



The Independence

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

GAY NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

Citizens Bank Park
Monday, August 29
 @ 7:05 p.m.
 Phillies vs. Wash. Nationals

Once again, Dignity Philadelphia will be joining other LGBTQ organizations for “Gay Night at the Phillies.” Tickets specifically for Dignity members have been allocated and paid for, but you can still purchase your own ticket directly from the Phillies organization and join your peers at the 400 level to cheer on our hometown team. Additionally, look for the Dignity name on the baseball electronic board, whether you are at home or enjoying the company of other Dignity members. See you at the ballgame!



FIELD TRIP FOR DIGNITY MEMBERS

By Dolores Vera

I have been working on this project for a few months; actually when I heard that the Latter Day Saints were building a temple on the parkway, I said we have to go – we are a religious group after all! So, I called several members and there was high interest from them. So then I called every Mormon organization for info, only to find out that the tickets for viewing this new temple would not be available until July. I was able to contact someone who allocated 25 slots for Dignity Philadelphia; my homemade tickets, totaling 25 will be distributed during the next two weeks. I have been announcing this field trip at Sunday service for a while and now have 25 interested (and interesting) members. Some people, who initially signed up, were not able to make this date, so their slots were filled in by my waiting list people. At this point I have no one on the waiting list, so please let me know if you want to be considered if someone cannot make it. I can be reached on 215-476-8578. FYI, we plan to meet outside the temple prior to 11 a.m. Once the temple is dedicated, September 18, only members of their church will be allowed to visit. Here are the specifics:

Saturday, August 13 at 11 a.m.

Meet at the Temple - 1739 Vine Street

BOOK SIGNING AT DIGNITY – JOIN US

Thanks to the perseverance of Henry Chau, Dignity Philadelphia will have another book reading and signing session on **October 9, 2016, 6 p.m.**, prior to Sunday service. Mark Segal, founder and publisher of the PGN, wrote *“And then I danced: Traveling the road to LGBT Equality”* described as “a dramatic and inspirational memoir from one of the world’s top leaders of the movement for gay and lesbian equality.” This book was published last year in October, and touches on Philadelphia’s LGBT community. Many of you already have the book, and this is certainly an opportunity to get it autographed; some of us will purchase the book at this signing and ask him to sign it for us. People that have heard him speak, as well as people who have read the book, comment on his activism and commitment to the LGBT movement here in Philadelphia. Join us for this educational and entertaining afternoon.



MEET DEVON, DIGNITY'S NEWEST (AND YOUNGEST) MEMBER

My name is Devon Abdo and to my knowledge, I am currently the youngest member of Dignity Philadelphia. I moved to Philadelphia last year to start graduate school at Thomas Jefferson University. I am now halfway through with my Masters in Couples and Family Therapy, with a special emphasis in Sex Therapy. Moving here, from the south, I was a bit worried about finding a community, since Philadelphia has so many cultural differences, but I was lucky enough to venture into a Dignity mass within my first month here. I have been actively attending mass, as well as other functions, ever since!

One of the most beneficial experiences I have had at Dignity is the chance to become a Lector. It was especially moving to be asked to read because I have mild dyslexia and I have always been anxious about reading in front of people, but I always feel a strong spirit guiding my words when I read at church. I would like to thank all of you for your support and giving me a community that speaks to my beliefs.

I have one more year with ya'll before finishing my degree and moving back to NC. During this time I plan to continue at Dignity. Part of my studies will have me going to a number of psychology/therapy conferences during this last year for enrichment as well as networking. However, in order to attend these events, which require registration and traveling money, I plan to continue doing my temp jobs, one of which is taking care of pets, as you can see by my picture above. Since I am introducing myself via this article to Dignity members, I am also making my services available to anyone at church who needs these services, as well as other types of odd jobs. FYI, I have been dog and house sitting for almost a decade, and love all types of animals. Do keep me in mind; don't hesitate to approach me on Sundays, and I am pretty

certain we can benefit each other! Thank you so much for your love and support. See you at church!

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND 50/50

Due to the 4th of July weekend, the new board did not meet the first weekend in July – as originally schedule. The meeting was held July 10, 2016. At this meeting the following motions were made:

Motion 16-06-01 made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Toal. Be it moved that D/P donate 50/50 to the following: **July:** D/P Educational Scholarship Fund; **August:** St. Francis Inn and **September:** The AIDS Fund. Passed unanimously.

Motion 16-06-02 made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Toal. Be it moved that D/P donate \$100.00 to the Dignity Young Adult Caucus Retreat on July 29-31, 2016 in Chicago, IL. Yes 3; No 2 – this motion passed.

Motion 16-07-01 made by Michael Rocks; seconded by Joe Toal. Be it moved that D/P will add Mrs. Barbara Gindhart* to the Memorial Banners and will have a Sunday memorial mass in her memory. Motion passed.

**Thoughts in passing: Dignity lost a wonderful ally with the death of Mrs. Gindhart in July. She was extremely generous with her affection, and with food, especially at potlucks. She will be greatly missed; we were fortunate to have known her for so long, and been recipients of her love. While no longer with us, her spirit – via her name on the banner – will be with us always. May she rest in peace.*

Bi-monthly Munchie

“When I think of church, I think of my 93-year-old dad, a daily communicant, who called my 24-year-old nephew prehistoric because the young lad opposed marriage equality.”

--- a GCVI Member

(Gay Catholic Voice Ireland is a group convened “to ensure that the voice of LGBT Catholics is heard in the debate on homosexuality both inside and outside the Catholic Church.”)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA

In addition to baseball, Mormon Temple tour, and book signing, we have our usual “feel good events” such as **Broad Street Ministry** – August 3 and September 7; and one of our favorites, Birthday Sundays! Who doesn't like **Birthday Sundays**? In August, we will have cake on August 14 and September 11, 2016. (Since my birthday is September 23 – but I am not allowed to announce it – I will definitely bring ice cream!) And speaking of special people having birthdays, here we have the June and July celebrities:



June Birthdays Trio. (Interesting to note that since Louis (on the left) is one of Dignity's “chefs”, we did seem to have a lot more food on the table this month!)



Happy July Birthday Erin!

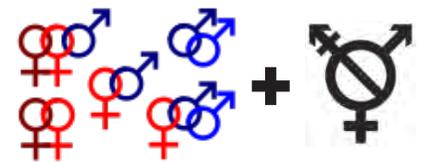
...AND SPEAKING OF FOOD SEPTEMBER 18, 2016, 4:30ISH

This use to be the “Back to School Potluck”, however, since some of us haven't seen the inside of a classroom for years, I am renaming it the Autumn Potluck. Once again, it is time to start cruising your cookbooks and determine what exciting dish you are going to bring – that is, in addition to your partner. Lucky for Dignity cooks/chefs, members are not picky about their food – we value everything. So if you don't cook gourmet, French food, elaborate dishes, not to worry. Whatever you bring will be eaten! Some very “busy” members don't have time to cook and bring store bought items – and these are also consumed! Beverages, store bought desserts, cheese and Triscuits are always welcome. What is important to Louis and Leo (self-proclaimed Dignity chefs) is that people come together around food; the more people the better! These men make magic with whatever you bring. Mark your calendars, cook (if you must), shop and come and bring your friends. Members are also encouraged to come as early at 3 p.m. to help decorate and set up the food stations; we usually bless the food around 4:30 and proceed to enjoy ourselves! Let us celebrate autumn (or the end of the stifling summer).



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - OUTFEST OCT. 9, 2016 (AKA COMING OUT DAY)

While we were MIA at Gay Pride Day at Penn's Landing, all is not lost. We will be represented at OUTFest, right here



in our gayborhood. We have the tent, the handouts and a surprise gift certificate for \$25 to Giovanni's Room/ AIDS Thrift Shop. While we have the sign-up sheet for the Penn's Landing event, we will have to revisit it since your availability may have changed. If you are still interested, please let Dick O'Malley know so he can sign you up for a two-hour increment – and there is no \$ for entrance to this event! OUTFest takes place on Locust Street between Spruce and Walnut on 13th Street and the gayness continues to 12th Street, close to Pine St. Join your peers, allies, young questioning people, queers, and whomever attends this event – what are you waiting for? We hope to see you there, so come out, come out whomever you are!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

(items in *italic* are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter – with more detail)

August is International Youth Day (August 12th)

- Wed., Aug. 3 Broad Street Ministry, 3 – 5:30 pm
- Friday, Aug. 5 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 pm
- Sunday, Aug. 7 Mass at 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Saturday, Aug. 13 Visit to the Latter Day Saints Temple, 11 a.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 14 Mass at 7:00 pm
Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Monday, Aug. 15 Feast of the Assumption
- Sunday, Aug. 21 Mass at 7:00 pm
Rosary Group Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Sunday, Aug. 28 Mass at 7:00 pm
- Monday, Aug. 29 Gay Night at the Phillies, 7:05 pm

September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month

- Friday, Sept. 2 Prayer Around the Cross, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, Sept. 4 Mass at 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Monday, Sept. 5 Labor Day
- Wed., Sept. 7 Broad Street Ministry, 3 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday, Sept. 11 Mass for the 9/11 Commemoration
Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

National Hispanic Heritage Month (USA; September 15 to October 15)

- Sunday, Sept. 18 Mass at 7:00 pm
Autumn Potluck Dinner, 4:30ish pm
Rosary Group Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Friday, Sept. 23 M. Dolores Vera's Birthday
- Sunday, Sept. 25 Dialogue Gospel Mass, 7:00 pm
Semi-annual Business Meeting, 8:30 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 October/November newsletter is September 14, 2016.

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)
- Rob Baker – Director (Membership)
- Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)
- Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)
- Joe Toal – Director (At Large)
- Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators
- Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Service Group
- Barbara Gindhart and Father 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 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**