



# The Independence

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

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY LOUISE CERVONE January 20, 1959 – February 5, 2013



2012: Mary Louise Cervone, Chief Financial Officer at Children's Crisis Treatment Center

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY LOUISE CERVONE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

by Kevin Davies

It was standing room only at the William Way Community Center for remembering and honoring Mary Louise. I guesstimate 300+ people and at one point I was wondering if we exceeded the lawful occupancy capacity.

The service was to begin at 2pm but people remained in the receiving line to give their regards to Mary Bradley, Danny and Kathleen Burke. Around 2:20pm, Father Rodger Broadley was able to begin the service with his opening remarks and a prayer.

Other speakers were Jane Shull from Philadelphia FIGHT, Frank Cervone (Mary Louise's brother), Mary Bradley (Mary Louise's wife for 12 years) and then closing comments and a prayer by Rev. Broadley. A lovely piano piece was played during the service. The program did not allow for those in attendance to give any remarks. A catered buffet was served in the main lobby.

There's the outline for the day but what about Mary Louise the person?

A loving spouse and mother; a friend to many, many people; a dedicated and tireless worker for the things she believed in and fought for; an accomplished gardener and cook; an activist, advocate and vocal spokesperson for Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA.

For those new do Dignity/Philadelphia, this is what Mary Louise accomplished for the chapter and her awards for her outstanding leadership: 1992-1994: Dignity/Philadelphia President, 1993: Dignity/Philadelphia Michael Durkin Leadership Award, 1995: Dignity/Philadelphia Chapter Service Award and 1996: Dignity/Philadelphia Deo Gratias Award. Mary Louise was also on many committees and available for guidance to those in need.

For DignityUSA: October 1, 1999 – July 4, 2002: Dignity/USA National President; October 1, 1997 – September 30, 1999: Dignity/USA National Vice President; and October 1, 1995 – September 30, 1997: Dignity/USA National Treasurer.

## TESTIMONIALS

**Ann Butchart** - I remember when she and Kathleen welcomed Danny into their family and into the Dignity community. I remember seeing them together at church and thinking, yes, that's what Dignity needs -- more children, more young families, more baptisms!

**Kevin Davies** – When I was president of D/P, Mary Louise was more than happy and up to the task of being the spokesperson for media events. Mary Louise had a presence and was an influential speaker.

**Michael Flynn** - When Mary Louise was speaking to people about Dignity, she was very fond of saying that when she finally decided to call the Dignity organization to find out more about them, she had a very good conversation that made her want to come down to our church services to find out more. She would also note that I was the voice on the other end of the phone and would always thank me for being there. When she became president of Dignity/USA she surprised me at a convention address by calling me up to stage and presenting me with a cross made up of the words "I Am Always With You." It hung on my wall for years and last week, at ML's memorial service, I gave it to Mary Bradley and their son, Danny. I hope they know that through praying to Mary Louise, I will always be with them.

(continued on page 2)

**Alice Foley** - Accountant. Musician, Non-profit administrator - all things she did. Her title was also “Mom” to Danny, a tall, 17 year old son. I spoke to Danny for a few minutes asking him what he may study in the future in college. Danny told me in a simple, confident way, “Now I have three Moms instead of four.” ML would have been proud to hear that from her Danny.

**Dick O’Malley** - I remember Mary Louise as a smart and highly dedicated member of Dignity Philadelphia. She made important contributions to the chapter both as a member of the Music Ministry and as president. In recognition of her dedication, I was happy to award her the Deo Gratias Award in 1996. Later, when she got involved with Dignity USA, culminating in her election as national president, she continued to make an important difference.

**Dignity members, and friends, celebrating Mary Louise Cervone, Feb. 17, 2013 at the William Way Center.**



*Michael Rocks, Kathleen Burke and Dick O’Malley.*



*Tony, Michael, and Fr. Rodger*



*Mary Anne and Marie, David, Jim, John, and Bill Boyle*

## PRESIDENTS GONE WILD

On Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee presented its fourth in a series of presentations leading up to the big anniversary celebration in April. Linda Barrett served as moderator, and had the distinction of introducing the present and past Dignity/ Philadelphia presidents to an audience of circa 50 members. These invited guests each spoke for approximately 5-7 minutes on their reign as presidents; at the end, the floor was opened to a lively and passionate question and answer session. Some of the highlights mentioned, in order of their presidential terms from Joe Tozzi (1<sup>st</sup> President of Dignity Philadelphia) to Joanne Collins were as follows:

Joe Tozzi reminded us of the first Liturgy Mass he attended, presided by Paul Morrissey; it was in someone’s living room. He noted his discomfort at having the TV in the room serve as an altar! He specifically said, “Oh, my God” when he saw the altar and did not return to worship for a while. (Term(s) 1975-76, 76-77)

Anne Butchart recounted what major events were happening around the time of her presidency: ERA was being discussed, Roe v Wade had passed and other nation-wide political events were taking place. She mentioned how political everything was and how her SC and members needed to discuss everything! However, she said Dignity and its support was what she needed at this point in her life. (1978-1979, 1979-1980)

Joseph D’Amato also mentioned what an exciting time it was in 1980. He said how he felt the “dam had been broken” and everything was changing, and how Dignity Philadelphia brought everyone together. There was discussion on inclusive language, and how there was a need for more structure within the SC and Dignity. (1980-81)

Michael Rocks proudly informed us how he was the 1<sup>st</sup> President to use his full name in the newsletter, press and everything having to do with Dignity Philadelphia; up to then, people went by their first name and initial for their last name. During his presidency, the Constitution and Bylaws were adopted and formalized. Dignity Philadelphia lost many members as a result of Cardinal Koll’s directive on not having RC priest say Mass for the Chapter. During his term Dignity members would meet at the church on 22<sup>nd</sup> and Spruce, and spoke on how large the community was – close to 200 members would show up for service - “Dignity offered different things to different people.” He closed his remarks by reminding us that while we are not as numerous, we are now smaller and more focused on the Eucharist than we were 20 years ago. (1981-1982, 1982-1983, 2003-2004, 2004-2005)

Michael Flynn noted that Dignity used to worship at the play area, and sit in little chairs; he realized the chapter was growing and needed to move. One member confided in him that he had GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency), and from then on, that is all members talked about: HIV and AIDS. Michael learned to do sign language as a result of a member who had trouble communicating, and he went on to be a sign language instructor! He thanked Dignity Philadelphia for this gift of signing, and noted that his presidency was a “wonderful ride.” (1983-1984, 1984-1985)

Bill M. was not in attendance, however he was mentioned as having brought Dignity Philadelphia to St. Luke’s – where we have been ever since! (1985-1986, 1986-1987) *(continued on page 3)*

Unfortunately the four presidents after Bill M. are deceased, and their names are commemorated on the Dignity panels:

- Michael Durkin (1987-1988, 1988-1989)
- John Schott, affectionately known as Scotty (1989-1990, 1990-1991, 2005-2006)
- Clyde Sams (1991-1992), and
- Mary Louise Cervone (1992-1993, 1993-1994)

Dick O'Malley took credit for moving the Dignity office to St. Luke's; prior to this, Dignity was the main renter of the storefront space on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, and Dignity rented the back room to the Gay Switchboard; it also served as an informal community center.

### Presidents Gone Wild, Sunday, February 17, 2013



*Pictured at one end of the panel are Joanne, Ann, Norman and David.*



*Pictured at the other end of the panel discussion are Michael Flynn, Joe T., Kevin, Michael Rocks, Joe D., John, Dick, Marie, Joann, Ann and Norman.*



*The formal picture of (some) Dignity Philadelphia Presidents are left to right, standing are Michael Flynn, Joe T., Kevin, John, Ann, Norman, and Joanne. Seated are, l-r, Michael Rocks, Joe D., David, Dick and Marie.*

He recalled how the SC meeting would go on forever, as late as midnight! He nostalgically recalled the bus trips Dignity members took to Provincetown yearly. (1994-1995, 1995-1996)

Marie Summers undertook the updating of the Dignity Memorial Panels. She said it was "a very sad" time for her. Dick O'Malley actually encouraged her to become President. She and other members were "going to change the world!" She noted how she consciously moved the Chapter towards being more parish and being less political. Marie spoke of her activism, especially before City Council, on the issue of health benefits for same sex couples for City employees. She noted her presidency "stretched me and grew me; it developed me as a person." She finished by saying that she dearly loved the people she met at Dignity. (1994-1995, 1995-1996)

Kevin Davies noted that his "claim to fame" was that he had been on more Steering Committees than anyone at Dignity! He noted that events at Dignity had "calmed down" when he took office, and he first brought the idea of having a Dignity website [quite innovative in 1999!]. Under his presidency, Dignity progressed with the "inclusive language" in Liturgy. (1998-1999, 1999-2000)

John Giuliani reminded us that he served for the shortest period of time. He resigned mid-way thru his term, and David Kalinowski finished the term. John said he had been gone from

Dignity for 20 years! What he remembers is that members who came to Dignity wanted to be here; they fully participated in activities. He ran for President "cause nobody wanted to run." He had been Treasurer for Kevin (1999-2000), and by process of elimination, he became President. There was a lot division in the church at this time, and he went back to his catholic parish, where other members were also questioning the church on issues of sexual orientation. He found the priest, as well as other members, extremely supportive of him. He went on to hold several positions within his church, where he is still a member. (2000-2001)

David Kalinowski, already holding the position, ran for 2 consecutive terms. He said there was a lot of turmoil at Dignity, and he wanted the Chapter to move forward. He openly acknowledged Marie Summers as his driving force; she had been an excellent president and wanted to bring her energy to his presidency! He restructured some of the committees, did away with the Committee for Women's Concerns because he wanted women to be part of every facet of the Dignity Community, and under his reign he established the scholarship for GLBT students. You could tell the pride in his voice for having added a woman priest to the Dignity Presidents' cadre. (2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2008-2009, 2009-2010)

Norman Simmons had been a priest for 25 years prior to coming to Dignity. Under his Presidency, Dignity USA had its national convention in Philadelphia; he was appreciative of Dignity members "who did so much during this time." This convention caused a financial drain on the Chapter, it borrowed money from other accounts, and this loan was paid back in record time. He noted that "Dignity is a witness to our faith; it needs to move

*(continued on page 4)*

forward and stay visible.” He sees the young people in the chapter as “the seed for change” and he challenged the members to seek and bring new members into the chapter. (2006-2007, 2007-2008)

Jim DeSimone was unable to attend. He was acknowledged for his work on getting Dignity on Facebook, his work in the Liturgy Committee and in the Music Ministry. (2010-2011)

Joanne Collins, presently the chapter’s President spoke and saluted the prior Presidents that came before her. She mentioned how being President has been a learning process for her; she has learned to express herself here at Dignity. She loves the fact she can bring her partner [Linda – the moderator] and they can worship together. She pointed to her granddaughter and said she was the future of Dignity – she feels she can bring her family to Dignity, and everyone is accepted. She acknowledged that “we have an aging community, as well as a young group of people who represented the Chapter at the Dignity USA Young People Caucus in Trenton this past year.” Similar to what other presidents said, she knows that we need to bring young people into Dignity – and certainly under her presidency there is now “Game Night” which is helpful in that regard. She is proud of her work at Gay Pride, and at Outfest. She finished by saying the Dignity “is threading on.”

During the question and answer period, the presidents were asked about the lack of women in the Dignity community, almost always evident at Sunday’s liturgies. Some past presidents noted their efforts in getting women to join committees, take leadership roles, revising the language to be more inclusive, etc. Marie noted that it was not Dignity that kept women away from coming to our services; it was the teachings of the Catholic Church, and their perception of women’s roles that kept women away from religion. What this writer remembers vividly is the comment by Ann Butchart that Dignity goes out of its way to bring women into the community. When women come, they are overwhelmed with the attention – to the point of being over-utilized, and consequently they burn out! She used the metaphor of a young child who finally gets a puppy, and is so happy the child squeezes it so hard it almost suffocates it. The young child is Dignity and the long anticipated, highly valued puppy represents women at Dignity! It was very visual, and quite memorable and funny.

Dolores Vera, co-coordinator  
Communications

## **VOLUNTEERS AT BROAD STREET MINISTRY**

The Broad Street Ministry “Breaking Bread” dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 30, was staffed by 16 volunteers from Dignity. We prepped food, set tables, carried food from kitchen to serving

area, plated the food then served dinner to approximately 200 people. Some of us also staffed the Personal Hygiene Supplies program and distributed about 140 supply bags. We anticipate duplicating this service on Wednesday, February 27, 2013.

The folks at BSM were very impressed by our service as it was efficient, quick and compassionate to all attendees and we were on time. Thank you all who participated in this event – we did a great job!

To continue this very important service, we need about 15 Dignity volunteers each month on the last Wednesday from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. With plenty of notice perhaps you can alter your work schedule by a couple of hours.

The upcoming days of service are March 27 and April 24. After we completed clean up, many of us went over to Pine St. Pizza for our own dinner and socializing. Hope you can join us!

## **MOTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE**

At the February meeting of the Steering Committee, the following motions were presented and voted on:

### **50/50 for March**

**Motion 13-02-01:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Linda Calnan; Be it moved that the March 50/50 be donated to Women Against Abuse\* with their offices at 100 S. Broad Street, Suite 1341, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Passed unanimously



### **Awards – Community and Chapter**

**Motion 13-02-02:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Linda Barrett. Be it moved that an Ad Hoc Committee for Chapter Service Awards be created for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and chaired by Jimmy Calnan. Passed unanimously

*(continued on page 5)*

## **MONTHLY MUNCHIE**

“As a convert, I never expected much of the bishops. In all history, popes and bishops and father abbots seem to have been blind and power-loving and greedy. I never expected leadership from them. It is the saints who keep appearing throughout history who keep things going. No matter how corrupt the church may become, it carries with it the seeds of its own regeneration.”

– Dorothy Day 1968

**HAPPY NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**

**Motion 13-02-03:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Linda Barrett. Be it moved that the 2013 Community Service Award be granted to Brian Sims. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 13-02-04:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Linda Barrett. Be it moved that the 2013 Ad Hoc Committee for the Durkin Award be chaired by Joanne Collins. Passed unanimously

\* Women Against Abuse - a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency, provides comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence in Philadelphia. Their services include emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal services, behavioral healthcare, hotline counseling, community education and advocacy.

## DIGNITY IN 1995

The final payment of Dignity's pledge of \$15,000 toward renovation of St. Luke's Church was made in February culminating a three-year drive by the chapter.

At Pride Fest on May 6, Dignity sponsored a Commitment service at St. Luke's facilitated by John McNeill. Two couples exchanged vows and John and his partner, Charlie, renewed their vows.

A change was agreed upon for our annual anniversary celebration. On May 21, we had a very successful Anniversary Pot-Luck at St. Luke's and attracted a large, enthusiastic crowd.

Our two-volume documentary history of the chapter was condensed and presented to the Dignity/USA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Los Angeles. This Convention was noteworthy for its outstanding speakers, including John McNeill, Tori Osborne, John Bradshaw, Edwina Gaightley, and its inspiring and varied liturgies. At the House of Delegates, the first Solidarity Sunday was created. The Statement of Position and Purpose was revised, and the consensus model was widely used in committees and on the floor of the House.

Feminist Liturgies were sponsored during the year. One in July was co-sponsored by Dignity, Women's Ordination Conference and the Conference of Catholic Lesbians.

In October, a delegation from Dignity/Philadelphia participated in a prayer vigil/march in Baltimore on the eve of the pope's visit there.

The first annual Art Auction organized by the Heisman Fine Arts Gallery and co-sponsored by our chapter and St. Luke's was a financial and social success. Dignity's share was used to pay the expenses of the delegates to the recent Convention in Los Angeles. This was thought to be a good idea for future convention expenses also.

## THIS AND THAT:

- + There are presently 117 current members in the Chapter; 26 of you are lapsed and need to renew your membership, and nobody was dropped from our rows this month.
- + Dignity Philadelphia now has 10 Presiders! (Some parishes can't even get 1!)
- + Oh no! The cost of postage stamps has gone up AGAIN! Isn't this a great reason to switch from getting your little, neatly-folded newsletter to getting it via email? The Communication Co-coordinators usually hassle on Thursdays or Fridays at the end of the month to ensure that the newsletter gets out at the end of the week, so you can get your (snail-mail) newsletter by Saturday. But soon Saturday delivery will come to a halt, which means you will be without Dignity news over the weekend at the beginning of the month! Plus you have no idea what we go thru to get the labels printed in a timely fashion. Ay Dios mio – please consider \$ for postage, label retrieval, envelopes, folding, stuffing, sealing, etc., and leap into the era of email? The day the newsletter is printed, it goes out that same day to the progressive Dignity members who have opted to get their newsletter electronically. Let me (Dolores) know when you are ready to come over to the email era at [mism.vera@comcast.net](mailto:mism.vera@comcast.net)
- + Plans are underway to have a memorial Mass for Mary Louise Cervone here at Dignity. Once a date, convenient to her partner, Mary Bradley, is set, we will publish the information in the newsletter.

## DIGNITY AT GAYBINGO

As a continuation of the celebration of our chapter's 40th Anniversary we are again sponsoring a game at GayBingo. This gives us a chance to publicize our Anniversary and dinner/dance, and for us to have a fun night out together.



We will be attending the March 23 GayBingo called "Red Carpet GayBingo: Who Are YOU Wearing?" Doors open at 6:00 p.m. when festivities start and games are called beginning at 7:00. Tickets are \$25.00 and benefit The AIDS Fund which then provides grants to AIDS service organizations in the Delaware Valley.



**A Challenge From The Cross:  
Do good to those who hate you.**

**Luke:6**

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

## HAPPY EASTER!

### March is National Women's History Month

- Friday, March 1 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's at 7 p.m. upstairs
- Sunday, March 3 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Guest Homilist, Sharon Browning  
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 10 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Dialogue Gospel
- Sunday, March 17 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Birthday Month Celebration – lots of cake!  
Liturgy Committee at 4:30 p.m.

### Holy Week schedule:

- Sunday, March 24 Passion/Palm Sunday Liturgy at 7 p.m.
- Wed., March 27 Broad Street Ministry – see article in newsletter
- Thurs., March 28 Holy Thursday Mass, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 29 Good Friday, 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Prayers  
Around the Cross with St. Luke's community.
- Sat., March 30 Easter Vigil, Saturday at 10:00 p.m. Mass in the church downstairs
- Sunday, March 31 No Liturgy service at Dignity

### April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- Friday, April 5 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's at 7 p.m. upstairs
- Sunday, April 7 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 14 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
Birthday Month Celebration – lots of cake!
- Monday, April 15 Tax Day
- Sunday, April 21 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

- Wed., April 24 Broad Street Ministry – see article in newsletter
- Friday, April 26 Games Night at Dignity
- Saturday, April 27 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance  
*(April newsletter will have specifics);*  
for now, you should note that is will be held at the Mummies Museum; price is \$40.
- Sunday, April 28 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m. in celebration of  
Dignity Philadelphia's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## 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 April Newsletter is March 17, 2013.**

*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
- David Kalinowski/Joe Toal** – 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](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**