

SEPTEMBER 2013



The Independence

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

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

WELCOME BACK

Michael Viola, Dignity Philadelphia President

“Come back to me with all your heart. Don’t let fear tear us apart.” These are the opening lyrics to one of the hymns we sing as part of our liturgical service. The fall is the time of year when students and teachers go back to school and people generally go back to their regular, non-vacation, way of life. For those of you who go away for the majority of the summer, the fall can mark the time when you start coming back to us for Sunday services. There are many things happening during the month of September for which you may want to come back to Dignity Philadelphia.

On Sunday, September 15th, we will have our annual Clyde Sams Memorial Potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome to bring some food or beverage to share. People frequently bring entrees, side dishes, salads, breads, beverages, ice, desserts, you name it. As Louis Giosso, one of the coordinators of our potlucks has suggested, you can even bring a bucket of chicken if you don’t want to cook. Everything that is brought is put out and shared by all the attendees. If you are not able to bring something to eat or drink, then bring a good story to share about your summer, or at least bring your appetite. Set up begins around 3:30 pm with the appetizers being offered around 5:00 p.m. Our quarterly potlucks are a great way to get re-acquainted with our Dignity family. If you come for the potluck, please stay for the services afterwards and then for the social.

The week after the potluck, on Sunday, September 15, after our usual services, there will be a special Community Meeting to discuss the development of a policy for memorial services. Periodically, members of our Dignity community move on to God’s greater kingdom. The family and friends of the departed Dignity member would like to celebrate that person’s life while mourning his or her passing. Currently, there is no formal policy setting forth the logistics of a memorial service. If this is something in which you have an interest, come to this meeting and share your thoughts. It is expected that this meeting will begin at 8:30 in the Blue Room.

Finally, Dignity Philadelphia will close out the month of September with its semi-annual business meeting on September 29th. This meeting is the opportunity for members of our Chapter to become informed about the operation of our Chapter. It is a time to ask questions and have those questions answered by the officers and the members of the Steering Committee. Learn about what we have been doing for the past 6 months and what we have planned ahead. This meeting will also take place in the Blue Room starting at 8:30 p.m.

Not all of these events will appeal to everyone. There is more information contained in the rest of this newsletter to inform you of the other activities Dignity has going on in the coming weeks. Find the event that interests you and join us. If you have not come to a service in a while, join us for that. “Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new lives.”

MOTIONS FROM AUGUST 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the August 4, 2013, Steering Committee Meeting, the following motions were presented and voted on by the members present:

Motion 13-08-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Bradley. Be it moved that an Ad Hoc Committee for Tax Status be formed with Michael Bradley as chair, member Mike Viola and to include one other person. Passed unanimously

Motion 13-08-02 made by Michael Bradley; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the chapter submit a Small Games of Chance Application to the city annually with the appropriate fee. Passed unanimously

Motion 12-10-01 from October’s meeting (Be it moved that Dignity’s money in the PNC account be moved to an ING account – interest bearing – called Investment Account. Passed unanimously)

***Motion 13-08-03:** Motion made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the 50/50 for September 2013, be donated to the AIDS Fund. Passed unanimously

Motion 13-08-04: Motion made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Bradley. Be it moved that a business card size ad at a cost of \$50 be donated in support of the Bayada Regatta. Passed unanimously

50/50

September 50/50 is for the AIDS Fund:

AIDS Fund supports HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and services in the Delaware Valley by raising dollars and increasing public awareness about the impact of HIV on our communities. Currently, 30 partner organizations are receiving funding as a result of AIDS Fund's activities to provide critical HIV prevention education and care services. The AIDS Fund sponsors the annual AIDS Walk scheduled for October 20, 2013.



SAINT FRANCIS AND THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

On October 6, the Dignity Community is encouraged to bring a picture of their lifetime companion to Sunday Liturgy for a Blessing of the Animals. As many of you know, Oct. 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. Per a Catholic website,

“No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.”

While the Liturgy Committee agrees with this statement, we also know that these darling companions can be a little disruptive during our Liturgy, which is why we are encouraging pictures (we definitely don't want singing dogs!). We also know you have hundreds of pictures of your pet doing great and amazing tricks or posing royally. So look thru your pet's album, and bring a picture to church for a special blessing. As Catholics, we know and believe that St. Francis will bless your pet via photograph(s).

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 2001

The Spiritual Life Committee co-sponsored with the Social Committee a prayer service “Rome at Home” on January 5 in conjunction with the vigil being held by DUSA and Soulforce in Rome.

Monthly scripture reflections taken from Chris Glaser's articles in the Kirkridge magazine where reprinted in our newsletter.

A few chapter members appeared on the show “In Bed with Butch.”

D/P made a donation in support of *The Barbara Gittings Gay/Lesbian Collection* at the Independence Branch of the Free Library. A bookplate in Dignity Philadelphia's name was placed in a book in *The Barbara Gittings Gay/Lesbian Collection*.

Vision Sharing Meetings were set for February 18, March 11 and April 1.

Committee for Women's Concerned sponsored monthly Women's Prayer Rituals from February through November.

Art Show & Auction held on April 7 to offset the expenses for the DUSA convention in Chicago.

DUSA encouraged chapters and members to support the National Freedom to Marry Day on February 12.

David Kalinowski, Leo Palmer and Mary Bradley on Philly Live (WYBE) on April 10.

During Pridefest on May 6, the William Way Community Center hosted a reception for Jeannine Gramick cosponsored by D/P and Integrity. Jeannine was awarded the Pridefest America Tom Stoddard Role Model Award.

On May 13 D/P honored/celebrated Fr. Ron Hoskins' Silver Jubilee. A surprise dinner by the GLBT community was held on May 25.

Day of Reflection in conjunction with the chapter's anniversary is held on May 19. The theme of the day is “Our Catholic Identity.”

David Kalinowski attended a Gay Media presentation at the University of the Arts.

D/P members attend King Lear to see our own Frank X perform.

Harvest USA contacted us by phone, email and showed up at the potluck to try to convert us back to “normalcy.”

The seed was planted to have the DUSA convention in Philadelphia 2005.

D/P made a donation towards a SEPA/WOC billboard in conjunction with the CTA Conference to support the ordination of women. D/P hosted a reception at the CTA Conference and members staffed our table.

D/P ad in the YES! Conference program booklet for event held at the Friends Select School on October 6.

Defenders Philadelphia Holly Jollies Toy Drive on November 17 at the Bike Stop.

SAVE THE DATES COMMUNITY LIFE ACTIVITIES

Broad Street Ministry – Unfortunately we were not able to do our regular smiling, serving, smiling, giving out toiletries, cleaning up, smiling, etc. tasks for the July event due to power failure at Broad Street Ministry! We, as usual, talked among ourselves at the Pop-Up Garden next to BSM and finally left. No ministry, thereby no pizza afterwards! So the next BSM is **Wednesday, September 25 from 3-6 p.m.** All Dignettes are invited to join the regular group of volunteers in this very worthwhile and event. And thank you to non-members, such as Kathy and her friend, for joining us every month in this activity. And thanks to Michael Rocks for inviting Kathy to join us at Dignity and to participate in our activities.

Birthday Cake Sunday is **September 8** for Dignity members who celebrate a birthday this month (like Dolores Vera!). Community Life provides a delicious half-sheet birthday cake from Acme. Please join us in making the birthday cake disappear!

Games Night is **October 25**; Community Life coordinates an evening of board and cards, games, pizza and soda. This is always a lot of fun, fun – so please join us.

Camden River Sharks, a minor league baseball team, will be playing at “Pride Day” in Camden on Thursday, **September 5**. See Jimmy Calnan or Melissa for logistics.

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA AT THE BALLGAME AUGUST 6, 2013.



Michael R. and Michael L. with guests



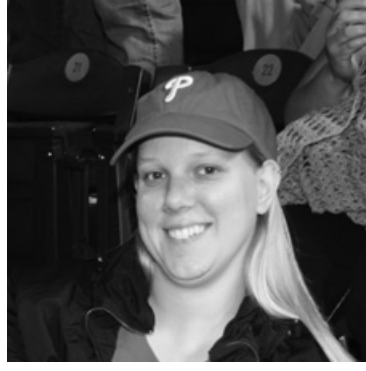
Michael L and co-worker



Proof that we were at the game – Gay Community Night



Belinda and Dolores



Melissa – Community Life co-coordinator



Can you spot the Dignity members?



John O., Ric Ben-safed, Bill, Kathy, friend and top row: Dick, Phil and Bill Q.

MONTHLY MUNCHIE

“Pray as if everything depends on God.
Work as if everything depends on you.”

- St. Augustine

HAPPY LABOR DAY

**DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA AGENDA
FOR SEMIANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from meeting on May 19, 2013

Old Business

1. Tax Status
2. Ad Hoc Committees
 - * Future Memorial Service Policy (Michael Rocks chair)
 - * To replenish the Michael Durkin Fund (former President chair – Joanne Collins)
 - * Memorial Panels Updates
 - * Survey on Membership

New Business

- 1.
- 2.

Officer Reports

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer

Committee Reports

Community Life	Communications
Education	Liturgy

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA IN THE NEWS

President Mike Viola and the rest of the current officers certainly hit the ground running after they officially become officers of Dignity/Philadelphia in June. All four officers were featured in a lovely article in the Philadelphia Gay News (http://epgn.com/view/full_story/23040682/article-Dignity-elects-new-board-leaders?).

Several days after the ground-breaking decision in Windsor v. US, the US Supreme Court case which overturned a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, President Mike Viola appeared on NBC 10's At Issue with Steve Highsmith to debate the impact of the Windsor decision with Sam Roher, the president of the Pennsylvania Pastor's Network.

Following the recent statements by Pope Francis during a press conference that people should not judge gays, Mike Viola was quoted by the Philadelphia Inquirer (http://www.philly.com/philly/news/nation_world/20130801_Local_gays_andCatholics_say_pope_s_big_departure_is_one_of_tone.html) and by NBC 10 in an online article (<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/217367851.html>).

With law suits pending in both federal court and state court in Pennsylvania regarding the rights of same-sex couples to marry, with the official position of the Roman Catholic Church being against same-sex marriage, and with a Pope who appears to be focusing more on the social justice issues and serving the needs of the every day person, it is anticipated that Dignity/Philadelphia will be contacted more by the media for our comments.

THIS AND THAT...

Remember – Pot Luck Dinner coming up September 15. Here is a visual reminder for you to cut out and paste on your refrig door:

The Eucharistic Liturgy for September 15 will be celebrated by the priest who created the 40th Anniversary banner for us. He will also be available to answer questions or entertain comments regarding the banner.

Last month – September – for you to take advantage of the Mummies String Bands free concerts. Presenting during this month are:

Sept 5 Uptown Sept 12 Polish American
Sept 19 Greater Kensington Sept 26 Hardly Ables

Remember that all performances start at 8 p.m. – they are free, rain or shine. Please bring your folding chairs and refreshments will be available for purchasing.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETING – MARK YOUR CALENDARIOS!

Have you given any thoughts to what you want done in terms of memorial services for you or your partner? Many of us have planned our funerals, made a will, told friends and relatives what we want done at our memorial services – it is all written out. Some of us have not! As you know, within our community, we have had several recent deaths, and the memorial services have all been different. Since we are somewhat unprepared to plan a memorial service in just a few days, the Liturgy Committee has had to act without guidance in this respect. In order to bring some protocol at the time of death of a member of our Dignity community, a small brainstorming meeting was held May 28 by several members of the Liturgy Committee. We were able to come up with various questions that can confront us – or our family members – regarding a Dignity memorial service. Issues we need to discuss are traditional vs non-traditional services, readings, finances, socials associated with the memorial service, legal issues, Presiders (from Dignity or your other church), music, location, etc., etc., etc.,

We are planning a special **Community Meeting September 22** to discuss memorial services for our members, as well as for others who have requested our help. This meeting will be held in the Blue Room after services. We are encouraging our members to attend this meeting and to help us – the Liturgy Committee and Dignity Philadelphia as a whole – establish a plan of action for when a death occurs within our community. Do we need to establish a special ministry that will handle this? Who will serve on this committee? What power will this committee be granted? We need community input, so we can be prepared for an event over which we have no control – but hopefully we will have a plan in place when this happens. Please join us and help us answer some of the pending issues mentioned above. We need your help in establishing a policy regarding the death of a Dignity member – and who else can help but you! We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at this meeting – please put it on your calendars.

FOOD BASKET COLLECTION SUSPENDED

We have been made aware that St. Luke's Hospitality Center has suspended the Monday luncheon for HIV+ men until further notice.

Many of you have contributed perhaps tons of non-perishable food items over the years and the lunch group has always been grateful. We will await further notice from our host church.

The food pantry at the lunch was small and our donations were distributed each week to the attendees. We are not aware of a similar program near St. Luke's so we are asking that donations cease for the time being.

Thank you for all your generous contributions in the past.

Jimmy Calnan

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

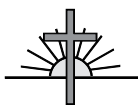
September is National Preparedness Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month (U.S.: September 15 to October 15)

- Sunday, Sept. 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 2 Labor Day
- Thursday, Sept. 5 Camden River Sharks (see Save the Date)
- Friday, Sept. 6 Prayer Around the Cross
- Sunday, Sept. 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.; 9/11 Remembrance Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Sept. 11 12th Anniversary of 9/11
- Sunday, Sept. 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.;
Investiture of Committee Co-coordinators
Potluck at 4:30 p.m.
Newsletter deadline for October newsletter
- Sunday, Sept. 22 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Community Meeting on Memorial Services
(see newsletter)
- Sunday, Sept. 29 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Semi-annual Business Meeting
(see agenda in newsletter)

October is LBGT Month

- Friday, October 4 Prayer Around the Cross
- Sunday, October 6 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Outfest and
Blessing of the Animals (see newsletter)
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 11 National Coming Out Day
- Saturday, October 12 15th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death
- Sunday, October 13 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 14 Columbus Day
- Sunday, October 20 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
27th Annual AIDS Walk
Newsletter deadline
- Friday, October 25 Games Night
- Sunday, October 27 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 30 Broad Street Ministry
- Thursday, October 31 All Saints Vigil 7:30 p.m. (Halloween)

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 September Newsletter is August 18, 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

- Michael Viola** – President
- Larry Sutter** – Vice President
- Kevin Davies** – Secretary
- Mike Bradley** – 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** – Education Committee Co-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**