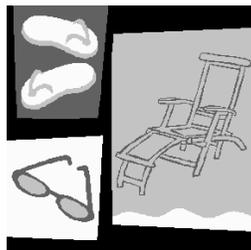


The Independence

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



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR WEEKEND RETREAT

by Dick O'Malley

REHOBOTH WEEKEND RETREAT

**FRI. SEPT. 28 TO
 SUN. SEPT. 30**

“SEXUALITY AS A WAY TO GOD”

Retreat Leader, Maryrose Petrizzo

Dignity's third weekend retreat in Rehoboth Beach is almost upon us. As in the past, it will combine a unique blend of fun and spirituality, whether a Friday afternoon at the beach without having to worry about parking meters or sessions on the spirituality of sexuality, with topics such as same sex unions or sex as play. We get all of this, and an experienced retreat leader in Maryrose Petrizzo of Wilmington.

The retreat will begin with a gathering on Friday night and conclude with a liturgy on Sunday morning. For the first time, Saturday sessions will take place in the spacious and beautiful new GLBT center of Camp Rehoboth on nearby Baltimore Avenue.

A registration fee of \$30 will help pay for the expenses of the retreat, including light breakfasts (sorry no omelets) on Saturday and Sunday mornings and a Saturday lunch.

There are still bargain room rental rates available at the Whitson Guest House on First and Maryland Avenue, which is one block from the ocean. Rates covering two nights could total **\$54.00 to \$97.20**, depending on the room and number of persons in the room.

Although there are no required readings, for the interest of those registering for the retreat, copies of chapters from John McNeill's book, **Sex as God Intended**, and Margaret Farley's book, **A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics**, will be made available.

Now is the time. Hope you will join us. Please call Dick O'Malley (215-878-5182) or email him at rfomalley35@aol.com about room reservations and transportation (carpooling).

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Trevor Powell has been selected as the Dignity Philadelphia Educational Scholarship recipient this year. Trevor graduated high school in 2008, and since then has been a dedicated volunteer in campaigns relating to LGBT equality. He is pursuing a degree in Political Science/History and plans to become an advocate for non-profit human-rights groups. During the fall of 2008, his first semester at Camden County College, he actively volunteered both online and over the phone with Equality California and the No on Prop 8 campaign in an effort to defeat a state-wide ballot initiative in California that would ban marriage equality for same-sex couples. From April 2009 to January 2010, he interned as a field staffer with the NJ LGBT organization Garden State Equality to help pass marriage equality through the NJ state legislature. Trevor was involved with training volunteers for phone banks, arranging meetings between constituents and the legislators, collecting petition signatures, and meeting with lawmakers. Between March and April 2010 he worked again with Garden State Equality and traveled to Washington DC on several occasions to lobby NJ congressmen to vote in favor of ENDA (Employment Non Discrimination Act), a federal law that would prohibit discrimination in the workforce based on sexual orientation and gender identity. During this period, he also volunteered to push for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Trevor is still an active member of Garden State Equality and currently sits on the organization's Executive Board of Directors and does volunteer coordination projects; in early 2012, he worked with them to successfully pass marriage equality through the state legislature but unfortunately it was vetoed by Governor Christie. As a board member, he continues to work to override that veto. Trevor has also volunteered for LGBT issues in Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, and wherever volunteers are needed for equality for the LGBT community.

For his dedication to LGBT rights and equality, we congratulate him on his dedication and service to the LGBT community and wish him continued success and good luck.

1989

1989 was a year of new beginnings. Women's Welcome Sundays were introduced on a monthly basis with women as homilists, or with women's issues as focus for the homily. GLORIA (Gay and Lesbian Organizations Religious Interfaith Alliance) was founded with many of the gay and lesbian religious groups and conducted an Ecumenical service for the community. The Rite of Union was adopted and new brochures about the Rite were published. The Spiritual Life Committee began annual Christian Seders on Holy Thursday at Dignity House. The President initiated the Deo Gratias Award for exceptional long term service to our community. Father Jim Mallon and Father Bernard Lynch received the first awards.

Chapter membership topped 250 members and we acquired a corporate seal, a telephone answering machine, a parade banner, a new button, and new lockable file cabinets for Dignity House. The Chapter initiated a stipend of \$25 for all celebrants and homilists.

As the HIV/AIDS epidemic increased in our community, ministry grew to include the Emmaus Outreach and the Samaritan Project (outreach programs for persons with AIDS), a Mass of Healing four times a year and memorial services upon request for people who died from AIDS.

Twenty-five members went to the Dignity/USA convention in San Francisco. Michael "Rose" Flynn was elected Dignity/USA Secretary and Beth Gorman was re-elected Vice-president.

JOHN MCNEILL FILM WINS PRAISE

By Dick O'Malley

Brendan Fay's film biography of John McNeill, "Taking a Chance on God" won accolades from over 100 audience members who turned up at a noon-time showing on July 21, 2012 at the annual Q-Fest Film Festival. Viewers also appreciated the panel discussion following the film. The panel consisted of the Hon. Ann Butchart, first elected openly GLBT city judge; Martie Gillin, founder of AIDS Alive, whose son was counseled by John McNeill; Brendan Fay, the director, Ilene Cutler, the producer, and David Kalinowski, former president of Dignity Philadelphia. DVDs of the film will be available after the film festivals are over, probably in early 2013.



(l-r) Brendan Fay, Director; Ilene Cutler, Producer; Fr. Ron Hoskins, (presider and actor) and Dick O'Malley, event coordinator)

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER

With the beginning of September we are trying a new outing for Dignity, First Friday in Old City. On that evening each month, the area galleries and shops open their doors for visitors sometimes enticing folks in with wine and cheese. Dignity folks will meet on Friday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Church, corner of 2nd & Market Streets. We will tour the various vendors and enjoy the evening with each other.

Plans are already finalized for the September 9 trip to the University of Penn Museum to see the Mayan exhibit. Be sure to ask those who attended if we should even plan for 2013. (See specifics in this newsletter.)

We will have our monthly Birthday celebration cake on Sunday, September 9, a little early, to allow for the pot-luck on the 16th. This is our annual welcome back pot-luck from summer activities starting at 4:30.

Hope to see you at these events. If you've got ideas for more, talk to Melissa or Jimmy.

THIS AND THAT AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA...

- Don't forget Potluck Dinner on September 16; bring something exciting and delicious – preferably an entrée.
- We are planning another "Blessing of the Animals" in October.
- Three Dignity choir members – all young people – attended USA's Young Adult Caucus in Newark; a report on their discussions is forthcoming.
- Dignity is having a guest homilist on September 23.
- Several Dignity members – all jocks! – attended the Riversharks game on 7/30/12. In attendance were Melissa, Jimmy and Rob, Michael L.- who brought great sandwiches for everyone, Robert E., Dolores, Linda and Joanne – who brought snacks, and several of their family members. A great time was had by all. This is a great stadium - it has a merry-go-round and a climbing wall; it is inexpensive, lots of games during innings, and we got "gifts" after the game!



Dignity's President and Vice-President attending the Riversharks game.

**HELP, I NEED SOMEBODY,
HELP, NOT JUST ANYBODY,
HELP, YOU KNOW I NEED SOMEONE,
HELP!**

The Communications Committee is in need of 1) a person with some computer skills. Most recently the person who was doing the electronic distribution of the newsletter, and of the occasional e-blast reminders, has been experiencing some health problems, and will no longer be able to do these tasks for us. She did this distribution for a number of years – and did a great job - and will be greatly missed. Dignity/Philadelphia wishes her well in her recovery and well-being. The list of members receiving their electronic newsletter is already established, and periodically needs an addition or subtraction. There is also a separate list for people getting e-blast; that group directory has also been established. AND you don't have to come to church to help out! You can do this distribution in the privacy of your own home in your PJs. The newsletter, or e-blast, is sent to your computer and you just push some buttons – and zap, Dignity members get the items. Will you please consider helping out with these electronic tasks? Let me know at msm.vera@comcast.net

The Communications Committee Chair also needs help (obviously, she is very needy) in 2) publishing the Dignity Directory. If you have publishing skills, and wish to do this one-time only task, please let Dolores know. If we can get it set up in a booklet form, a member has agreed to reproduce the booklet. Can you help? Again, Dolores can be reached at msm.vera@comcast.net

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE
PRESENTS: ANCIENT PROPHECY
OR MODERN MYTH?**

MAYA 2012 (LORDS OF TIME) TOUR

DATE: Sunday, September 9th, 2012

TIME: 1pm (timed tickets)

COST: \$17.50 (ages 19 – 64)
\$15.00 (ages 65+)
\$12.00 (ages 18-)

LOCATION:

Penn Museum
University of PA Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6324
215-898-4000

PARKING: Parking Garage Across From Museum (\$10)
Metered Parking on 34th, 35th, and Spruce Streets

SEPTA: Bus routes 21, 30, 40, and 42
Regional Rail line (University City Station)

EXTRA: audio headset (\$2/per person but you can always share)

TOUR: self-guided, approximately 90 minutes

DIGNITY POC: Bob Cunningham

PAYMENT: Cash, check, or credit card

DEADLINE: End Of August (Last Sunday)

ADDITIONAL INFO

- Sunday hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Pepper Mill Café serves Mayan-themed specialties (10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- We are entitled to tour the entire museum and stay as long as we want
- Wheelchair accessible (also available at museum)
- Exhibit runs through January 13, 2013 (assuming there is a 2013...)

**THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED
BUDGET FOR DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA
FOR THE COMING YEAR:**

**DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA
BUDGET 2012-2013**

INCOME	DOLLARS
Sunday Contributions	\$ 9,700.00
Christmas/Easter Appeal	\$ 2,500.00
Donations	\$ 3,800.00
Stewardship	\$ 6,700.00
Fund Raising	\$ 2,900.00
Membership Dues	\$ 2,300.00
40 th Anniversary	\$ 3,000.00
Donations for Masses	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total Income	\$31,400.00
EXPENSES	
40 Anniversary	\$ 3,000.00
Advertising	\$ 3,750.00
Awards Dues	\$ 450.00
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 300.00
Events	\$ 400.00
Hospitality	\$ 600.00
Insurance	\$ 600.00
Keyboardist	\$ 1,200.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 500.00
Newsletter	\$ 1,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 800.00
Postage	\$ 750.00
Presidential Discretionary Fund	\$ 600.00
Printing	\$ 400.00
Rent/Church	\$ 6,240.00
Rent/Office	\$ 4,310.00
Stipend/travel for Homilist/Presider	\$ 600.00
Student Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Telephone	\$ 400.00
IRS 501-3 application/legal fees	\$ 800.00
Retreats	\$ 400.00
Fund raising expenses	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$31,400.00

JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will be holding a meeting to get members to join this committee as well as discuss ideas on ways to educate the LGBT community about Dignity Philadelphia.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, September 23rd at 5:30 pm in the Blue Room. All are invited to join us.

Joseph Toal and David Kalinowski are the co-coordinators of this committee.

BUSINESS MEETING DATE IS SEPTEMBER 23RD – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dignity/Philadelphia

Agenda for Semiannual Business Meeting
Sunday, September 23, 2012

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from meeting on April 22, 2012

Old Business

1. IRS 990EZ for Dignity/Philadelphia
- 2.
- 3.

New Business

- 1.
- 2.

Officer Reports

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Reports

Community Life

Education

Communications

Liturgy

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

MOTIONS AND 50/50

At the August 5th Steering Committee Meeting, only one motion was made:

Motion 12-08-01: Made by Joanne Collins; seconded by Dolores Vera.

Be it moved that a recipient of the Education Scholarship should not receive an amount greater than \$500.00. Yes 6, No 1, Abstain 0. Motion carries.



While the **September 50/50** was designated and reported in the August Dignity newsletter, we wanted to remind members of the need to support this very worthwhile organization:

September 50/50: Dawn's Place- Dawn's Place proactively supports women affected by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and its abuse by providing services to women, raising awareness through education, and generating prevention, public policy reform and community collaborations. Since CSE is a violation of human rights and the most extreme form of domestic violence, Dawn's Place works to improve the lives of women trapped by, or at risk for CSE, by providing housing, trauma recovery services, vocational training and other services.

WALKING FOR A GOOD CAUSE – LAST CALL

For more than ten years, Dignity member Mike Viola has been raising money for the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mike estimates that he has raised over \$15,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society during this time. This **October**, next month, he will be participating in the 10th Annual Challenge Walk, which is a 2-day, 30 mile walk. To help him achieve his goal of raising \$1,500 for the walk, Mike promises that for every \$5 that someone donates, that person can select a song to add to Mike's playlist which he will listen to while he is walking. No song or genre of music is off-limits so long as he can obtain an mp3 of the song for his iPod. This is a very important cause to Mike because he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2001. He will walk for anyone with MS, which includes some Dignity Philadelphia members. If anyone is interested in sponsoring Mike for this event, please contact him directly at MLViola@yahoo.com. Let us all give him our moral support, \$5 or more, your favorite song(s), and keep him in our prayers as he takes on this challenge.



DIGNITY'S ANNUAL BRUNCH

Please note that Dignity's annual brunch will be held at the end of October (tentatively on Sunday, Oct. 28th). See October newsletter for more details on this annual fun event.

9-11 Munchie

“When bad people tear down,
good people must build up”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“THE DEATH OF VATICAN II”

By Marion Ronan

(The following article appeared in June-October 2012 issue of *EqualwRites*, the newsletter of the [Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference](#). It is reprinted with permission of the author.)

There's nothing original about arguing that many of the hopes generated by the Second Vatican Council have been dashed. Leonard Swidler speaks of the “devastating disappointment” of the Council. [Rembert Weakland](#) observes in his 2009 memoir that the decision not to ordain women meant “the loss of the future.” Indeed, papers recently released by the Catholic moral philosopher Germaine Grisez reveal that even before the end of the Council, Paul VI indicated that he would do what he would do regardless of what the bishops had decided.

All this notwithstanding, recent developments suggest that the Vatican and the US bishops are now intent upon bringing the Vatican II era definitively to a close. These efforts began, I would argue, with the 2002 command that the faithful return to the (literally) medieval practice of kneeling during the canon of the Mass. Even as I regret the sexism of [Mark Massa's *The American Catholic Revolution*](#), I agree with his observation that for most US Catholics, Vatican II began with the renewal of the liturgy. I can still see the nun who taught religion at my Catholic girls' high school during Vatican II, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Marcella Marie Missar, explaining joyously that “we stand during the canon out of respect for the dignity of the human person.” I wish I could believe that we have been ordered to fall to our knees once again to increase our respect for God rather than for the male leaders of the church.

If kneeling during the canon was one step in the Vatican's campaign to bring the Vatican II era to a close, the “new” translation of the Roman Missal is clearly another. That the translation is ugly, wordy, cumbersome and inaccurate is only part of the story. As the once-conservative Benedictine liturgist, [Anthony Ruff](#), argues, another purpose of the Vatican veto of the translation the bishops had already approved was to show the entire community of English-speaking liturgists that their work didn't matter. Nor, apparently, do the beliefs of the English-speaking Catholic laity, who took from Vatican II the bizarre notion that they share some kind of equality with the clergy. “And with your spirit” reminds us, however, that the ordained possess a sacred quality the rest of us do not.

Another discouraging effect of the “new” translation is that before it was promulgated, a number of main-line Protestant denominations shared with the English-speaking Catholic Church certain responses and other fixed parts of the liturgy,

for example, “And also with you.” Many of us considered these shared liturgical passages a foretaste of the eventual reunion of Christians—a foretaste now eradicated.

Recent doctrinal statements issued by the Vatican and the USCCB manifest another break with Vatican II. Unlike the previous twenty councils of the church, Vatican II defined no doctrines and issued no anathemas. It was a truly pastoral event. Documents like the recent Vatican assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the USCCB condemnation of Elizabeth Johnson's *Quest for the Living God* show that the men in power are accelerating the new era of anathema begun in 1968. “The joys and hopes, the griefs and sorrows” of the men and women of this age recede precipitously as doctrinal truth becomes, once again, the center of the Catholic faith.

In the face of these attempts to move the church back to the First Vatican Council, and especially the vile CDF attack on the Catholic sisters who embody the faith for many of us, it's tempting to give up on the whole sorry business. To decamp to the Unitarian Universalists, or the United Church of Christ, or the Episcopalians, whose stances on women and gays and peace and justice are vastly more inspiring than those of our own church seem to be.

As I argue in [a post on *Religion Dispatches*](#), however it's likely that this is exactly what the Vatican and the USCCB have in mind—to drive out the “Vatican II Catholics” and cut back to what Pope Benedict XVI has called “the church of the little flock,” the smaller, purer Catholic Church that tolerates no dissent, no theological development, no renewal.

In the face of this attempt to eradicate the most powerful manifestation of Vatican II—the people of God—I urge us all, myself included, not to take the bait and give up. Instead, let us continue to identify ourselves as Catholics in whatever ways our consciences allow—as members of parishes where the leadership clearly does not support Vatican repression; as members of small faith communities who ordain their own celebrants or celebrate the eucharist communally; as ordained or lay participants in an RCWP congregation; as members of Independent Catholic churches; as leaders and activists in a wide range of Catholic reform groups like SEPA-WOC and Call to Action and Dignity and Voice of the Faithful. And let us invite younger Catholics, gay and straight and Black and white and Latino and in between to join with us in these efforts.

Let's collaborate and speak out and publish and resist the death of Vatican II to which Rome and the bishops seem committed. Let a billion Vatican II blossoms bloom.

Marion Ronan lives and writes in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Submitted by Jim Clay

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

September 2012 - National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15)

- Sunday, Sept. 2 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 7 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
First Friday Outing – see *Community Life* article
- Sunday, Sept. 9 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
Penn Museum Outing – see *Community Life* article
Birthday Cake Celebration at social after Liturgy
- Tuesday, Sept. 11 11th Anniversary of 9/11
- Sunday, Sept. 16 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Investiture of Committee Coordinators
Potluck Dinner at 5ish
Newsletter Deadline
- Sunday, Sept. 23 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Business Meeting – see *agenda in this newsletter*
M. Dolores Vera's Milestone Birthday
- Friday, Sept. 28 to Sunday, Sept. 30 –
Retreat in Rehoboth** (see article in newsletter)
- Sunday, Sept. 30 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Community Life Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

October 2012 - LGBT History Month

- Friday, October 5 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 7 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Outfest – Coming Out Day - noon
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 11 National Coming Out Day
- Friday, October 12 Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death (14th)
- Sunday, October 14 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Liturgy Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 21 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
AIDS Walk
- Friday, October 26 Games and Pizza Night at Dignity, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 28 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Dignity's Annual Brunch – (tentative)
Community Life Meeting at 5:30 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 October newsletter is Sept. 16, 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
Dave K. and Joe T. – Education Committee Co-coordinators
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**