



Discussion Recording Form

SEGMENT THREE: DISCERNING THE PATH FORWARD

Facilitator / Recorder Worksheet

1. When we last met we talked about key challenges and opportunities we saw ahead. Those were.... How do we need to change to tackle the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities?

In order to continue successfully, networking with other faith-based and civil organizations; a sharing of resources. A focus on continued fundraising to meet any program development is a must. We must reach out and build a strong membership base that goes far beyond the familiar chapter-based model that served and serves us well, but at the same time can be limited in the achieving the bigger mission.

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

Building the membership of the organization. This may overlap with other organizations, but it is not uncommon for a person to belong to multiple organizations. This, and the continued programming that has been occurring will assist in the raising of the needed funds to carry on the mission of Dignity.

3. What resources do we need to fuel our "engine" (passion and purpose) in the future? Why would people want to invest their life energy and financial resources in support of this desired future?

A stronger presence in the online world. Booksellers are becoming fewer, and perhaps a collaboration of theologians, social scientists, other denominations, etc. to put out a new online publication to be used as a resource to pastoral ministers and others out 'in the field' – online, rather than a printed book, because change has happened so quickly, that an online publication can be continually updated with new resources, reaching people and organizations that may not otherwise have access.

Consider outreach in programming on a youtube channel, or some similar venue.

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? Consider topics such as key commitments to mission, key goals, investments, financial resources, volunteer and leadership resources, talent recruitment and partnerships/outreach.

Continue to network with other organizations to further strengthen the voice of Dignity. Again, make our own theology and a big dream would be to make resources available online [see 3] and make these resources known to seminaries preparing people for ministry. Continue asking for funding from individuals and grantsmanship.

SESSION FEEDBACK FORM

(To be completed following each Segment discussions)

- 1) Approximately what percentage of your community participated? **70%** How productive was this conversation for your community? As a facilitator, what worked well and why?

It was helpful in assessing our own future and a creative way to build the local organization. Ageing membership, the loss of members through a physical move, death, finding a parish community, and those who 'give up' on things related to the Catholic 'Church' are things we need to address locally and as a national organization.

- 2) What would you do differently next time? Consider both preparation, the actual conversation and follow-up.

This has prompted the local community to rethink the way we hold meetings. It was helpful for the group to review the changes in the Statement of Position and Purpose over the years, and how the document will lead the group from this point forward. A copy will be given to each person who gathers with us, and from this, we see an increase in our membership and the ability to better support the efforts of the national organization.



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- 3) What are your suggestions for improving the supporting materials, process, and the discussion they were meant to encourage?

A link to a secure page that can be referred to.