



The Independence

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

Facebook: Dignity Philadelphia
 www.dignityphila.org
 DignityPhila@aol.com
 (215) 546-2093

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY LOUISE CERVONE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013

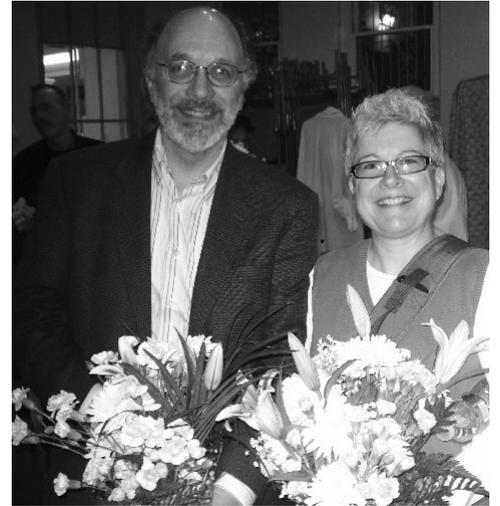
by Kevin Davies

We celebrated, remembered and honored Mary Louise during our weekly liturgy on Sunday, April 21. Fr. Tom Orians and Rev. Rodger Broadley concelebrated.

The memorial panel with Mary Louise's name on it was blessed with holy water by Fr. Tom Orians.

Rodger Broadley gave the homily. In a thank you email to Rodger the next day, Dick O'Malley wrote: "Your homily was right on target in memorializing Mary Louise. As you said, she could be very direct and committed in fighting for justice."

Mary Louise's spouse, family and friends attended the liturgy that included Mary Bradley (her spouse), son Danny (who along with Kathleen Burke adopted him many years ago and was baptized by Rev. Broadley) and Frank Cervone (her brother).



ML's bother, Frank Cervone and Mary Bradley

In keeping with Mary Louise's love of guitar music, Michael Rocks (Rox according to the PGN article on April 19) and Chris Sandy played their guitars.

Michael Rocks also compiled an 11-minute DVD of Mary Louise's participation at the 20th anniversary mass in April 1993 and at the National March on Washington, DC in April 1992. One copy will go into the D/P archives and another copy was given to the family.

Thank you to the many people brought special food for the social table for everyone to enjoy.



Ann and Michael; all pictures were taken at the social after the Memorial Liturgy.



Kathleen Burke (at right) with her partner, Mary.



Mary Bradley and Danny

TOUR THE GAYBORHOOD

As part of our ongoing 40th Anniversary celebration, Dignity is sponsoring a tour of the gayborhood. We will be led by Bob Skiba, a professional guide and archivist at the William Way Community Center. Bob has already presented the history of the LGBT centers in Philadelphia for us. He was such a good speaker and so knowledgeable about the topic that we invited him to do this tour for us.

The tour will be conducted on **Sunday, May 19**, from the lobby of the William Way Center, 1315 Spruce Street, leaving at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00, paid in advance, and we are limited to 20 people.

The timing will allow us to stop for a meal in one of the gayborhood eateries before Sunday liturgy.

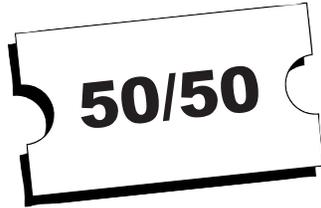
Please sign up now and put in your fee to assure a spot on what should be a fun afternoon in the gayborhood. For more info see Jimmy Calnan.

MOTION FROM APRIL 7, 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the March meeting of the Steering Committee, only one motion was presented and voted on by the members present:

Motion 13-04-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by David Kalinowski. Be it moved that the May 50/50 be designated for Philadelphia FIGHT, in memory of Mary Louise Cervone. Passed unanimously.

50/50 for April is Philadelphia FIGHT: Philadelphia FIGHT (FIGHT) is a comprehensive AIDS service organization providing primary care, consumer education, advocacy and research on potential treatments, and vaccines. FIGHT was formed as a partnership of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and clinicians, who joined together to improve the lives of people living with the disease. It houses the Jonathan Lax Clinic, Project TEACH, The AIDS Library, Y-HEP and other programs. Visit their website: fight.org



DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 1997

Marie Summers, chapter president, continued to be a wonderful media representative for Dignity. She opened a door through radio shows, college class presentations, press conferences and television interviews which carried the message of Dignity/Philadelphia throughout the Delaware Valley.

Dignity/Philadelphia became a founding member of the William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Community Center which opened in the spring and had a formal ribbon cutting one year later. Bill Way was a long-time member of our chapter, active in government and community concerns.

The Liturgy Committee started the process of reviewing the guidelines for chaplain selection and made continued reports to the Steering Committee.

At the Dignity/USA convention in Boston, Mary Louise Cervone was elected national vice president. Dignity/Mid-Atlantic in a program book ad highlighted their members who contributed to national leadership including several from Philadelphia.

Donations were collected from chapter members to buy PUR water filter systems and replacement filters for all sixteen residents at Calcutta House and all fifteen at the Lombard Street Community. All the systems were installed by chapter members who also explained their use to residents. The discounted price was later extended to members of the Dignity community and to several AIDS service organizations for clients and staff.

The Education Committee sponsored a four-part series on Mystic Women which was well received by the many who attended.

Dignity also started attending monthly games of GAY BINGO sponsored by The AIDS Fund. Each month we had large groups of chapter members jumping for '0-69' and pounding feet for 'B-7'. Ten to twelve thousand dollars was raised for the Fund at each game.

The 25th Anniversary Committee got into full swing planning a logo contest, selecting the Anniversary liturgy homilist, visiting dinner/dance sites, coordinating a history project and hosting the Dignity Mid/Atlantic weekend in May, 1998.

On September 30, the administrative board of the national Conference of Catholic Bishops issued "Always our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers." Dignity/USA and our chapter became important media respondents to the letter which was considered a step in the right direction.

The "We Are Church" referendum initiative was started early in the year with the goal of 2,000 names from our community by May, later extended to October. Dignity/USA president, Bob Mialovich, represented us in Rome in October for an international meeting of church groups. The U.S. referendum effort gathered 36,446 signatures and was seen as an important tool for dialogue and grassroots education for Catholics.

The Thanksgiving turkey drive was able to provide 85 turkeys and fixings for families affected by AIDS.

All Calcutta House residents received three Christmas gifts each from their personal "wish list" and many attended a holiday prayer service facilitated by Fr. Ron Hoskins.

BUSINESS MEETING DATE IS MAY 19, 2013 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Dignity/Philadelphia
Agenda for Semiannual Business Meeting**

**Opening Prayer
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes from meeting on September 23, 2012**

Old Business

1. IRS 990EZ for Dignity/Philadelphia (renamed Tax Status at the November 2012 Steering Committee Meeting)
2. Ad Hoc Committees
 - * Dignity/Philadelphia 40th Anniversary - recap (David chair)
 - * Future Memorial Service Policy (Michael Rocks chair)
 - * Presidential Awards (President chair)
 - * Elections - recap (Dick O'Malley chair)
 - * To replenish the Michael Durkin Fund (President chair)

(continued on next page)

New Business

Officer Reports

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Committee Reports

Community Life
Communications
Education
Liturgy

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

CALCUTTA HOUSE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Since April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month, the residents at Calcutta House organized a party for individuals and groups who enrich their lives by volunteering. Dignity was invited and was represented by Rob Baker and Jimmy Calnan on April 15. Jimmy spoke to the value of the holiday experience for our members who shop for and buy the “wish list” gifts then deliver them at the Christmas party. He acknowledged the love that lives in the House and how it is shared with visitors.

Other groups honored included students from LaSalle University and St. Joseph’s University, several local churches and dedicated individuals.

Dignity was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Executive Director, Kim McGrory, which will be displayed in our office. Thank you to all our members who make this joyful holiday experience possible year after year.

MONTHLY MUNCHIE

“Tradition is the living faith of the dead;
traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.”

Jaroslav Pelikan

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS

As many of you know, and it has been mentioned at Sunday liturgy, 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. Remember, 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 remaining schedule for the upcoming Steering Committee elections:

May 5 (if necessary) - Meet the Candidates

May 6 (if necessary) - Ballots mailed – please note that if the positions are uncontested, voting will be done by acclamation and ballots will not be mailed out

May 19 (if necessary) - Election Announcement

THIS AND THAT...

- + There is a group of women, Broad Street Menders, who are presently in need of volunteers to help them mend items received at Broad Street Ministries. They mend about 12 items a week, meet every Thursday at BSM’s “Breaking Bread” – year round! They tend to sew buttons, hem pants, patch jeans and skirts, etc. – no heavy duty tailoring! Most of the members are members of Grace Presbyterian, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, and Bryn Mawr. If you are interested, the contact person is Barbara Lappen, Chair of Broad Street Menders, 610-541-0143; her email is blappen@icloud.com
- + The City of Philadelphia, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, is presenting a program entitled, “LGBTQI Experiences in Recovery, Resilience, and Self-Determination.” This program is scheduled for **Friday, May 3**, noon to 2 p.m. at the Community Behavioral Health, 801 Market Street, 7th Floor Large Conference Room.
- + Lapsed members – you need to renew your Dignity memberships! A letter will be going out to you shortly – as a small reminder.
- + Dignity USA is extending the deadline for the upcoming Dignity Conference in Minneapolis. For information about the speakers, workshops, caucuses and activities, visit the Convention 2013 web site at: <http://conv2013.dignityusa.org> See you in Minneapolis July 4 – 7, 2013!
- + The OLDER WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAM will focus on LGBT Older Women’s Health in a workshop scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at South Philadelphia Older Adult Center located at 1430 E. Passyunk Ave. Their website is lgbtei.org and call 267-546-3448. The program will include Tai Chi, nutritional snacks and free preventive screenings.

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

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 article
Business Meeting at 8:30 p.m. – see agenda in newsletter
- 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.

June is Pride Month

- Sunday, June 2 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
Investiture of New Officers
- Friday, June 7 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's at 7 p.m. upstairs
- Sunday, June 9 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
PrideDay, the LGBT Parade and Festival; 25th year!
Birthday Month Celebration – lots of cake!
- Friday, June 14 Flag Day
- Sunday, June 16 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Father's Day
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 23 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wed., June 26 Broad Street Ministry – 3 to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, June 30 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 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 June Newsletter is May 19, 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**