

Transgender Support Caucus Jubilee Conversations 2 and 3

In taking stock of today, the caucus noted that the number of trans people in DignityUSA is still very small. We have been reaching a large number of people at conferences, but that has not necessarily translated into new members or engagement with the caucus.

One member wondered if we need to broaden our scope beyond Catholicism and work with other Christian groups, maybe using Faith Christian Ministries as a model. Another member noted that a lot of the trans political work in New England is being done using coalitions. We appreciate the work done by Equally Blessed and think this is a good model.

Many members were inspired by the recent work done at the World Meeting of Families. This global work is important. We recognize that even if the overall membership of DignityUSA is small compared to the total number of LGBTQ Catholics and allies, the work we are going is important and our impact is significant. How can we get more of our wouldbe supporters to engage? The more people we have, the greater our power is.

There are a number of trans justice issues related to Catholic institutions that we need to keep our eye on and continue to work on. Supporting trans youth in Catholic institutions is one of them. More and more young people are recognizing their gender identities earlier on and coming out- this presents a problem for catholic schools. This is an emerging issue, and maybe dignity should work on developing a formal program of support. Other issues of importance to the trans community are Catholic adoption agencies not allowing LGBTQ families to adopt, and Catholic hospitals denying transgender people access to health care.