



The Independence

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

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA ELECTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By acclamation, five Dignity members were chosen in May to serve one or two year terms. The process for election of the Board of Directors as described in the newly adopted By-laws was finalized on April 10, 2015.

On May 1 the following members were elected by acclamation of the community to begin serving on June 1:

- Robert Baker
- Kevin Davies
- Erin McMenamain
- Michael Rocks
- Joe Toal

At the upcoming June meeting, these individuals will decide who should be President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and an alternate to fill any position when vacant or absent for any reason. Based on the skills of the individuals, they will take the positions most suited to their talents. The Chapter wishes the elected individuals good luck and success in the coming year.

The two Service Groups, Liturgy and Communications, will continue to report to the Board of Directors; they will elect their coordinators in September. 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; Working Committees will be appointed by the Board of Directors. For example, Working Committees 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. The idea of designating working groups for specific tasks makes it less burdensome, less stressful and will be a one-time responsibility. So members can be thinking of what they would like to work on and whom they want on their committee, carry out their task and disband. The Board of Directors will periodically announce to the community what events are coming up and ask for volunteers to undertake the one-time event. So members can be thinking of what they may want to work on and volunteer when the time comes.

Note from 6/5/16 Meeting: Michael Rocks was appointed President of the Board, Rob Baker, Director of Membership, Erin McMenamain, Director of Finance, Kevin Davies, Director of Record Keeping, and Joe Toal is the Member at Large with an emphasis on young adult recruitment.

GAY PRIDE AT PENN'S LANDING

Dignity Philadelphia will continue its tradition of having a booth at Penn's Landing on June 12 – also known as Gay Pride Day. Many organizations and non-profits will march in the Gay Pride Parade which starts at the gayborhood – 13th and Spruce – and ends at Penn's Landing. Dignity Philadelphia has not marched in the parade for the last 3 years (we have gotten too old for this!) however, we continue to have an information booth at the main event. Dick O'Malley is working on getting volunteers to staff the booth. If you are interested, have the time – shifts are at 2-hour increments – and are attending the event, Dick would like to hear from you. There will also be a raffle for a \$25 gift certificate for people signing up for more Dignity info. Join us for a fun afternoon at

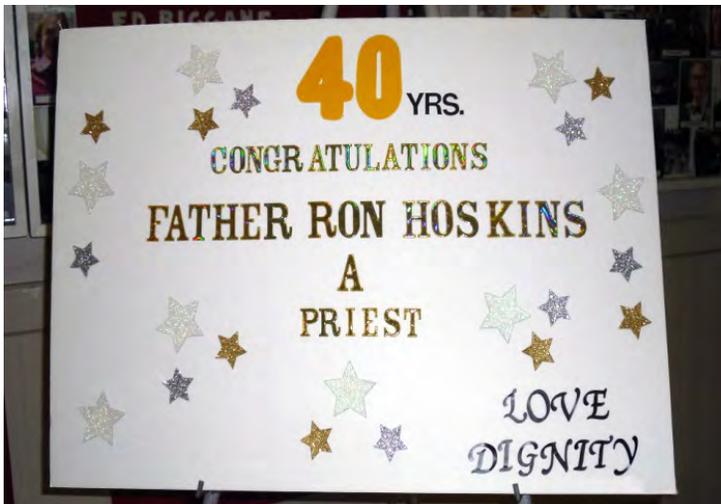
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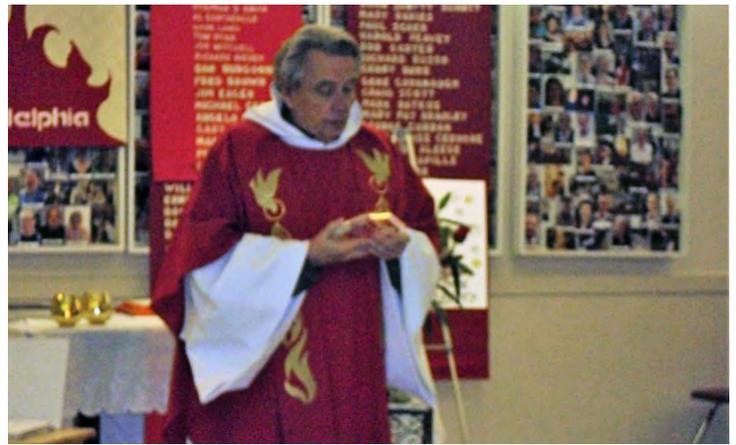
Penn's Landing. We always look forward to seeing Dignity members at this event. (A mainstay at this event was always Father Ralph – whom Dignity continues to miss!) Dick can be reached on 215-880-1459.

43RD ANNIVERSARY A BIG SUCCESS

May 15th was a milestone for Dignity Philadelphia which celebrated 43 years of existence in Philadelphia. Plus it also marked the 40th anniversary of Father Ron Hoskins' ordination. Both events were celebrated with food, food, food and cake! Two presidors joined us for this celebration, Father Paul M. and Father Joseph M. Additionally, a member of Ron's prior parish was also there to add continuity to his ordination. As evident by the pictures in this newsletter, everyone had a great time. The food for the 43rd Dignity Philadelphia potluck was plentiful and afterwards during social, Father Ron Hoskins was toasted with champagne and cake (and ice cream).



Father Ron Hoskins joined by Dignity Philadelphia President Michael Rocks to his left and two other Presidors who attended this celebration. Poster on the right honoring Father Ron was created by Bill Quinn.



Father Ron Hoskins accepting his special award as Dignity's longtime Presidor, and having been called 40 years ago to serve God as a priest.

Double Munchie for June and July

Jesus had two dads.
HAPPY PRIDE

Liberty and Justice for All
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE

THE 2ND DIGNITY PHILA. PRESIDENT'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Michael J. Rocks, Interim President

Dignity Philadelphia's President's Lifetime Achievement Award was first given by Joann Collins at the end of her term as Dignity President in 2013. Joann had requested permission from the Steering Committee to establish a new award for active members who have already received both the Dignity Chapter Service Award and the Deo Gratias Award. Joann wanted to take the next step to recognize long time members who continued to serve the Chapter actively for many years.

The President of Dignity Philadelphia has the privilege of being able to give this award once each year. The award has been given once and I chose to give the second Lifetime Achievement Award to Jimmy Calnan.

This was not a difficult decision for me. There are several active members who could qualify to receive this award but Jimmy Calnan stood out to me as the member who has given the most to Dignity Philadelphia and to the LGBT Community and to the Community At-Large.

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Many of us study the Gospel and discuss the Gospel; others of us have theological education and like to discuss the Theology of God and the Church. Jimmy Calnan is not one of those persons. Jimmy simply lives the Gospel. Not a preacher but a person who lives the life of a Christian in the sense that “you will know we are Christians by our love.”

There is not enough time or space to outline all the work Jimmy has done in the community. There are countless persons who have been helped by the work that he does for organizations and for individual persons. When I gave the award to Jimmy at Dignity on May 1st, I mentioned that Jimmy survived the HIV/AIDS crisis at a time when we lost many of our members and friends. I have often thought over all these years that God took so many away from us but blessed us with the one who we would need the most as our lives went on in sorrow and loss.

Giving this award to Jimmy was one of the real joys of my term as Interim President. I admire and love Jimmy very much – just as the rest of you do. And I gave this award on behalf of all of us whose lives are better because Jimmy is our friend.



Jimmy Calnan, with his President's Lifetime Achievement Award, and Michael Rocks, Dignity Philadelphia President.

DIGNITY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY PINS

The Dignity/Philadelphia chapter has a tradition of honoring long- term members. Each year Membership Anniversary Pins are distributed for memberships in five year increments, currently from five to forty years.

This year twenty-eight pins are being distributed to members from April through the Anniversary Liturgy in May. Pins which are not picked up will be mailed later in the month.

The chapter was pleased to give two forty year pins this year to Michael Rocks, Jim Clay and Ed Gmoch (who was not able to make this celebration). In total, we honored six hundred years of membership in Dignity/Philadelphia!



Jim Clay and Michael Rocks - 40 year pin recipients



Michael Rocks' family who helped him celebrate his 40 years with Dignity Philadelphia. (Michael was one of the early presidents who chose to use his last name in public, which very few people did in Dignity!) Happy 40th Michael!

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AND CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS

Dignity Philadelphia yearly gives out two awards for chapter and service to the community. This year the Chapter Service Award was presented to Henry Chau for being a member of the music ministry, one of Dignity's cantors, Community Life Committee Chair, volunteers through Dignity with the Broad Street Ministry, and Dignity's liaison with the Gay Men's Chorus.

Community Service Award was presented to the Barbara Gittings Collection, Independence Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia. Accepting the award was Marianne Banbor, Branch Librarian. Gittings Collection was established in 2001 and is the second largest of its kind in regard to gay and lesbian material (San Francisco is the largest). The Free Library now has audiovisual materials (such as glbt

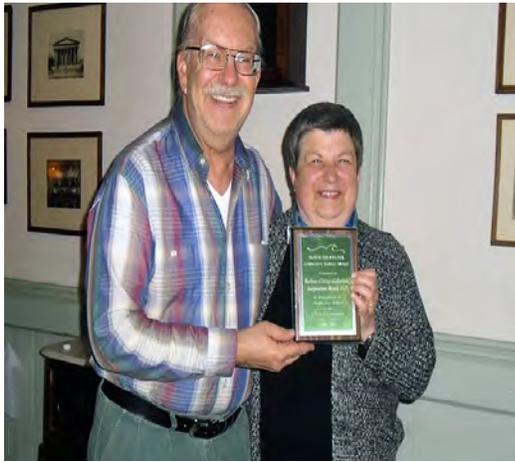
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movies, music and audio books) that are now shelved throughout the branches of the entire system.

Congratulations to the recipients!



Henry Chau, recipient of the Chapter Service Award



Dignity member Bill C. presenting the Community Service Award to his boss and good friend, Marianne Banbor in honor of the Barbara Gettings Library housed at the Independence Library.



These women didn't get any awards at this time. However this was the first time all three of them wore a dress for potluck – the only ones actually! Plus this newsletter had overwhelming pictures of men, so the editor, M. Dolores Vera – sandwiched in between Michelle P. to her right and B.J. to her left, felt it was necessary to show gender equality at potluck, and in this newsletter. This too is a striking-looking group!

MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE



The following motion was made during the May 1, 2016 Steering Committee Meeting: 50/50 for June:

Motion 16-05-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Alice Foley. Be it moved that the June 50/50 be donated to Action AIDS Buddy Program in honor of Ron Hoskins' 40th anniversary of ordination. Passed unanimously.

Buddy Program: ActionAIDS was founded by a group of 86 buddies and volunteers in 1986. The program is now one of the oldest and largest buddy programs in the United States and serves over 250 individuals and families each year. The program is a national model for volunteer programs. Trained volunteer buddies work closely with case managers to prevent isolation by providing emotional and practical supports through regular calls, visits, and help with the tasks of daily living.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

Let me start by congratulating Dignity's unofficial chefs, Louis G. and Leo C. for a great, well-run 43rd Anniversary Potluck. They did such a good job of heating, displaying and organizing this event, that their work is admirable. Below is a picture of the early "setting up" group who arrived early and stayed on until everything was washed and cleared away.



Pictured from left to right: Leo, Louis, Kevin and Robert – thank you all for a very successful potluck.



BJ helping to prepare the potluck table.



Dessert table prior to serving.

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Anniversary cake combining Dignity's 43rd and Ron Hoskins' celebration (note purple cross).



Dignity President Michael Rocks and Father Paul blessing the food and the occasion.

PITMAN OUTING IS ALSO A BIG SUCCESS

Prior to seeing "Man of La Mancha" April 24th at Pitman, N. J., attending Dignity members were treated to a special birthday party prior to the play. As many of you know, Ms. Eleanor turned 96 years young and to her surprise, the restaurant staff, where members always go, had a full-blown Birthday Party for her with cake, ice cream and flowers. Dignity Philadelphia also joins in this celebration – Happy Birthday "Aunt Eleanor" – and forget about the numbers, just keep joining us at Liturgy whenever you can make it!



Ms. Eleanor celebrating her birthday in Pittman, N. J., accompanied by her niece Linda B.

MUMMER TIME CONTINUES

It appears that some of us Philadelphians, or imports, cannot get enough of their Mummies and their joyous music. So do make plans for going to the Mummies Museum, 1100 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 (2nd Street at Washington). 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 second group (July to August) is as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|----------|
| July 7 | Avalon | August 4 | Uptown |
| July 14 | Durning | August 11 | Trilby |
| July 21 | Fralinger | August 18 | Hegeman |
| July 28 | Aqua | August 25 | Woodland |
| September 1 | Greater Overbrook and the end of the concerts! | | |

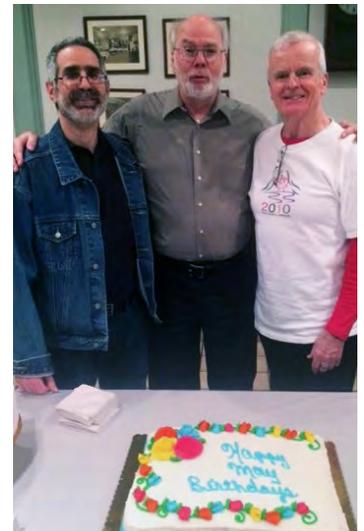
SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

In addition to our highly celebratory potluck, we also have some other upcoming events. As is now our custom, Dignity members will be participating at **Broad Street Ministry** July 6 and August 3 – first Wednesday 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 June 12, July 17 and August 3, 2016. These are special occasions since we get to celebrate someone's birthday – even if it isn't your birthday, you must join us for cake! And speaking of birthdays, here are our April and May celebrities:



Joe T. and Alice F.
Happy April Birthday!



Youngsters celebrating May birthdays
are Mike V., Bill B. and Jim C.

Other events we look forward to, other than the WAWA 4th of July celebration, is a trip to the Mormon Temple, August 13, and a special book reading by Mark Segal – also in August. And sports aficionados, Gay Night at the Phillies is scheduled for Monday, August 29, 7:03 p.m. Let's all enjoy the summer and stay safe!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JUNE AND JULY

330 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

June is Pride Month

- Sunday, June 12 Mass at 7 p.m.
Gay Pride @ Penn's Landing (see article)
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Thursday, June 16 Concert at the Mummer's Museum - Duffy
- Sunday, June 19 Mass at 7 p.m.
Liturgy Service Group, 4:30 p.m.
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, June 23 Concert at the Mummer's Museum –
Quaker City
- Sunday, June 26 Mass at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 30 Concert at the Mummer's Museum –
South Philly

- Sunday, July 3 Mass at 7 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 4 Independence Day
- Wednesday, July 6 Broad Street Ministry, 3-5 p.m.
- Thursday, July 7 Concert at the Mummer's Museum – Avalon
- Sunday, July 10 Mass at 7 p.m.
Liturgy Service Group, 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14 Concert at the Mummer's Museum –
Durning
- Sunday, July 17 Mass at 7 p.m.
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 p.m.
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Thursday, July 21 Concert at the Mummer's Museum –
Fralinger
- Sunday, July 24 Mass at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, July 28 Concert at the Mummer's Museum – Aqua

July is National Ice Cream Month

- Friday, July 1 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's 7 p.m.
upstairs

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 August/September 2016 newsletter is July 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 – Director (President)
- Rob Baker – Director (Membership)
- Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)
- Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)
- Joe Toal – Director (At Large)
- Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators
- Michelle/Perrone – Communications Service Group Co-ordinators
- Barbara Gindhart and Father Ron Hoskins – Chaplains



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.