

JULY 2013



# The Independence

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA PRESIDENT

*Michael Viola*

I am writing this message for the issue of the Independence that you are reading during a very exciting time. The LGBT community in Philadelphia has just celebrated its annual Pride Festival. Twelve U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and thirteen other countries allows same-sex couples to marry. By the time you read this the US Supreme Court will have ruled on two very important cases regarding the ability of members of the LGBT community to marry their same-sex partners.

Dignity/Philadelphia is sharing its own excitement. We have had a full year celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe." These three simple phrases truly embody some of the best characteristics of Dignity Philadelphia.

**WE REMEMBER:** During our weekly liturgy, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us, dying for our sins so that we have eternal life. Our memorial panels help us remember the past members of our Chapter. The next time you are at liturgy, look over all the names on those panels. Find the earliest name of someone you met at Dignity. That is your place in our Dignity time line. During the next year, try to honor the memory of that person by becoming more active in our chapter. Maybe there is a committee you can join. Maybe you can help set up or break down our worship space. Maybe you can help out at Broad Street Ministries one month. Maybe you can encourage someone that you know to come to liturgy one Sunday night.

**WE CELEBRATE:** Of course, our weekly liturgy is a celebration of God's love for us. We celebrate in other ways as well. The bi-monthly Games night, trips to see local plays, attending sporting events together (yes, some gay men do that!), these are all ways that we celebrate the community of Dignity/Philadelphia. Not long after this newsletter is published, members of Dignity Philadelphia will celebrate at the biennial Dignity-USA convention in Minneapolis. I don't think it is a coincidence that Minnesota became the 12<sup>th</sup> state to legalize same-sex marriage in the year as the convention. Whenever any of us get together at work, at play, or in worship, it is a celebration of who we are as individuals, created in the image and likeness of God.

**WE BELIEVE:** Our beliefs, our faith, these things unite us as a community. When tragedies strike our community, our shared beliefs support us. They connect us in ways that spans miles. We see this whenever a member who does not live in the area comes to liturgy or when a member from another Chapter attends our services on a Sunday night. It makes us a family.

Let's continue the excitement and have a great year!

## REFLECTIONS OF A PRESIDER

As a teenager I aspired to become a gay saint. I read the limited gay publications at that time which I found in the Village in an attempt to better understand my gay identity.

Throughout my young adult years in the seminary, Dignity/USA did not exist so I had to deal with the gay bashing of theologians and psychologist on my own. When Dignity happened I attended my first convention in San Diego where I found close to 700 gay Catholics praising God with love, joy and faith.

Over the years of my priestly ministry I tried to include my gay brothers and sisters in and out of Dignity. I involved myself with those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS from its conception and throughout its long history in this country and the world. I watched dozens of the friends I loved die because of the virus.

Throughout these years I communicated with local and federal representatives concerning issues pertaining to the LGBT community in letters, emails and protests. As a result I grew as a minister of the gospel during the evolution of theological and psychological thought in the post Vatican II church, the interfaith communities and society. I witnessed their understanding of homosexuality because of this out reaching dialogue between them and the gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgender communities.

This dialogue continually empowers all who seek to embody their spirituality within their communities of faith. Their living in loving relationships with their brothers and sisters has revealed

*(continued on next page)*

to them God's love for a and friendship with them and other members of the GLBT community. Whether or not I become a gay saint depends on my faithfulness to this God who created, redeemed and empowers me in my service to the GLBT community. As Saint Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians 5:10:

"by God's favor I am what I am"

and to the Romans 8:31:

"if God is for us, who can be against us?"

Accordingly I stand together with the LGBT community in the light of the Risen Christ, living as a children of the light producing every kind of goodness, justice and truth, addressing my brothers and sisters in psalms, hymns and inspired song singing to the praise of Jesus the Christ with all my heart deferring to one another out of reverence for the Christ.

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014 FOR DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

The investiture of new officers took place Sunday, June 2, 2013. This is the new SC officers:



*Mike Bradley, Treasurer; Kevin Davies, Secretary; Larry Sutter, Vice President and Mike Viola, President.*

## HOT SUMMER DATES WITH DIGNITY

What better way to celebrate the Fourth of July than with Dignity friends at a dim sum luncheon in Chinatown? We will gather at Joy Tsin Lau Restaurant, 1026 Race Street, at noon. Dim sum is a style of eating shared portions of sea food, meats and vegetables displayed on carts circling the dining room. Rob Baker is our facilitator so let him know at liturgy or send a note to his attention at [dignityphila@aol.com](mailto:dignityphila@aol.com).

Then we cheer on the Phillies on Wednesday, August 7, at 7:05pm for their annual Gay Night at the Phillies. Tickets this year are \$28.00 and must be paid by July 21 to Melissa or Jimmy. This is always a fun event, win or lose.

Also on your calendar, Games Night on Friday, August 30. Our monthly service to the homeless through Broad Street Ministry continues on July 31 and August 28 from 3:00 until 6:00pm.

Hope to see you at these events; listen for additional announcements.

### Catholic Tipping Point A Conversation with Fr. Helmut Schüller Creativity, Courage & Conscience-- Re-Imagining Church Governance And the Voice of All the Faithful July 19, 2013, Friday, 7-9 pm

Fr. Schüller is visiting the United States, July 15-August 7, 2013, at the invitation of a coalition of church reform organizations.\* His 15-city tour, called a *Catholic Tipping Point*, will help priests and people create a critical mass to transform the Church from the bottom up. He will address creativity; transform the Church from the bottom up. He will address creativity, courage, and conscience so that we can re-imagine church governance to include the voice of the laity.

For more information and to RSVP for Philadelphia event (all replies confidential): [corphiladelphia@gmail.com](mailto:corphiladelphia@gmail.com)

For more general information:  
<http://www.CatholicTippingPoint.org>  
<http://www.pfarrer-initiative.at>

**Chestnut Hill College, SugarLoaf Hill, Bells Mill Rd  
and Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118  
Suggested Donation: \$10**

*\*Sponsored by: Call To Action, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, CORPUS, DignityUSA, FutureChurch, National Coalition of American Nuns, New Ways Ministry, Quixote Center, Voice of the Faithful, and Women's Ordination Conference; in Philadelphia: Voice of the Faithful/Philadelphia, Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference, ARCC, Call to Action/Philadelphia Region.*

The flyer above was submitted by Regina Bannan, and she wrote the following, to accompany this flyer:

Dignity/Philadelphia made the NunJustice witness on the Parkway a fabulous success. Now you have a chance to deal with PriestJustice by attending an evening with Father Helmut Schuller, an Austrian priest who has organized over 400 priests there to support a "Call for Disobedience" that outlines the way they want to be part of a truly pastoral church. Dignity/USA is one of the Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR) that is supporting this tour to begin another conversation. Interesting -- you can't get rid of 70% of a country's priests -- or at least, that's not being tried yet. This is an important conversation, not only for us who live a spiritual life outside the hierarchical church, but for our friends and families who are deeply involved in the institution.

*Regina Bannan, SEPA WOC.*

## MONTHLY MUNCHIE

Freedom is never voluntarily given  
by the oppressor; it must be demanded  
by the oppressed.

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**Happy Independence Day**

## GAY PRIDE ACTIVITIES

The following pictures document Dignity Philadelphia's participation in the 2013 Gay Pride Parade and in staffing the table at Penn's Landing. Thank you to Joanne and family for driving and decorations, and Dick O'Malley, and Mike Viola for photos.



*Dante, Michael L., and John R. in route to Penn's Landing*



*Joanne, incognito, with decorated car*



*Brandon and Dante representing the youth at Dignity*



*Alice representing the women of Dignity*



*John R., Dick and Mike B., manning (!) table at the Dignity booth*



*Are these Brandon and Melissa recruiting for the Choir?*

## DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 1999

Nineteen ninety-nine featured Dignity/USA's Biennial Conference in Denver. The theme of the conference was "Spirit of Jubilee". D/P placed an ad in the booklet and sponsored the flowers for the liturgies. Leo Palmer's recap in the October Newsletter stated "it was truly a spiritually uplifting experience for me." He wrote of breathtaking scenery, a sense of a family reunion and a welcoming by everyone. The members from New York led a demonstration to Immaculata Conception Cathedral in Denver in support of Bob Nugent and Jeannine Gramick. Former presiders for D/P were in attendance alongside Dick Young, Jim Mallon and Bernie Lynch. People with ESP could envision D/P being host to the 2005 meeting!

Dignity/Philadelphia is truly a family as we experienced joys and sorrows as all families do. The joys included the Rite of Holy Union for Mary Anne Mundis and Marie Summers celebrated on May 1, the most successful Art Show and Auction to date on April 10, and our 26th Anniversary Potluck Dinner on May 23.

The sorrows included the passing of Father Bill Leahy, Michael Bravo and Al Cantagallo. Each of them brought unique talents to our community and will be missed.

During the year a keyboard and then microphones were purchased that enhanced the celebration of our Sunday Masses. Memorial Mass Cards became available for anyone wishing to remember a loved one. Toward the end of the year saw the beginnings of the D/P web site take form and a banner contest begun. Each of these endeavors was completed in 2000.

Our major outreach to the community at large was the purchase of PUR Water Filter supplies for Calcutta House. We also co-sponsored the Pax Christi and New Ways Ministry ad in the New York Times. Members participated in the annual AIDS Walk. D/P sponsored a game at Gay Bingo in April. Our monthly 50/50s went to various organizations such as William Way Community Center, Catholics Organized for Renewal (in memory of Bill Leahy), Mercy Hospice, Attic, Catholic Worker Free Clinic, AIDS Law Project, The AIDS Fund, MANNA and the Mary Howard Health Center.

Our outreach within was to D/USA in the form of a \$1,000 donation "to support our journey into the next millennium as prophets to the world."

## AND SPEAKING OF BROAD STREET MINISTRY...



*This picture of the Dignity/Philadelphia members who regularly volunteer at Broad Street Ministry was taken in April during National Volunteer Appreciation Month. From bottom right hand corner are Michael F, Paul F, B.J., Charlie, Jimmy C. – volunteer coordinator of this monthly event, Bill Q., Michael R., Joe C., Dolores, Wayne, Kevin D., John O. and Kathy. BSM prepared a Sundae Special for us all.*

## MOTION FROM THE JUNE 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

At the new Steering Committee meeting, the new president presided at this event. Among the motions presented and voted on by the members included:

**Motion 13-06-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dick O'Malley. Be it moved that the Steering Committee approve President Mike Viola's nominations of Kevin Davies as Secretary and Mike Bradley as Treasurer. Motion passed: 4 yes, 1 no (Education not available for this vote)

**Motion 13-06-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by David Kalinowski. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Memorial Panels be reinstated with members Kevin Davies, Tony L., Bob Cunningham, Dolores, David and Simon. Co-chairs to be determined. Passed unanimously

**Motion 12-10-01** from October's 2012 meeting (Be it moved that Dignity's money in the PNC account be moved to an ING account – interest bearing – called Investment Account. Passed unanimously.)

**Motion 13-06-03:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michelle Perrone. Be it moved that the July 50/50 be designated to the Michael Durkin Fund. Passed unanimously

## 50/50 FOR JULY

The Michael Durkin Fund is divided into 2 parts: a special fund specifically for women and for the Michael Durkin



Leadership Award. Presently the Fund is in the red and we need to replenish it. This fund is named after Michael Durkin, a Dignity member and a feminist, whose name is on the memorial panels. Some of the money for the Fund is designated for an event, such as a conference, a retreat, seminar, symposium that may be of interest to a Dignity dues-paying female member who needs help to pay for the expenses associated with the event. Money may be used for transportation, registration costs, and other similar expenses of the event. The requested amount is submitted to the SC who approves the event and amount; a receipt(s) is requested after attending the event to clear the financial records for this fund. The Dignity female member represents Dignity Philadelphia at the event.

The second part is the Michael Durkin Leadership Award which is an award based on merit, to be determined by the Award Committee. Members of the Award Committee are selected based on the same criteria as that of all award committees of Dignity/Philadelphia. This award is designated specifically for a woman; she must be a dues paying member. As part of receiving this award, she will receive a one year membership to Dignity/Philadelphia and a plaque. This award is usually presented in the month of March as part of National Women's History Celebration.

## THIS AND THAT...

- + Remember: Gay Night at the Phillies on Wednesday, August 7; save your pennies, since this year it will cost \$28.00. However, the seats will be closer to the field so we can get a better look at the players.
- + The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee reported a profit from the dinner/dance events, which will go into the Dignity general fund. Thanks to everyone on the committee.
- + Dignity Philadelphia has 136 current members; 9 of you have lapsed and may be "thrown under the bus" if you don't renew, and 11 mindful members who renewed in June.
- + Philadelphia FIGHT sent us a beautiful Thank You note for our contribution in memory of Mary Louise. "FIGHT's work to end the AIDS epidemic in the lifetime of those living with HIV now is greatly supported by you – our friends and family" wrote Mark M. Seaman, Director of Development and Communications
- + July Mummers string bands will be performing
  - July 4 – TBA
  - July 11 –Ferko
  - July 18 – South Philly
  - July 25 – Quaker City

All performances are at the Mummers Museum at 8 p.m. rain or shine. Please join us!

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

## July is Independence Month

- Thurs., July 4 Independence Day  
Dim Sum lunch at Joy Tsin Lau at 12 noon  
Dignity USA Convention in Minneapolis
- Friday, July 5 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's at 7 p.m.  
upstairs
- Sunday, July 7 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 14 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.  
Birthday Month Celebration
- Sunday, July 21 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Mary Magdalene Eve  
Newsletter deadline
- Sunday, July 28 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wed., July 31 Broad Street Ministry from 3-6 p.m.

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month (USA)

- Friday, Aug. 2 Prayer Around the Cross, St. Luke's at 7 p.m.  
upstairs
- Sunday, Aug. 4 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 7 Gay Night at the Phillies at 7:05pm
- Sunday, Aug. 11 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 15 The solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy day of obligation)
- Sunday, Aug. 18 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 25 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 28 Broad Street Ministry from 3-6pm
- Friday, Aug. 30 Games Night @ Dignity from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## 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 for submissions for the July Newsletter is July 21, 2013.**

*Articles published in the Dignity/Philadelphia newsletter, The Independence, are not necessarily the opinions of the Steering Committee 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.*

- Steering Committee**
- Michael Viola – President
  - Larry Sutter – Vice President
  - Kevin Davies – Secretary
  - Mike Bradley – Treasurer
  - Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Committee Co-coordinators
  - Jimmy Calnan/Melissa Hrinko – Community Life Committee Co-coordinators
  - Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Co-coordinators
  - David Kalinowski – Education Committee Co-coordinator
  - Chaplains: Barbara Gindhart and 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](mailto: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**