



# The Independence

The 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

## DIGNITY BRUNCH: A SOCIAL AND EPICUREAN SUCCESS

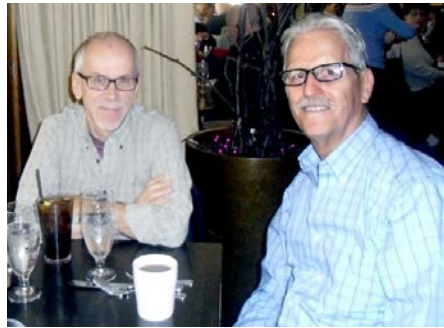
By Dick O'Malley

Once again Bill Wood's Knock at 12th & Locust outdid itself in hosting Dignity's Annual Fundraising Brunch on Saturday, Oct. 25th.

The big difference between this year and last year was a significant increase in the numbers served which went up from 35 to 50. As expected, the increase led to some initial delays in the sit-down service but it was more than made up by the quality of the food which included new entrees such as Eggs Florentine and Black Bean sliders with avocado slices, along with traditional dishes, such as Eggs Benedict and Crab Melts.

Thanks to the generosity of a Dignity member, almost ten per cent of the attendees did not have to pay the fee of \$15 for members. The brunch, which was sold out, helped raise funds for Dignity to meet the expenses of its weekly Sunday liturgies which always includes keyboard music. After tipping the servers, Dignity netted \$653.00 from this successful event.

Many thanks again to Bill Wood and Knock's manager Larry Kleppinger.



Bob and partner, Bill Quinn.



Gloria, Mary, Richard and Pat patiently waiting for their food.



Michael Rocks (center) and friends.



Jimmy and husband Rob, Ms. Eleanor, Linda and wife Joanne, and Aliza (Joanne's daughter).



Ray, Frank, Joe and Larry – only 1 out of 4 appears happy!



Brunch coordinator Dick O'Malley and Kris.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have a birthday in **January or February**, you must come to Liturgy on January 11 or February 8. We want to sing "Happy Birthday" to you, and serve you birthday cake. We promise not to ask your age!

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And don't forget to let Jimmy Calnan know of your intentions to serve at Broad Street Ministry on either **January 7 or February 4**. You must pre-register at Broad Street Ministry website in order to help serve at this first Wednesday of the month. If you need more info, please see Jimmy Calnan.

**Avenue Q** will be presented at St. Joseph's University on February 19, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8PM and March 1 at 2PM. However, Dignity Philadelphia has made plans to attend Friday, Feb. 20 at half price, which will be \$10. Are Dignity members interested in going as a group? If so, please let Henry Chau know; he will take your name and money. The deadline for RSVP is Feb. 15. We are reminded; from the website that **"This show contains mature subject matter"**. Can Dignity members handle this? If so, do let Henry know of your interest.

Dignity Philadelphia will hold its Semiannual Business Meeting on Sunday, **March 22, 2015**, probably after social. Everyone is invited to attend. The agenda is almost finished, but a draft one is presented in this newsletter. This is a perfect time to contact the Steering Committee if you want an item(s) to be addressed.

New Ways Ministry will hold a retreat for lesbians **June 5-7** at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. The theme is "Fear & Faith, Risk & Trust." Sister Jeannine Gramick, one of Dignity Philadelphia's founders, will be one of the presenters. While this is a way off, women must apply by February 21 if interested in getting a discount; the registration fee is \$175. For more info, write to New Ways Ministry, 4012 29th Street, Mt. Rainier, MD., 20712 or email [info@NewWaysMinistry.org](mailto:info@NewWaysMinistry.org)

And in September 2015: the Pope is coming, the Pope is coming. The Steering Committee has information from Dignity USA on upcoming events in conjunction with the papal visit. This may be a topic for New Business at the Semiannual Business Meeting.

## **MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The following motions were made at two separate Steering Committee Meetings, November 2 and December 7, 2014:

Motion 14-11-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michelle Perrone. Be it moved that the **December 50/50** be donated to the Leadership Scholarship Fund in honor of Gloria Casarez through the West Chester University (WCU) Foundation. Passed unanimously.

Motion 14-12-01 made by Dolores Vera; seconded by Dick O'Malley. Be it moved that the **January 50/50** be donated to La Puerta Abierta (The Open Door). Passed unanimously.



This "legacy" **Leadership Scholarship Fund** was established in 2012. Gloria Casarez graduated from *West Chester University* in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and went on to complete the Executive Administration Program at the *University Of Pennsylvania* in 2005. While a student at WCU, Gloria was active in student government, served on the Commission on the Status for Women and was a leader in LASO (Latino American Student Organization) for three years. She spent time with WCU students and inspired many of them to embrace social justice advocacy. Gloria served as the director of LGBT Affairs for the City of Philadelphia, which develops priorities for the City on issues including public safety, education, economic development, health and City services, and civil rights. Gloria joined the staff of the Mayor's Office in 2008 and was the principle advisor to the Mayor on areas relating to LGBT communities until her death on October 19, 2014.

**La Puerta Abierta – The Open Door** – initiated in 2010 by Intercultural Coalition for Family Wellness, this non-profit provides mental health support to Latino families in underserved communities in the Delaware Valley: families who are struggling and suffering due to poverty, addiction, violence, migration and political oppression; families who do not have the resources to access the therapeutic support which could alleviate their pain and provide strategies to prevent future harm. Many of these families are further marginalized by a lack of language skills, resources, and reliable relationships in the community. These are families who would not typically seek or participate in services elsewhere and commonly choose, instead, to struggle and suffer in the shadows of our communities.

**Note to Dignity Philadelphia members:** If you work for, or know of, a non-profit which you feel would benefit from a little extra cash, you are always welcome to bring that organization's name and services to the Steering Committee for a possible 50/50 raffle. Every quarter, Dignity Philadelphia nominates an AIDS serving agency, and the other two months can be for any non-profit nominated by a member of the community or the Steering Committee members. Again, if you know of an agency that serves families, children, pets, homeless, etc.,

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please either let a SC member know of your intentions or you can bring this name to a monthly meeting for consideration by the SC. And if you like, you can also do 1 or 4 Sunday 50/50 drawings for your agency – since you can detail all the good work that agency does. (This will also give 50/50 Al a break on Sundays!) Names for this raffle come from the community and you are welcome to nominate a non-profit for the monthly funding.

As mentioned in this newsletter, the following is a draft agenda for the upcoming semiannual meeting:

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

**Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 8:30 pm**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2014**

### **Old Business**

1. Tax Status
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Weddings
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Elections

### **New Business**

- 1.
- 2.

### **Officer Reports**

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer – report since last semiannual business meeting

### **Committee Reports**

Community Life

Communications

Education

Liturgy

### **Motion to Adjourn**

### **Closing Prayer**

## **A VERY SUCCESSFUL “END OF THE YEAR” SUMMARY**

Congrats to the Liturgy Committee and all the Dignity community for a very busy and productive events starting October 25 with a very successful brunch and ending with the Christmas Liturgy. Once again Dick O'Malley did everything associated with this Liturgy fundraiser to make it a successful brunch – OK, he didn't cook the food, but made it possible for us to have cheesecake! Thru the generosity of a “secret” donor, various members were able to attend this event free of charge. A special thanks to Anonymous Donor (you know who you are!), Dick, Bill Wood and his marvelous staff. Thank you men!

The community then went on to celebrate the “Day of the Dead” on November 2; so many of the members brought photos, *ofendas*, and little reminders of their loved ones whose lives we celebrated at this Sunday Liturgy. Our special thanks to

Michael Rocks, Bill Quinn and David for helping to organize this event, and a special thanks to Father Morrissey for a great homily and remembering all the members, friends and relatives we have all lost during this past year.

A special thanks to Leo and Louis for yet another successful Thanksgiving Pot Luck on November 23. So much organizing, cooking, heating and serving the Dignity members and friends, and these two men do it all! This event reminds us of God's plentiful bounty, the community's generosity and how fortunate we are to have this event to thank God for bringing us together again. When given the opportunity, please thank these men for all the work they do, not just at Thanksgiving but all year round.

Dignity also participated in the Rite of Reconciliation, which took place the end of November. One Dignity presider suggested it, and Michael Rocks took the ball and ran with it! He developed the program for this event and led us in songs, and prayers in asking for forgiveness and absolution. It was also the First Sunday of Advent, so the Liturgy Committee combined these events, and it was truly a spiritual experience.

And once again, Bill Quinn presented the community with the beautiful Advent candles which he lit the four Sundays of the month. Thank you Bill for your generosity in providing any and all items needed for this and for all festive events. He also brought the Christmas Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Liturgy. Without his contribution of flowers every Sunday, we would be at a loss, and Ms. Eleanor wouldn't have any take-aways for her home! Ms. Eleanor, and the community, thinks the world of Bill!

No Christmas would be complete without Jimmy Calnan organizing the Calcutta House interviews (11/24 and 11/25), documenting who needs/wants what and then distributing these requests to Dignity members. For two Sundays he collected the beautifully wrapped gifts, and organized the ceremony and party which took place at Calcutta House on Dec. 15. It is so much work and Jimmy takes on this task year after year. May God continue to give him the strength to liaison with Calcutta House, its grateful residents and staff, and for giving us a reason to joyfully celebrate with the residents. Thank him also when you get the chance.

AND please don't forget Father Ron Hoskins for making this event so impressive. We are always in awe of his memorization skills, ability to interact with everyone and still give us a Liturgy and homily that speaks to all of us and to what Christmas really means. What would we do without Father Hoskins? He is truly God's gift to Dignity Philadelphia!

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And speaking of Father Hoskins, the Christmas Liturgy this year was certainly memorable. He acknowledged Bill Quinn, Jim “Butch” Clay and Jimmy Calnan with gifts for the community via these generous individuals. He gifted the community with vestments, tokens of appreciation and his chalice. Apparently his generosity knows no boundaries. A heartfelt thanks goes to Father Hoskins (or Cardinal Hoskins as he would prefer to be called) from the Dignity Community for making this Christmas Liturgy an unforgettable event of giving from his heart.

AND for fear of sounding like a broken record (who remembers vinyl?), a special thanks to Louis and Leo for a humongous spread of food and pastries following the Christmas Liturgy. Thanks to all the members who were kind enough to bake, buy and bring food for this special event. There was so much food at this Christmas social that they even sent us home with cookies and drinks. Thank you both for keeping us fed and happy!

As we continue moving forward to another Dignity-filled year, we also need to acknowledge the Liturgy Committee for bringing us another presider – another woman priest to remind us of the gifts that God gives to our Chapter. Thanks for the work Jim “Butch,” and company, does to bring us Liturgy every Sunday. And let us say a rosary, and a big thank you, in honor of the new formed Monthly Rosary Group organized by Pat and Michael F. The participants just keep expanding. It is held every third Sunday of the month circa 6-6:15 p.m. Do join us in this spiritual and bonding experience. This group provides the rosaries and guide for praying, so do join us. And again, the Dignity community – albeit a smaller group – continues to host the first Wednesday of the month dinner service at Broad Street Ministry. We have collected enough clothing and toiletries for the clients of BSM, and thanks go out to Jimmy Calnan (again) for organizing this truly Christian outreach. (Where does this man get his energy?)

Without the contribution of everyone mentioned above, and the community as a whole, *The Independence* would have nothing to report or photograph (see numerous pics in this newsletter). Keep up this wonderful, giving work.

Dolores Vera and Michelle Perrone,  
Communications Co-coordinators

## **DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 2009**

Five D/P members attended the Out & Faithful interfaith breakfast at the William Way Community Center on February 12.

D/P contributed to the D/USA initiative for an ad in The Advocate.

D/P renews its membership in the YES! Coalition.

D/P sponsored an All Day Retreat on April 25. Bernadette Kinniry, RSM, was the facilitator with the theme “Guidelines to Living and Leading a Holy Life.”

John “Scotty” Schott III died on April 27, 2009. The D/P memorial service was Saturday, June 13 with Tom Orians as presider. The updated Constitution and Bylaws were dedicated to Scotty. A Book of Remembrance was available on Sundays leading up to the memorial for members to enter their thoughts, condolences, etc. and was presented to the family. Scotty’s 30-year pin was also presented to the family. Our D/P President was interviewed by PGN regarding Scotty’s obituary that appeared in their paper.

D/P endorsed the National Equality Rally that occurred outside Independence Hall on May 3. A member who attended and marched with the other religious groups reported good numbers despite the rain.

D/P members encouraged to attend the May 13 screening of ASK NOT at the WHYH studios. The screening explores the process leading up to the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and personal stories of gay Americans who serve.

D/P President’s report of July 2009 began the process of having duly ordained women priests to serve the chapter by requesting the Liturgy Committee to explore the possibility.

October 2-4 Weekend retreat in Rehoboth Beach facilitated by Marie Summers and Mary Anne Mundis.

D/P sent a letter of support to Pennsylvania U.S. Representative Patrick Murphy who wants to do away with the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

Joint venture between D/P and SEPA WOC to discuss the book by Marian Ronan “Tracing the Sign of the Cross, Sexuality, Mourning, and the Future of American Catholicism” was held on October 25.

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## **Bi-monthly Munchie**

“I have decided to stick with love.  
Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**HAPPY MLK DAY OF SERVICE**

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On November 11 two D/P members attended the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral's discussion panel "Gays/Lesbians and Religion."

## **WELCOME NEW DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Many, many thanks to Barbara Gindhart, one of Dignity Philadelphia's Chaplin, for conducting a workshop for Eucharistic Ministers on November 16. Her handouts were extremely detailed and very appropriate for this workshop. Several new members availed themselves of this workshop, Richard Minuti, Dolores Vera and Kris Higgins, and returning EMs came for a refresher course: Gloria Ney, Alice Foley and Richard O'Malley. An investiture service took place that Sunday, and now Dignity Philadelphia has a good number of EMs for Sunday Liturgies! Thanks to Barbara for all her work in making this a successful event, and thanks also to Dick O'Malley for organizing it. An individual workshop for two women who could not attend on this date will be held very soon. If you are also interested in being an EM, please let Dick know so you too can participate in this upcoming class, and ultimately help distribute the consecrated bread and wine during Communion.

## **DAY OF THE DEAD - NOVEMBER 2, 2014**



Bill, David and Michael decorating the altar.



The finished altar – great work!



Two Dignity members we lost this year, Father Ralph and Charlie, whose pictures adorned our altar.

## **CALCUTTA HOUSE HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 15, 2014**



Dignity elves ready to distribute gifts: Dick, BJ and wife Erin and Mary B.



Ready for the cake cutting: Mary, Dick, BJ and Jimmy Calnan – the major ELF Gift Coordinator.



More Dignity elves: John B., Father Ron and Larry.



Mario and Jean, ready to start singing!



Larry and Linda ready to cut and serve; Rob supervising the cake cutting ceremony.



Kevin, Ms. Eleanor and Mary B., all enjoying themselves.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2015

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

## January is Weight Loss Awareness Month

Friday, January 2 Prayer Around the Cross, upstairs @ 7 pm  
 Sunday, January 4 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Steering Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Wednesday, January 7 Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 pm  
 Sunday, January 11 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Birthday Cake Social  
 Liturgy Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Sunday, January 18 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm to commemorate  
 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 Monday, January 19 MLK Day of Service  
 Sunday, January 25 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm – Christian Unity Service

## February is Black History Month

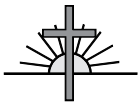
Sunday, February 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Blessing of the Throats  
 Steering Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Tuesday, February 3 Feast of St. Blaise  
 Wednesday, February 4 Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 pm  
 Friday, February 6 Prayer Around the Cross @ 7 pm  
 Sunday, February 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Birthday Cake Social  
 Liturgy Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Saturday, February 14 Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm – Healing Service  
 Monday, February 16 Presidents' Day  
 Wednesday, February 18 Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 pm  
 (start of Lent)  
 Friday, February 20 **Avenue Q** at St. Joe's – see newsletter  
 for details  
 Saturday, February 21 Deadline to apply for discount at Women's  
 Retreat June 5-7  
 Sunday, February 22 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 First Sunday of Lent  
 Day of Fast and Prayer for AIDS

## March is National Women's History Month

Sunday, March 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Steering Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Wednesday, March 4 Broad Street Ministry from 3-6 pm  
 Friday, March 6 Prayer Around the Cross @ 7 pm  
 Sunday, March 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Liturgy Committee Meeting @ 4:30 pm  
 Sunday, March 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Tuesday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day  
 Wednesday, March 18 St. Joseph's Day  
 Sunday, March 22 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 pm  
 Semiannual Business Meeting

## 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 February/March newsletter is February 15, 2015.**

*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  
**Jimmy Calnan** – Vice President  
**Kevin Davies** – Secretary  
**Mike Bradley** – Treasurer  
**Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley** – Liturgy Committee Co-coordinators  
**Henry Chau** – Community Life Committee Coordinator  
**Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera** – Communications Co-coordinators  
**Alice Foley** – Education Committee Co-coordinator  
**Chaplains:** Barbara Gindhart and Father Ron Hoskins



*Electronic payment at [razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia](http://razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia)*

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**