



The Independence

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

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well it is the beginning of the summer and a time for relaxing and enjoying the warm lazy days. However, for most of us we still get caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. For me it's the most hectic part of the year, the end of the fiscal year, where everything has to be accounted for right down to the penny. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I would like to make a New Year's resolution. That's a Fiscal Year Resolution. Let's all take a pledge to take 2 15 minute periods each week to go in your yard, or your front porch, or your front steps, or your balcony and look up in the sky and thank God for giving us this opportunity to enjoy the wondrous works that surround us. God bless us all and have a beautiful summer. With Love Joanne

DEO GRATIAS AWARD

The following is the text of the introduction to the presentation of the Deo Gratias Award at the 39th Dignity Philadelphia Anniversary Mass on Sunday May 20, 2012; this was written by Michael Rocks, and read by Joanne Collins, President.

The Deo Gratias Award is the highest honor which Dignity Philadelphia bestows on persons nominated by the Chapter President for outstanding service to the GLBT Roman Catholic community and to Dignity Philadelphia in particular.

Tonight this honor is bestowed on a man who has served this Chapter from the earliest days of the Dignity Home Liturgy to this very day. In the early days of the chapter he served as priest presider at the Dignity Sunday Masses, provided spiritual counseling and direction to countless men and women searching for authenticity, dignity and integrity as GLBT Roman Catholics, and was a liturgical advisor to the Chapter on many occasions. He was not just a spiritual and liturgical leader in the community; he became a personal friend to scores of others who found in him specialness, a lively joy for life, and a sense of self acceptance and integrity. He is a man of truth. His life in and service to Dignity Philadelphia was disrupted under the strong anti-Dignity Philadelphia policy of John Cardinal Krol. Other priests at that time were also forbidden to serve Dignity Philadelphia or threatened with expulsion from the Archdiocese. Undaunted, this great priest went on to serve Dignity Chapters in the West and Northwest of the United States and worked with Native Americans as a priest and spiritual leader for many years. He became well known throughout the United States in many Dignity chapters and would visit our chapter from time to time during his absence from Philadelphia. He often served Dignity in his native New York.

In recent years he has been reassigned to the Philadelphia area and has returned as Eucharistic Presider to Dignity but his decreased mobility and advancing age sometimes make it difficult for him to travel on his own.

During his many years in Dignity he is most remembered as a strong advocate for Gay and Lesbian Catholics, and their families and friends. He could be found on the dance floors of many gay bars throughout the country, particularly in the big cities. No one really knows if it is really true that the American Indians gave him the name "Dances with Donna Summer" but we old-timers all remember seeing Simon on the dance floor, by himself or with a partner or partners, but always dancing with all his heart and soul to "Let's Dance the Last Dance Tonight." May Donna rest in peace. And may our dear Father Simon be honored this night.

Much more could be said, but without any further adieu, I present the Deo Gratias award to Father "Simon."

DIGNITY JOINS PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF NUNS

by Dick O'Malley

On May 23rd, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* headline read "Dozens protest Vatican's criticism of nuns' group." The ensuing story described a protest outside the Philadelphia Cathedral of over 50 supporters of the American nuns who have recently come under attack by the Holy Office in Rome for "radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic Faith," on such matters as homosexuality and the male-only priesthood.

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In addition to Dignity, the protestors represented members of the Women's Ordination Conference, Voice of the Faithful, Call to Action, and GRAIL. Judging by the car drivers honking their support of the nuns in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Vatican has unleashed a hornet's nest of angry followers.

A Dignity member was quoted as observing that "The pope and the bishops 'are part of the church, but they are not all of the church'. The Church "should be guided by its leaders, but also by the 'sensus fidelium,' the doctrinal truths recognized by the whole body of the faithful." In a way, the conflict between the Vatican and the American Women Religious seems to be about how far the hierarchy has drifted away from the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. When the protest ended, it was clear it will not be the last.

(See pictures on page 4)

MOTIONS

Motion 12-06-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that D/P allow \$100-\$150 each for up to 3 dues paid women members to attend the Youth Adult Caucus Summer Gathering, funds from the Durkin Fund; and \$100-\$150 for up to 3 dues paid male members to attend said gathering, funds from the Ratkus Fund. Passed unanimously.

Motion 12-06-02: Made by Dick O'Malley; seconded by Joanne Collins. Be it moved that \$1000 be transferred from the General Fund of D/P to the Mark Ratkus Fund for Retreats. Passed unanimously.

Motion 12-06-03: Made by Dick O'Malley; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that D/P's stipend for Presiders be raised from \$25 to \$50 per liturgy and provide membership in D/P to all Presiders at no expense to them. Passed unanimously.

Q-FEST FEATURES FILM ON JOHN MCNEILL

By Dick O'Malley

The annual July Q-Fest GLBT Film Festival will feature an award winning documentary film on the life of John McNeill, entitled "Taking a Chance on God." It is appropriate that Dignity Philadelphia agreed to sponsor this film because John McNeil helped to found Dignity as a national organization in 1972.

Last year, the film was first shown in Rome as part of the festivities of "Euro-Pride" where it was well-received. The film is very relevant to the current movement in support of same-sex marriage in that it also tells the story of John McNeill's long-time relationship with his husband, Charles Chiarelli. Taking a chance on God is a recurring theme throughout John's life, whether as a prisoner of war in World War II or when the Vatican had him expelled from the Jesuit Order because of his ministry to the GLBT community. He continues to be an inspiration to all who suffer oppression because of their sexual orientation.

"Taking a Chance on God" is the second film by its editor Brendan Fay about self-sacrifice. Earlier, he helped to produce another award-

winning film, "The Saint of 9/11," about the life of Fr. Mychal Judge.

The film on John McNeill will be shown only **once** at the Ritz East Theater on Second Street on **Saturday, July 21 at 12 noon** (a discussion will follow the film). Tickets at the door are \$10 (\$8 if purchased through Dignity Philadelphia).

WEEKEND RETREAT: "SEXUALITY AS A WAY TO GOD"

By Dick O'Malley

Dignity Philadelphia is sponsoring its third Weekend Retreat in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on the last weekend in September, the 28th -30th. The theme, "**Sexuality: a Way to God,**" draws some of its inspiration from John McNeill's *Sex as God Intended*, and Margaret Farley's *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. The Retreat Leader, Maryrose Petrizzo, has a graduate degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and over twenty-five years in parish ministry, including as a retreat director. No readings are required but Dignity will make complimentary copies of pertinent readings available for those who may want to wish to have them.

As in the past, Dignity will be arranging for overnight accommodations in the Whitson Guest House at 1st Street & Maryland Avenue in Rehoboth Beach. In addition, Dignity has rented space in the nearby GLBT Center on Baltimore Avenue for space for large and/or small group meetings on Saturday, Sept. 29th. The retreat itself will begin on Friday evening, Sept. 28th, with a prayer service and a social at the Whitson and will conclude with a Sunday liturgy outdoors in a nearby park (check-out time is 2 p.m.).

Registration for the retreat will be in the range of \$25-\$30 which will help pay for light breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and a Saturday lunch. Everyone will be on their own for their Friday and Saturday evening meals in the many restaurants in the immediate area. Hopefully, some on the retreat will also take advantage of the vibrant night life in Rehoboth. Parking is free with no meters or permits required. Those who arrive early on Friday (check-in is at noon) can also take advantage of a likely Indian summer at the beach.

Participants are responsible for two overnight expenses on Friday and Saturday. Rooms at the Whitson range from \$54 a person for two nights in a third floor room with four beds and a private bath to \$97.20 per person for two nights for a first floor room with two beds also with a private bath. Other rooms have shared or private baths. Please reserve your rooms early with a deposit. Participants are also encouraged to car pool as a way to cut expenses on gas and tolls. You may call Dick O'Malley (215-878-5182) about room reservations and transportation.

Please join us for a weekend of fun, friends, food, relaxation and spiritual growth!

DIGNITY IN 1987

January, February and March of this and every year is a busy time for the Liturgy Committee. They sponsor annually a series of Masses with

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WOMEN'S ORDINATION AT THE CATHEDRAL ON 5/19/12



Dick O'Malley, Frank Mosca, Dolores Vera and Alice Foley after the Liturgy at the Cathedral; Jim Clay was also present.



Members of the Women's Ordination Conference prior to the Liturgy held at the park.

DIGNITY'S 39TH ANNIVERSARY POT LUCK, MAY 20, 2012



The initial "set up" crew: John R., Louis G., Leo C., and Kevin D. in the "Before" picture.



The "After" crew consists of Mike V., Mike B., John R., Louis G., Leo C., Kevin D., and Phil C., showing off their magic!

4th of July Triple Munchie

"...with liberty and justice for all."

-Pledge of Allegiance

"A constitution amendment banning gay marriages is a form of gay bashing, and it would do nothing at all to protect traditional marriages."

-Coretta Scott King

Some say "justice" but mean just us!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

NEW DIGNITY OFFICERS, JUNE 3, 2012

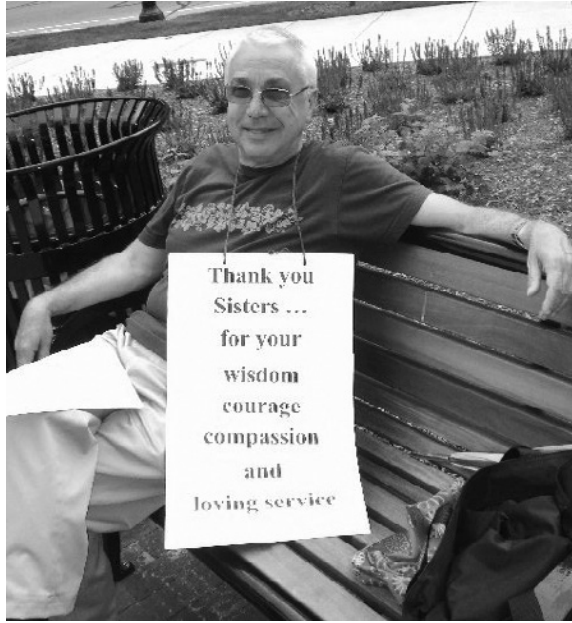


Father Robert C. participated in the installation ceremony of the new Dignity Officers: Joanne Collins, President; Linda Barrett, Vice President; and Kevin Davies, Secretary.

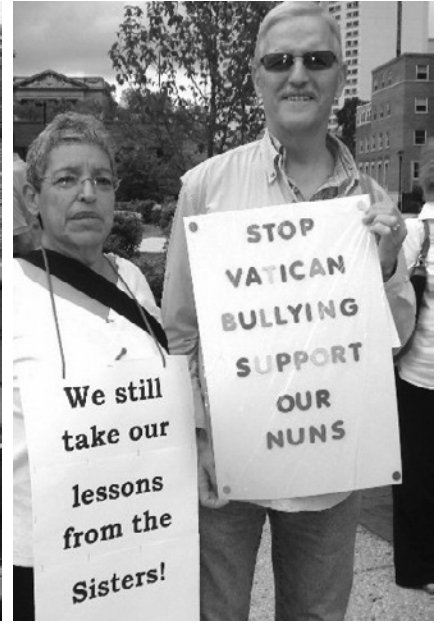
HIGHLIGHTS OF DIGNITY EVENTS



Dick speaking to the press; picture appeared in The Inquirer 5/23/12.



Frank Mosca after the rally.



Dolores Vera and Bill Quinn showing their support at Nun Justice Rally.



Participants at the Nun Justice Rally 5/22/12



Chapter Service Award given to Larry Sutter; presented by Rob Baker.



Joanne presenting the Chapter Service Award to Melissa Hrinko.



Community Service Award given to Bill Golderer, Director of Broad Street Ministry by Jimmy Calnan and Joanne Collins on June 3, 2012

themes that hold great meaning for our community. In January, we participate in a Mass to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose achievements have not only paved the way for our own rights movement, but have contributed valuable lessons about methods for achieving justice. In February we honor Black History Month with a Mass that emphasizes the contributions of black people in church history. We commemorate Women's History Month during March with a Mass coordinated by the Liturgy Committee in conjunction with the Committee for Women's Concerns. Also in March, our chapter's president, Bill M., had the distinction of meeting personally with John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia. While no business was resolved at this meeting, it is an event of importance in that it marked the first time that the head of the Archdiocese met with the head of our chapter as an equal.

The month of May was noteworthy for several important events. During the month we celebrated our chapter's 14th Anniversary with a dinner-dance and a special Anniversary Mass. At the National Convention that summer, Beth Gorman was elected Vice-President of DignityUSA. Dignity/Philadelphia sponsored five workshop rooms and four of our members - Terri B., Beth Gorman, Mark Prantner, and Michael Flynn conducted workshops. Our new banner, created by Clyde Sams, was proudly displayed.

Locally, Michael Durkin represented the chapter at the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force Protest on July 16, 1987 (in response to the Bicentennial Celebration of the Constitution). Bill M. spoke at the We the People Meeting at Congress Hall. Dignity/Philadelphia became an organizational member of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force. In August, KYW-TV visited the chapter and took some film footage and interviewed Michael Durkin for use on their five special feature reports on the Pope's visit to the United States in September. In September, members attended the Mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul to commemorate the Papal Visit to the USA. Members wore lavender armbands and put Dignity dollars into the collection basket. A press release was sent to the media and Michael Durkin was interviewed for an article in *Philadelphia Magazine*. Later, a festive march/rally went from St. Luke's to the Archdiocesan offices to return the Ratzinger Letter to the Magisterium. This October 30th March/Rally marked the 1st anniversary of the Ratzinger Letter. Channel 6 TV reported that 150 people attended the rally. Channel 3, the *Philadelphia Daily News* and the *Philadelphia Gay News* were also on hand.

Members joined in the walk-a-thon From All Walks of Life to raise money for various AIDS organizations. A Candidate's Night was sponsored for candidates for City Council and the mayor was invited. Mayor Goode, Senator Arlen Specter and Joan Specter, who was running for City Council, spoke at this event. Dignity/Philadelphia observed the church's celebration of the Marian Year with Father Jim centering his homilies on Mary. We were a sponsor of Cha Cha 3, a gala event to help the various AIDS organizations. A West German television crew interviewed Michael Durkin and filmed part of our Mass as part of a documentary on the Catholic Church in America. Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated at 11 p.m. at St. Luke and the Epiphany. The annual Ecumenical New Year's Party was another fun and successful event.

EMERGENCY FUND

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 a member of the Steering Committee know of the need. All referrals will be treated in confidence and with sensitivity. Please talk to one of them, or email President.DignityPhila@gmail.com

THIS AND THAT AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA...

- Currently there are 141 members of Dignity Philadelphia.
- Dignity Philadelphia will have a "youth contingency" representing us at the Dignity U.S.A. sponsored Young Adult Summer Gathering in Trenton July 20-22.
- Every Thursday at 8 p.m., there is a String Band Concert in the back of the Mummer's Museum. This concert is free, and you can purchase refreshments and snacks. AND, this is the best part: one of our young choir members is a string musician who performs at these concerts. Let's show our support and catch their act at the Museum.
- Coming up in the Fall are 2 classes for Dignity members. One class will be a Lector Workshop and the other will be a Eucharist Minister Workshop. More information will be given in the September newsletter.

DIM SUM ANYONE?

In the spirit of American Independence, a group of Dignity members are going out to lunch in Chinatown on July 4th. We plan to go for a Dim Sum lunch at Joy Tsin Lau, located at 1026 Race Street, near the Convention Center. We will be meeting there at 1 p.m. So, if you have nothing to do until the fireworks start, join us for lunch. If you need more info, you can call Rob Baker on 215/545-6791.

LOGO CONTEST

Use your creativity and design a logo for Dignity/Philadelphia's 40th Anniversary! The deadline for this contest is August 15, 2012.

Winner receives two tickets to the dinner/dance tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2013.

What should be in your design?

You need to incorporate the 40th Anniversary theme: We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe. You need to use our current spirit logo with the Dignity Philadelphia font, and use the number 40 in the design. Your design must in a "Ruby Red" color and camera ready.

Questions? Contact Kevin Davies, kevin_davies69@hotmail.com; and he will get an answer for you.

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

July 2012 – National Tickling Month

Sunday, July 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day
Dim Sum at Joy Tsin Lau Lunch, 1 p.m.

Friday, July 6 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.,
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, July 22 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Mary Magdalene Feast Day

Sunday July 29 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Community Life Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

August 2012 – National Immunization Awareness Month

Friday, August 3 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 5 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 12 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 19 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 26 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Community Life Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

PRAYER INTENTIONS



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

The deadline date for submissions for the August newsletter is July 15, 2012.

Articles published in the Dignity/Philadelphia newsletter, The Independence, are not necessarily the opinions of the Steering Committee of Dignity/Philadelphia, or of the Communications Co-chairs. Publication of names, organizations, and/or photographs in The Independence is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons, employees, and/or members of organizations.

Steering Committee

Joanne Collins – President
Linda Barrett – Vice President
Kevin Davies – Secretary
Vacant – Treasurer
Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Committee Co-coordinators
Jimmy Calnan/Melissa Hrinko – Community Life Committee Co-coordinators
Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Co-coordinators
Vacant – Education Committee Coordinator
Chaplains: Barbara Gindhart and Father 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).

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