



# The Independence

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

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## SPECIAL GUEST (AND AUTHOR) FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

A special presentation has been scheduled for **Sunday, March 30, from 4 to 6 p.m.** at St. Luke’s in honor of National Women’s History Month. The Liturgy Committee has invited Marian Ronan, American Catholic studies scholar to discuss the ways in which Catholic teaching on sexuality and gender will, and won’t, change under Pope Francis. Her presentation is entitled, “Gender Trouble: Catholic Sisters, Women Priests and LBGT Catholics in Pope Francis’s “New” Church. She is the author of “*Sister Trouble: the Vatican, the Bishops, and the Nuns*” (Amazon 2013), and copies of her book will be available for sale. She is the former president of the Women’s Ordination Conference. Her presentation will take place in the Blue Room. Please join us at this event, and feel free to bring friends and relatives for what promises to be a very stimulating topic! If you need further information, please contact Jim Clay on 215-288-6989.

## DIGNITY MEMORIAL PANELS

Thanks to those who attended the Community Meeting on January 26. The Steering Committee met the following Sunday and based on the comments received from the Community Meeting, and the Ad Hoc Committee reports, the decision was made to use configuration 2 (the current banners with the new alignment without the scripture quote). The Steering Committee then moved to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to implement this new change (see **Motion 14-02-02** in this newsletter). Kevin Davies has agreed to chair this committee and will ask members of the community to serve on the committee. Part of their task: the strings that are attached to each banner be tightened to allow the banners to hang a little higher and be replaced with a more aesthetic chain that would be stronger. Current banners need to be restored (new backing, brass chain and new dowels). The banners will be hung 4 to a side with the Dignity banner in the center. Unfortunately we have experienced many deaths in the community in the past few months and as their first priority, this committee will attempt to get a new banner made with the names listed.

## TELL US YOUR STORY

The **Education Committee** wants to hear your story on what brought you to Dignity. We are compiling a sampling of stories for our outreach to the broader community. Tell us the reason you came to Dignity, what you love about it, and why it is important to you. We want to hear your story, which you can send to us at: [dignityphilastories@yahoo.com](mailto:dignityphilastories@yahoo.com). However, if you prefer to have someone take your story, let BJ Welsh or David Kalinowski know so they can arrange it. We look forward to hearing from you.

## DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 2004

Guidelines for the Addition of a Name to D/P Memorial Panels is passed by the Steering Committee. Community Meetings were held in January, February and March to get D/P input for the DUSA convention to be held in Philadelphia in 2005.

A successful Spring 2004 Raffle coordinated by Jimmy Calnan and the Education Committee raised \$600.00. The spring raffle “A Night on the Town” included a \$30 coupon book to the Ritz Movie Theaters, a \$50 gift certificate for dinner at the Venture Inn and a gift certificate for a night at The Alexander Inn. 120 tickets were sold at \$5 each.

D/P members stood in Silent Solidarity with Soul Force in front of the Chancellors Offices on November 9.

D/P received the recently released publication “Issues and Resources for GLBT Survivors of Sexual Abuse by Roman Catholic Clergy.” The document was written by Stephen McDonnell, a member and presider at Dignity Washington. DUSA was able to produce and distribute this booklet thanks to a generous grant from the School of Sisters of Notre Dame for Gay and Lesbian Ministry.

D/P member Dugan McGinley’s book “Acts of Faith, Acts of Love: Gay Catholic Autobiographies as Sacred Texts” was published by Continuum.

*(continued on next page)*

D/P made a \$500 donation to Calcutta House to purchase a Housewarming Kit to furnish a room at the newly constructed facility known as Serenity Court. This 9-bed facility provides palliative care for the most seriously ill residents with AIDS who have been late to treatment or diagnosed as terminal patients.

## MOTIONS FROM JAN. & FEB. 2014 STEERING COMMITTEE MTGS.

Since the Dignity newsletter is now being published every two months, the following motions were made at the Steering Committee Meetings for the next 2 months; these were all voted on by the members present:

### 50/50 for February and March

**Motion 14-01-01** made by David Kalinowski; seconded by Michael Bradley.

Be it moved that the February 50/50 be for the New Ways Ministry in memory of Bob Nugent and the March 50/50 be for Career Wardrobe in honor of National Women's History Month. Passed unanimously.

**New Ways Ministry:** Founded in 1977, New Ways Ministry is an educational and bridge-building ministry of reconciliation between the Catholic gay and lesbian community, and the institutional structures in the Roman Catholic Church. New Ways Ministry seeks to eradicate prevalent myths and stereotypes about homosexuality and supports civil rights for lesbian and gay persons in society.

**Career Wardrobe:** Career Wardrobe was started by a group of Philadelphia-area women looking to make a positive difference in the lives of low income women entering the workplace. Since 1995, Career Wardrobe has grown from a grassroots organization run solely by volunteers into the nation's largest community-based organization dedicated to assisting women in successfully transitioning to work by providing professional attire and career skills training.



## Ad Hoc Committee for Election

**Motion 14-01-02** made by Dolores Vera; seconded by Michael Bradley. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Elections Committee will consist of Dolores and two other members (to be announced) to establish dates and other tasks associated with the elections. Passed unanimously.

## Election Schedule for Steering Committee Positions

As many of you know Dignity Philadelphia annually elects new officers for the coming year. Our present Steering Committee elected officials can run again for a second term, but members are always welcome to put their names forward for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Since January, the officer of the day has been informing the community of the position they hold, and what duties are associated with this position. If you feel compelled to run for any of these 4 positions, please let Dolores Vera, who is in charge of the elections this year, know of your interest. Remember, competition is good. The criteria for running for office are simple: 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:

March 23 -	first announcement
March 30 -	second announcement
April 6 -	first nominations
April 13 -	second nominations
April 27 -	Meet the Candidates (if necessary)
April 28 -	mail the ballots
Sunday, May 11	all ballots due (or postmarked by 5/10)

## MOTIONS MADE AT THE FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Motion 14-02-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Mike Bradley. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for bylaw amendment be chaired by David Kalinowski and include two other members TBD. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-02-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Mike Bradley. Be it moved that based on the Community Meeting comments and Ad Hoc Committee reports, the Steering Committee decided that the configuration 2 using the current banners will be displayed weekly and the scripture quote will not be used at this time. Roll call vote: 5 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain – motion passes.

**Motion 14-02-03** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Mike Bradley. Be it moved that the Steering Committee appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to create the new configuration for the Memorial Panels chaired by Kevin Davies. 6 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain – motion passes (Upon the completion of this committee's work the Liturgy Committee will assume responsibility of updating the panels.)

## IN MEMORIAM

Over the past couple of months, Dignity Philadelphia has lost various valuable members, and we would like to remember their contribution to the history of Dignity – such as **Rev. Robert Nugent**, a member who helped established our local chapter. Also **Ron Hughes**, who helped tremendously with fund-raising events for Dignity/ Philadelphia via art auctions for the chapter, and fundraising to help St. Luke's capital building program. We lost three other members, Pat Kershner, Charles (Charlie) Kinsky and John Rygiel, who contributed by their presence, loyalty and generosity to our chapter. Let all of us keep their spirits in our hearts and in our prayers.

Rest in peace our sister and brothers.



## FLOATING FOR PRIDE?

B.J., Education Committee Co-coordinator

Please contact B.J. Welsh or David Kalinowski if you are interested in working on a float for Dignity Philadelphia to parade in during Pride on Sunday, June 8, 2014. We can be reached after mass or at [dignityphilaPride@yahoo.com](mailto:dignityphilaPride@yahoo.com). If there is a willing crew to host with a vehicle, and even more of our diverse crew to help decorate and walk, we may participate in the parade in addition to our table!

## SAVE THE DATES

**That's So Gay**, Gay history in the collections of the Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust St.; Feb. 10 thru Oct. 17; recommended for individual tours. (J. Calnan contact)

**Mask and Wig Club**, tentatively for March 22 at 8:00 for \$32; see the spoof musical "Wishful Sinking" with an all male cast from the Penn Drama Club (J. Calnan contact)

**South Pacific**, tentatively for April 27 matinee in Pitman NJ (J. Calnan contact)

**Equality Forum** – May 1-4, here in Philadelphia, PA

The National Religious Colloquy will be on Saturday afternoon, May 3rd at Hamilton Hall, University of the Arts, Broad & Pine Streets. (D. O'Malley, contact)

**41<sup>st</sup> Dignity/Philadelphia Pot Luck and Liturgy Service** – May 19 in our meeting space (see either Leo or Louis)

**Gay Pride Parade** (and tabling) – June 8, at Penn's Landing

**Spiritual Retreat for Women** - June 13 - June 15. It will be held at the Retreat & Conference Center, near Baltimore at Bon Secours in Marriottsville, MD. The sponsors are Dignity/USA and Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual. (A. Foley contact)

**Dignity Young Adults Conference** – June 25-27, in Washington, D.C. (G. Shea, contact)

**A special thank you** for everyone who donated, and brought to Dignity, so many winter clothes for Broad Street Ministry – we will no longer collect these. And thank you all for the toiletries – we still need these items for BSM clients. And a special thank you for Frank for donating all those great Italian Elemis, and Gilchrist and Soames bath products.

## DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA AGENDA FOR SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, March 23, 2014

### Opening Prayer

### Approval of Agenda

### New Business

Approval of Minutes from meeting on September 29, 2013

1. Young Adult Caucus retreat (July 25-27 in Washington, DC)2.

### Old Business

### Officer Reports

1. Tax Status

President

2. By-law Amendments

Vice President

3. Ad Hoc Committees

Secretary

\* Future Memorial Service Policy (Michael Rocks chair)

Treasurer – report since last semiannual business meeting

\* Memorial Panels

### Committee Reports

\* Membership Survey

Community Life

\* Elections

Communications\

\* Treasurer's Report (9/1/12 – 8/31/13)

Education

4. Young Adults Caucus/Retreat

Liturgy

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer**

## February 2014 Munchie

"It always seems impossible until it is done."  
- Nelson Mandela

**HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

## March 2014 Munchie

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

**HAPPY NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

## EASTER REMINDER

**March 5 – Ash Wednesday**

7:30 pm in Dignity's office space

**April 13 – Passion/Palm Sunday**

7 pm in Dignity's worship space, downstairs

**April 17 – Holy Thursday**

7:30 pm in Dignity's office space

**April 18 – Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross with St. Luke's upstairs

**April 19 – (Sat. 10 p.m.)**

**Easter Vigil** in Dignity's worship space, downstairs

**April 20 – Easter Sunday** – no service at Dignity

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS.**

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

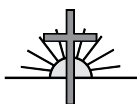
## March is National Women's History Month

- Sun., March 2 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.,  
Steering Committee Meeting,  
4:30 p.m. (subject to change)
- Wed., March 5 Ash Wed., Liturgy 7:30 p.m.
- Fri., March 7 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sun., March 9 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Sun., in Lent  
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
*(subject to change)*  
Day of Fast and Prayer for AIDS
- Sun., March 16 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Birthday Cake Sun.,
- Mon., March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Wed., March 19 St. Joseph's Day
- Thurs., March 20 First Day of Spring – Thank God
- Sun., March 23 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Semi-annual business meeting
- Sun., March 30 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.,  
Author presentation (see article)

## April is Volunteer Month

- Fri., April 4 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sun., April 6 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.,  
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sun., April 13 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m., (Passion/Palm Sun.,)  
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
Birthday Cake Sun.,
- Mon., April 14 Passover (begins at sunset)
- Thurs., April 17 Holy Thurs., Mass 7:30 p.m.
- Fri., April 18 Good Friday- Join St. Luke's for  
Prayer Around the Cross 7 p.m.
- Sat., April 19 Easter Vigil Mass, 10 p.m.
- Sun., April 20 Easter Sun., – no service at Dignity
- Sun., April 27 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wed., April 30 Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 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 April/May 2014 newsletter is April 13**

*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/B.J. Welsh – 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](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**