



The Independence

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

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

DIGNITY ANNUAL BRUNCH - GOOD TIMES & GOOD FOOD

By Dick O'Malley

The annual Dignity Brunch at Knock, located at 12th & Locust Streets, was a social, an epicurean, and a financial success. It exceeded last year's event in numbers and timeliness. The fact that it started a little later, at noon, gave the staff more time to arrive and prepare, helped to the success of the event.

The numbers of entrees increased to eight, including the always popular Eggs Benedict and Knockburger, as well as a vegetarian's delight, a Black Bean Slider. The attendees represented all time periods in Dignity's storied history, with Aunt Eleanor winning the prize for being the "senior" in years, chronologically and the best dressed (as always!).

Thanks to all who helped make it a success. Next year's brunch will be challenged to exceed this one in 2015.



Enjoying the Dignity Brunch are Rob, Eleanor, Luis, Joanne, Linda and Jimmy.



Kevin, Bill, Leo and Ed happily enjoying the company.



Happy Dignettes at Knock – Alice, Presider Ron Hoskins, Joe C., Mike V., Robin (new member) and her partner.

OUTFEST 2015 – A GREAT SUCCESS

By Alice Foley

This year's Outfest included a special dedication of the partial unveiling of the mural in honor of the late activist Gloria Casarez. She was Philadelphia's Inaugural Director of LGBT Affairs and longtime community activist. Mayor Nutter was there with several hundred women and men for the ceremony. Guests included Philadelphia Commissioner on Human Relations executive director, Rue Landau, activist and GALAEI founder David Acosta; Gloria Casarez' cousin Erkin Jervis, artist and friend, Louis Fonseca, attorney and friend Elizabeth Larin, and MAP Chief Operating Officer Joan Reilly. The mural artist, Michelle Angela Ortiz, created the mural and community members helped paint various sections. The mural is located along the walls of 12th Street Gym. It is beautiful and should be complete by the end of October. Persons involved wanted to celebrate Casarez at Outfest since this was one of her favorite events.

Prior to the mural ceremony, the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus sang at City Hall and the rainbow flag was raised at the N.E. corner of City Hall. This flag will be there all

month to celebrate LGBT History Month. Mayor Michael Nutter received the Out Proud & Friend Award. He read the city's proclamation recognizing National Coming Out Day as an official holiday.

Thanks go to Dick O'Malley and Winston for helping out in terms of bringing out Dignity info and setting up the tent on Spruce Street.

Joanne and her wife Linda, and their friend, Luis, helped staff the table. Thanks also to Mike Viola, Dick and Tom Charnock for helping me take turns staffing the table and giving out information regarding the Chapter. Circa 13 individuals all expressed interest in receiving more information from the Chapter.

All the regular non-profits within Philadelphia, groups in the four outlying counties, Lehigh Valley and New Jersey all participated in this year's Outfest. Down the street from Dignity's table were three non-profits seeking persons to adopt animals, some of whom were at their table. Apparently Outfest was very inclusive!



Staffing the table at Outfest are Dick, Alice and Winston –
Outfest, Oct. 11, 2015



Did you know that there was a way that you could purchase holiday presents, birthday presents, or things just for yourself and benefit Dignity/Philadelphia? If you purchase items online through Amazon.com, you can continue to make your same purchases and provide financial support for the Chapter through Amazon's Smile program. Through this program a percentage of the purchase price for eligible purchases is donated to the charity of your choice - such as Dignity Philadelphia. To participate, when you shop online, go to smile.amazon.com. Then select Dignity Philadelphia as your charity. Then you just shop through Amazon as you normally would. Your contribution from eligible purchases is sent directly from Amazon to Dignity. Dignity Philadelphia has earmarked any funds received through the Amazon Smile program to our Community Emergency Fund. This fund is used to purchase gift cards to area supermarkets for members who are experiencing financial difficulty. You make your purchases, a donation is made to the Chapter, and that money is then used to help a member in need.

Bi-monthly Munchie

I will give thanks to you, oh God,
with all my heart.

Psalm 138

Happy Thanksgiving and
All Hollows' Eve

SPIRITUAL RETREAT – SIGN UP NOW!

Saturday, November 7th – Dignity’s Education and Liturgy Committees will sponsor a one-day retreat, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme is “The Gift of being a LGBTQ Catholic” and Maryrose Petrizzo, RCWP, will conduct this retreat which should attract both Dignity and non-Dignity Catholics. The registration fee is \$10 and includes a Continental Breakfast and lunch; scholarships are available for members on a limited income. See either Henry Chau or Dick O’Malley for more info and payment.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK – NOVEMBER 22



OH NO! ANOTHER POTLUCK!

Once again, Louis and Leo are giving us the opportunity to cook and/or bake and demonstrate our culinary skills. Yes, it is time for the Thanksgiving Potluck! So

mark your calendars! **Sunday, November 22** is right around the corner.

Look at this Dignity potluck as a practice run for the real event on Thursday, November 26. Plus this practice run also gives you the audience you need to try out new foods before you introduce them to your family and close friends! However, we are not picky eaters, and rest assured that your contribution will be a big success.

So start your grocery shopping, look up new and exciting (or tried but true) recipes and cook/bake/broil/roast to your heart’s content. Then bring the food to the Dignity Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday 11/22 afternoon – and see

it disappear. Entrees are always welcome, vegetables are a big hit with ALL the vegetarians (all 3 of us) and desserts are our all-time favorites. And for those that are culinary-challenged, feel free to bring soft drinks, a box-of-wine, a store-bought cake(s) or cheese! However if the budget doesn’t allow for gourmet cooking and shopping – no problem! Just come and join us – your presence is what we want. So come and share a meal with your Dignity community and give thanks to God for bringing us together – around food – once again this year. And come Thanksgiving Day, you will be ready to indulge, thanks to the Dignity practice run!



UPCOMING RITE OF RECONCILIATION

By Michael Rocks

Dignity/Philadelphia will celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation during Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, **November 29, 2015**. The Liturgy Committee has accepted a suggestion by one of the priest/presiders that our community begin to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in an innovative way by using a variation of “General Absolution.”

While Dignity has made priests available for individual “confession” before the Sunday Mass, very few, if any, of our members go to “individual confession.” It is easy to understand why GLBT Catholics are not interested in individual confession. Most GLBT Catholics who have sought the sacrament of reconciliation in parishes have left the confessional unforgiven and unaccepted. Catholic confession for the GLBT Catholic has most often ended in a spiritual disaster.

Still, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as a way to bring our shortcomings and our desire for God’s forgiveness to be reconciled, is an important spiritual experience despite the unfulfilled experiences of not just GLBT Catholics, but many other “Catholics forced to the fringes” in the parish confessional.

Dignity’s Liturgy Committee is in the process of designing a new format for “General Absolution” which will be celebrated at Mass on the First Sundays of Advent (similar to what we did for Lent). A rite of Communal Reconciliation will be celebrated during the Penitential Rite on this Sunday – November 29th.

continued on next page

continued from last page

More information on this new Rite of Reconciliation will be provided to the congregants at Mass as the First Sunday of Advent draws near. The Liturgy Committee will develop a format for the Rite and a written explanation of the Rite, which will be made available several weeks prior to the First Sunday of Advent.

MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

There were no motions made at the September 6 Steering Committee Meeting. However, the September Liturgy Committee passed their first motion, and at the October Steering Committee three motions were made; all these are as follows:

Motion 09-15-01 made by Michael Rocks, seconded by Michelle Perrone. Be it moved that in the event that a priest is not available on a specific Sunday, D/P will use 2 lay person (male and female) and they will use the regular Sacramentary. Passed unanimously. (This motion will be included in the Procedural Manual)

Motion 15-10-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that D/P add \$100 to the 50/50 funds sent to DUSA for papal visit expenses. Passed unanimously.

Motion 15-10-02 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamin. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for FY 2014-2015 consist of Michael Viola and Rob Baker. Passed unanimously.

Motion 15-10-03 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Estes Fund be divided in donations of \$300 to Calcutta House and \$300 to AIDS Fund; the Durkin Fund be donated in full to Mercy Hospice. (7 yes; 1 no)

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS TO BE CELEBRATED SUNDAY, NOV 1, 2015

Day of the Dead (known as All Souls' Day) is a holy day observed throughout Mexico and around the world in other cultures. The holy day focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died. A common symbol of the day is a skull or a skeleton.

This year, similar to last year, Dignity will be honoring the holy day on **Sunday, November 1** by once again



building an altar and asking members to contribute to this religious structure. The Liturgy Committee will decorate the altar with festive papers and various Day of the Dead figurines; the structure will then be placed in the right hand corner, taking up Bill Boyle's sitting area. Items on the altar can include candles (lit to welcome the spirits back), Marigolds (these yellow-orange flowers symbolize death), salt (represents the continuance of life), photos of our members and friends who are deceased, fresh water, images of saints, and items that once belonged to the deceased (a tambourine, a Pittsburgh Steelers cap, a T-shirt, a necklace, etc.). Again, we are asking members to contribute any of these items, especially pictures and mementos of your loved ones, which will be returned at the end of Mass. Last year, for being our first year, so many members contributed quite a few items of their loved ones; we are hopeful that you once again help us celebrate the lives of people whom we love and are no longer with us physically.

If you would like to help construct the altar please let Michael Rocks know of your interest. The very nature of the holy day encourages a sense of creativity when it comes to honoring the dead, and as evident from last year's celebration, we can be very creative. As they say, "it's the thought that counts."

CALCUTTA HOUSE – DIGNITY'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

As many of you know, the November 50/50 is for Calcutta House. When we have our holiday party, we then

continued on next page

continued from last page

present them with our monetary donation as part of our Christmas gift to them to help meet their needs. Sooooo this year, Dignity Philadelphia's initial annual visit to Calcutta House is Monday, **November 23** (with the day after for follow up visits) for interviewing the residents regarding their Christmas lists. Dignity members are encouraged to accompany Jimmy and Rob to this annual event; these interviews go fast and give us an opportunity to meet the residents. These suggested "requests" will then be brought to church so Dignity elves can fulfill their wishes! Then for the next two weeks, gifts are brought to church – always beautifully wrapped – and are ready for delivery! This is always a fun activity for members as well as for the residents.

And come Monday, **December 21**, all of us Dignity elves and family members will get together at Calcutta House for the BIG holiday party. At this event, we have ice cream, cake, gift giving and a special Liturgy by Fr. Ron Hoskins. Anyone who has been to these parties knows how much fun they are for Dignity and the residents. And if you haven't been there before, please join us for an evening you will not forget. These visits help remind us that Christmas is for giving those less fortunate than us, and expecting nothing in return. The true spirit of Christmas is very evident at this annual party.

For the interviews and for the holiday party, transportation is arranged by Jimmy Calnan. If you plan to join us for either or both events, and need a ride, please be outside St. Luke's for a 7:00 p.m. carpooling on all three dates mentioned above. For additional information, such as directions, etc., please contact Jimmy on year1826@aol.com. Hopefully, all of you can join us in this festive and gay event.

UPCOMING DIGNITY EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

From Community Life
– Broad Street Ministry for the next two months are November 4 and December 2, 2015; Birthday Cake Sundays are November 15 and December 20 – come and celebrate with the monthly (old) birthday people.



The Community Life Committee is planning a trip to the Broadway Theatre in Pitman NJ to see "**Brigadoon.**" We have reserved seats for the Sunday, Nov. 15, show at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for balcony seats. All the orchestra has already been sold out. The Broadway Theatre never disappoints with their musicals.

Martin Callahan of the Catholic Cemeteries Association will speak on **Sunday, November 29th** at 6:00 p.m. He will provide suggested information prior to liturgy and have information for members afterwards. In prior years, before a person could be buried, there had to be a letter from that person's parish approving the burial; apparently this letter is no longer required! Do come early and find out other interesting facts on Catholic cemeteries and burials.

And from the 3rd Sunday Rosary Group, Michael Rocks and Michael Flynn will coordinate the visit to the Miraculous Medal Shrine. There is a fee attached to this; see either Michael for more info and if you are interested in attending.

Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus is scheduled to sing **Friday, December 4, 2015** at 8 p.m.; the price for attending is \$25. The location for this event is Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, 2110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For more information and ticket to be sold two weeks prior to the event: Email: DignityPhila@aol.com or call: (215) 546-2093. Henry Chau who is a member of Dignity's Choir is also a member of this singing group.



Additionally, there will be a Mummer's Concert on **Friday, December 4, 2014**, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in South Philadelphia, located at 3rd and Wolf Sts. For tickets, which are only \$5, contact Joe T. at josephtoal76@gmail.com All the money raised benefits homeless men associated with at My Brothers House.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

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

November is Native American Awareness Month

- Sunday, Nov. 1 Mass at 7 p.m., Day of the Dead Celebration – info in newsletter Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Nov 4 Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 6 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 7 *Dignity Retreat – see specifics in this newsletter*
- Sunday, Nov. 8 Mass at 7 p.m. AND Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 15 Mass at 7 p.m. AND Brigadoon Theater event
- Sunday, Nov. 22 Mass at 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Pot Luck, 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 23 *Calcutta House gift visit, 7 p.m. (see article in newsletter)*
- Wed., Nov. 25 Mass for Eve of Thanksgiving, 7:30 p.m., Dignity Office
- Thursday, Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, Nov. 29 Mass for World AIDS Day, 7 p.m. Advent Begins
- Monday, Nov. 30 Michelle's Birthday – important date in the Editor's life

December is AIDS Awareness Month

- Tuesday, Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- Wed., Dec. 2 Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 4 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m. Gay Men's Choir event AND Mummer's Concert
- Saturday, Dec. 5 A women's dance will be held at the William Way Center from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (see Alice Foley for details.)
- Sunday, Dec. 6 Mass at 7 p.m. Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception Mass at 7:30 p.m., Dignity Office
- Saturday, Dec. 12 Feast of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- Sunday, Dec. 13 Mass at 7 p.m. Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 20 Mass at 7 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 21 Calcutta House Holiday Party at 7 p.m. – please join us!
- Thursday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass 10 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day – no Dignity service
- Sunday, Dec. 27 Mass at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Mass at 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 submission for the December 2015/ January 2016 newsletter is December 14, 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.



Electronic payment at 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).

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.

Steering Committee

- Michael Rocks** – Interim President
- Jimmy Calnan** – Interim Vice President
- Kevin Davies** – Interim Secretary
- Erin McMenamin** – 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

Individual annual dues:
 Dignity/Phila \$20;
 Dignity/USA \$30
 \$ _____ **Total**

Couple's annual dues:
 Dignity/Phila \$35;
 Dignity/USA \$60
 \$ _____ **Total**