



The Independence

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

Facebook: Dignity Philadelphia
 Twitter: @DignityPhila
 www.dignityphila.org
 DignityPhila@aol.com
 (215) 546-2093

FIRST OR LAST? Kathleen Schuck, RCWP

As Roman Catholic Women Priests, our mission is to create a new model of ordained ministry in a renewed Roman Catholic Church. Communities served by women priests have chosen to adopt the practice of the presider receiving Communion last. This is consistent with our understanding of “servant leader” as one who puts service to others before service to self. Although we lead the service, we intentionally engage community members in worship. We encourage every voice to be heard. Typically, our Eucharistic Ministers distribute Communion. Hospitality and humility are valued above following the letter of the law.

We believe that women and men are created equal by God and can equally represent Christ in ministry. We believe that women are called to a model of ministerial priesthood that is grounded in our common Baptism. We believe that there is no intrinsic connection between priesthood and mandatory celibacy. We believe we are called to practice a renewed theology, liturgy and pastoral presence to better reflect the spirit and teachings of the Second Vatican Council. We believe we are called by the Spirit to follow Jesus as our model of empowerment, inclusivity and generous service.

We believe in an open communion table where all are welcome. We do our best to pray in gender-inclusive language. We believe that Spirit invites us to inner freedom. Secure in that knowledge, all community members are empowered to go into the world as signs of God’s love and mercy. We do not believe that we are ontologically changed when we are ordained.

As a result, many of our practices are inconsistent with the rubrics or guidelines that describe how a service should be conducted in the Latin Missal. Most traditional rites of the Church direct that the priest receive Communion first.

After the presider receives Communion, the various ministers receive according to their hierarchical order followed by the faithful. The priest receives first, not because of a human protocol but in virtue of the dignity and nature of his ministry. He acts in the person of Christ, for the purpose of the integrity of the sacrament and for presiding the people gathered together: “Thus when priests join in the act of Christ the Priest, they offer themselves entirely to God, and when they are nourished with the body of Christ they profoundly share in the love of him who gives himself as food to the faithful (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, No. 13).”

The practice of receiving communion last is strictly prohibited per *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, No. 97: “A Priest must communicate at the altar at the moment laid down by the Missal each time he celebrates Holy Mass, and the concelebrants must communicate before they proceed with the distribution of Holy Communion. The Priest celebrant or a concelebrant is never to wait until the people’s Communion is concluded before receiving Communion himself.”

Receiving last is consistent with RCWP’s model of humble service to the church, the people of God, all of whom are equally called to holiness.

IT’S THE SPRING TIME MUMMERS CONCERTS

Once again, it is time to indulge in a little Mummery Music, without suffering in the cold to hear our favorite string bands. Similar to last year, concerts will take place on Thursdays at The Mummery Museum, 1100 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia. 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) is as follows:

- May 18 - Duffy String Band
- May 25 - Fralinger String Band

We hope to see you there!



FAMILY AND FRIENDS DIGNITY CELEBRATION - APRIL 23, 2017

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY TO DIGNITY SUNDAY

This was an annual traditional that fell by the wayside for the last couple of years. So the new Board of Directors has suggested that we continue this wonderful inclusive tradition. We are asking the community to bring a friend and/or family members and help us celebrate our great diversity in worshiping via a Catholic Liturgy that will take place at 7:00 p.m. And we are hoping for a great social afterwards! This will also be a special night since it will be the last service for Dignity's long-time president, Robert Calabrese. Please help us in wishing him an unforgettable farewell that will make him miss Dignity while traveling around the world. So make your calendars, invite your friends and family members and join us for a memorable evening.



MAY 21 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 44th Anniversary of Dignity Philadelphia will be very special. The presider and homilist for the Mass on May 21st will be Paul Morrissey. This will also be Dignity's celebration of Paul's 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.

Paul was the priest who wrote the letter to Dignity USA in 1973 which requested permission to found Dignity Philadelphia.

The celebration will begin with the Annual Anniversary Pot Luck Supper at St. Luke's beginning at 4:30 PM. Anyone who wants to help set up should arrive at 3:30 PM. During this supper the Community Service Award will be presented. During the Mass that evening there will be several members who will receive the 40 year membership pin. The Chapter Service Award will also be presented at Mass.

This is a chance for many of the "old time" members to return to celebrate with the Dignity Chapter and with Paul Morrissey who has helped many of us through his friendship and guidance for these past 44 years.

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 that member is in good standing for a minimum of one year.

The 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 - ballots due (or postmarked by Sat., May 20)

Please think of serving your community as a Board member. If you need additional information, do ask one of the present Board members.

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly meetings of the Board of Directors were held March 5, and April 2, 2017. The following motions were made during those meetings:

Motion 17-03-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the 2017 Working Group for Elections consist of Jimmy Calnan, Dolores Vera and Bill Boyle. Passed unanimously

The 50/50 for April is the Catholic Peace Fellowship which works for peace before, during and after war through education, counseling, advocacy, and accompaniment. The Catholic Peace Fellowship offers practical and pastoral support to military and veterans who are struggling with the contradiction between their personal participation in war and their consciences. (This was voted on in the February 2017 BOD meeting.)

Motion 17-04-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenemy. Be it moved that the 50/50 for May 2017 be donated to Philly Pride Presents and the June 2017 go to Philadelphia AIDS Thrift Shop.

Motion 17-04-02: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Working Group for Chapter Service Awards consist of Michael Rocks, Erin McMenemy and Alice Foley.

The 50/50 for May is Philly Pride: PHILLY PRIDE PRESENTS, Inc. (PPP) is a group of volunteer coordinators which organize "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. The purpose of these pride events is to advance LGBT rights through the visibility and awareness these parades and festivals create. This purpose is to be

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achieved through their annual PrideDay parade and festival, their annual National Coming Out Day Block Party (OutFest) and other forms of community outreach as may be appropriate.

The 50/50 for June is the AIDS Thrift Shop: Philadelphia AIDS Thrift is incorporated in Pennsylvania as a non-profit business. They are also a federally recognized 501c3 tax-exempt charitable organization. The goal is to sell the lovely, useful, interesting, amusing, and sometimes mysterious stuff generous people donate to the thrift store and then distribute the proceeds to local organizations involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUSINESS MEETING?

As noted in the last newsletter, we were to have the semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, March 26 after the Sunday Liturgy. Unfortunately we had to reschedule this meeting since the memorial mass for “Aunt” Eleanor needed to be scheduled for that date. The business meeting will take place April 30, 2017. The agenda is the same as the one quoted in last month’s newsletter. Please join us for this very important meeting which will address concerns of the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Broad Street Ministry – May 3 and June 7, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Come and join us at this very worthwhile volunteer activity. We usually serve 200 to 250 clients on these first Wednesdays of the month. You will feel tired but spiritually rewarded; and you can then join us for pizza afterwards! Please let Jimmy Calnan know of your intentions to help out Broad Street Ministry in this charitable work.

Birthday Cake Sunday – May 14 after Sunday service. If your birthday is in May, let us help you celebrate this joyous day with cake! But if it’s not your birthday, let us celebrate somebody’s birthday anyway. Cake is cake, as Gertrude Stein would say if she was a Dignity member, and it’s all good.

Dignity Philadelphia participated in a city-wide initiative to collect new socks for the homeless. Thanks for the efforts of Jimmy Calnan, Dignity collected 60 pairs! Good work Jimmy!

And speaking of birthdays, B.J. Walsh celebrated her March birthday with a St. Patrick’s Day Cake. Happy Birthday B.J., you look as beautiful (and young!) as ever (pictured right).



FYI, the National Pride March on Washington, D.C. will take place June 11, 2017; see the website for more information. However, Philadelphia’s Gay Pride Day is scheduled for June 18, at Penn’s Landing, as usual. If you are interested in staffing (not manning) the booth for a two-hour shift, please let Dick O’Malley know of your intentions.

HOW TO MAKE A LARGE CORPORATION SUPPORT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

AmazonSmile is the charitable arm of Amazon, one of the world’s largest online shopping websites. Through AmazonSmile, a portion of your eligible purchases will be donated to the charity that you select. For the past few years, several members of the Chapter have made purchases through AmazonSmile. When they have done so, a percentage of the money received by Amazon for these purchases gets donated to Dignity/Philadelphia. It is very easy to do and does not substantially change how you make online purchases through Amazon. Also, it does not cost you anything more than what you were already paying for your item on Amazon. That’s right, it does not cost you anything. What you are doing is directing how AmazonSmile should donate its money.

To participate, go to smile.amazon.com to do your online shopping. If you have not yet selected a charity, you can select Dignity Philadelphia as your designated charity. You don’t need to know any tax id numbers or anything like that. You can search for Dignity Philadelphia by name. Then, just go about your online shopping. Amazon will let you know which of your purchases are eligible for a donation through AmazonSmile. That’s all there is to it. AmazonSmile makes the donation to the Chapter.

The Chapter had previously decided that any money that it receives from AmazonSmile will be part of our Community Emergency Fund, which helps financially struggling members of our Chapter. So go ahead, buy yourself that new pair of shoes; buy a friend a book or CD; make any purchase that you would like through AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile does all the rest. Making purchases through AmazonSmile can supplement the ways you already support the Chapter.

April and May Munchie

I may not be where I want to be, but thank God
I am not where I used to be.

-Joyce Meyer

ENJOY THE SPRING!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE

April is Community Service Month

Sunday, April 23 Mass at 7 pm
Bring your Friends and Family to Dignity Sunday

Sunday, April 30 Mass at 7 pm
Semiannual Business Meeting
Rosary Group Meeting, 6 pm

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Wed., May 3 Broad Street Ministry 3:00 to 5:30 pm

Friday, May 5 Prayer Around the Cross, Upstairs at St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sunday, May 7 Mass at 7 pm, Board of Director's Meeting at 4:30 pm

Sunday, May 14 Mass at 7 pm, Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
Mother's Day and Birthday Cake – what a treat!

Thursday, May 18 Mummer's Concert at 8 pm

Sunday, May 21 Mass at 7 pm, Dignity Philadelphia's 44th Anniversary Mass
Potluck 4:30 pm
Rosary Group 6 pm

Thursday, May 25 Feast of the Ascension Mass at 7:30 pm
Mummer's Concert at 8 pm

Sunday, May 28 Mass at 7 pm

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day (official start of summer!)

June is LGBTQ Pride Month

Friday, June 2 Prayer Around the Cross, Upstairs at St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sunday, June 4 Mass at 7:00 pm, Investiture Mass
Board of Director's Meeting at 4:30 pm

Wed., June 7 Broad Street Ministry, 3:00 to 5:30 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 June/July 2017 newsletter is May 17, 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/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**