

The Independence

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

JIM CLAY, DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA, HONORED WITH AWARD

On March 29, Jim Clay received the Mary Magdalene Award from the Core Committee of Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference (SEPA-WOC). Jim is an active, valued volunteer with both SEPA-WOC and serves as co-chair of the Liturgy Service Group for Dignity/Philadelphia.

The Mary Magdalene Award was established in 2007. The yearly award is named after Mary Magdalene, who according to early Church fathers was the "apostle to the apostles," the female follower of Jesus who has been misrepresented and whose pivotal role in the early church was marginalized since the sixth century. For these reasons, Mary Magdalene is considered by many to be the patron of women, particularly those claiming their rightful places, in the Roman Catholic Church.

It appears, based on the SEPA-WOC website, that this is the first time they have given this award to a male! Congratulations and thank you, Jim Clay, for your witness and service!.

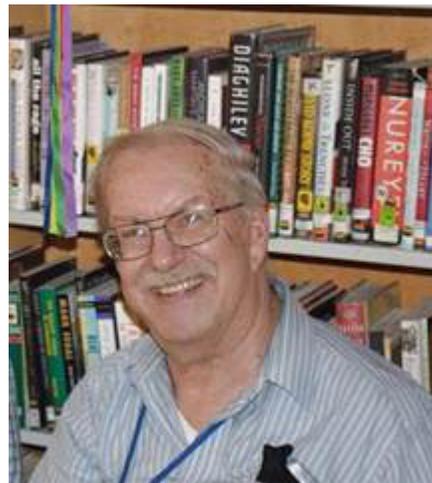


Jim Clay and Regina Bannan showing off their awards at Sister City Park in front of the Cathedral.



Congratulating Jim Clay are Dick O'Malley and BOD Michael Rocks.

BILL CLOSSEY - FEB. 26, 1949 - MARCH 1, 2018



We lost a dear friend and member of Dignity on March 1, 2018. Bill Clossey had been a member of Dignity Philadelphia for 20 years; he had just turned 69 on February 26, 2018. It was an unexpected death, due to medical complications, and his loss was a shock to many of us in Dignity/Philadelphia. He was surrounded by his husband, Ricardo Ben-Safed, his brother Joseph and his sister Sr. Patricia, CSC, at the time of his death. Bill had been a lector for Dignity, and periodically he and Ric would read from the old and new testaments. He will certainly be missed by this community.

Bill lived and worked in Center City; he had worked at the Philadelphia Free Library for 20 years, and often talked about retiring. Many of us Dignity members had attended his wedding to Ric, months after same sex marriage became legal. And Anne Butchart was the officiant in the courtroom where the service took place. We also

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remember their reception at a nearby Chinese restaurant. He had such life, spirit and charm that made us love him.

His Funeral Mass was on Saturday, March 10 at St. Luke and the Epiphany and based on the attendance, it was evident that he was affectionately remembered and loved by people that knew him. Many of us proceeded to the interment which took place at Woodlands Cemetery. Here he had a combination of a Jewish and Catholic burial service. For many of us this was a touching and educational experience. Afterwards we were treated to a repast back at St. Luke's; this was provided by his sister.

His name is now on the Banner of Angels which hangs on our walls during our Sunday liturgy. As with all the names on the banners, he leaves behind a community who loved him, and will miss him. He will, however, continue to live in our hearts and surely no one will forget his smile and love of the Phillies! God speed on your spiritual journey, Bill Clossey!

"I took Bill for granted at the library. I just knew he would be there, he would have the books I needed, and he would refuse my money when I was late in returning my books, he recommended books for me, and he was always ready to help me. I have not returned to the Independence Library since his death, especially when my mother said there was a big picture of him and a memorial book that patrons were signing in English and Mandarin. I just can't believe he is gone."

– Michelle Perrone

"Bill lived in the city and always took the bus to and from work. However, I gather Bill loved to drive. Various times when he and Ric had things to do outside the city, they would rent a car. And when he had the car, he would tell, not ask, us that he was giving us a ride home. He lived on 19th Street; we live on 49th Street, so it wasn't as if we were on his way home! He insisted on taking us home. One Sunday in December, Michelle was out of town, so he told me he was taking me home. But he had to take another Dignity member home first, since he lived in "deep" South Philly. After we dropped him home, we got completely lost. Everywhere he turned, or when Ric and I told him to turn, we came upon one way streets, detours or dead ends. Finally we followed a SEPTA bus and we got back on track. A ride that would have taken us 20 minutes took us close to two hours. When they finally got to my house, he admitted that we had not been lost at all. He just wanted me, and Ric, to share in the joy of the Christmas decorations in South Philly, which he said were unique. Ric and I knew he was lying, but I certainly enjoyed the ride!"

– M. Dolores Vera

"Bill and I had known each other for many years before serving as Regional Representatives from D/P to Dignity's Region III board. In fall 1987 we both attended a regional meeting weekend in Washington and stopped at my apartment to get ready for D/P liturgy. Waiting for me was a voice mail from my sister that my mother was at a terminal stage in her struggle with cancer. Before I could call back, my sister called again that my mother had just passed.

Fortunately for me, Bill was there. He provided a shoulder to cry on and offered words of support. We planned what I needed to do about work the next day, when I could leave for north New Jersey. This became a special bond for Bill and I to share and will always be a fond memory whenever I remember Bill.

Such a good man!"

– Jimmy Calnan

Double Munchie!

"Teach your children that the earth is our mother.
Whatever befalls the earth,
befalls the children of the earth."

- Chief Seattle

Happy Earth Day!

"Today is the day our God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad."

- Psalm 118.24

Happy 45th Anniversary!

STIPENDS FOR SUNDAY MASS

The Liturgy Service Group encourages members 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.

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.

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTIONS

The Board of Directors met March 4 and April 8, 2018, and the following motions came out of these meetings:

Motion 18-03-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the April 50/50 be donated to Free Library Philadelphia Independence Branch, Barbara Gittings Collection, in memory of Bill Clossey.

50/50 for April: Independence Branch opened on February, 28, 2001. The library serves as a community center for Chinatown and the other nearby neighborhoods. The name "Independence" recognizes the proximity to Independence National Historic Park. This library has a very large public-library collection of GLBT materials named in honor of Barbara Gittings, a pioneer in the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights, and a leader in efforts to ensure public access to information for all people. Bill Clossey worked at this library for 20 years.

50/50 for May: That May 50/50 be donated to Dawn's Place. Passed unanimously Dawn's Place works to improve the lives of women who have been trafficked, prostituted or pimped. Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or Sex Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It is a residential rehabilitation program for these women.

Motion 18-03-02: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Audit Report for FY 9-1-16 to 8-31-17 be accepted with special thanks to Mike Viola and Rob Baker for their work. Passed unanimously.

Motion 18-04-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Rocks. Be it moved that the May 2018 50/50 be donated to Siloam. Passed unanimously (*This motion was vacated since we had already designated May 50/50 for Dawn's Place.*)

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE (AND REMEMBER!)

The big event is the 45th anniversary date: May 19, 2018. This promises to be the best one yet, so get your tickets and your dancing shoes ready. You should have gotten your mailing regarding this event the first week of April. If you haven't gotten the info, please see anyone from the Board of Directors. There will also be some scholarships available should you be short on funds. Again, contact anyone on the Board for this information.

And the anniversary Mass will be the day after the dinner/dance. So the following should be cut out and pasted on your refrigerator:

May 2: Broad Street Ministry – help serve lunch

May 13: Birthday Cake Sunday

May 19: Anniversary Dinner Dance – you have to come, and:

May 20: 45th Anniversary Mass

(for other Dignity events, see "Calendar of Events" on the last page)

And if you see some of the following members, wish them a belated happy birthday – these guys just keep getting younger and younger every day!



February celebrants: Ed, Larry and Michael Rocks.



Irish/March celebrants: Kevin Davies and Jimmy Calnan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL, MAY, AND A LITTLE BIT OF PRIDE MONTH - JUNE

Sun., Apr. 22 Mass at 7 pm
1st round for nominations – 3 positions are open, for two year terms

Sun., Apr. 29 Mass at 7 pm
2nd round of nominations

May is National Pet Month 2018

Wed., May 2 Broad Street Ministry – Lunch Date

Fri., May 4 Prayer Around the Cross
St. Luke's at 7 pm (upstairs)

Sun., May 6 Mass at 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting – 4:30 pm
Meet the Candidates (if necessary)

Mon., May 7 Mail out ballots (if necessary)

Thurs., May 10 Feast of the Ascension

Sun., May 13 Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday
Liturgy Service Group Meeting – 4:30 pm
Mother's Day

Sat., May 19 Anniversary Dinner Dance – Mummer's Museum
7 pm to 11 pm with Food, Cake, Wine, Beer and Dancing – Oh! What a night!

Sun., May 20 45th Anniversary Mass at 7 pm – Anniversary Cake!
Rosary Group at 6 pm
All ballots must be in today

Sun., Mar. 27 Mass at 7 pm

Mon., Mar. 28 Memorial Day – Official start of summer – hey!

June is LGBT Pride Month 2018

Fri., June 1 Prayer Around the Cross
St. Luke's at 7 pm (upstairs)

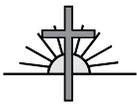
Sun. June 3 Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm

Wed. June 6 Broad Street Ministry – Lunch Date

Sun., June 10 Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday
Philly Pride Parade and Festival – go out and show your pride!

Sun., June 17 Mass at 7 pm
Liturgy Service Group Meeting – 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 June/July 2018 newsletter is June 11, 2018

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 – Chaplain

Rev. Ron Hoskins – Chaplain on leave of absence



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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