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The Independence

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

MICHAEL VIOLA RECEIVES “DEO GRATIAS AWARD”

By Michael Rocks, President

Michael Viola, immediate Past President of Dignity Philadelphia, received the Deo Gratias Award at the 43rd Anniversary Mass of Dignity Philadelphia in May 2016.

The Deo Gratias award is given by the Chapter President to a member for distinguished service to the Dignity Philadelphia Chapter over a long period of time. The award was first given by one of our late Presidents, John “Scotty” Schott, to recognize Chapter members who have already received the Chapter Service Award and have continued to serve the Chapter in an extraordinary way.

Michael Viola has served on the Steering Committee, including 2 terms as President, and in that capacity represented the Chapter in the media regarding issues of same-sex marriage and the Roman Catholic gay and lesbian persons. Michael married his partner Phil following the legalization of same-sex marriage and he continues to be a spokesperson on same-sex marriage.

Presently, Michael continues to volunteer as assistant Treasurer and has provided great support to the present Board of Directors by his work and his guidance, particularly regarding financial and legal matters. (Michael is also an attorney).

Michael is devoted to regular participation in the Sunday Liturgy and has managed to continue to serve Dignity Philadelphia even when he has been needed more by his partner Phil. Michael is an example of a person who is devoted to his Church, his family, his work as an attorney and his participation in the LGBT community at large. And he serves God with joy in his heart and soul.

Deo Gratias – thanks be to God- to Michael Viola. The Dignity Philadelphia Chapter and its members are better because of your example, devotion and hard work. Congratulations!



DIGNITY’S ANNUAL FALL BRUNCH | SATURDAY - OCT. 22, 2016

By Dick O’Malley

Dignity’s annual fundraiser for the benefit of its weekly liturgies will be held on **Saturday, October 22nd**, at **12 noon** at Bill Wood’s **KNOCK** restaurant at 12th and Locust Streets. Last year’s brunch at Knock was a big social and financial success, and this year’s should be even more successful.



Due to the prior success of this fundraiser, we have increased the price, and are encouraging people to become members of Dignity, thereby saving themselves \$5. Please let your friends know of this change, and let them know that membership applications will be available at the Brunch. Everything, including tip, is covered by the ticket price which is now \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members (or potential members!). It is suggested that persons buying alcoholic drinks tip for their individually ordered drinks.

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What is unique about this Dignity brunch is that it is a sit down, not a buffet style event. In addition to the traditional beverages of coffee, tea, and juice, served along with pastries, individuals will be able to choose a meal from Knock's varied menu which will include:

- **Grilled Chicken** over greens, almonds, and dried cherries.
- **Eggs Benedict** with poached eggs on a toasted English muffin and Canadian bacon with Hollandaise sauce
- Bill Wood's famous **Knockburger**, Angus beef burger with lettuce, tomato, pickle, and potatoes
- L.B.I. **Crab Melt**, seasoned crab, tomato, Swiss Cheese on an English muffin
- A delicious **Lobster Roll**

And for vegetarians:

- **Eggs Florentine** with poached eggs on a toasted muffin and spinach
- **Belgian Waffle** covered with whipped cream and strawberries, and
- Vegetarian's Delight - **Black Bean Sliders**

Since seating is limited and these tickets sell out fast, Dignity encourages you to get a ticket(s) as soon as possible. Tickets will be available before and after Mass on Sundays or by calling Dick O'Malley on 215-880-1459. And if you are feeling generous make a donation, in any amount, toward a scholarship for members who are unable to pay for this event. Dignity once again wants to thank Knock and its staff for hosting the brunch.

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND 50/50

The Board of Directors met August 7 and September 4, 2016. The following motions were passed:



Motion 16-08-01 made by Erin McMenamin; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that D/P pass the proposed budget for September 2016 through August 2017 with an amendment to transfer \$598 from the ING money market account. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 16-09-01 made by Dolores Vera; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that D/P donate to the following groups: October 2016 – **Home At Last Dog Rescue** and November 2016 – Calcutta House. Motion passed unanimously.

Home At Last Dog Rescue: This non-profit consists of volunteers whose goal is to save the lives of homeless dogs suffering in high-kill shelters, as well as owner-surrender dogs who need to be re-homed due to unfortunate circumstances. They are not a shelter, and have no central location for the dogs they rescue. They pull dogs from various shelters and provide foster homes until they are adopted. In doing so, they hope to provide an alternative to the purchase of puppy mill and pet store dogs, thereby reducing the demand for, and ultimately, the supply of, such dogs. They strive to match each dog with the right family after the dog has been observed in a foster home.

Calcutta House: Calcutta House provides housing and other highly supportive services for people living with AIDS in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley region.

This mission is based on the premise that housing is the foundation for the most effective and compassionate treatment, management, and prevention of the disease. Customized support services, responsive to the individual, are delivered with the conviction that self-empowerment will advance attainable goals enabling a resident to realize his/her full potential while adhering to treatment and care plans.

INVESTITURE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

As many of you know, the Board of Directors gets installed as officers in June; however, there are two working groups – Liturgy and Communications – and they get installed in October. This year, in addition, to these two, we would like to honor the other components

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Double Munchie

“Fear is the friction in transition.”
– Unknown

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”
– Marcel Proust

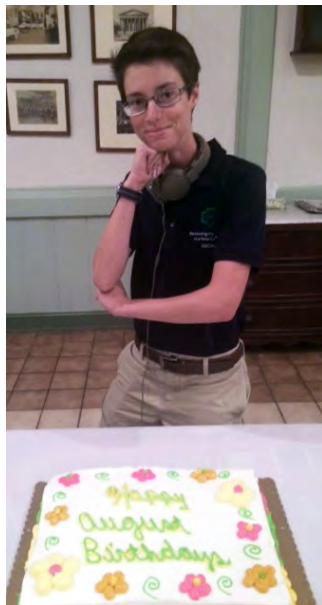
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

of the Liturgy Working Groups. We very much want to honor these other groups, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, members who receive the gifts, and other members who are very much a part of making our Sunday liturgies possible. We look forward to seeing you at this Sunday Liturgy, and if you are a contributor to the service, please stand up when ask to participate at this investiture service. We want to honor and acknowledge your services to our community.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Broad Street Ministry can use your help. If you are interested in volunteering with other giving, caring Dignettes, let Jimmy Calnan know of your interest. We will be serving food to their clients on October 5 and November 12, 2016. We meet at 3 p.m. and we are finished by 5:30 p.m. at which time we process our experiences over pizza at Giorgio's on Pine Street. It really is lots of fun, we meet interesting people and we give of ourselves and our time – (we are Catholics, after all). Join us!

And speaking of fun – **Birthday Sundays** are October 16 and November 13, 2016. Whoever is celebrating a birthday during the designative month is honored by the community with a birthday cake and singing just for that person! So come celebrate your birthday with us. And speaking of birthdays, we had two members for August this past month: Emily and Leo. Leo had to leave for work, so he was unavailable for the picture session, but he did celebrate his birthday on August 16, 2016. Happy Birthday Leo – we hope you had a great one! However, Emily was available and in a posing mode, as evident by her picture. Happy Birthday Emily!



And please mark your calendars for the **Liturgy Service Group** meeting date. Please note that the October meeting date is Sunday, October 16, NOT October 9 due to the Outfest activities going on in the gayborhood. This meeting, similar to the Board of Directors meeting – first Sunday of the month – is open to all members.

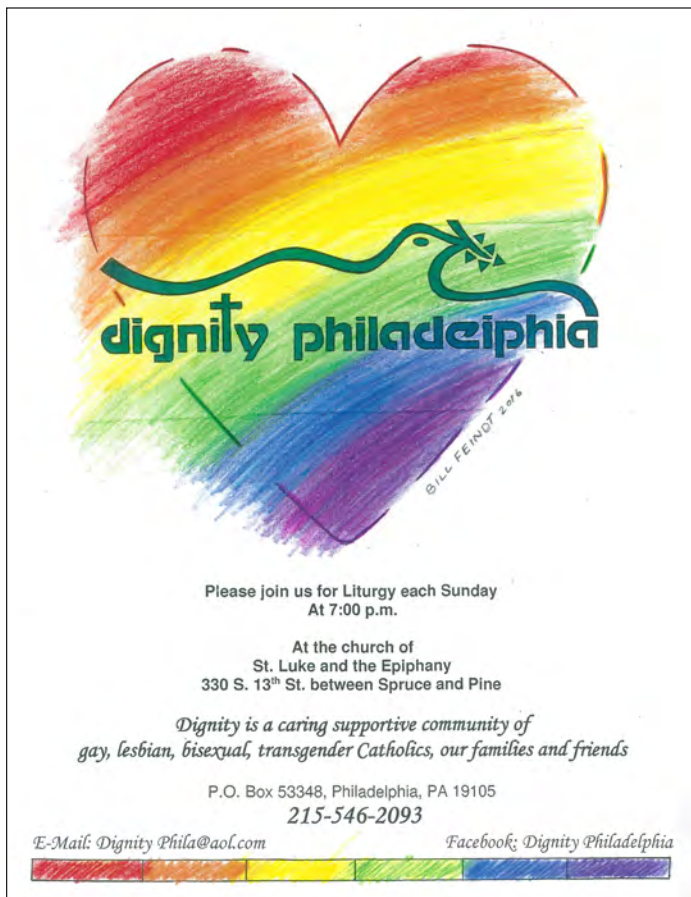
DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA 2016 – 2017 BUDGET

INCOME			
Christmas Appeal		\$	1,400
Community Emergency Fund		\$	-
Craig Scott Music Fund		\$	-
Dan Estes Income		\$	-
Donations		\$	3,600
Easter Appeal		\$	1,000
Education Scholarship		\$	-
Fund Raising	\$ -		
Brunch	\$ 700		
Total Fund Rasing	\$ 700	\$	700
Interest Inc		\$	35
Mark Ratkus Fund Donation		\$	-
Membership Dues		\$	1,900
Michael Durkin Income		\$	-
Other Income		\$	-
Outreach		\$	-
Retreat Income		\$	-
Social Income		\$	-
Special Donation		\$	-
Stewardship		\$	4,500
Stipend for Mass Said		\$	100
Sunday Contributions		\$	7,500
Transfer from ING Acct (One Time)		\$	598
TOTAL INCOME		\$	21,333

EXPENSES			
Advertising		\$	300
Awards		\$	250
Community Emergency Fund - Expense		\$	200
Dues, Fees for GLBT Orgs, Events		\$	175
Fund Raising Expense		\$	50
Homilist and Presider Stipend			
Homilist	\$ 150		
Presider	\$ 2,200		
TOTAL STIPEND	\$ 2,350	\$	2,350
Insurance		\$	685
Postage		\$	400
President's Discretionary Fund		\$	250
Printing Costs			
Misc Printing	\$ 175		
Newsletter Printing	\$ 900		
TOTAL PRINTING	\$ 1,075	\$	1,075
Rent			
Church	\$ 6,240		
Office	\$ 4,368		
TOTAL RENT	\$ 10,608	\$	10,608
Retreat		\$	300
Social			
Cakes	\$ 365		
Potluck & Social	\$ 250		
TOTAL SOCIAL	\$ 615	\$	615
Supplies			
Office Supplies	\$ 225		
Dignity Pins	\$ 200		
Music Planning	\$ 3,150		
Liturgy Supplies	\$ 100		
TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$ 3,450	\$	3,450
Telephone		\$	625
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$	21,333

RECRUITING POSTER FOR DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

Thanks to the graphic artist and talent of Bill Feint, Dignity Philadelphia now has a poster for display at various venues. This poster – in hard paper stock – is a tool to attract attention, inform people of our community and hopefully recruit new members to the Chapter. This poster can be displayed at places like William Way Center, 12th Street Gym and similar locations where potential Catholic – and non-Catholics - LGBTQ individuals may congregate. If you frequent an establishment where you think Dignity's poster can be displayed, please let a member of the Board of Directors know and they will give you a copy. We are hopeful that this poster may entice people to come to our service, be enchanted by us and our music, and ultimately join the Chapter.



DIGNITY MEMBERS AT THE MORMON TEMPLE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS – MEETING SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Dignity/Philadelphia

Agenda – Semiannual Business Meeting Sunday, September 25, 2016

Opening Prayer

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from March 20, 2016

Old Business

1. Ad Hoc Committee for Leadership Structure – results of ballots mailed to membership

New Business

1. Budget September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017 (included in this newsletter)

Board of Directors Reports

Director/President

Director/Membership

Director/Record Keeping

Director/Finances - report since last semiannual business meeting

Service Groups Reports

Communications

Liturgy

Working Groups Reports

Gay Night at the Phillies

Outfest

Broad Street Ministry

Birthday Cakes

D/P Educational Scholarship

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

**DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA GOES TO THE PHILLIES GAME
(AND GOT RAINBOW PHILLIES SHIRTS!)**



Top Row: Joann C. – recovering beautifully! BJ and wife Erin. Bottom Row: Henry, Jimmy Clay, Florence and partner Jerry (Jimmy’s brother). Great job in organizing this event Henry!



Top Row: Ric and husband Bill, Frank, and John. Bottom Row: Matt, Devon and Alice with their new t-shirts; seated next to them are Michael L. and Dick.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2016

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

National Hispanic Heritage Month (USA; 9/15 to 10/15)

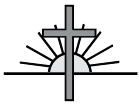
October is LGBT History Month

Sunday, October 2 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
 Wed., Oct. 5 Broad Street Ministry, 3 to 5:30 p.m.
 Friday, Oct. 7 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Oct. 9 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Outfest Block Party
 (NO Liturgy Service Group Meeting)
 Monday, Oct. 10 Columbus Day
 Tuesday, Oct. 11 National Coming Out Day
 Wed., Oct. 12 18th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard
 Sunday, Oct. 16 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Rosary Group Meeting, 6 p.m.
 AIDS Walk
 Saturday, Oct. 22 *Dignity Brunch at Knock*
 Sunday, Oct. 23 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Oct. 30 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Monday, Oct. 31 Halloween

Tuesday, Nov. 1 All Saints Day, Mass at 7:30 in Dignity Office
 Wed., Nov. 2 All Souls Day, and
 Broad Street Ministry, 3 to 5:30 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 4 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
 Sunday, Nov. 6 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Day of the Dead Celebration
 Tuesday, Nov. 8 Election Day
 Friday, Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 Sunday, Nov. 13 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Nov. 20 Mass at 7 p.m.
 Thanksgiving Potluck, 4:30 p.m.
 Rosary Group Meeting, 6 p.m.
 Wed., Nov. 23 Eve of Thanksgiving Mass, 7:30 p.m. in
 Dignity Office
 Thursday, Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Day
 Sunday, Nov. 27 Mass at 7 p.m., World's AIDS Day
 (Dec. 1 Commemoration)
 Advent Begins
 Monday, Nov. 27 Calcutta House for Gift Requests
 Wed., Nov. 30 Michelle's Birthday – Enjoy!

November is Native American Indian/ Alaska Native Heritage Month

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 2016/
January 2017 newsletter is November 14, 2016.**

Articles published in the Dignity/Philadelphia newsletter, The Independence, are not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors 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.

Board of Directors

Michael Rocks – Director (President)
Rob Baker – Director (Membership)
Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)
Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)
Jimmy Calnan – Director (At Large)
Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators
Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Service Group
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.

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**