

The Independence

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

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY PINS

Spring is in the air and it is time to distribute anniversary pins to honor long time members. A total of twenty-eight pins will celebrate six hundred years of Dignity/Philadelphia memberships. Pins are created for memberships in five year increments from five to forty years.

Distribution will begin soon but the forty year pins will be given at the anniversary celebration on May 15. These pins have been earned by Michael Rocks, Jim Clay and Ed Gmoch.

If you cannot attend a liturgy to receive your pin, we will be sure to send it to you in honor of your commitment to the chapter.

Jimmy Calnan, Vice President

CHAPTER REORGANIZATION COMPLETED

By Michael J. Rocks, Interim President

The Dignity Philadelphia Chapter has a new set of By-Laws approved by the majority vote (by ballot) of the membership. The Chapter retained the same Statement of Position and Purpose.

Starting with this coming election, the Chapter will elect 5 members to the Board of Directors. When the Board meets for the first time, they will decide who will be President and will also decide which Board members will take responsibility for Membership, Record Keeping and Finance. The Board members will serve a two-year term and can be reelected to a second two-year term. In the future, the Chapter will elect 2 Board members one year and 3 Board members on the alternate year.

The Liturgy Committee and the Communications Committee will continue as Service Groups and will report to the Board of Director monthly and will continue to elect their own coordinators. All of the other work of the Chapter will be carried out by Working Committees which will be created for a specific purpose and will be time limited. For example, a Working Committee will be appointed for the Annual Christmas Party at Calcutta House, the setting up a table and staffing the table for Gay Pride Sunday and Coming-Out Day, and for the Annual Retreat. Under this new structure, members will be able to commit to working on certain projects without having to serve on a committee for an entire year. The purpose of this reorganization was to change the structure of Chapter Leadership and of Chapter Operations so that it will be less burdensome for members to assume leadership responsibilities for the long term or only for a single special project.

The By-Laws are much shorter than before, they are written in language that can be easily understood by anyone, and leave much of the details of Chapter Operations to the Procedure Manuals which are already in existence but will need to be updated to be in harmony with the new Chapter organization. Now the Chapter will need leaders to step forward and run for the various offices. Hopefully members will be less intimidated by what is often seen as the “burden” of being a leader in Dignity. This new structure was designed to make it easier and less stressful for a member to assume a leadership position or to serve the Chapter in specific ways by joining or being appointed to a Working Committee.

The Chapter retained the Statement of Mission and Purpose which was developed by Dignity USA and which has served as the Chapter’s Mission Statement for at least the past 30 years.

As Dignity Philadelphia approaches the 43rd Anniversary the Chapter has made the adjustments needed after a reevaluation of the Chapter’s future. We are prepared to face the challenges that the future brings.

continued on next page

continued from last page

We are thankful to the Holy Spirit of God for guiding our leaders in developing the new Chapter structure and we will continue to serve the spiritual and religious needs of LGBT Roman Catholics, our families and our friends in the decades ahead. "We remember, we celebrate, we believe."

UPCOMING 2016 ELECTIONS

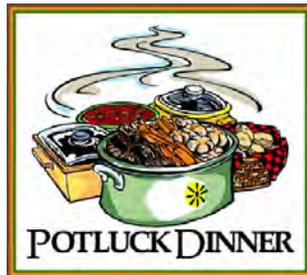
As a result of the Semi-Annual Business Meeting, held March 20, 2016, Dignity Philadelphia will now proceed with elections for the coming year. The schedule is as follows:

- April 10 - first announcement
- April 17 - second announcement
- April 24 - first nominations
- May 1 - second nominations
- May 8 - meet the candidates (if necessary)
- May 9 - mail the ballots
- Sunday, May 22 - all ballots due (or postmarked by Saturday, May 21)

43RD ANNIVERSARY OF DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA – A CELEBRATORY POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016

This is a special potluck dinner for two reasons: 1) Dignity Philadelphia will celebrate the 43rd Anniversary of its existence, and 2) Anniversary pins and the Lifetime Achievement Award will be given out at this event. Plus after service, Dignity Philadelphia will have a special social with cake and champagne to celebrate Fr. Ron Hoskins' ordination celebration. You have to come and celebrate with us.



We are asking members to fix a dish for approximately 10 people – this can be your signature dish or a dish from our famous cookbook, or you can purchase take out, or bring drinks. We are asking members to contribute what you can, but the important thing is to join us at this event. We will start setting up by 3:00 p.m. in the Tile Room, and appetizers usually start at 4:30/5ish. Feel free to come early and help us set up the Blue Room if you can; otherwise we hope to see you closer to 5 p.m. We welcome all sorts of food, meats, desserts and beverages. Mark your calendar!

IT'S SUMMER MUMMERS TIME IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphians cannot get enough of their Mummerys and their joyous music. So we can all make plans for going to the Mummerys Museum, 1100 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 (2nd Street at Washington), this coming summer and getting our Mummerys fix. The concerts start at 8 p.m. As many of you know, Joe T., a Dignity member is also a Mummer – and he would appreciate seeing you at these events. NOTE: you will need to bring your own lawn chair; refreshments and snacks will be sold on-site. The schedule for the first group (May – June) is as follows:

- May 19 Polish American Band
- May 26 Broomall
- June 2 Greater Kensington
- June 9 Ferko
- June 16 Duffy
- June 23 Quaker City
- June 30 South Philly

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

In addition to our highly anticipated celebratory potluck, we also have some other upcoming events. As is now our custom, Dignity members will be participating at **Broad Street Ministry** May 4 and June 1 – first Friday of the months – so you can permanently mark your calendars. And as is now our custom, we meet later at Giorgio's Pizza on Pine.

And **Birthday Sundays** for the next upcoming months are April 17 and May 8, 2016. These are special occasions since we get to celebrate someone's birthday – even if it isn't

Bi-monthly Munchie

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

--Sitting Bull

**Happy 43rd Anniversary
Dignity Philadelphia**

your birthday, you must join us for cake! And speaking of birthdays, here are our March and April celebrities:



Kevin Davies and Jimmy Calnan celebrating their Irish birthdays in March.



Ed Wilk, Larry Sutter and Michael Rocks celebrated their April birthdays with Dignity Philadelphia. No Larry, you are not getting older, you are getting better (and slimmer)!

And the **Rosary Group** just keeps getting bigger and bigger, more and new faces show up every month. Join us for praying of the rosary April 17, and May 15, 2016, prior to Sunday Liturgies. And if you don't have a rosary – what Catholic person does not have a rosary? – we have extra ones for people who just want to drop in and pray with us. Please consider joining us every 3rd Sunday of the month – it is very meditative.

MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The following motions were made during the March 6 and April 3, Steering Committee Meetings:

Motion 16-03-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Service Award and Chapter Service Award consist of Jimmy Calnan, Kevin Davies and Linda Barrett. Passed unanimously

Motion 16-03-02 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamin. Be it moved that the April 2016 50/50 be designated to the Divine Light Wellness Center. Passed unanimously

The Divine Light LGBTQ Wellness center is a 31 bed program and shelter for LGBTQ identified people who are facing a myriad of difficulties. It is the first for LGBTQ folks in the state of PA. LGBTQ people face homelessness, violence and murder at disproportionate rates. They are trying to change this. They are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. This shelter is not funded and relying on donations.

Motion 16-04-01: Motion made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Community Service Award for 2016 be awarded to the Barbara Gittings Collection, Independence Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia. Passed unanimously

Motion 16-04-02: Motion made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the Working Committee for Elections consist of Jimmy Calnan, Dolores Vera and one member to be announced. Passed unanimously

Motion 16-04-03 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the 50/50 for May be donated to Philly Pride. Passed unanimously

PHILLY PRIDE PRESENTS, Inc. (PPP) is a group of volunteer coordinators under the leadership of an Executive Director and Senior Advisor which organizes “PrideDay” in June, and “OutFest” in October. These are the only two events during which the Philadelphia Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community joins together and celebrates as a whole. PHILLY PRIDE PRESENTS is proud to be co-sponsors of the Philadelphia DYKE March and the Alternative Prom. The purpose of their pride events shall be the advancement of LGBT rights through the visibility and awareness that their parades and festivals create.

THANK YOU, GRACIAS, GRAZIE & MERCI

to everybody that participated in the Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 26, 2016, and a special thanks to Henry Chau and Dick O'Malley who volunteered to oversee the Social after Mass. Apparently there was quite an assortment of goodies! Thank you guys very much!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL AND MAY

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

April is National Volunteer Month

Sunday, April 17 Mass at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 24 Mass at 7 p.m.
 “Man of La Mancha” at Pittman, N.J.
 (AND Ms. Eleanor’s Birthday!)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Sunday, May 1 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Wed., May 4 Broad Street Ministry, 3-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 5 Ascension Day, Mass at 7:30 p.m. in the Dignity Office

Friday, May 6 Prayer Around the Cross
 St. Luke’s, 7 p.m., upstairs

Sunday, May 8 Mass at 7 p.m., Mothers’ Day
 Liturgy Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 15 Mass at 7 p.m., Pentecost Sunday
 Rosary Group Meeting at 6 p.m.
 43rd Anniversary Potluck, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 19 See *Mummers Schedule* in newsletter

Sunday, May 22 Mass at 7 p.m., Trinity Sunday

Sunday, May 29 Mass at 7 p.m.

Monday, May 30 Memorial Day – unofficial “start of summer” day!

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 May 11, 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

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.

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.