



# The Independence

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

## ELECTION FOR TWO VACANCIES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Two of the five positions for the Board of Directors are open for this year's elections. The elected directors will each serve a two-year term. An individual is eligible to stand for election to the Board if member in good standing for a minimum of one year.

Election schedule is as follows:

April 9 - first announcement on Palm Sunday

April 15 - second announcement at Easter Vigil

April 23 - first nominations

April 30 - second nominations

May 7 - meet the candidates (if necessary)

May 8 - mail the ballots (if necessary)

Sunday, May 21 - all ballots due (or postmarked by Saturday, May 20)

Please consider running for a position and serving your community!

## MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met January 8 and February 5, 2017 and the following motions were made:

**Motion 16-12-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamin. Be it moved that the 50/50 for January 2017 be given to the Mazzoni Center. Passed unanimously

**Motion 16-12-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Audit Committee report be accepted as submitted and the members of the committee (Mike Viola and Rob Baker) be congratulated for a job well done. Passed unanimously

**Motion 17-01-01** made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the 50/50 for February 2017 be given to Broad Street Ministry. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 17-02-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the March 50/50 be donated to Philadelphia FIGHT in memory of Mary Louise Cervone and April 2017 to Catholic Peace Fellowship. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 17-02-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that all quarterly withdrawals from the Investment Account be deposited to the Community Emergency Fund. Passed unanimously.

### January 50/50

The mission of the Mazzoni Center is to provide quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBTQ-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals they serve. Their more popular services include Walk-in HIV and STI testing, Primary Care and Trans clinical care services.



### February 50/50

Broad Street Ministry ("BSM") is a broad-minded Christian community that practices radical hospitality and works for a more just world through civic engagement. BSM

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was established in May of 2005. Please note that Dignity Philadelphia volunteers at BSM helping out with their feeding program on the first Wednesday of every month. We have been doing this for 8 years!

### **March 50/50**

Philadelphia Fight Community Health Centers provide culturally competent comprehensive primary care, and state of the art HIV primary care to low income members of the community, along with research, consumer education, advocacy, social services and outreach to people living with HIV and those who are at high risk, including family members, communities with high rates of HIV, formerly incarcerated persons, and young people at risk; and access to the most advanced clinical research in HIV treatment and prevention. **This donation will be made in Mary Louise Cervone's memory** who worked for this organization for many years. She also volunteered with Dignity USA and Dignity Philadelphia for many, many years.

### **April 50/50**

Guided by a personalist philosophy, the Catholic Peace Fellowship works for peace before, during, and after war through education, counseling, advocacy, and accompaniment. The Catholic Peace Fellowship (CPF) offers practical and pastoral support to military and veterans who are struggling with the contradiction between their personal participation in war and their consciences.

### **Bi-Monthly Munchie**

“Forgiveness makes it possible to remember the past without being held hostage by it.”

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

I am an example of what is possible when girls from the very beginning of their lives are loved and nurtured by people around them. I was surrounded by extraordinary women in my life who taught me about quiet strength and dignity.

– Michelle Obama

**HAPPY BLACK AND  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTHS**



## Schedule for Easter



**March 1** - Ash Wednesday Service - 7:30pm

**April 9** - Palm Sunday Liturgy - 7pm

**April 13** - Holy Thursday Service - 7:30pm

**April 14** - Good Friday - Join St. Luke's in  
Prayer Around The Cross - 7pm

**April 15** - Easter Vigil Mass - 10pm

**April 16** - Easter Sunday  
There will be NO MASS this Sunday

### **EMERGENCY FUND NOTICE**

Dignity/Philadelphia has an Emergency Fund to help members make ends meet, especially when it comes to groceries. A member is eligible for a \$50 debit card from the supermarket of their choice once a year. Feel free to talk to Jimmy Calnan privately for more information

### **UPCOMING EVENTS @ DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA**

As mentioned in the February 50/50, **Board Street Ministry** is where we volunteer on a month basis. We meet at 3 p.m., set up tables with linens (cleaned and ironed by Double Tree!) and silverware. The “guests” come in circa 4 p.m. and we serve them at their table. We have been serving over 200 guests on any given first Wednesday of each month. When finished, we clear their plates, and time permitting we get to chat with the people coming in for meals. BSM does not ask if they have a home or using a shelter; nor do they make the guests pray! In some cases, it is evident that they use the shelter, based on their belongings. We are encouraged to speak to the guests – and some have fascinating stories! We are usually finished by 5:30 p.m. and go out for piazza. Please consider joining us. We will be meeting there March 1 and April 5, 2016.

The next Broadway Theatre in Pittman is featuring “Camelot” at 2 p.m.; we are planning on going either April or May. If interested, see Jimmy Calnan in plenty of time – these tickets go fast!

Birthday Sundays will take place February 19 and March 19. If you have a birthday during these two months, let us help you celebrate. We will sing you the “Happy Birthday” song and offer you cake. However, if you don’t have a birthday during this time, join us anyway for cake! And speaking of birthdays, here are some celebrants:



While there were no December 2016 Dignity members celebrating their “Big Day” this month, we did celebrate the biggest birthday of all! How much bigger can this birth be?



January 2017 Birthday Boys!  
Happy Birthday Steve and Robert

Sunday, April 23 is Bring Your Friends and Family to Dignity. Tell your friends, gather up your family and join us at Mass. This is a yearly event – that we stopped doing some years back but – and we are hoping to see new faces! Maybe your friends and family will be so impressed with our Mass, our singing and our hospitality, they will want to become members! Please spread the word.

Plus, April 23 will be Father Robert Calabrese’s last day celebrating Mass with us. We will certainly miss him, and we do want to thank him for his many years of serve to us. Join us for this bittersweet sendoff.

And coming Sunday, May 21 is Dignity’s 44th Anniversary. We are planning a special Mass – so mark your calendars. And a fabulous feast (aka Potluck) will follow this Mass. More info in the next newsletter.

## Dignity/Philadelphia Agenda – Semiannual Business Meeting

Sunday, March 26, 2017

**Opening Prayer**  
**Approval of the Agenda**  
**Approval of the Minutes from September 25, 2016**

### Old Business

- 1.
- 2.

### New Business

1. Elections
2. Bring Family and Friends to Dignity on 4/23/17

### 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

Broad Street Ministry  
Birthday Cakes  
D/P Educational Scholarship  
Gay Night at the Phillies 8/2016  
Outfest 10/9/16  
Calcutta House Christmas Party 12/19/16  
Dim Sum on 2/14/1

### **Motion to Adjourn**

### **Closing Prayer**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL

### February is Black History Month

Sun., February 12 Mass at 7 pm  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting 4:30 pm

Tues., February 7 Valentine's Day

Sun., February 19 Mass at 7 pm  
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 pm  
Birthday Cake Sunday

Mon., February 20 Presidents Day

Sun., February 26 Healing Mass at 7 p.m

### March is National Women's History Month

Wed., March 1 Ash Wed. Mass at 7:30 pm  
Broad Street Ministry 3-5:30 pm

Fri., March 3 Prayer Around the Cross,  
Upstairs at St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sun., March 5 Mass at 7 pm  
Day of Prayer and Fasting for AIDS  
Board of Director's Meeting at 4:30 pm

Sun., March 12 Mass at 7 pm  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm

Sun., March 19 Mass at 7 pm  
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 pm  
Birthday Cake Sunday

Sun., March 26 Mass at 7 pm  
Semi-Annual Business Meeting  
(see agenda in newsletter)

### April is Community Service Month

Sun., April 2 Mass at 7 pm  
Board of Director's Meeting at 4:30 pm

Wed., April 5 Broad Street Ministry 3-5:30 pm

Fri., April 7 Prayer Around the Cross, Upstairs at St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sun., April 9 Mass at 7 pm – Palm Sun.  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm

Thurs., April 13 Holy Thurs. Mass at 7:30 pm

Fri., April 14 Good Fri. – Join St. Luke's at Prayer  
Around the Cross

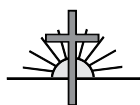
Sat., April 15 Easter Vigil Mass at 10 pm

Sun., April 16 Easter Sunday – No Mass at Dignity

Sun., April 23 Mass at 7 pm  
Bring Your Friends and Family to Dignity!

Sun., April 30 Mass at 7 pm

## P R A Y E R I N T E N T I O N S



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 April/May 2017 newsletter is March 13, 2017.**

*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** – Chaplain



*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 ([vp.dignityphila@gmail.com](mailto: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**