



The Independence

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

GOODBYE DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

I saw the sandwich board and thought, “Could this be real?” I had grown up going to a traditional Catholic Basilica in San Juan Capistrano, CA and had continued my spiritual journey through my college years in Chapel Hill, NC. Though I was out to my friends at the Newman Center (UNC), I could hardly believe there would be a place for LGBTQ Catholic people to come together in the outside world. I was pleasantly surprised when God brought me to Dignity.

My biggest fear on my first Sunday in Dignity was not being Gay enough, something that many Bisexual women struggle with, but with some prodding from my partner Matt, I held my breath and walked to church. Upon entering our little sanctuary, I was approached by many smiling faces. It was the first Mass that I had ever seen a female Catholic priest and I was in heaven!

Since my first day, I have been hooked! Dignity has become the family I needed in Philadelphia. You all have sung, prayed, cried, eaten and danced into my heart! My memories of Dignity will include baseball games, potlucks, Chinese Dim Sum, and lots of love. Thank you all for accepting me into your community and hearts.

- D - Dedicated members
- I - Imaginative munchies
- G - Gender neutral language
- N - Night time Mass
- I - Infinite love
- T - Tasty snacks and toe tapping music
- Y - You and me together

- Devon Abdo

I found Dignity Philadelphia at some block party or another in July of 2015. The “Dignity Philadelphia” banner caught my eye, and I came over to investigate. Henry Chau was one of the people at the table, so I asked him what the group was about. When he told me that Dignity was a Roman Catholic congregation for LGBT people, tears sprang to my eyes. My home parish was nice enough, but the best I could say about it was that it tolerated gay people. It had never occurred to me that there might be a Catholic church out there where I could be a regular old parishioner, rather than one who hovered on the margins.

I attended my first Mass a week later, and I was struck by how welcoming everyone was, and I remain grateful to Michael Viola for briefing me on the Eucharist traffic pattern on my first visit. I think I was too shy to socialize much after Mass, but I liked it so much that I kept coming back that summer. I even brought my mother and grandmother to Mass on my birthday, and they too were impressed by the Dignity community’s warmth and kindness. I returned to Wellesley that fall, but I attended Mass at St. Luke’s whenever I was home on break. My bond with Dignity quickly solidified after my mother passed away in December of 2015; my “church friends” were some of the first people to offer me comfort and sympathy. Later, when I started my graduate school applications, I had no bigger supporters than my friends from Dignity. One Sunday I mentioned shyly to Rob Baker that I had been admitted to Oxford, and he was so happy for me that he marched me down to the office to tell everyone in there, and then he prompted me to tell the rest of the congregation during announcements after the Eucharist. Everyone was so thrilled that I’d gotten into Oxford that I almost felt bad when, a few weeks later, I announced that I had turned down Oxford for a full ride to UC Berkeley...!

While I’m happy to be starting a new adventure in California with Dignity’s blessing (in the form of moral support as well as a scholarship--thank you, Board of Directors!), I’m sad

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to be leaving. I can't put into words how much my time at Dignity has meant to me. I've only been an attendee for two years, but it feels much longer. I have many fond memories of my time at Dignity, and I've made many wonderful friendships. Some LGBT people are lucky enough to have gay family members, but I am not one of them. In Dignity, even though not everyone here is gay, I feel like I've found my "gay family". The love that I experienced as a member of Dignity Philadelphia is perhaps the greatest blessing of all.

- Emily Mullin

FIELD TRIP!

Do you remember learning about the American Revolution when you were in school? Did you find it boring? Do you remember anything other than the musical 1776? Well, on Saturday, September 23, 2017, you can learn all about the American Revolution from a new perspective. Dignity Philadelphia is organizing a field trip to the American Revolution Museum, 101 S.3rd Street - the newest museum in Philly's historic district (<http://www.amrevmuseum.org>).

The tickets for the museum are only \$12 if we get a group of at least 15 people to attend. Not only is that cheaper than the regular admission price of \$19, but it is also cheaper than the regular admission price for senior citizens, students, teachers, or members of the military.

Reservations to ensure the group rate need to be made in advance. So, if you are interested in attending, please let Mike Viola know. The names of all people attending along with the payment of \$12 per person must be given to Mike no later than Sunday, August 27, 2017. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please feel free to ask Mike at our weekly liturgy or send him an email at mlviola@yahoo.com. This event is open to members of Dignity Philadelphia and our friends.

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly meetings of the Board of Directors were held June 4, and July 9, 2017. The following motions were made during those meeting:

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

The Attic Youth Center creates opportunities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth to develop into healthy, independent, civic-minded adults within a safe and supportive community, and promotes the acceptance of LGBTQ youth in society. The Attic is proud to be Philadelphia's only independent LGBTQ youth center.

Motion 17-07-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the August 2017 50/50 be presented to Mercy Hospice. Passed unanimously

Mercy Hospice is a community grounded in faith and service where women and children without permanent housing can find opportunities for new beginnings. They strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and support in which individuals and families can heal and grow in their ability to lead fulfilling, self-sufficient lives.

Bi-Monthly Munchie

Neither chastity nor celibacy means
not be a sexual person.

- Robert Nugent, SDS

UPCOMING EVENTS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

Broad Street Ministry – Join us August 2 and September 6, from 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! And you will also have lots and lots of fun! Plus you will sweat a lot which is always good for the complexion. Please let Jimmy Calnan know of your intentions to help out Broad Street Ministry in this charitable work.

Birthday Cake Sunday
– August 27 and
September 10

after Sunday service. If your birthday is in August, let us help you celebrate this joyous day with cake! But if it's not your birthday, let us celebrate somebody's birthday anyway. Inside



The June Birthday trio: these handsome men are Louis G., Dan and Tony L. – (Dan, unfortunately, makes the other two look a tad older)

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information: a special birthday will be celebrated August 27! And if your birthday is in September, we can celebrate you next month!

Date to remember: Philly game is **August 22** and all the tickets are accounted for, but if you already have a ticket – then don't forget to show up! This is a double header so make plans to be there all afternoon and half the night. You will be in good company – and with our prayers, the Phillies will win!

September is looking good: Dignity Philadelphia will celebrate Welcome to Autumn Potluck on **September 17, 2017** (this used to be Back to School Potluck, but everybody is now retired and we are too old for school, so...). The wonderful fest will begin at 4:30 PM. Express yourself via cooking and bring your culinary signature dish; or stop at KFC and bring a bucket of chicken. All dishes are welcome and we don't discriminate when it comes to food. Anyone who wants to help set up should arrive at 3:30 PM. This is a great chance for many of the lapsed or dropped members to return to celebrate with the Dignity Chapter.



Also in September we are planning a field trip – yeah field trip! Mike Viola is arranging an outing (not the embarrassing type of outing) to the new Museum of the American Revolution at 3rd and Chestnut Streets. See article from Mike Viola.

Mummers concerts are continuing. As many of you know, the concerts take place on Thursdays at The Mummers 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 last group of the summer is as follows:

August 3	Hegeman
August 10	Gloucester City
August 17	Ferko
August 24	Trilby
August 31	Woodland
Sept. 7	Polish American
Sept. 14	Durning
and the last concert of the summer,	
Sept. 21	Hardley Ables

STIPENDS FOR SUNDAY MASS

The Liturgy Service Group has not advertised for this event in a while. Members are encouraged to have a Sunday Mass said

in honor of a loved one who has passed away and whom they wish to remember thru this Catholic tradition. The Liturgy members will then ask the Sunday Presider to have the Mass said in honor of the loved one that you wish to remember. We are asking that a stipend of \$10 for this Mass; please see Jim Clay to arrange for this.

And we finish the month with our semi-annual business meeting. This meeting is scheduled for **September 24** after Mass. The agenda is as follows:

Dignity/Philadelphia Agenda – Semiannual Business Meeting Sunday, September 24, 2017

Opening Prayer
Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the Minutes from April 30, 2017

Old Business

- 1.
- 2.

New Business

1. 45th Anniversary
- 2.

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 8/2017
Day of Retreat - pending
Museum of the American Revolution (9/23)

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

SAVE THE DATE

Dignity Philadelphia is preparing for the upcoming Dignity Brunch. Preparations are being made with the restaurant and it looks like Saturday, October 21 may be the date! The selection/entrees will not be as numerous as in prior years and this should cut down on the waiting time to be served. Once again it will be at Knock, so start spreading the news and getting your \$ together. Specifics will be finalized by the next newsletter, so for the time being, pencil in the date!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

August is Caregivers Month

- Wed., Aug. 2 Broad Street Ministry, 3 to 5:30 pm
- Fri., Aug. 4 Prayer Around the Cross, upstairs at St. Luke's at 7 pm
- Sun., Aug. 6 Mass at 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm
- Thurs., Aug. 10 Mummings Concert
- Sun., Aug. 13 Mass at 7 pm
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, August 15 Assumption of Mary, Mass at 7:30 pm
- Thurs., Aug. 17 Mummings Concert
- Sun., Aug. 20 Mass at 7 pm
Rosary Group at 6 pm
- Tues., Aug. 22 Gay Night at the Phillies – see article
- Thurs., Aug. 24 Mummings Concert
- Sun., Aug. 27 Mass at 7 pm
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Thurs., Aug. 31 Mummings Concert

September is National Prostate Health Month

- (Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15)
- Fri., Sept. 1 Prayer Around the Cross, 7pm upstairs at St. Luke
 - Sun., Sept. 3 Mass at 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm
 - Mon., Sept. 4 Labor Day
 - Wed., Sept. 6 Broad Street Ministry, 3 to 5:30 pm
 - Thurs., Sept. 7 Mummings Concert
 - Sun., Sept. 10 Healing Mass at 7 pm,
Commemoration Mass for 9/11
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
Birthday Cake Sunday
 - Thurs., Sept. 14 Mummings Concert
 - Sun., Sept. 17 Mass at 7 pm
Rosary Group at 6 pm
Potluck 4:30 pm
 - Thurs., Sept. 21 Mummings Concert – last one of the summer
 - Sat., Sept. 23 Visit to the Museum of American Revolution (see article)
M. Dolores Vera's Birthday
 - Sun., Sept. 24 Mass at 7 pm
Semi-Annual Business Meeting (see agenda)

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 October/November 2017 newsletter is September 11, 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**

Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

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