?

Continue to stand in solidarity with anyone who is suffering oppression. Stay bigger than just our issue.

A number of folks are NOT on the Dignity online mailing. (All were urged to get online.) At the same time, numerous people expressed the comment that they are "communicated out" and don't need more emails. This is a conundrum because while we want DUSA to continue its Voice, some are also struggling with information overload. And do not want more emails.

Speak up, speak out. This is what DUSA does best.

Help chapters that are declining to possibly morph into a different organization, i.e Living Beatitudes community in Dayton. Can the BOD assist other chapters in evolving rather than disbanding?

Keep our national voice, our prophetic voice going.

Where possible, promote a mature spirituality in our programs.

Questions 3. Why would people want to invest their life energy and financial resources in support of this desired future?

People want to support DUSA. They are willing to do so. Sometimes it seems like the best way to fund-raise is for specific causes and not just general appeals. (Is that accurate historically?)

Question 4. What is this community's guidance to the national leadership as they create a strategic plan for the next few years of DignityUSA's mission and work?

In essence, the BOD can look at all the above comments regarding DignityUSA's mission and work.

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