

The Independence

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

DIGNITY BRUNCH AT TOC OCT. 28TH

By Dick O'Malley

Dignity Philadelphia will be holding its annual Brunch on **Sunday, Oct. 28th, 1 p.m.**, at the Tavern-on-Camac (TOC), 243 S. Camac Street 19107. Tickets are \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members. Proceeds from the brunch will help Dignity meet the expenses of its Sunday liturgies. You will need to get your tickets early from a member of the Liturgy Committee since there is a limit of 32 people.



The brunch will feature a cornucopia of scrambled eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, toast & jam, sweets & coffee. There will also be a cash bar. We will be meeting downstairs in the Terra restaurant. For those not familiar with the TOC, it is located on Camac Street, located between 12th and 13th and between Spruce and Locust Streets.

Please make every effort to attend the brunch which will present an opportunity to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. Enjoy good company and good food. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Oct. 28th at 1 p.m.** For your information, the Tavern's web sites are: www.tavernoncamac.com or www.terrapa.com (phone 215-545-0900).

REPORT OF THE DIGNITY YOUNG ADULT CAUCUS MEETING

By Melissa Hrinko

The Dignity Young Adult Caucus (DYAC) met in Newark, NJ on July 20-22, which coincided with the Dignity USA Board Meeting at the same time and place. There were about 30 members present from over 8 chapters throughout the US. Some of the chapters that were represented were Boston, Detroit, Houston, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Antonio, and Washington DC. There were a few members that were not part of a chapter due to no chapter existing in their areas! Dignity USA members have hopes of starting chapters in these areas. Melissa Hrinko, Joe and Brandon attended from Dignity Philadelphia. As a caucus, we discussed topics that were very important to our age range. Dignity USA recognizes anyone under the age of 40 as a young adult. DYAC was formed out of an informal session at the 2009 San Francisco Convention. Since then, the caucus has grown tremendously and our goal is to reach out to each chapter.

At this caucus meeting, we discussed topics such as our experiences within our chapters as small sectors of young adults, DYAC's goals for the future as well as the future of all Dignity chapters, bridging generational differences, and Convention planning for 2013 in Minneapolis. We had very candid and open conversations throughout the weekend. There was some incredible bonding with each other, especially through our faith and prayers. The weekend was very powerful and uplifting to attend and to be surrounded with people of our own age that hold common beliefs. Many issues turned into strengths that were brought to light over the weekend. Some common discussions included 1) how to do outreach to younger adults, especially young women and transgender folks; and 2) what chapters adopted the new translation of the mass or chose not to and why.

Many young adults expressed that they hold the traditions of the Catholic faith due to how we were brought up in our churches as children more so than some of the older chapter members, for example confession and adoration. Young adults sometimes find themselves torn when at Dignity since not all chapters hold all traditions. In addition, we discussed what our chapters do socially; Dignity Philadelphia was praised for starting a game night that includes the entire chapter. All of the chapters wanted to go back and start this up because many young adults are not sure how to incorporate things that young people have an interest in, and the community as a whole. As a group, we were all very hesitant to share our discussion with the Board of Dignity USA. We decided, as a group, that if we did not share our concerns, there was no point to our meeting if no one heard these.

Overall, the Dignity USA Board was pleased and impressed that we did express all of our thoughts. The Board was very open and welcoming to all of us. They went out of their way to make us feel as though we were the future of Dignity USA. Our mission as DYAC is "Building the Next

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Generation of Dignity USA.” To keep out discussions going DYAC holds monthly conference calls and all are welcome to attend. If anyone would like to participate in one of these calls, please feel free to contact me, Melissa Hrinko, and I will give you the date and time when the calls are held.

MOTIONS AND 50/50



At the September 2nd Steering Committee, the following motions for 50/50 Donations were discussed:

Motion 12-09-01 made by Kevin Davies and seconded by Dick O'Malley. Be it moved that D/P allocate the 50/50 for the following months: AIDS Fund for October; Calcutta House for November; and Siloam for December. Passed unanimously (see below for descriptions).

In addition to the 50/50 Donations the following motions were also discussed:

Motion 12-09-02 made by Kevin Davies and seconded by Dick O'Malley. Be it moved that D/P appoint an Ad Hoc Audit Committee comprised of Rob Baker and Mike Viola. Pass unanimously

Motion 12-09-03 made by Melissa Hrinko and seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that D/P require all committees to adopt a policy of not using venues that are not wheelchair accessible. Passed unanimously

October 50/50 is for the AIDS Fund: 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.

November 50/50 is for Calcutta House: Calcutta House exists to provide housing and other highly supportive services for people living with AIDS in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley region. This mission is based on the premise that housing is the foundation for the most effective and compassionate treatment, management, and prevention of the disease. Customized support services, responsive to the individual, are delivered with the conviction that self-empowerment will advance attainable goals enabling a resident to realize his/her full potential while adhering to treatment and care plans.

MONTHLY MUNCHIE

Happy All Hollows Eve

“Fear is a darkroom where negatives are developed.” *-Al Franken*

HAPPY OUTFEST

December 50/50 is for Siloam: Siloam enriches the well-being of people impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing a broad range of integrative mind / body / spirit services that empower them to develop skills and personal strengths leading to more meaningful lives. Created in 1995 “*SILOAM* offers a safe, caring, hope-filled environment that welcomes men, women, and children of all races, creeds and orientations, who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS to make choices and set goals related to their overall wellness.

SAINT FRANCIS AND THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

On **October 7**, the Dignity Community is encouraged to bring a picture of their lifetime companion to Sunday Liturgy for a Blessing of the Animals. As many of you know, Oct. 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. Per a Catholic website, “No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.” While the Liturgy Committee agrees with this statement, we also know that these darling companions can be a little disruptive during Liturgy, which is why we are encouraging pictures. We also know you have hundreds of pictures of your pet doing great and amazing tricks or posing royally. So look through your pet's album, and bring a picture to church for a special blessing. As Catholics, we know and believe that St. Francis will bless your pet via photograph(s).

DIGNITY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VATICAN II

By Dick O'Malley

At Dignity's 7 p.m. liturgy on **October 14th**, a theologian, Anthony Massimini, will give a homily about the Second Vatican Council which was convened 50 years ago in October 1962. Massimini, with a doctorate in theology, was a “peritus” (a theological expert who advised bishops at the council, including Cardinal Krol).

Among other things, he will discuss the lasting effects of the decrees of Vatican II, including its acceptance of the principle of religious liberty and, also how the opponents of the council, including Pope John Paul II, later fought back against its reforms in an attempt to “restore” the Church to its ways before the council. What are the implications for Dignity and the wider Church as a result of its conciliar decrees and the current opposition to them? By the way, Tony Massimini was a good friend of the late Bill Leahy who was also a “peritus” at the council and who presided at Dignity liturgies before his untimely death.

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 1990

The Steering Committee developed manuals for the officers and committee chairs so that future leaders would know what was expected of them. The Chapter adopted the official policy of Dignity/USA and the Statement of Position and Purpose was changed to read “We believe that gays and lesbians can express their sexuality in a manner

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that is consonant with Christ's teaching...and that all sexuality should be exercised in an ethically responsible and unselfish way."

In March 1990 the Spiritual Life Committee formed a pilot program of a Small Faith Community Model. Eleven members formed this small group. In April 1990, author Tom O'Neil signed copies of his book "Sex With God" at Giovanni's Room and after the liturgy. He read several excerpts at the meditation.

During 1990-1991, Dignity/Philadelphia became far more visible in the gay/lesbian community than ever before. In the phone book, Dignity was now listed under "gay Catholics" and "lesbian Catholics" as well as "Dignity." Then in October, Channel 29 taped a portion of Dignity's Sunday Liturgy for a TV program on the gay and lesbian community. Without question however, the most visible event was the October 1990 demonstration, which Dignity/Philadelphia staged outside the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul to

protest the infamous Ratzinger letter. The committee staging the protest, co-chaired by Dominic Bash and Coleman Terrell, intended it to be educational, not confrontational in nature; hence the title: "Gay and Lesbian Catholics Claim Their Birthright." About 70 persons attended an outdoor mass across from the cathedral representing groups as diverse as PFLAG, Women's Ordination Conference, the Conference of Catholic Lesbians, ACT-UP, MCC, and of course, Dignity/Philadelphia.

Dignity House underwent a transformation. Thanks to Clyde Sams and other volunteers, the interior was renovated. The display window had long been underutilized; Jim Clay became the driving force behind an effort to make the window Dignity's most important outreach to the lesbian and gay community. In December 1990, the Gay Switchboard, homeless since May 1990, moved into Dignity House.

DIGNITY MEMBERS AT THE PHILLIES GAME ON AUGUST 28, 2012



Bill Q. and partner, Bob.



Anjeanette, Sue, Alice, and Dave K.



Michael Rocks and friend.



Jimmy Calnan and partner Rob Baker, Melissa and "friend" (?)



Michael L., Ben-Safed and Bill C.; Rob and Jimmy are behind them.

CLYDE SAMS POTLUCK DINNER & INVESTITURE - SEPTEMBER 16, 2012



David K., Trevor - Dignity Philadelphia Scholarship recipient and Joanne Collins, Dignity Philadelphia President, September 16, 2012.



Barbara G., Dignity Chaplin and Joanne Collins, speaking of Clyde Sams, prior to the blessing.



The potluck crew: Louis, Kevin (holding a picture of Clyde Sams), Leo and Mike B.; not present for the photo, but just as hardworking, were John R. and Dolores.



New Committee members were invested on 9/16/12. From left to right are Dick O. and Jim Clay, Liturgy Committee; David K. (Joe T. was unavailable) Education Committee; Jimmy Calnan and Melissa H., Community Life Committee, and Michelle and Dolores, Communication.



Investiture officials included Barbara G., Dignity Chaplin, Fr. Ron Hoskins, and Joanne Collins, Dignity Philadelphia President. Behind them are members Mark, Bill and Tony.

THIS AND THAT AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA...

- Currently we have nine Presiders
- If you are interested in seeing a Presider for confession, please let Jim Clay know and he will arrange this with one of the Presiders
- Congrats to all the September Birthday Members – and there were quite a few!
- Several years ago, the Liturgy Committee had a video made of 3 Presiders saying Mass to use for new or current Presiders. This tape demonstrated the different styles of the Presiders, and was used, and distributed, as a teaching tool. However, we are unable to locate a copy of this video tape! Does anyone have a copy? We desperately need to locate a copy, and will return it to you as soon as we make a new copy for the Committee. We are currently looking at 2-3 new people as Presiders, and this tape will be of benefit to them. Please let Jim Clay know if you have a copy. Thanks for looking into your Beta (OMG!) tape collection!
- Do you all remember Bobby Kelly who used to play the keyboard for Dignity? (From here he went to med school.) Ron Hoskins officiated at his union service with Robin Marcotte on 6/28/08. Recently, we learned that both men adopted a daughter - Aurora Marcotte. Congratulations to Bobby and Robin, proud fathers! Best of luck to Aurora in her life!
- FYI, the Gay Men's Chorus will perform Saturday, **October 13, 8-11 p.m.** at the Ethical Society Bldg. at Rittenhouse Square. This will be their first black-tie masquerade fundraiser. As you know, some of Dignity Philadelphia members are also members of this ensemble. For more info, look into their website <http://www.pgmc.org> for more info.
- There will be a panel and discussion taking place Tuesday, **October 9**, from 7-9 p.m. The topic is "What Does NunJustice Mean for the Future of the Church?" For more info, and site location, contact Alice Foley on alicefoley423@gmail.com

OUTFEST 2012

This year Outfest is Sunday, October 7 right in our "Gayborhood" and Dignity will be represented with a table at this event. As many of you know, Outfest is the largest National Coming Out in the World! This event will take place noon to 6 p.m., and will feature food, drink, carnival events, flea market, vendors, and all community groups – Dignity Philadelphia, for one – fun and games, entertainment and a pumpkin patch!

The Education Committee needs volunteers to staff – NOT man – the booth at this event. If you can volunteer 2 hours of your time, please let David K. or Joe T., know of your availability. To quote their website: "Come Out, Come Out! Don't stay at home behind that closet door!" Remember the immortal warning of Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men [and women] do nothing." So, see the Education Committee Co-chairs and sign up!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP NOW FORMING

Norm Simmons has kindly agreed to lead a group of people in a book discussion starting **Monday, October 8, 2012**. This group will meet every two weeks from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Dignity Office. The book to be discussed is *Beyond Religion, Ethics for a Whole World*, written by His Holiness Dalai Lama. This Dignity-sponsored discussion group will be open to other groups, be limited to 10 people, and will run for 6 sessions. If purchasing the book is a concern, we will make copies of the chapters to be discussed. If you are interested, please contact Dolores Vera via email: msm.vera@comcast.net. We are hoping for a good representation of Dignity members.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ST. MALACHY – OCTOBER 27

St. Malachy Catholic Church will be having their first Women's Retreat on **Saturday, October 27**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The church is located at 1429 N. 11th Street in North Philadelphia. This retreat is free of charge, includes lunch, and will feature Sharon Browning's *Coming To Our Senses: A Mind/Body/Spirit Retreat for Women*. They will be having 5 breakout sessions and participants need to RSVP in advance so that they can make room assignments. To register, please contact Trishdp@comcast.net

40TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSBREAK

The venue has been chosen (the Mummery Museum, 1100 S 2nd Street), the date has been chosen (Saturday, April 27, 2013), and the caterer has been chosen.

More information to be released as details are finalized. Stay tuned.

(Additionally, the Liturgy Committee is looking into moving the Anniversary Liturgy to April 28 to allow out-of-town guests to also participate in this event.)

INTERESTED IN A LECTORS WORKSHOP?

The Liturgy Committee will be having a Lectors Workshop on Sunday, Nov. 25 from 4:30 p.m. to circa 6:15 p.m. for new and interested members who want to become lectors and help proclaim the Word of God at Dignity liturgies. Current lectors are also invited to come and refresh their skills, and obtain The Lector Handbook, developed by Eric Oliver in 2010. This workshop will be lead by Louis G., and Dolores Vera. If you are interested in this workshop, please contact either facilitator in order to reproduce enough copies of the handouts. Refreshments and snacks will be provided – so come and be physically and spiritually nourished.

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

Oct. 2012 - LGBT History Month

- Friday, Oct. 5 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 7 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals (see article)
Outfest – Coming Out Day – noon (see article and volunteer)
- Thursday, Oct. 11 National Coming Out Day
- Friday, Oct. 12 Anniversary of Matthew Shepard’s death (14th)
- Saturday, Oct. 13 Fundraiser by the Gay Men’s Chorus (see This and That)
- Sunday, Oct. 14 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Guest Homilist Anthony Massimini (see article)
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 21 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
AIDS Walk
Liturgy Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 26 Games and Pizza Night at Dignity, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 27 Women’s Retreat, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. Malachy (see article)
- Sunday, Oct. 28 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Dignity’s Annual Brunch at TOC (see article)
Community Life Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

November- All Souls Month,

- Thursday, Nov. 1 All Saints Day, Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. (@ Dignity Office)
- Friday, Nov. 2 All Souls Day
Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 4 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 10 Dignity @ Gay Bingo (tentative)
- Sunday, Nov. 11 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m., Veterans Day
Liturgy Committee at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 18 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Potluck 4:30 p.m.
Deadline for Newsletter
- Wed., Nov. 21 Eve of Thanksgiving Day Mass, 7:30 p.m. (@ Dignity Office)
- Thursday, Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, Nov. 25 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
World AIDS Day Commemorative Mass
Lectors Workshop, 4:30 to 6:15 p.m.
Community Life Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Nov.26 Visit to Calcutta House for gift requests from residents

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 November Newsletter is Oct. 21, 2012.

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

- Joanne Collins – President
- Linda Barrett – Vice President
- Kevin Davies – Secretary
- Vacant – 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
- Dave K. and Joe T. – Education Committee Co-coordinators
- 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).

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**