



# The Independence

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

## UPDATE ON AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

By Michael J. Rocks, Interim President

The committee has been meeting on the 4th Sundays of the month and has finished the first draft of the proposed new By-laws for the Chapter. The committee plans to present the proposed draft to the Steering Committee in January 2016 for review and input, and then to a Community Meeting in February so that all Chapter members will be able to have input into final draft. The Chapter will then use the process outlined in our present Constitution and By-laws to enact the new By-laws.

The present proposal would have a 5 member elected Board of Directors. The Board members would decide which of them would be president and the other duties will be assigned the other members – Finance, Record Keeping and Membership. The fifth Board member would fill in for other Board members in their absence or might be assigned to some special need of the Chapter at that time.

The Liturgy Committee and Communications Committee would be designated as Service Groups, and would elect their own Coordinators and would report to the Board of Directors. Other Chapter works or events responsibilities would be assigned as Working Groups and would come together to complete a certain task and then end. The committee is also trying to make the newly proposed Chapter By-laws simpler and easier to understand. The committee hopes that in the future, the Chapter leadership group would be smaller and serving in leadership positions will be less burdensome so as to attract new leaders.

## DIGNITY’S ALL-DAY RETREAT ON NOV. 7TH

On Saturday, November 7th, eight members of Dignity attended an all-day retreat at St. Luke’s and the Epiphany on the topic of “Gift of Being GLBTQ Catholics.” The retreat was led by Maryrose, one of Dignity’s Presiders, who also led the last Dignity weekend retreat held in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The retreat inspired the participants to consider how being GLBTQ provided them with a unique opportunity to think about God and their place in God’s creation. Rather than being a hindrance, their sexual orientation gave them a special way to view God’s loving care of them and their love ones.

The retreat included a Continental Breakfast and lunch. The expenses were covered by a modest registration fee and by expenditures from Dignity’s Mark Ratkus Retreat Fund. Thanks to everyone who made this retreat a success and a special thanks to Maryrose for bringing us together to share our thoughts and feelings.

## ALICE FOLEY IS HONORED BY THE COMMUNITY

Alice Foley was honored on Saturday, November 28th at the Anderson Apartments as an activist “senior lesbian.” Three persons’ names, including Alice’s name, were submitted to GO which is Philly women Give to Others. These women have been active with the William Way Center’s Women’s Wednesday Group for at least seven years, as well as Silver Foxes (for gays and lesbians over 60) or at the Center Library.

Five local women form the core of GO which was founded in September 2011 mainly to help women and children in need focusing on the lesbian community. It is a giving circle built on a century-old tradition of helping others in your community. GO in the

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past honored and assisted lesbian groups as well as LGBT youth. They have had at least five events in the past few years geared to lesbian groups.

Alice and two others have been volunteers from the William Way Center and a few women were included from the Anderson Apartments.

As many of you know, Alice has been a member of Dignity/Philadelphia for 28 years serving on the Steering Committee in different offices and/or committees. Most Sundays she enjoys being in the music corner during our liturgies.

She has been a member for fourteen years of the Mayor's Commission on Disability, an unpaid appointed position, and serves on their Legislative Committee.

She was presented with a gift, and a card saying "Committee" in large letters and "Without community there is no liberation." words credited to Audre Lord, on the inside. She is pleased to represent Dignity and will continue her other volunteer efforts within our community. Good work Alice!

**...AND SPEAKING OF ALICE:**

She wants Dignity to know that STARDUST Women's Dance will be in the William Way Ballroom, Saturday, January 16th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$15. Tickets can be purchased via going to [www.waygay.org](http://www.waygay.org) This is the first of three women's dances in 2016. Dignity women and friends are encouraged to come to a fun evening. Of course, the dance comes with food, sodas, wine and beer.



**Bi-monthly Munchie**  
"The word became flesh and lived among us."  
John 1:14  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

There was only one motion for November 1 Steering Committee and three motions made at the December 6 meeting. These motions are as follows:

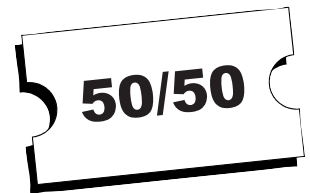
Motion 15-11-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Henry Chau. Be it moved that the **December 50/50** be designated for Broad Street Ministry. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 15-12-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Henry Chau. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Audit Committee – Mike Viola and Rob Baker – be congratulated on their work and that the report be accepted as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 15-12-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the **January 2016 50/50** be donated to Philadelphia FIGHT. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 15-12-03** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the **February 2016 50/50** be donated to "Open Door," La Puerta Abierta. Passed unanimously.

**50/50 for December:** Broad Street Ministry ("BSM") is a broad-minded Christian community that practices radical hospitality and works for a more just world through civic engagement. Broad Street Ministry was established in May of 2005 as a Pennsylvania 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Depending on the day, BSM schedules groups from 5 to 20 people for their indoor dining program, **Breaking Bread**. (Dignity members volunteer the first Wednesday of every month.) Additionally, BSM has been Dignity's recipients for donated men's clothes and personal care items which they then provide to their vulnerable guests each week.



**50/50 for January:** Philadelphia FIGHT is a comprehensive health services organization providing primary care, consumer education, research, and advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS and those at high risk. It has the Jonathan Lax Health Clinic that provides culturally competent integrated HIV primary medical care and social services; in January 2016, FIGHT will have dental services.

**50/50 for February:** La Puerta Abierta (The Open Door) provides individual and family counseling; In

partnership with over 50 different providers in the Delaware Valley, LPA receives referrals and provides pro bono, quality mental health care for individuals and families who face barriers to emotional healing due to language, legal and economic constraints.

## **MIRACULOUS MEDAL SHRINE UPCOMING EVENT**

The Rosary Group is coordinating a visit to the Shrine in Germantown on February 6, 2016. While this event is not limited to the Rosary Group, Dignity members who are interested can come and join us at this event. The price for admission to the Shrine is \$7, and includes a tour. If you are interested, please let Michael Rocks or Michael Flynn know since we will be going around noon, and carpool will need to be planned for in advance.



Mea culpa, mea culpa:  
Page 1, under the 3rd picture of the handsome group at the Brunch, the one with Monsignor Hoskins in the picture, I introduced Dignity's new member as Robyn and un-named partner. Her real name is Devon and her partner is Matt J. My apologies.



## **CHINESE NEW YEAR DIM SUM**

Community Life is organizing a group of Dignity members to come celebrate the Chinese New Year by going out to eating Dim Sum! Everyone is invited to this event which will take place Saturday, **February 13, 2016**. We have had events like this before for the 4th of July, and these have been a big hit. We are still in the planning stages as to what restaurant we are going to attend, but the date is set. If you have any suggestions, please share these with Henry Chau or Rob Baker. We are hoping to have a big group, so keep this date in mind (and in your calendar).

## **AND SPEAKING OF FOOD:**

Thanks again to Louis and Leo for a very successful Thanksgiving Potluck, Nov. 22, 2015. There was plenty of food, desserts and drinks. Do these men know how to throw a successful event or what? And thanks to all who participated in this event. The dessert table says it all:



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

330 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

## January is National Mentoring Month (also Weight Loss Awareness Month)

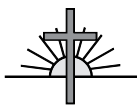
- Friday, Jan. 1 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's upstairs, 7pm
- Sunday, Jan. 3 Mass at 7pm  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
- Wed., Jan. 6 Broad Street Ministry will be closed due to kitchen repairs, but group is getting together for pizza at our usual place, between 5:30-6:00 p.m, join us BSM volunteers
- Sunday, Jan. 10 Mass at 7pm  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
- Sunday, Jan. 17 Mass at 7pm to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday Cake Sunday  
Rosary Group meets at 6pm
- Monday, Jan. 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
- Sunday, Jan. 24 Mass at 7pm, Christian Unity Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 31 Mass at 7pm, Blessing of the Throats

## February is Black History Month

- Wed., Feb. 3 Broad Street Ministry, 3 - 6pm
- Friday, Feb. 5 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's upstairs, 7pm
- Saturday, Feb. 6 Field Trip to Miraculous Medal Shrine
- Sunday, Feb. 7 Mass at 7pm, Healing Mass  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m
- Saturday, Feb. 13 Dim Sum with Dignettes
- Sunday, Feb. 14 Mass at 7pm, Day of Fast and Prayer for AIDS  
St. Valentine's Day  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 21 Mass at 7pm  
Birthday Cake Sunday  
Rosary Group meets at 6pm
- Sunday, Feb. 28 Mass at 7pm

## 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 2016 newsletter is February 22, 2016.**

*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 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



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 ([dignityphila@aol.com](mailto:dignityphila@aol.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.*

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

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

**Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.**