



The Independence

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

WE REMEMBER... WE CELEBRATE ... WE BELIEVE...

by David Kalinowski

Dignity/Philadelphia is 40 years old and we remember our past, we celebrate the present, and we believe in the future. And the weekend of April 27th and 28th is our big celebration!

On Saturday, April 27th, we will have our dinner-dance from 7pm to 11pm at the Mummies Museum at 1100 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia. For only \$40 per person, you will enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner, an open bar, dancing and the company of friends - both old and new. And there is plenty of free parking available in the museum's parking lot.

On Sunday, April 28th, at 7pm, join us for a special Anniversary Liturgy to thank God for the many blessings we have received as the Dignity/Philadelphia family. Bring your family and friends so they can experience firsthand what it is to be part of this exciting faith-based community we call - DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA.

So ... REMEMBER - CELEBRATE - and BELIEVE in Dignity!

Addendum to **PRESIDENTS GONE WILD**

Submitted by Andy McCaffrey

(This was received via email after the last newsletter.)

I enjoyed seeing the pictures and reading the comments of other past presidents of the Philadelphia chapter. I was President after Joe Tozzi, having served as Secretary during his term. While I was in office (no 'reign'), the chapter outgrew our storefront basement on South 12th Street. We were drawing large crowds that completely filled the space, the stairs up to the street, and sometimes out onto the sidewalk. I went around center city looking for space to rent from some of the Protestant churches. This was during Cardinal Krol's reign, and to show you his power and influence, I was told by the head of the big Presbyterian Church on Chestnut Street that he was afraid of what "his friend Cardinal Krol would say if he rented us space." We did find space at the Episcopal Church on 24th Street, and were warmly welcomed to use their parish house hall, which also was used in part by a kindergarten. Ha! The problem was the next Sunday was our annual Anniversary Mass, and as was the custom then, we had champagne after. Our member who volunteered to clean up after our masses turned out to be a reformed alcoholic, and when he saw all the empty champagne bottles and glasses, he walked out, leaving a mess for the kindergarten teacher who used the space Monday morning. That day, I got a call from the pastor asking us what kind of services we were having! It was very embarrassing, but after he calmed down, he was gracious about it, and Dignity developed a very warm relationship with him. We met there for a few years, but it was a little out of the way, and when St. Luke's became available, the decision was made to move. We left 24th Street with a friendly letter from Father Temme, the Episcopal pastor, and as I remember, he attended our final Mass there.

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 1996

This year seemed to bring the issue of lesbian/gay unions and domestic partner benefits to everyone's attention. Dignity joined the Philadelphia Freedom to Marry Coalition and began sending representatives to their meetings.

Chris Purdom, Coordinator of the Interfaith Working Group, met with both the Steering Committee and a chapter meeting to provide information on the work of the IWG which includes support for gay/lesbian rights as well as reproductive rights. The chapter was deciding on whether to join the IWG. The Steering Committee decided not to join the IWG but to work with it in

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support of gay/lesbian issues. IWG also kept us current on same-sex marriage endorsements through their newsletter.

In early June, Mayor Edward Rendell signed an Executive Order to extend domestic partnership benefits to non-union city employees. This action caused a reaction from Cardinal Bevilacqua and set the tone for at least two more years. Our chapter president sent Dignity's view in a letter to Mayor Rendell which led to a series of interviews and more letters in the electronic and print media.

The chapter continued its tradition that the first Sunday in Lent is Dignity's Day of Prayer and Fasting for AIDS Intentions. The social hour table consists only of water and a collection is taken for MANNNA. Social events were celebrated at potlucks and the annual Christmas party.

Gather Comprehensive Hymnals went into use and were well received. A fundraising effort paid for all 150 hymnals and dedication plates were placed in the front of each one.

Dignity joined the high-tech era and approved taking \$2,000.00 from the Reserve Fund for the purchase of a computer and printer for the chapter's office.

Reverend Rodger Broadley, Rector of St. Luke's, was given an honorary membership in Dignity for the first time. The Spiritual Life Committee sponsored two retreats this year, one in Lent, conducted by Bob Waddington, and the other at Daylesford Abbey in the fall facilitated by Chris Hearn. Both retreat leaders are chapter members.

A Dignity/Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting was held in August in Philadelphia. After business, the guest speaker was Regina Bannan, the Rising President of the National Board of The Women's Ordination Conference. The closing liturgy was co-sponsored by WOC.

Jim Mallon distributed 2,000 copies of the booklet "Homosexuality: A Positive Catholic Perspective" at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The text was published in Baltimore by the Archdiocesan Gay & Lesbian Outreach (AGLO).

An ongoing relationship was started with the AIDS hospice, Calcutta House, at Christmas when our members brought gifts from wish-lists requested by each resident. The Lombard Street Community, a residence program of We the People, received a fully furnished room donated by the chapter and the Thanksgiving turkey drive was another success.

The second annual Art Auction was held in the fall to raise money to send representatives to the House of Delegates meeting of Dignity/USA in Boston in the summer of 1997.

MOTIONS FROM MARCH 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the March meeting of the Steering Committee, the following motions were presented and voted on by the members present:

Motion 13-03-01: Made by Dolores Vera; seconded by Jimmy Calnan. Be it moved that the April 50/50 be donated to Children's Crisis Treatment Center*. Passed unanimously [*To honor Mary Louise Cervone, this motion was made to benefit her employer's agency, and will be made in her name*]

Motion 13-03-02: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by David Kalinowski. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Elections 2013 be chaired by Dick O'Malley. Passed unanimously

Motion 13-03-03: Made by David Kalinowski; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that D/P sponsor a ½ page ad in the DUSA program booklet at \$250.00 and sponsor a liturgy at \$100.00. Passed unanimously

Motion 13-03-04: Made by Linda Barrett; seconded by Joe Toal. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Durkin Fund be chaired by Joanne Collins and includes Linda Barrett and Joe Toal. Passed unanimously

* **Children's Crisis Treatment Center (CcTC)** is a private non-profit agency dedicated to assisting children and their families coping with the impact of behavioral health issues, traumatic events and other challenges that have an effect on childhood development. CcTC passionately serves the emotional needs of children and families beginning with early childhood. They meet children where they are and help them to reach their full potential regardless of their challenges. They strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which every child feels safe and is given an opportunity to thrive.

Boston, MA, March 13, 2013.

DignityUSA Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke made the following statement on the election of Pope Francis:

LGBT CATHOLICS OFFER PRAYERS, CAUTION FOR NEW POPE

"We join our fellow Catholics in praying for the ministry and leadership of Pope Francis. We applaud the cardinals for their recognition of the rising energy of the Catholic Church in the global South and the new possibilities and perspectives that may come from that region.

"We are encouraged by Pope Francis' clear commitment to the poor, and to the social justice tradition at the heart of our faith. At the same time, we acknowledge that as archbishop and cardinal the man who is now Pope Francis has made some very harsh and inflammatory statements about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We recognize that sometimes this new job on which he embarks can change the man called to it. We call on our new Pope to recognize that he is now head of a Church that includes a huge number of LGBT people, their families and friends around the world. We invite him to take the time to learn about our lives, our faith, and our families before he makes any papal pronouncements about us, and we stand ready to enter into dialogue with him at any time."

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS

As many of you know, it is time to elect new officers for the coming year. Several people have expressed interest in President and Vice President positions already – so it looks like we may have new faces on the Steering Committee. But don't be discouraged since competition is good; if you are interested in running for any of the four executive positions, let Dick O'Malley know of your interest. You must be a member in good standing, and have been for at least a year. Interested in helping Dignity Philadelphia move forward? Here is the schedule for the upcoming Steering Committee elections:

- April 7 - 1st night of Announcement
- April 14 - 2nd night of Announcement
- April 21 - 1st night of Nominations
- April 28 - 2nd night of Nominations
- May 5 (if necessary) - Meet the Candidates
- May 6 (if necessary) - Ballots mailed
- May 19 (if necessary) - Election Announcement



CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH DIGNITY

(Reprinted, with permission from the Calcutta House Newsletter, Winter 2013)

On a wintery Monday night in December, Calcutta House was warmed with a holiday party hosted by Dignity Philadelphia. This is the group's 19th year of hosting this much-anticipated celebration for Calcutta House residents. The guests and residents congregated in the common room of Independence Place with a festive Christmas tree and seasonal decorations that enhanced the holiday atmosphere. Reverend Ron Hoskins of Dignity Philadelphia led everyone in prayer, inviting each to acknowledge someone to pray for as well as to express gratitude for something in his or her life. Some residents raised their hands to share and many of them voiced gratitude for Calcutta House and members

of its community for helping them advance personal goals and improve their lives. Then everyone joined in singing *Silent Night* followed by the moving performance of a religiously-inspired song by one of the residents that impressed all. Next, the residents were treated to cake, ice cream and gifts from their wish lists. Among the gifts were watches, cds, comforters and clothing. There were smiles all around in gratitude. **Calcutta House is so glad and grateful Dignity Philadelphia could join us once again!**



St. Patrick (aka Michael Rocks) joined some birthday celebrants at the March Birthday Celebration – others were just waiting for the cake to be cut!

EVENTS FOR YOUR FUN CALENDAR

Birthday cakes: each month we celebrate all of our friends who have a birthday that month with a great sheet cake that always seem to get devoured by end of social time. Upcoming birthday cake dates are: April 14, May 12 and June 16.

Broad Street Ministry (BSM): on the last Wednesday of each month, Dignity volunteers to help feed the homeless from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the church on South Broad between Spruce and Pine Streets. Future dates are: April 24 and May 29. Many of us go out for pizza after our shift.

Games Night: this is a bi-monthly event on the last Friday at 7:00 in St. Luke's when we play board games, cards and have a pizza and soda party. Schedule: April 26 and June 28.

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Thought for the Month of April

God gives us 168 hours of life a week! Can't we give God one hour a week back in worship, praise and Thanksgiving?

– submitted by John W. Rygiel

Walking Tour of the Gayborhood: a continuation of the 40th Anniversary chapter celebration. The cost will be \$5.00, limited to 20 people, led by a professional guide, time TBD but will allow for a group snack before liturgy. Date: May 19.

Hope to see you at all or many of these events.

PERSONAL HYGIENE/ PERSONAL ITEMS

And speaking of Broad Street Ministry, a heart-felt “Thank you Dignity Men” for your generosity in donating so many pants to this group. So many members cleaned out their closets, got rid of last year’s outdated fashion pants, as well as pants “I am going to wear as soon as I lose X amount of lbs.”, and brought these items to Dignity, at the request of Jimmy Calnan – Dignity Philadelphia contact person for BSM activities. FYI, periodically, we go out via an “email blast” requesting some highly needed item. Items always in need are male and female socks and underwear – new ones, OK? Also in constant need are personal hygiene items such as shampoo, lotion, tooth paste, dental floss, deodorant, soap, shaving razors, feminine hygiene products (such as tampons*, sanitary pads), etc. – all in travel sizes. I am pretty confident you have seen these items in drug stores and groceries bins, and are usually priced for a \$1. Plus, sometimes you get these free when you travel and stay in “good” hotels/motels. ***Please take these toiletries with you, even if YOU don’t use them.*** They are the perfect size for the transient clients who frequent Broad Street Ministry. Michelle and B.J. have graciously volunteered to collect these toiletries on Sundays, and will periodically

make announcements. So feel free to bring these items with you on Sunday, and when we go to BSM, we will give these to them for their “Personal Items” closet. Your cooperation is always valued, and your generosity always goes for a good cause – thank you all for being so generous (aka Catholic).

*I never once thought I would use this word in a Dignity newsletter!

THIS AND THAT:

- ✓ There are 121 current Dignity members.
- ✓ The upcoming Dignity U.S.A. Convention will take place July 4-7, 2013 in Minneapolis, MN; the theme is ***Let Justice Roll Like a River***. For more info, see dignityusa.org Flyer and applications for scholarships are available on the information table.
- ✓ Dignity Philadelphia will sponsor a ½ page in DUSA Program Booklet, as well as sponsor a Liturgy.
- ✓ Many, many, many thanks to Bill Boyle who has been doing the Memorial Panels forever! Everyone in the chapter appreciates his work and timeliness in getting the names on the panel. He is stepping down, and Linda Barrett will resume this loving and caring ministry.
- ✓ Dignity Philadelphia presently has 10 Presiders.
- ✓ Plans have not been solidified, but we are tentatively planning for a ML Cervone Memorial Liturgy for April 21, 2013. As soon as plans are in place, we will go out with an e-blast, and possibly in the PGN.



MONTHLY MUNCHIE

40TH! WOW!

“All dreams are impossible until proven otherwise.”
– ***Kenny Logins***

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

April is Dignity Philadelphia's 40th Anniversary 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.
Birthday Month Celebration – lots of cake!
- Monday, April 15 Tax Day
- Sunday, April 21 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Memorial Mass for Mary Louise Cervone (tentative)
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., April 24 Broad Street Ministry (3 to 6 p.m.)
- Friday, April 26 Games Night at Dignity
- Saturday, April 27 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance
– see article in this newsletter
- Sunday, April 28 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m. in celebration of
Dignity Philadelphia's 40th Anniversary

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

- Friday, May 3 Prayer Around the Cross,
St. Luke's at 7 p.m. upstairs
- Sunday, May 5 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 12 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m. – Mother's Day
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
Birthday Month Celebration – lots of cake!
- Sunday, May 19 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Walking tour of the Gayborhood
– see *Fun Calendar*
- Sunday, May 26 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 27 Memorial Day – the official start of the
summer season!
- Wed., May 29 Broad Street Ministry – 3 to 6 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 May Newsletter is April 21, 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).

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**