

MARCH 2011



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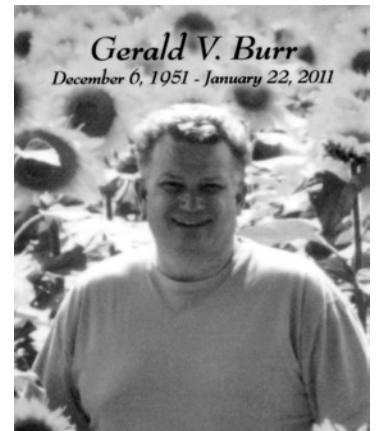
# The Independence

The Monthly Newsletter of Dignity/Philadelphia for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics & Friends

## REMEMBERING GERRY BURR

*Jim Clay, Liturgy Committee Coordinator*

Our Dignity family mourns the sudden loss of our dear friend and faithful minister, Gerry Burr, who died January 22, 2011. Gerry began presiding at our Sunday liturgies over thirteen years ago. He last presided at Dignity less than three weeks before he died. We will remember Gerry by celebrating his gifts to us at our Sunday Liturgy on March 27 at 7 p.m. Please plan to attend as we grieve our loss while celebrating Gerry's life.



## SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 16, 2011!

*Jim DeSimone, President, Dignity Philadelphia*

LGBT teen suicide was a common theme in news headlines this past fall. As a means to bring attention to this horrible epidemic, The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus (PGMC) will be performing the musical version of *Prayers for Bobby*.

This true story centers around the story of Bobby Griffith, who took his life because he was gay, and his deeply religious family would not accept his homosexuality. After Bobby's suicide, his mother found comfort in the resources of PFLAG and MCC and quickly came to realize the error of her beliefs about homosexuality.

Because of the importance of this topic and the relevance to our mission, I have spoken with the leadership of PGMC, and we are working on collaboration between Dignity/Philadelphia and the chorus.

Please keep the date of April 16 open so that you can either attend the concert or volunteer in a to-be-determined capacity in the name of Dignity/Philadelphia at this event.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK MARCH 20, 2011

It is potluck time again! Everyone at Dignity always looks forward to the St. Patrick's Day Potluck since it gives all of us the opportunity to experience Irish Cuisine! But if you can't think of a particular Irish gourmet dish, don't let that stop you for enjoying this holiday with your fellow members. Dignity members love to cook (and shop!) and this is always the opportunity for those chefs to shine! Fortunately for these chefs (Irish or otherwise) Dignity members do not discriminate when it comes to food – no finicky eaters in this community. Everyone should feel free to contribute to this communal meal. Entrees are always welcome, as well as vegetarian, and non-vegetarian side dishes. The Desserts Table is always overwhelming – so consider an alternative. Salads are always a big hit, as well as appetizers: who doesn't like Triscuits and cheese? And are there ever any shrimp left? Exactly! Anything and everything you contribute will be appreciated (and eaten); drinks are also welcome; soft drinks not consumed at the potluck are usually stored and put out at Sunday socials – so nothing is wasted. Please mark your calendars, start looking around for recipes and outdo yourselves this March 20, 2011. *(continued on next page)*



What do you mean you don't have recipes? Lucky for you we still have some Dining with Dignity Cookbooks! This collection has hundreds of recipes – all field-tested. In all seriousness, it is probably the only cookbook you need on your kitchen shelf. Buy this unique collection of recipes contributed by Dignity members for only \$10 from Mike Viola. He can be reached on [MLViola@yahoo.com](mailto:MLViola@yahoo.com). This cookbook would be a nice/unexpected surprise to include in a special someone's Easter Basket – think about it.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

*Joanne R. Collins, 2010 Secretary of Dignity Philadelphia*

It's that time of year again when Dignity/Philadelphia makes an annual appeal for the Stewardship Program. Dignity/Philadelphia services are funded entirely by our members' donations. We have been an active participant in the community, providing the local LGBT with Liturgies, Spiritual Programs, Chaplain Services, Charitable Support, and Catholic Christian Witness. The Stewardship Programs needs your donations and it gives the members a way to offer their support without putting a crunch on you financially. Dignity/ Philadelphia is a tax-exempt charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Members can make a donation on a weekly, monthly or on an annual basis. These donations help to ensure Dignity/Philadelphia of guaranteed income throughout the year to support the LGBT community, helps meet our expenses, and ensure the future of our organization. Participation forms will be the mailed shortly.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MOTIONS FOR MARCH

At the February 6, 2011 Steering Committee the following two motions were made:

“Be it moved that the 50/50 for March – which is National Women's History Month – will be directed to Roman Catholic Womenpriest\* in honor of Eileen DiFranco.” This was proposed by Dolores Vera and seconded by Sue Riemann, and unanimously passed.



“Be it moved that an ad-hoc Committee for Scholarship 2011 be formed to distribute, collect and evaluate submissions for this year's award consisting of David Kalinowski, Nancy Rohrer and Melissa Hrinko. This was proposed by Jimmy Calnan and seconded by Sue Riemann, and unanimously passed.

*\*Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP) is an international initiative within the Roman Catholic Church. The mission of Roman Catholic Womenpriests is to spiritually prepare, ordain, and support women and men from all states of life, who are theologically qualified, who are committed to an inclusive model of Church, and who are called by the Holy Spirit and their communities to minister within the Roman Catholic Church.*

## DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA REVISED MEMBERSHIP FORM BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2011 - MARCH RENEWALS, PLEASE CONSIDER DIGNITY/USA MEMBERSHIP

*Kevin Davis*

The Steering Committee has made a commitment to have a closer relationship with DignityUSA and they need your help. Please, when renewing your Dignity/Philadelphia membership also join DignityUSA. Please visit the DignityUSA website (<http://www.dignityusa.org/>) to see all the work DignityUSA does for us.

Over the years Dignity/Philadelphia has been one of the largest chapters in DignityUSA and we need to reclaim that position.

What does it mean to be a member of DignityUSA? By being a member of DignityUSA, you make a commitment to a national, if not international, organization and become a voice for GLBT Catholics and our friends. The media works with, and knows, DignityUSA and reaches out to the national office when a counterbalance viewpoint is sought.

Please speak with a member of the Steering Committee if you would like more information.

TOGETHER, our voices are heard – locally, nationally and internationally! Let yours be heard – join both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA.

## Monthly Munchie

“ I wanted to be treated like a human being.”

**- Rosa Parks**

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DIGNETTES!

On February 13, Father Morrissey celebrated a Eucharistic Liturgy that included the distribution of anniversary pins to various Dignity members. This event was especially heartfelt since Father Morrissey has been a Presider at Dignity for quite a while, and recalled his experience with many of the members receiving their pins. Thanks to Pat L. and Jimmy Calnan who coordinated the event. This ceremony brought together so many people that have a been a part of Dignity's history. Michael Rocks was as eloquent as ever in mentioning also the "angels" on the banners, who are still with us in spirit – thank you Michael. This ceremony brought new and "long standing" (not old) members together in a very special way. Congratulations to everyone who received a pin, and a special thanks to Father Morrissey for his wonderful remarks, and for joining us in the picture.

*The picture below includes the long standing, and "recent" members, and (in parenthesis) the years they have been members of Dignity: The handsome men standing in the back are Jimmy Calnan (30), Jim Clay (35), Fred Kiehm (10), Steve Battin (10), John Raymond (10), Joe Byers (10), Tony Latess (20), Kevin Davis (30), Leo Chang (20), Father P. Morrissey, and Michael Rocks (35). The beautiful women seating in the front are Mary Byers (10), Michelle Perrone (5), Pat L. (15) and Alice Foley (25).*



## NUM NUM DIM SUM! *(Translates into "What a great time was had by all!")*

Special thanks go out to the Community Life Committee who organized a Sunday Brunch on Sunday, Jan. 16, the coldest day of the season! We met in Chinatown and enjoyed a wonderful brunch staple of Dim Sum (translated literally as 'little happy') at New Harmony Restaurant. We may repeat a similar outing in the summer time – so if you are interested, please let a member of the committee know that you want to do dim sum – the more the merrier.

*Happily pictured, and looking fully satisfied are Jim Clay, Henry Chau, Dolores Vera, Michael L., Anjeanette and Suzanne.*



## SEMIANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

*Joanne R. Collins, Secretary, Dignity/Philadelphia 2010*

Dignity/Philadelphia's Semiannual Business Meeting will be held on **March 20** following the evening mass. We need a total of 15 members present to be considered a meeting. Among some of the topics that will be discussed will be this year's National Convention that will be held in Washington D.C. from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, the pride day float that Dignity will be entering in this year's parade on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Stewardship Appeal. Most importantly this is your chance to let your voices be heard. So come on out and join us.

## DIGNITY/USA CONVENTION 2011 JULY 1-4 IN WASHINGTON, DC

*Online Registration Site is Now Available*

Copies of the convention materials are on the Education Table during the social following mass each Sunday. If you did not receive one in the mail, please take one.

Convention theme is "Love Hopes All Things" and the Keynote Address speaker is Edwina Gateley; Discussion Leaders are Phil Donahue and Maureen Fiedler; and a host of panel speakers including Dignity/Philadelphia's own Barbara Gindhart.

Register online <http://conv2011.dignityusa.org> and click on the REGISTER NOW button at the top of that page. Early bird discount if you register by April 1. You can also register by calling 800-977-8797, or email to [info@dignityusa.org](mailto:info@dignityusa.org) and request a paper registration form be mailed to you.

Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel is the convention hotel. Convention rate is \$125 (single or double) if made by June 7, 2011 either by phone 800-266-9432 or online <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/dignity>.

Detailed schedule information is online:  
<http://conv2011.dignityusa.org>

## TIDBITS AND PIECES:

- A "thank you" letter was received from Matthew A. Teter, Executive Director of Calcutta House, for Dignity's donation of \$100. Calcutta House was the 50/50 recipient for November, and the check was presented when we celebrated Christmas at their place. Thank you Dignettes for your contribution (and your wonderful gifts during the Christmas season).

- The next book to be read for the Dignity Book Club, per Community Life, is *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold. See a member of this committee for the date and place of their next meeting.
- Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 21, 2011** for a protest in front of the Cathedral. This is an annual event sponsored by Women's Ordination Conference, and we meet to demand and pray for the inclusion of women into the priesthood. A Eucharistic Liturgy is celebrated in the park across from the Cathedral at 9 a.m.; on this day, Holy Thursday, the priests from all the surrounding parishes gather to receive Holy Oils that will be used by their churches throughout the year. Join us for this event.
- Don't forget the Dignity Community Emergency Fund. This fund is ready to help those in our Dignity Philadelphia family who are going through difficult times in this rough economy. If you, or a member of the Dignity community you know, could use some extra funds for those necessities of life, please let Anjeanette, Sue, or Jim DeSimone know. Any referrals will be treated in confidence and with sensitivity. Please talk to one of them, or email at [smriemann@gmail.com](mailto:smriemann@gmail.com) or [President.DignityPhila@gmail.com](mailto:President.DignityPhila@gmail.com)

## BROAD STREET MINISTRY - EXTRA LENTEN DUTY

After you give up the sweets and chocolate, consider volunteering with Dignity to help feed the needy at Broad Street Ministry, 315 South Broad Street on

- Wednesday, March 30 @ 5:30p.m. and
- Wednesday, April 27 @ 5:30p.m.

Announcements at Liturgy or just show up

## DIGNITYUSA DATELINE FOR FEBRUARY 2011

Copies are on the Education Table and include articles on the DignityUSA Convention scheduled for July 1-4 in Washington, DC; DignityUSA Profit and Loss Statement; and an article announcing DignityUSA embroidered logo jackets and shirts for sale.

## Memorial Masses

Anyone who would like to request that our mass be celebrated in memory of a loved one, please see Jim Clay, or any other member of the Liturgy Committee. The suggested donation is \$10, however no donation is required. We also welcome more generous donations.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS (weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

## March is National Women's Herstory Month

- Fri, March 4 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's upstairs, 7 p.m.
- Sun, March 6 Eucharistic Liturgy and Healing at 7 p.m.**  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Tues, March 8 International Women's Day\* (see below)
- Wed, March 9 Ash Wednesday – **Eucharistic Liturgy and Distribution of Ashes, 7:30 p.m.**
- Sun, March 13 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**  
Fast and Prayer for AIDS  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs, March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Sun, March 20 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**  
St. Patrick's Day Potluck – see article  
Semi-annual Business Meeting – see article
- Fri, March 25 The Annunciation
- Sun, March 27 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**  
Remembering Gerry Burr – see article

## April is Volunteer Month

- Fri, April 1 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's upstairs, 7 p.m.
- Sun, April 3 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sun, April 10 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sun, April 17 Passion/Palm Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.**
- Thurs, April 21 Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper (includes Washing of the Feet), 7:30 p.m.
- Fri, April 22 Good Fri, Stations of the Cross, in conjunction with St. Luke's, upstairs at 7 p.m.
- Sat, April 23 Easter Vigil at 10 p.m. – downstairs**
- Sun, April 24 NO ECHARISTIC LITURGY AT DIGNITY – Have a Happy Easter**

**When:** Tuesday 8 March 2011

**Where:** Everywhere

**What:** International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women's Day is a national holiday.

**Why:** Suffragettes campaigned for women's right to vote. The word 'Suffragette' is derived from the word "suffrage" meaning the right to vote. International Women's Day honors the work of the Suffragettes, celebrates women's success, and reminds us of inequities still to be redressed. The first International Women's Day event was run in 1911. 2011 is the Global Centenary Year



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please sign our Prayer Intentions book if you have anyone you would like the community to remember in our prayers.

**The deadline for submission of articles for the April newsletter is March 20, 2011.**

### New Steering Committee

- Jim DeSimone** – President
- Pat L.** – Vice President
- Linda Barrett** - Treasurer
- Joanne Collins** – Secretary
- Jim Clay** – Liturgy Committee Coordinator
- Michelle Perrone & Dolores Vera** – Communications Co-coordinators
- Jimmy Calnan** – Education Committee Coordinator
- Anjeanette & Suzanne** – Community Life Committee Co-coordinators
- Chaplains:** Barbara Gindhart & Rev. Ron Hoskins



The Catholic Christian Tradition in the L/G/B/T Community  
**Celebrate Who You Are And Embrace The Person God Calls You To Be!**  
*Yes, I want to be a member of the Dignity family!*

I am joining as a **new member**     I am **renewing my membership**     **Address Change**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers:** cell \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_ to receive Dignity/Philadelphia's Newsletter (*The Independence*) and the latest news via email blasts. Your support through your dues to Dignity/USA will entitle you to voting privileges in national elections; subscriptions to the monthly Dateline and Quarterly Voice; discounted registration for biennial conventions and other Dignity/USA events; and access to Dignity News email list and chat groups.

Scholarships are available for Dignity/Philadelphia and Dignity/USA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Vice President for more information ([vp.dignityphila@gmail.com](mailto:vp.dignityphila@gmail.com)).

*The total amount of your dues and donations to both Dignity/Philadelphia and Dignity/USA may be included in one check. We will forward your Dignity/USA dues/donations and your contact information to the Dignity/USA national office.*

**Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.**

**Individual annual dues:**  
 Dignity/Phila \$20;  
 Dignity/USA \$30  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

**Couple's annual dues:**  
 Dignity/Phila \$35;  
 Dignity/USA \$60  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**