



The Independence

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

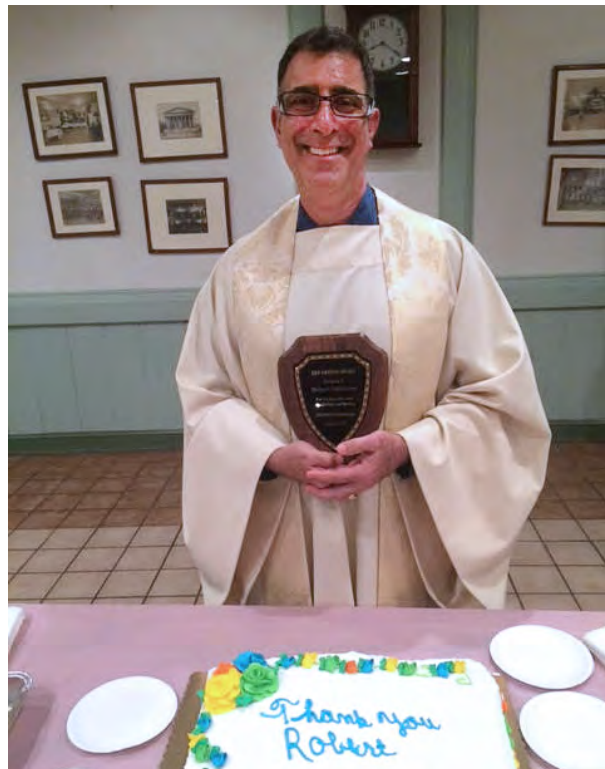
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DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA SPECIAL AWARDS By Michael Rocks, President

At the “Bring Your Family and Friends to Dignity” Mass on April 23, 2017, the Chapter honored the Priest Presider at Mass with the Dignity Philadelphia Deo Gratias Award. Robert Calabrese had served the Dignity Mass as Priest Presider for 25 years. During those years, Robert helped the Liturgy Committee to undertake some changes in the way the Chapter celebrated Mass. Robert has an extensive experience with Catholic liturgy and often provided good advice to the Liturgy Committee. Also, Robert and his husband Scott, improved the liturgical music at the Dignity Mass by introducing scores of new hymns that are sung at the weekly Sunday Mass today. The Deo Gratias Award is one of the highest honors that Dignity Philadelphia bestows on persons who serve our Chapter in extraordinary ways.

At the 44th Anniversary Mass, the Chapter bestowed a special 50th Jubilee of Priestly Ordination Award to Paul Morrissey, one of the founding priests of Dignity Philadelphia. Paul has served the LGBT Roman Catholic community for most of those 50 years with his guidance, his spiritual direction and his presence not only in the Philadelphia Chapter but also throughout the USA. LGBT Roman Catholics need the sacraments as much as the “ordinary” Catholic and Paul has served as a priest of mercy and love to those whom so many other priests have rejected and humiliated. Without priests like Paul, many LGBT Roman Catholics would remain isolated from the grace of the sacraments and would be souls looking for the presence of our loving and merciful God in our Catholic communities without success.

As President of the Chapter, it was a great honor for me to bestow these honors on two priests who have reached to the “ends of the earth” to be the representatives of Jesus Christ to those pushed to the outside by parishes and dioceses and as bearers



Father Robert with his Deo Gratias Award and Thank You cake. You will be missed!



Father Paul with Anne and Michael, all celebrants on May 21, 2017. Anne and Michael received 40 year membership pins.

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of the Holy Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church to those whose authentic creation keeps them gathered in hiding from the coldness and rejection of the institutional Church in order to experience the Holy Eucharist in joyful and celebratory thankfulness.

HAPPY DAYS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

Dignity Philadelphia had a series of happy celebratory days with the start of Bring Friends and Family to Dignity Sunday, a heartfelt goodbye to Father Robert Calabrese, a 50th Anniversary Celebration for Father Paul Morrissey and a 44th Anniversary for Dignity Philadelphia, plus the handing out of awards to people who contribute to the well-being of the community as well as to the Chapter itself! And in between celebrations, we also took time for elections. We are a busy Chapter!

Bi-Monthly Munchie

“Sometimes your conscience guides you to differ with the church hierarchy...the only thing that should concern us is love and helping others.”

- Sister Jeannine Gramick

**HAPPY PRIDE MONTH AND
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

WHAT GOT YOU TO DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA?

In the early 80's I lived on the 2100 block of Spruce Street. On summer evenings I sat on the front steps with neighbors and noticed gay people heading into Trinity Church across 22nd Street. Finally, I stopped someone and asked what was going on and he introduced me to Dignity. Michael Flynn took me under his wings and within two months I was chair of the Social Committee and on the Steering Committee. I even got to represent Dignity/Philadelphia at the 1983 Seattle Convention of DignityUSA. And so it began. - Jimmy Calnan

Michelle and I were part of a “Feeding Program for Homeless Women” in D.C. and we volunteered on Sundays when Dignity D.C. volunteered. Here we prepared and served homeless women Sunday dinners. The Dignity men – all lawyers – invited us to go with them to church afterwards, and we liked it so much, we became members. When I came to Philadelphia for grad school, I went to St. Frances de Sales and decided it was not for me! I looked for a Dignity Chapter and Kevin Davies made it possible for us to join. What we love about Dignity is that they do not take a stand regarding reproductive rights; we did not want those politics in our Sunday worship. So in choosing to not have politics addressed in our worship services, we join Dignity which is in itself a very political topic in the Catholic Church! Oh, well, here we are. – Dolores Vera

I was introduced to our chapter in May of 1977 by head of liturgy Michael Carman (who's named now in our panels) and was immediately taken with the large crowd of people like myself crammed into the second floor playroom of Trinity Memorial at 22nd and Spruce. And a few months later, took a chance and flew with some chapter members to my first conference (Chicago, July 1977) and seeing so many LGBT people from all over the land really told me that this is what I wanted to do with my life. Our Holy Spirit surely has blessed me all these 40-plus years! - Michael Flynn

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly meetings of the Board of Directors were held May 7 and June 4, 2017. The following motions were made during those meeting:

Motion 17-05-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Chapter Service Award for 2017 be granted to Devon Abdo. Passed unanimously

Motion 17-05-02: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Community Service Award for 2017 be granted to Shut Up and Dance. Passed unanimously

Motion 17-05-03: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that an ad be submitted to DUSA for the conference ad book, ½ page at \$250. Passed unanimously

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(For members interested in attending the Dignity USA National Conference, the link is as follows: <https://www.dignityusa.org/tags/conference-2017> or www.dignityusa.org FYI, Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey will deliver the Keynote Address titled, “Table Manners for Hungry Radicals.”)

(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. – this motion was made in April.)



Motion 17-06-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Annual Educational Scholarship be given to Emily Mullin in June 2017 in the sum of \$500. Passed unanimously

Motion 17-06-02: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the July 50/50 be donated to the Attic Youth Group. Passed unanimously



ONCE AGAIN, IT IS GAY NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

Pride Night – August 22, 2017

Henry Chau will be the designated player from Dignity to coordinate this event. Announcements will be made closer to the date of the game.

The Phillies will celebrate Philadelphia’s rich LGBT culture at their second annual Pride Night Celebration at Citizens Bank Park on **Tuesday, August 22 at 4:05 p.m.** when the Phillies host the Miami Marlins. All members

of the LGBT community, as well as family, friends and organizations are invited to come out and show their pride at this event.

GAY PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

As many of you know, June is Gay Pride Month. This year – unlike last year – Dignity Philadelphia will have a shady booth at Penn’s Landing **June 18, 2017**. The 29th annual PrideDay LGBT Parade and Festival begins with a colorful procession from the Gayborhood to Penn’s Landing, where a celebration ensues. (FYI, Dignity Philadelphia will not, repeat will not be marching! We are too sophisticated (and old) to do this!) Revelers can then look forward to live music, DJs, food, drink and other ways to fete International Gay and Lesbian Pride Month along the Delaware River Waterfront. If you can help Dignity Philadelphia by staffing the booth, your help will be greatly appreciated. Staffing will be done in 2 hour increments – so you will still have time to roam around the festival. Please see Dick O’Malley to sign up for a shift (or two).



TO RETREAT OR NOT TO RETREAT?

Henry Chau and I, Dolores Vera, have been talking about the possibility of having a retreat sometime in the fall. Henry went to an out-of-town retreat which featured our own Fr. Paul Morrissey. We were talking about Dignity Philadelphia having a retreat and maybe asking him to speak. However, we are still in the thinking stages and would like Dignity members to give us feedback. If just Henry and I come up with a theme, a date and making all the arrangements, we would be the only participants!

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So we need to hear from the membership. Are you interested in attending a retreat – which is the primary question? And would you attend? Henry and I want to have at least 10-12 members commit to coming to an in-house retreat, in order to make this event cost-effective. Once we have your commitment, we would ask you to help us come up with a theme, a possible speaker and a date we can all agree to for the retreat. We want this retreat to be member-driven. What are some topics you are interested in exploring? What topics would make us better Catholics or can the retreat address other issues regarding community needs, spiritual needs or issues of sexual orientation? What are some issues you would like addressed in an all day retreat? If we don't hear from the community, we will opt to not have a retreat. However, if the interest is there, and people can commit to attending, we will proceed with the logistics.

We are envisioning a Saturday during the fall, here at St. Luke's where we have our worship services. As with other retreats we have had in the past, we can divide the day into a morning session (9:30am – noon) and a short afternoon session (1-3pm). The chapter would provide for the Continental Breakfast and mid-day luncheon. The cost would range from \$10 to \$15, and scholarships will be made available. (The cost helps pay for Victor's services during the day.) What we need is the bodies – such as your body – that will make this retreat a success. Please let Henry or myself know of your interest, and we will start make a list of potential participants. Let us hear from you before September 1st so we can start planning!

BRAVO! BRAVO!

For those Dignity members who were unable to attend the 44th Anniversary Potluck, we highlighted two recipients for the Dignity Chapter Award and the Community Service Award. The Community Service Award was given to Shut Up and Dance. This is MANNA's biggest fundraiser and Ian Hussey - who works with the students from the University of



Devon posing with her Chapter Service Award – AND note the ring on her left hand! Congrats all around for Devon.

the Arts and Ballet X - was asked to receive the award. Unfortunately he was not available since he was in Kansas and Ms. Pat Taylor accepted the award for Shut Up and Dance. Mrs. Pat Taylor is a long-time volunteer with MANNA and also joins us monthly at Broad Street Ministry. A big applause to Ian Hussey from Dignity Philadelphia

Also receiving the Chapter Service Award for her contribution to Dignity Philadelphia is Devon Abdo. She has been a member for the past two years, has become a lector during that time and is a big proponent of Dignity Philadelphia in her classroom and work environment. Thank you Devon, for being such a great representative of our chapter.



Jimmy Calnan presenting to Ms. Pat Taylor the Community Service Award to Shut Up and Dance.

BROAD STREET MINISTRY NEWS

As many of you know, Dignity Philadelphia continues to volunteer at Broad Street Ministry on Broad Street. We have committed to having 10 members per month each first Wednesday of the month. We will meet June 7th from 3-5:30 pm to fulfill our obligation to them. However, just for your planning purposes, we will not be needed on July 5 – which would be the 1st Wednesday in July. Broad Street Ministry is planning an event for that day, in conjunction with the 4th of July. We will be meeting July 12 – the second Wednesday in July, and again from 3 to 5:30 pm. And once again we will meet for pizza afterwards – at a different pizza place! And for those of us that don't like change, we will again meet at Broad Street Ministry on August 2, and we get back on schedule! Please consider joining us at this worthwhile ministry. Talk to Jimmy Calnan for specific details.



UPDATE ON SO MANY ITEMS!

It is time for a little Mummies Music update. As you know, the concerts will take place on Thursdays at The Mummies Museum, 1100 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia. The concerts start at 8 p.m. NOTE: you will need to bring your own lawn chair; refreshments and snacks will be sold on-site. The schedule for the second group (June and July) is as follows:

June 8	Uptown
June 15	South Philadelphia
June 22	Greater Overbrook
June 29	Quaker City
No concert on July 6	
July 13	Avalon
July 20	Broomall
July 27	Greater Kensington

We hope to see you there!

And we did have an election – somewhat of an election. There were two vacancies on the Board of Directors and these two people agreed to serve for another term. At this point everyone has agreed to continue doing what they do best, and so no changes will take place. The latest member to join was Jimmy Calnan, who is now Director At Large and he was appointed several months back. So no news is good news.



Congrats to Erin - Director Finances, Michael - Director/President of the Board, Jimmy – Director at large, Kevin – Director Record Keeper, and Rob – Director Membership.

As of June 2017, Dignity Philadelphia now has 100 members, 41 of which are also USA Dignity members. We had 11 lapse members and five members were dropped.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, ETC.

Upcoming June birthdays will be celebrated with cake on June 11, 2017. If your birthday falls during Pride Month (how apropos) come celebrate with us. And speaking of birthdays we have the 3 youngsters who celebrated a birthday during May. Happy Birthday you good looking guys! (July 16 will be Birthday Cake Sunday for the July “babies” so mark your calendars.)



The May birthday men, all with pre-mature grey hair, are from left to right:

Frank M., Bill B. and Jim Clay

You all look wonderful! Actually you all look like the Three Tenors!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST

June is LGBTQ Pride Month

Wed., June 7 Broad Street Ministry, 3:00 to 5:30 pm
 Sunday, June 11 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
 Birthday Cake Sunday
 Thursday, June 15 Mummings Concert
 Sunday, June 18 Mass at 7:00 pm – Father’s Day
 Gay Pride Day at Penn’s Landing
 Rosary Group at 6:00 pm
 Thursday, June 22 Mummings Concert
 Sunday, June 25 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Thursday, June 29 Mummings Concert

Sunday, July 9 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm
 Wed., July 12 Broad Street Ministry, 3:00 to 5:30 pm
 Thursday, July 13 Mummings Concert
 Sunday, July 16 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Rosary Group at 6:00 pm
 Birthday Cake Sunday
 Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
 Thursday, July 20 Mummings Concert
 Sunday, July 23 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Thursday, July 27 Mummings Concert
 Sunday, July 30 Mass at 7:00 pm

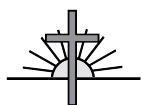
July is National Ice Cream Month (United States)

Sunday, July 2 Mass at 7:00 pm
 No Board Meeting
 Wed., July 5 we are not meeting for Broad Street
 Ministry – see following Wednesday
 Friday, July 7 Prayer Around the Cross, upstairs at
 St. Luke’s at 7:00 pm

August is Caregivers Month

Wed., August 2 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Broad Street Ministry, 3:00-5:30 pm
 Friday, August 4 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Prayer Around the Cross, upstairs at
 St. Luke’s at 7:00 pm
 Sunday, August 6 Mass at 7:00 pm
 Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm

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 2017 newsletter is July 23, 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 of the Board
- 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/Rev. 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 available for Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Director of Membership for more information.

The total amount of your dues and donations to both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA may be included in one check. We will forward your DignityUSA dues/donations and your contact information to the DignityUSA national office.

Individual annual dues:
 Dignity/Phila \$20;
 Dignity/USA \$30
 \$ _____ **Total**

Couple’s annual dues:
 Dignity/Phila \$35;
 Dignity/USA \$60
 \$ _____ **Total**

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