

APRIL / MAY 2014



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# The Independence

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

## NEW DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015

After two announcements, two separate nomination opportunities, and having no challengers, Dignity Philadelphia has concluded its elections for the new officers as of April 13, 2014; per acclimation, the following are your new officers:

Mike Viola – President

Jimmy Calnan – Vice President

Mike Bradley – Treasurer and

Kevin Davies – Secretary

Congrats to this slate of officers! And thank you to the Elections Committee, Dolores, Bill Boyle and Leo Chang, for doing such a great job! Investiture service will be June 1, 2014.

## DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA SURVEY

This past December/January, Dignity Philadelphia conducted a survey for our current and former members to explore ways to better serve the Catholic LGBT Community: current members, former members and new people who may be looking for a religious home.

The Steering Committee extends its thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated in the survey; either taking the time to fill it out online or completing it by hand and mailing their replies back to us.

The return rate was exceptional and far above the average return rate of surveys of this nature. The response rate for current members who were sent the survey via email was 45%. Those who were surveyed via US Mail was 23%. The return rate of former members who were all surveyed via US Mail was 11%. If you put all returns from both current and former members together the return rate was 28%. The average return rate for a survey of this nature is usually below 5%.

There were many great comments and suggestions offered by everyone. The results are currently being analyzed and a full report will be published for all to see at a later date. Please stay tuned...

Thank again for taking time to reply to the survey.

Larry Sutter

*Vice President, Dignity/Philadelphia*

## OVERCOMING HISTORICAL AND SCRIPTURAL MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS.

*The following sermon was written for the American Interfaith Institute, in Philadelphia, which fosters relationships between Christians and Jews, especially by overcoming historical and Scriptural misconceptions. It was submitted by Anthony T. Massimini, Ph. D. (who gave a homily to Dignity Philadelphia last year); Author: The New Dance of Christ--Discovering Our Spiritual Self in a New, Evolving World Running Into Infinity, An E-novel; Mary Massimini, M. Ed.*

Many years ago, as a young priest newly returned from Rome, where I had attended the first session of the Second Vatican Council, I was invited to speak at the Main Line Temple in the Philadelphia suburb of Wynnewood. At that time, Pope John XXIII had surprised the world by calling for the church to “open windows” and let the Spirit of universal brotherhood find new possibilities to blossom.

When I arrived at the Temple, I drove into the parking lot and saw that it was full, save for one barricaded space. Immediately, two men ran out, removed the barricade and waved me in. When I got out of my car, I naively remarked, “There must be something big going on tonight. I guess very few people will be here for my talk.” They laughed, “Father, you’re the first priest to ever speak to us. These people are all here for you.”

I walked into the vestibule and saw a tall, fatherly man coming toward me, whom I correctly guessed was the rabbi. As he approached me, he called out, “So there you are. Where have you been? You’re late.” Panicked, I looked at my watch. “Rabbi, you told me to get here at 8 o’clock. It’s 7:45, I’m

*(continued on next page)*

fifteen minutes early.” Smiling broadly, the rabbi responded, “You’re 2000 years late. Where have you been?” At that, Rabbi Theodore Gordon and I embraced.

That evening, I said to the congregation that it was my joy to be present, and in the spirit of Vatican II, to discuss how much we shared in common. “Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are my fathers, too. And Moses. Your psalms are my songs. The Revelation given to you shines its bright ray of Truth into my faith. I thank you for giving us your brother and our brother, Jesus. I noted that Vatican II said that the Jews should not be presented as rejected or accursed by God, as if this followed from the Scriptures. The council described the Jews as “most dear to God.” It called for mutual understanding and respect and decried any and all displays of anti-Semitism. I said, “I apologize for the horrible suffering my people have caused you over the centuries.”

As I spoke, many started to cry. And when I finished, just about everyone came up to me and embraced me.

Vatican II also taught that salvation is open to all those who in good will follow their conscience. One Friday evening, in another synagogue, a young man rose and said to me, “I just graduated from college. For the past two years I had a Catholic roommate, and just about every day he said, ‘Unless you become a Catholic, you will go to hell.’ What do you say to that?” I smiled and said, “Well, your roommate obviously had no success. Here it is, Friday evening, and you’re in the synagogue.” Then I got serious. “Do you believe that God wants you to be a Jew?” He said firmly, “Yes.” I continued, “Now let me get this straight. Do you believe, in good conscience and in your heart of hearts, that God wants you to be a Jew, now and for the rest of your life.” Even more firmly, he said, “Yes.” I said, “So if you become a Catholic, you’d be a hypocrite, wouldn’t you?” He said, “Yes.” Smiling broadly, I said, “Young man, if you become a Catholic, you’ll go to hell.” Everyone got the point and laughed.

But all was not pleasant. At another synagogue, the Rabbi pointed to an elderly couple in the congregation. “They recently arrived here in America. Not long ago in the country where they came from, on Good Friday evening, Christians broke into their house and struck nails into that man’s head.” I recoiled in shock. I thought of the recent Holocaust, the Shoah, and realized with deep sorrow that Vatican II’s statement was only a small beginning. We had a long way to go to eradicate 2000 years of anti-Semitism.

One of the roadblocks in our work against anti-Semitism is the Gospel account of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion that we read on Palm Sunday. Sadly, what Matthew wrote has been used for centuries to justify hatred and violence against Jews. In that Gospel, we read that Pilate washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.” Then Matthew writes the terrible words, “And the whole people said in reply, ‘His blood be upon us and our children.’”

It is difficult to read those harsh words. Why did Matthew write them? Why did he say, “. . .the whole people.” Obviously his statement is not a literal report of what happened. Some Jewish

leaders were involved, but clearly, all the Jews were not present. And in any case, no one can speak for all the Jewish people, then and forever. The whole account needs explaining.

For one thing, at the time Matthew wrote his Gospel, there was animosity between the Jews who accepted Christ and those who did not. Matthew himself, a Jew who had accepted Christ, was part of that contention. In fact, the Gospel shows that he actually favored Pilate and the Romans over the Jews. So Matthew’s harsh statement is a political, editorial comment that shows the intensity of feelings between the new Christians and the Jews at that time.

The circumstances also influenced Matthew’s statement. At the time his Gospel was written, the Romans had totally destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. Back then, the notion that God punished his people for disobeying him was a mark of their religious culture—as it still is today among some Christians. How many Sunday sermons today warn of God’s punishment, e.g., floods and earthquakes, for our sins! Today we know that such things as floods and earthquakes were happening for millions of years before humans and sin appeared; they are the very process of creation itself. Matthew however, could have viewed this horrible event as God’s rejection of the Jews for not accepting Christ.

But earlier, Paul had written, “God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Rom. 11:2, 29). Matthew himself was preaching that Christ was God who had come among us in human form, to tell us to love everyone with unconditional love. And at the same time, Luke was writing that Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” (Lk. 23:34).

In our day, Pope John Paul II referred to, “The People of God of the Old Covenant, *which has never been revoked*. Christ has not rejected his Jewish people. Matthew’s account belongs to the time it was written, and to the circumstances of that day. It does not in any way apply to today, and more strongly, it in no way justifies anti-Semitism. In fact, in a spiritual way, Matthew was right. The “whole people” who called down the blood curse upon themselves and their children are the entire human community. They are all of us, you and I. We are the ones who made Jesus’ suffering necessary. We who proclaim Christ’s self-sacrificing love for all the people, should be a light of love and compassion to the world by our own lives of repentance and of good will, love and service to all others, especially to the poor, sick, vulnerable and outcast. In the light of our own faith, anti-Semitism is part of the sin that killed Jesus. Purely and simply, anti-Semitism is anti-Christian. Let’s put an end to it now!

Finally, before speaking at yet another synagogue I was invited to dinner at the home of my host family. It was the Feast of Tabernacles and the father had erected a tent on the back lawn. When dinner was ready the father called the children and they came rushing in, excitedly crying, “Abba! Abba!” Now, while the Jews do not mention God’s name, they do have a formal word for God, or Lord, “Adonai.” But Jesus told us to call God by the informal, loving name, “Abba.” In the joyful voices of the children, I heard the call to our common Father.

In the past 2000 years, our world has evolved and our faith should have evolved with it. And as the years have passed since my visit to the Main Line Temple, I remember Rabbi Gordon and say, “Rabbi, now after even more than 2000 years, I hope that we Catholics are “catching up.”

And I pray that all that we do together in love, we do for the glory of Christ-Adonai-Abba, to whom be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

## **DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 2005**

Chapter Constitution changed to allow an election of candidates to the Steering Committee by oral acclamation if only one person has been nominated for each office (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). If an office is contested, then the election process will be by mail ballot.

A Channel 6 news reporter spoke to Michael Rocks about the passing of Pope John Paul II.

D/P member Dick O’Malley opened his house for a social with the Steering Committee members and the Presiders on May 14.

D/P purchased a memorial plaque on St. Luke’s “Tree of Life” in memory of deceased Dignity members.

D/P member Jimmy Calnan participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Queer Café organized by Temple University and Tuttleman Counseling Services. Over twenty community groups attended to give students an opportunity to volunteer or join the various organizations that were represented.

**DUSA Convention 2005** held at the Lowes Hotel in Philadelphia with the theme ‘Through Truth to Freedom’ (Fr. Jim Mallon’s suggestion). The Convention Philadelphia 2005 Core Committee members were Dick O’Malley, David Kalinowski, Leo Chang, John Schott, Michael Flynn (co-chair), Barbara G. (also Convention Chaplain), Tony Cardoso, Tom Streeper (co-chair), Rob Schell and Sheryl Green. Bill Boyle made the beautiful stained glass cross that was hung in the Chapel for prayer, reflection and quiet time. A big thank you went out to the D/P members named above and to all of the D/P volunteers who staffed the Hospitality Table and participated in any event that made this a memorable convention.

Opening night featured Jason and deMarco in concert. Chrissy Gephardt gave the keynote speech on Friday morning and participated in the panel discussion on Saturday with Bishop V. Gene Robinson. D/P sponsored the ‘Liberty Lunch’ on July 8 at the William Way Community Center. The main liturgy was Saturday afternoon with Special Guest Homilist Bishop Robinson. The cocktail reception and dinner dance began at 7pm Saturday. Closing Ceremonies and Brunch were held on Sunday.

Convention Workshops by D/P members: Ric Ben-Safid and Bill Clossey were co-leaders in the “Interfaith Workshop” and Dugan McGinley led the workshop “Gay Catholic Autobiographies as Sacred Texts.” Other workshops included “Having a Baby Changes Everything”, “Reaching Out to Young Adults”, “Faithful

Dissenting”, “Transgender Workshop” and “When Civil Marriage Comes Calling.”

“A Special Conversation with Jeannine Gramick”: the documentary “In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick’s Journey of Faith” was shown with a discussion afterward. (Sister Jeannine is one of the founders of D/P.)

Letters of welcome and congratulations from Senator Arlen Specter and Mayor John Street were read at the beginning of the conference.

## **MOTIONS MADE AT THE MARCH AND APRIL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The following motions were made at the Steering Committee Meetings held March 4 and April 6, 2014:

**Motion 14-03-02** made by David Kalinowski; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Education Committee be authorized to purchase a table cover with Dignity logo not to exceed \$250 with funding from ING Money Market account. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-04-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michelle Perrone. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Chapter Service Awards consist of Jimmy, Kevin and a female member to be announced. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-04-02** made by Dolores Vera; seconded by BJ Welsh. Be it moved that every April and October that interest from the Investment Account (Blackrock) and the 90 Day Account be transferred into the General Fund. Yes 7; 0 No; 1 Abstain

## **50/50 FOR APRIL AND MAY**

**Motion 14-03-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Larry Sutter. Be it moved that the April 2014 50/50 be donated to Action AIDS Immediate Seating program, the May 2014 50/50 be donated to Enactus Tanzania Library Project, and the June 2014 50/50 be donated to the LGBT Center of NEPA. Passed unanimously.



**ActionAIDS Immediate Seating** is a volunteer-run complimentary ticket program for people living with HIV/AIDS made possible through the generosity of local organizations and venues. It gives clients the opportunity to enjoy theater, film, dance, concerts, museums, and a myriad of special events at no cost to them. Last year, Immediate Seating provided over 7,000 tickets to clients.

**Enactus Tanzania Library Project:** La Salle University’s ENACTUS team is an 8 time national qualifying business competition group who has chosen this library project and need help to complete the library building and construct the wall and walking path. The estimated amount needed to complete this entire project is \$15,000. The library will give students access to textbooks and computers and provide them a quiet, safe, and well-lit place to study. The library will serve the entire community. It will have specific services for the more than 5,000 students from 7 elementary and secondary schools in Sinon and neighboring communities.

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**LGBT Community Center of NEPA:** This center just opened in Feb. 23, 2014 and serves the greater Northeastern Pennsylvania region's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied community by working to achieve the following goals:

- Promoting a sense of community among LGBT citizens in the Greater NEPA area,
- Developing and publicizing resources targeted to the needs of the LGBT community,
- Facilitating communication and collaboration between LGBT-serving organizations, businesses, and individuals,
- Providing a supportive, welcoming venue for newcomers to the organization and the Greater NEPA LGBT community, and
- Supporting equality for LGBT persons whenever possible.

The Community Center is located 1174 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

## COMMUNITY LIFE UPCOMING EVENTS

On-going events:

**Broad Street Ministry** – May 28 and June 25 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. – and later join us for a social at Pine Street Pizza. Please note that BSM is still in need of toiletries and men's belts; please see Dolores or Jimmy Calnan for more info.

**Birthday Cake Sundays** – May 11 and June 15 – join us in celebrating members who are having a birthday; help us eat birthday cake!

**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) The exhibit will be on display at the Philadelphia Library Company (1314 Locust Street) from February 10th, 2014 to October 17th, 2014. A special viewing of the exhibit will be available at the William Way Community Center on Monday, June 30th, 2014; followed by a concert sung by the Philadelphia Voices of Pride. In addition, the tap dancing group Men on Tap will perform their hit number "Light in the Loafers." Please visit <http://www.librarycompany.org/events/index.htm> for more information. We hope to see you there!

**LGBT Event with Philadelphia Soul** – pro-football club is sponsoring an evening of awareness at their game on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – ticket circa \$20. Stay tuned...

### May 2014 Munchie

To help mend this world is true religion."  
-William Penn

HAPPY 41ST ANNIVERSARY

## LGBT Films at local library

The Free Library of Philadelphia, Independence Branch at 18 S. 7th Street is showing a series of films of interest to our community. Films begin at 6:00 but snacks come out at 5:30. Join other Dignettes in watching the following:

- May 19 a queer Israeli film
- June 9 Stonewall
- June 16 Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
- June 23 But I'm a Cheerleader
- July 21 Saving Face
- August 18 Making Love
- Sept. 15 Different for Girls
- Oct. 20 Torch Song Trilogy

## LITURGY COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be a Eucharistic Minister's Workshop on June 1, 2014. This class will be lead by one of Dignity's Chaplains. This workshop is for men and women, however Dignity Philadelphia does need more women as EMs, so if you are 1) a woman, and 2) interested, please sign up! Again, this workshop is open to any member of the community.

There will be a special Investiture service for the EMs (Joe and Wayne) and the new Lectors during service on May 11, 2014.

May 18, 2014, Father Joe McOscar will celebrate the Sunday Liturgy with us. Join us in this special occasion, not only do we celebrate Dignity's 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, but this will also be Father Joe's 50<sup>th</sup> year as a priest. Congrats Father Joe McOscar!

**National Religious Colloquy**, Sat., May 3, 2014 – 2:30 to 3:45 pm, The University of the Arts, Connelly Auditorium, 211 S. Broad Street. Reform and changes in tenor are transforming the relationship between homosexuality and the Roman Catholic Church, the Mormon Church and the United Methodist Church. A distinguished panel, including a defrocked Methodist minister, discusses these remarkable shifts; these panelists are Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Rabbinic Formation Specialist, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (moderator), Gerald Argetsinger, Founder, Gay Mormon Literature Project, Sister Jeannine Gramick, Cofounder, New Ways Ministry, Reverend Frank Schaefer, United Methodist minister from Lebanon County, PA (who was defrocked for officiating at his son's same-sex wedding, and Leonard J. Swidler, Professor of Catholic Thought and Interreligious Dialogue at Temple University. Dick O'Malley helped in organizing the National Religious Colloquy.

## OTHER DIGNITY-ESE RELATED EVENTS

**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)

**Mummer's Museum** presents "String Band Music Under the Sky" - Thursday nights @ 8 p.m. Concerts for May are as follows:

May 15 - Uptown

May 22 - Durning

May 29 - Gloucester City

Bring your folding chairs; refreshments will be available for sale, and let's support our Mummer's Dignity member with our presence at these events. The location is 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Washington Avenue. Rain or shine, outdoor weather permitting and we can all go in to the Museum (215-336-3050) if it rains!

**Dignity Young Adults Conference Retreat (DYAC)** - July 25-27, in Washington, D.C. DYAC Retreat: Discovering Our Place at the Table is a retreat to share our passion, nurture our spirits, and build our young adult community within Dignity. We are very excited and grateful to have Jamie Manson to help lead the weekend retreat. She will be giving some inspiring and enriching talks as well as facilitating discussions. The Retreat is open to Dignity members between the ages of 18 and 40. The cost for the Retreat is \$25 and covers the whole weekend, which includes meals and lodging. Scholarship money may be available for members of Dignity Philadelphia. The registration cost excludes transportation to/from DC. Any Dignity/Philadelphia member, who is interested in attending but would prefer to stay at a hotel instead of the provided accommodations, can contact Grant Shea (grant.shea@gmail.com) about sharing the costs for a hotel. Further details about the Retreat to follow; registration is available at <https://www.dignityusa.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=57>

## SAVE THE DATE

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay Community Night at the Phillies**

**Phillies vs. Astros**

Citizens Bank Park

Tues., August 5 @ 7:05 p.m.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS "SOMEWHAT RELATED" EVENT:

**Philadelphia Voices of Pride** - June 14 - 8 to 10 p.m.; for more info: <http://pvop.org/>, (Yes Jim Clay, there is a senior discount!) (Paul Foley, contact)

**The Candy Shoppe:** Gayborhood Pride is coming at 8pm, Thursday, June 5, to SugarHouse Casino. This variety show is your chance to see all of your favorite Gayborhood personalities and performers all under one bill with all the glitz and glamour of the SugarHouse Casino! \$5 of every ticket purchased will be donated to an amazing cause-MANNA ([www.Mannapa.org](http://www.Mannapa.org)) (Contact, Michelle Perrone)

## QUEER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - BACK AT UPENN

After a 3 year hiatus, the QCF was reinstated in March on campus at the University of Pennsylvania and will fall under the umbrella of the Christian Association. (It was established in 2006 and folded in 2011 due to lack of student participation.) Its goal is to bring the religious and LGBT communities together. The QCF will provide an environment where students can freely discuss both their sexuality and Christian beliefs. For more information, see <http://www.thedp.com/r/ad3129b5>.

## GAY PRIDE PARADE AND TABLING

Dignity Philadelphia will NOT be participating in the Gay Pride Parade this year - however, we will still have a table at the waterfront event. The parade takes place on Sunday, June 8 - starts at noon on Locust and 13th Streets - and continues thru the gayborhood and onward to Market Street. It finalizes at Penn's Landing. Dignity Philadelphia will have a table AND we need people to staff it (not "man" the table!). Please let David or BJ know so they can put you down for 2-3 hour slots ([dignityphilaPride@yahoo.com](mailto:dignityphilaPride@yahoo.com)). Happy Pride Day!

## MAY 18 - 41<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY MASS AND POTLUCK DINNER

Come and celebrate Dignity's 41th Anniversary Pot Luck followed by the Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 18 from 4ish to 6:30 p.m. Make your favorite dish, or grab some "take out" or bring some refreshments - but do come and join us! If you have a question or not sure what gourmet dish to fix, please contact Leo or Louis for suggestions.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS | *Weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets*

*(items in italic are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter – with more detail)*

## April is Volunteer Month

Sun., April 27 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
 Wed., April 30 Broad Street Ministry, 3-5:30 p.m.

Wed., May 28 *Broad Street Ministry, 3-5:30 p.m.*  
*Ascension Thurs. Vigil, 7:30 p.m.*  
*(This is a holy day of obligation.)*  
 Thurs., May 29 *Mummer's Museum String Band*

## May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Sat., May 3 *National Religious Colloquy Panel*  
 Sun., May 4 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
 Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
 Couples' Blessing  
 Sat., May 10 *Philadelphia Soul Football- details to follow*  
 Sun., May 11 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m. – Mother's Day AND  
 Birthday Cake!  
 Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
 Investiture for new Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers  
 Thurs., May 15 *Mummer's Museum String Band*  
 Sun., May 18 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
*Anniversary Mass and Pot Luck Dinner*  
 Mon., May 19 *LGBT Films at Independence Library*  
 Thurs., May 22 *Mummer's Museum String Band*  
 Sun., May 25 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
 Mon., May 26 Memorial Day

## June is LGBTQ Pride Month

Sun., June 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
 Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
*EM Training, 5:00 p.m.*  
 Thurs., June 5 *SugarHouse Drag Show to benefit MANNA*  
 Sun., June 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
*Gay Pride Parade*  
 Mon., June 9 *LGBT Films at Independence Library*  
 Sat., June 14 *Voices of Pride*  
 Sun., June 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.-  
 Father's Day AND Birthday Cake!  
 Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
 Mon., June 16 *LGBT Films at Independence Library*  
 Sat., June 21 First Day of Summer – at last!  
 And start planning for Fri. to Sun., July 25 to June 27 for the *Dignity Adult Conference Retreat in D.C.* The earliest you reserve your Megabus reservation, the cheaper it will be!

## 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 submission for the June/July newsletter is June 8, 2014.**

*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 – Community Life Committee Coordinator
- 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**