

SEPTEMBER 2011



The Independence

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

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Joanne R. Collins

In the last issue I asked about some of the expectations that you have for Dignity. The general consensus is that we need more young people. These concerns were voiced in a number of the other Dignity communities and our Dignity Steering Committee has been exploring this question. We are presently attempting to change our advertising strategy to get people to look at Dignity as a place where they can spiritually grow and validate their personal connection with God. So my next question is how do we get young people involved in Dignity? Please send your ideas to me at president.dignityphila@gmail.com or stop and talk to me at the social after mass every Sunday at St. Lukes.

One concern that I have about Dignity/Philadelphia is the lack of involvement of its members. It seems the same people are doing it all and we need volunteers. We have 4 committees here at Dignity. The Liturgy Committee helps plan the mass and assist in regularly scheduled liturgies. The Education Committee promotes growth, skills, and interest of its members and the LGBT community. The Community Life Committee helps foster the communal and spiritual needs of its members. And the Communications Committee helps with the publishing of the newsletter *The Independence* and helps with spreading the word on Facebook. Presently all of the committees need people and all it takes is a little time each month to help out. If you have any questions or would like to talk about joining a committee, please come see me or any of the Steering Committee members. Remember YOU are Dignity. Everyone's response is welcome.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT DIGNITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

by Dolores Vera

You are invited to either bring your pet, or a picture of your pet, to this special Sunday liturgy in honor of St. Francis of Assisi - the patron saint of animals. Given the time of our service, the logistics involved in bringing a pet to St. Luke's, your pet's weight, age and disposition, or your pet's failure to finish Obedient School, we would strongly encourage Dignity members to bring a picture(s) of their companions, which can then be blessed by proxy. And I know for a fact that if we have a pet, we all have millions of pictures of said pet. I know I have a special folder entitled, "Noel Cohen's Folder." And I also know that he could use a blessing! Several years ago when we did this blessing at Dignity, 2 dogs were brought in and "stole the show" - it was very distracting. Again, if your pet is contained and not prone to singing when music is provided, then do bring him/her in, and show off the little guy or guys! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, and we can talk about picture vs. attendance. I can be reached on 215/476-8578.

-EDITOR NEEDED-

Dignity Philadelphia is in need of an editor for The Independence newsletter. Once the material is typed, Creative Characters does the rest of the work. If needed, someone on your committee will ensure that it is folded, sealed, stamped, and mailed out to circa 50 members. Everyone else gets an electronic copy.

As editor, you report news/events, motions, 50/50 recipients and calendar of events; the Steering Committee is extremely helpful in suggesting what gets reported. Members also submit pictures for some of the events - and these get plugged into the articles. This volunteer activity takes about 5-8 hours a month. As editor of the newsletter, you will get a vote as a Steering Committee member. You help to move the chapter forward by contributing and acting on major decisions proposed by the Steering Committee and members of the chapter. This representation on the Steering Committee requires 2 hours a month - the 1st Sunday of the month.

If you are interested or have questions, please call me - Dolores - on 215-476-8578. I will write step-by-step instructions on what is required, and who the Communications Committee members are.

Please consider helping out Dignity Philadelphia by volunteering to serve as editor and contributing to the Steering Committee.

**DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA
AGENDA FOR SEMIANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011**

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes from last meeting on March 20, 2011

Old Business

1. IRS 990EZ for Dignity/Philadelphia

New Business

1. Budget for 9/1/11 – 8/31/12
2. “Brainstorming Social and Spiritual Activities”

Officer Reports

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Committee Reports

Communications - Vacant
Liturgy
Community Life - Vacant
Education - Vacant

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

9/11 MUNCHIE

As we grieve we remember:
“Our souls are bowed down to the dust”
– Psalm 44:26
“Love your enemies” - Jesus

**DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA
PROPOSED BUDGET 2011-2012**

Income	Dollars
Sunday Contributions	\$ 8,700.00
Christmas/Easter Appeal	\$ 2,000.00
Donations	\$ 3,300.00
Stewardship	\$ 6,200.00
Fund Raising	\$ 2,500.00
Membership Dues	\$ 2,300.00
Donations for Masses	\$ 500.00
Total Income	\$25,500.00

Expenses	Dollars
Advertising	\$ 3,750.00
Awards / Dues	\$ 450.00
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 300.00
Events	\$ 400.00
Hospitality	\$ 600.00
Insurance	\$ 600.00
Keyboardist	\$ 1,200.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 500.00
Newsletter	\$ 1,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 800.00
Postage	\$ 750.00
Presidential Discretionary Fund	\$ 600.00
Printing	\$ 400.00
Rent – Church	\$ 6,240.00
Rent – Office	\$ 4,310.00
Stipend/travel for homilist/preside	\$ 600.00
Student Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Telephone	\$ 400.00
IRS 501-3 application/legal fees	\$ 800.00
Retreats	\$ 400.00
Fund Raising expenses	\$ 400.00
Total Expenses	\$25,500.00

TIDBITS AND PIECES:

Dignity/Philadelphia membership is currently 142 members.

- If a member of the chapter needs to take advantage of the Emergency Community Fund, please see the President or one of the coordinators of the Community Life Committee.
- Parking is available next to the church. Please see a member of the Steering Committee for a special placard.
- Limited funds in the Dan Estes and Michael Durkin funds for convention participation and attendance. The Estes Fund is for people with HIV/AIDS and the Durkin fund is for women. Please see a member of the Steering Committee to determine if you are eligible to help defray a part of the expenses to attend the convention. Donations to these two funds are always accepted.

MEMORIAL MASSES

Anyone who would like to request that our mass be celebrated in memory of a loved one, please see Jim Clay, or any other member of the Liturgy Committee. The suggested donation is \$10, however no donation is required. We also welcome more generous donations.

DIGNITY THROUGH THE YEARS

by Jimmy Calnan

When Dignity USA was preparing to celebrate its 25th Anniversary at a bi-annual convention, chapters were invited to prepare a book of their history for display. From this came the history books that we keep on file in the office. As a lead in to the chapter's 40th Anniversary in 2013, we are going to reprint in each monthly newsletter one year's fact sheet. 1973 was reported in May, 1974 in June, 1975 in July and 1976 in August.

1977

In 1977, Andy M. replaced Joe Tozzi as head of the chapter, now meeting for the second year at Trinity Memorial Parish Hall. Membership dues were at \$15.00 and the October Newsletter numbered Dignity/Philadelphia at 125 members. The Building Fund Account was first set up and our permanent address was established in the Fall with our move to 252 S. 12th St. The second Dignity House was born and Congregation Beth Ahavah became one of our first renters.

Mark Segal, editor of the Gay News, addressed our organization with the topic of Gay Rights in '77. Mark was one of the advocates of the ill-fated Gay Rights Bill introduced to the Philadelphia City Council. This civil rights attempt was soundly defeated with the help of the Archdiocese.

The biggest fund raiser to date, and one of our chapter's very first, was a co-sponsored "Evening with Lily Tomlin" with the Second Story (then a very gay after-hours club). This fund raiser was a financial success, even though letters of apology were sent out to ticket holders explaining why Ms. Tomlin could not attend the event after her performance at the Forrest.

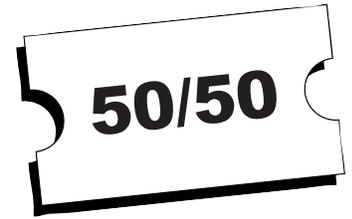
On the international level, Dignity, Inc. had voted in Walter Kay as President. Sixteen Dignity/Philadelphia members attended the 3rd Biennial Convention in Chicago and the international headquarters was moved from Boston to San Diego. This was also the year of the Dade County, Florida referendum with the majority of voters siding with Anita Bryant in revoking the gay rights bill. Our chapter, along with other organizations across the country, sent money and other support to our "family" in Miami.

MOTION FROM THE AUGUST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion 11-08-01: Be it moved that the September 50/50 be designated to the AIDS Fund. Passed unanimously

50/50 FOR SEPTEMBER – AIDS FUND

AIDS Fund is the sponsor of the annual AIDS Walk which this year is Sunday, October 16 on the Parkway. This is the 25th Anniversary of the walk.



AIDS Fund supports HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and services in the Delaware Valley by raising dollars and increasing public awareness about the impact of HIV on our communities. Currently, 30 partner organizations are receiving funding as a result of AIDS Fund's activities to provide critical HIV prevention education and care services.

Since its founding, AIDS Fund has remained committed to the philosophy that by coming together, each individual can make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS in their community. Critical to the success of AIDS Fund is our ability to mobilize thousands of volunteers and donors annually to produce events and to generate funds. These volunteers are valued for their commitment, compassion, and their community response to the AIDS epidemic.

DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA REVISED MEMBERSHIP FORM BEGAN JANUARY 1, 2011 SEPTEMBER RENEWALS – PLEASE CONSIDER DIGNITY/USA MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee has made a commitment to have a closer relationship with DignityUSA and they need your help. Please, when renewing your Dignity/Philadelphia membership also join DignityUSA. Please visit the DignityUSA website (<http://www.dignityusa.org/>) to see all the work DignityUSA does for us.

Over the years Dignity/Philadelphia has been one of the largest chapters in DignityUSA and we need to reclaim that position.

What does it mean to be a member of DignityUSA? By being a member of DignityUSA, you make a commitment to a national, if not international, organization and become a voice for GLBT Catholics and our friends. The media works with, and knows, DignityUSA and reaches out to the national office when a counterbalance viewpoint is sought.

Please speak with a member of the Steering Committee if you would like more information.

TOGETHER, our Voices are heard – locally, nationally and internationally! Let yours be heard – join both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

September

- Friday, Sep 2 Prayer Around The Cross at 7pm
- Sunday, Sep 4 Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
- Monday, Sep 5 Labor Day
- Sunday, Sep 11 Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm with commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001
- Sunday, Sep 18 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
Semiannual Business Meeting at 8:30pm
- Sunday, Sep 25 14th Annual Clyde Sams Potluck Dinner at 4:30pm**
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm (Investiture Mass for Committee Chairs)

October is LGBT History Month

- Sunday, Oct 2 Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm with Blessing of the Animals
- Tuesday, Oct 4 St. Francis of Assisi
- Friday, Oct 7 Prayer Around The Cross at 7pm
- Sunday, Oct 9 Outfest – Coming Out Day Block Party at 12pm
Visit the Dignity Table
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm – Solidarity Sunday and Matthew Shepard 13th Anniversary Commemoration
- Monday, Oct 10 Columbus Day
- Tuesday, Oct 11 National Coming Out Day
- Wed, Oct 12 Matthew Shepard 13th Anniversary
- Sunday, Oct 16 AIDS Walk – 25th Anniversary
Eucharistic Liturgy - 7pm - Healing Mass
- Sunday, Oct 23 TENTATIVE: TOC Brunch at 1pm
Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
- Sunday, Oct 30 **Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Monday, Oct 31 Halloween



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please sign our Prayer Intentions book if you have anyone you would like the community to remember in our prayers.

The deadline for submission of articles for the October newsletter is September 18, 2011.

Steering Committee

- Joanne Collins** – President
Jimmy Calnan – Vice President
Kevin Davies – Secretary
Linda Barrett – Treasurer
Jim Clay – Liturgy Committee Coordinator
Vacant – Community Life Committee Co-coordinators
Vacant – Communications Co-coordinator
Vacant – Education Committee Coordinator
Chaplains: Barbara Gindhart & Father Ron Hoskins



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