MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Family and Friends of Dignity,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joanne and I am the new President of Dignity/Philadelphia. It is a great honor to even be considered to be able to follow in the footsteps of some great men and women of Dignity. I pray for strength and wisdom to be able to accomplish many of the plans that I have for this community. In allowing me to be the secretary last year, I have been able to see firsthand some of the issues that Dignity has been battling. One major issue is the dwindling membership. I welcome any and all suggestions or ideas in how to make Dignity the wonderful community that I know it can be.

I remember 8 years ago when I first walked through the door of St Luke’s and countless discussions with David Kalinowski on him telling me that I could receive the sacrament and me telling him I could not because first I was in the middle of a divorce and second I was a lesbian. I remember the very first time that I went up and received the sacrament it not only felt so special and right, but I knew that no one could keep me from loving and being considered among the people of God. Many people say that the young are not interested in the church anymore. I disagree. I feel the young are lost and need guidance. And as thick as I was in the beginning, we may have to continue to show them Dignity can be the way. I would also like to invite all of the family and friends that have crossed Dignity’s doorstep through the years to come back and let us know what we can do to keep you coming back.

In ending this note I would like to stress one major point and that is that I am very interested in what all of you have to say. So drop me a note or come and talk.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Joanne Collins

Community Meeting, July 18 following mass “Brainstorming Social and Spiritual Activities”

As this year’s Steering Committee gets underway, we are asking all our members to help us out. On July 18th we are having a community meeting to discuss the social and spiritual activities that we can offer our membership. We need fresh ideas, and we are looking to you for help. Please don’t be a silent member. Bring us your ideas and help us brainstorm for social and spiritual activities. Let’s make this a year, one that will be remembered.

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. Dignity/Philadelphia created an Ad-hoc Committee which worked on what became a three volume history. In order to accomplish this, file drawers full of reports, minutes from meetings and other memorabilia had to be sorted and cataloged. 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 beginning with 1973 in this issue. We will try to include photos and copies of some of the documents mentioned in the reports. 1973 was reported in the May Newsletter and 1974 in June.
On January 19, 1975, the official Constitution for Dignity/Philadelphia was passed and adopted. On January 22, it is reported that liturgy is being celebrated weekly at 2325 Spruce St., followed by a social hour. On Thursdays there are prayer meetings held at 2405 South St. During March 1975, Fr. Bob Nugent was officially censured by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He was forbidden to preach and to celebrate liturgy within the Archdiocese. The first election of officers was held on March 16, 1975. Officers elected were President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. A retreat planned for March in Villanova was changed in the last week to another site but some quick planning resulted in a successful event.

As of April 1, 1975, Dignity/Philadelphia was functioning under its newly established Constitution. On April 6, a meeting was held between the officers of Dignity/Philadelphia and representatives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Archdiocese suggested that Dignity/Philadelphia had a better chance of recognition if we dissociated ourselves from the Dignity National. A mutual agreement was not reached.

As of June 15, 1975, liturgies were being celebrated at the Christian Association of the University of Pennsylvania. On June 5, a lease was signed on the basement of 250 S. 12th St. for the purpose of serving as the headquarters of Dignity/Philadelphia for the Sunday Liturgies. The group moved into the first Dignity House on July 1, 1975.

On September 9, 1975, an official statement for the Archdiocese was received. The Archdiocese stated that Dignity/Philadelphia's Constitution did not clearly define how we viewed the moral conduct of lesbians and gay men, and did not specifically spell out the official Church teachings on the matter. During September, 1975, the officers of Dignity/Philadelphia and Dignity National officers wrote to the Archdiocese in order to clarify our position and in order to receive a more favorable response. All to no avail! In October 1978, Fr. Leo McKenzie of the Archdiocese officially opposed the Gay Rights Bill in City Council. The bill did not pass.

On December 14, 1975, Dignity House was officially dedicated. Fr. Bob Nugent returned from Washington D. C. to preside at the Eucharistic Celebration on that occasion.

**EDITOR NEEDED**

Dignity Philadelphia is in need of an editor for The Independence newsletter. If you can take notes and type, you can be the editor! Once the material is typed, Creative Characters does the rest of the work. And once it is ready for printing, an assistant will ensure that it is folded, sealed, stamped, and mailed out to circa 50 members. Everyone else gets an electronic copy and someone does that too!

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 summit pictures for some of the events and these get plugged into the articles. This volunteer activity takes about 5-8 hours a month.

Still undecided? I saved the best for last. 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. And the rewards are numerous!

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, who the Catholic school graduate proofreader is, who the assistant is, etc. Plus, this position just gets better- I will be a resource for any concerns of questions you may have regarding this position.

Please consider helping out Dignity Philadelphia by volunteering to serve as editor and contributing to the Steering Committee. And this position looks impressive on a resume!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Dignity Philadelphia recently presented checks to the three recipients of the Dignity Philadelphia Scholarship Program. This program is designed to help self proclaimed GLBT students with their financial needs while obtaining their formal education. The recipients were chosen by a committee based on their responses to questions and their plans to pay it forward.

The goal of this program is to help students currently attaining their education with their financial needs and instill in them the importance of helping those in the future. Through the generous support of donations from the community, we were able to provide more than one scholarship this year. If anyone is interested in supporting this program, donations can be made to the Dignity Philadelphia Educational Scholarship Program by identifying that on any donations. We thank the supporters of this program and we congratulate this year's recipients.

Pictured are: Vernard Lindsay, Joanne Collins - President of D/P and Andrew Patnaude. Other recipient not present was Michael Carr.
PHOTO SPREAD - THE PHILLY GAY PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Message on both sides of the float.

Front of the float

Float in the Parade

Joanne, Kevin, Linda, John, Michael

Rob and Jimmy staffing the Dignity table at the Pier Festival
DIGNITY AT BROAD STREET MINISTRY IN THE SUMMER

This will be the second summer that Dignity/Philadelphia members and friends have volunteered to serve at the monthly No Barriers Dinner. Summertime is critical at BSM because they have no air conditioning, school groups are not available to volunteer and folks still need to be fed. Dignity has been outstanding to the mission of BSM because we continue our service through it all.

No Barriers Dinners are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month, July 27, August 31 and September 28 from 5:30 until about 7:00p.m. Listen for announcements at liturgy for sign up or just show up.
Philadelphia Voices of Pride is the recipient of July’s 50/50.

In the summer of 2005, several former members of the Spruce Street Singers and a handful of women got together to form a new LGBTQ choral organization. From that initial meeting came Philadelphia’s premier mixed-voice LGBTQ chorus. The mission of the group is to perform great choral music (a mixture of classical and current) and to have fun doing so, while promoting and supporting a positive image of the Philadelphia LGBTQ community. In January 2009, Dean Rishel was hired as its second Artistic Director.

MOTION FROM THE JUNE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion 11-06-01 made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Anjeanette Milner. Be it moved that the July 50/50 be designated for the Voices of Pride. Passed unanimously.

INVESTITURE OF THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Each year on June 1 the newly elected officers assume their positions. The elected officers following the Investiture Mass on Sunday, June 5: Jimmy (Vice President), Kevin (Secretary), Linda (Treasurer) and Joanne (President)

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

TIDBITS AND PIECES:

• Dignity/Philadelphia membership is currently 132 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.

Monthly Munchie

“Tolerance is not the same as justice, and it does not supplant equality.”
– Victoria A. Brownworth

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
**CAALENDAR OF EVENTS** (weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

### July
- **July 1-4** is the Dignity/USA National Convention
- **Friday, July 1**: Prayer Around The Cross at 7pm
- **Sunday, July 3**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
- **Monday, July 4**: Independence Day
- **Saturday, July 9**: Steering Committee Meeting at 10:30am
- **Sunday, July 10**: Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
- **Sunday, July 17**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
  - **Healing Mass**: Community Meeting at 8:30 with topic: “Brainstorming Social and Spiritual Activities”
- **Friday, July 22**: Feast of Mary Magdalene
- **Sunday, July 24**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
- **Sunday, July 31**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm

### August
- **Sunday, Aug 7**: Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
- **Sunday, Aug 14**: Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm
- **Monday, Aug 15**: Assumption of Mary – no mass
- **Sunday, Aug 21**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm
- **Friday, Aug 26**: Gay Night at the Phillies
- **Sunday, Aug 28**: Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm

---

**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 August newsletter is July 17, 2011.*

---

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.*

**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.