

The Independence

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - HARD TIMES.

Michael Viola, President

At some point, everyone reaches a very difficult time in his or her life. Hopefully, we can get through these hard times through perseverance and faith.

I recently had the opportunity to join other members of Dignity/Philadelphia as a volunteer at Broad Street Ministry. Although Broad Street Ministry does this more frequently, on the last Wednesday of the month, members of Dignity/Philadelphia join other local volunteers to help serve the homeless. Through the course of several hours, I saw hundreds of people who are truly experiencing hard times. Many needed additional clothing and toiletries*. Everyone needed a nice hot meal. I helped to serve around 300 people that evening. The volunteers were kind and generous. The people we helped that day were all appreciative. In so doing we were carrying out Jesus' request paraphrased from Matthew 25:35, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink." If you have the opportunity to volunteer, please do so. The experience will move you.

Our Chapter is also experiencing some hard times. In simplest terms, the money that is generously donated by the people who attend services each week, the memberships dues that we collect, the contributions from the Stewardship Program, and all the money from fundraising, is barely enough for us to meet our monthly expenses. The Steering Committee is looking into ways to increase the revenue of the Chapter so we do not have to operate "at a loss" most months. One way that you can help is to encourage more people to come to our weekly service. Once a person has come to our liturgy, he or she may become inspired to become a dues-paying member. Also, consider attending the brunch on Saturday, October 26th at Knock. All of the ticket proceeds will benefit Dignity/Philadelphia.

The Steering Committee has also decided to try to reduce some of our monthly expenses. After considerable deliberation, it was decided that the newsletter will be published every other month. The Communications Committee has been doing an amazing job every month collating and writing the articles for the newsletter. After this issue, however, the next newsletter will be published in December. Parts of the monthly costs for the newsletter are the expenses to print, copy, fold, and mailing out the newsletter (aka postage). The newsletter is available electronically as a pdf file – and does not cost the Chapter any money. It is emailed out to everyone around the first of the month, sometimes before the printed copy is mailed. If you would like to switch to getting the newsletter electronically, send an email to Dolores at mism.vera@comcast.net. Other expenses have been reduced; this one particular expense, however, is one that will be the most noticeable.

We are confident that we will ride out these present difficulties and become a stronger Chapter. For as it is written in Philippians 4:13, we can do all things through God who strengthens us.

**Thank you all for contributing toiletries and/or men's pants. Your generosity has made a big difference.*

DIGNITY'S ANNUAL FALL BRUNCH - SATURDAY, OCT. 26 *(note new day of the week)*

Dick O'Malley

Dignity's annual fundraiser for the benefit of its weekly liturgies will be held this year on **Saturday, October 26th, at 11:30 a.m.** at Bill Wood's Knock Restaurant, at 12th & Locust Streets.



For the last few years, the annual brunch was held on Sundays at Tavern-on-Camac, which Stephen Carlino graciously hosted. Last Spring, at a Community Meeting, the members present voted that any Dignity-sponsored event should be held in handicapped accessible facility to enable all of our members to attend; hence the move to Knock. Bill Wood, who had hosted many brunches for Dignity when he owned Woody's, agreed to host the brunch again. However, since Knock has its own brunch on Sundays, the Liturgy Committee decided to have our fundraising brunch on a Saturday – and we are still able to keep this annual fun event in the gayborhood!

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Tickets for the Saturday Brunch will be \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members. The food for the brunch is provided compliments of Bill Wood. Therefore, 100% of the ticket proceeds will benefit Dignity's liturgies. Since the number of tickets is limited, Dignity/ Philadelphia encourages you to get your ticket as soon as possible. Members of the Liturgy Committee will be selling the tickets. When you have the opportunity, please consider going to Knock as a way to thank Bill Wood for his generosity.

DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA 2013-14 BUDGET

INCOME	
Sunday Contributions	\$9,000
Christmas/Easter Appeal	\$1,000
Donations	\$3,500
Stewardship	\$4,000
Fund Raising	\$1,200
Membership Dues	\$2,500
Donations for Masses	\$100
Interest Income	\$100
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,400
EXPENSES	
Advertising	\$1,000
Awards	\$200
GLBT Dues events/subscriptions	\$450
Hospitality	\$700
Insurance	\$600
Keyboardist stipend	\$1,600
Liturgical Supplies	\$350
Newsletter	\$800
Office Supplies	\$500
Postage	\$550
President Discretionary Fund	\$300
Printing	\$600
Rent / Church	\$6,240
Rent / Office	\$4,310
Presiders/Homilists	\$2,500
Telephone	\$500
Fund Raising Expense	\$200
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$21,400

DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA IN 2002

Pita bread was formally selected as the bread for each liturgy.

Member Directory was printed in March.

D/P signed on as a sponsor for the World Day of Prayer for Women's Ordination held on March 25. D/P was listed in the World Day of Prayer materials and received a complimentary World Day of Prayer packet.

As President of the chapter, David Kalinowski made a presentation/bid to the DUSA Board of Directors on April 6 for D/P to host the 2005 convention. Leo Palmer joined him with the research and bids from local hotels and meeting accommodations. D/P was selected.

One of our Presiders is elected provincial of the Augustinians.

Mother "Mike" from St. Luke's concelebrated mass on June 30.

David Kalinowski released a statement in response to the Cardinal's statement that gay men have not been accepted at St. Charles Seminary.

Mary Louise Cervone was a speaker at the Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR-Phila) conference held on October 19.

November's 50/50 recipient was the William Way Community Center Mural Project.

An Art Auction was held on November 9 to offset the 30th Anniversary Celebration expenses. 30th Anniversary was held on May 17, 2003.

D/P's 9th Annual Turkey drive coordinated by Mary Louise Cervone and Kathleen Burke was a success with WISDOM (Women with Immune System Disorders Organizing and Meeting) being the recipient of 29 turkeys and pies.

D/P made a contribution to the Sr. Jeannine Gramick Gay Ministry Fund.

The second year of the MANNA Lenten Bowl had \$176 in contributions.

Educational Scholarship Fund is established.

D/P signed onto the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force's press release in anticipation of a Fred Phelps' visit.

D/P made a donation to SEPA/WOC (Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference) to help defray the cost of their billboard which will be on display during the Archdiocese's Synod.

Mary Bradley participated as a speaker at the St. Joseph's University Rainbow Week.

Printing completed on the newly adopted changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

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Solidarity Sunday 2002 coordinated by Jimmy Calnan is another success. 2,700 prayer cards and rainbow ribbons were distributed. A partial list of the distribution points: 1,000 to Philly Pride Parade attendees, 500 at Philly Pride Festival, 100 at Gay Days in Disney World thanks to Tom Streeper, 100 at Penn's LGBT opening ceremony, 100 at the Cathedral, 100 at Catholic Social Services by a member who works there and 400 at the Outfest Street Fair.

Domenic Cordone coordinated a Holiday Bazaar to benefit the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!

Michael Viola, President

For the last 23 years, Philly Pride Presents has been organizing Philadelphia's Outfest to commemorate National Coming Out Day. This year, Outfest will take place on **Sunday October 13th**. It will feature scores of vendors, community groups, a flea market, food, a dance area, live entertainment and so much more. This year, Dignity/Philadelphia will be receiving one of the awards as an OutProud Community Group. The Chapter is grateful and humbled by this honor. As is our tradition, our chapter will staff an informational table during this event. If you are interested in volunteering at the table, please contact one of the co-coordinators of the Education Committee. Please plan on showing your support for our chapter when we are presented with an OutProud Community Group award.

MOTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the September 1st Steering Committee Meeting, only one motion was presented, and voted on by the members present:

Motion 13-09-01: Motion made by Michael Bradley; seconded by Larry Sutter. Be it moved that the October 50/50 be for the Attic Youth Center. Passed unanimously.

50/50 for October: Attic Youth Center

Mission: The Attic Youth Center creates opportunities for LGBTQ youth to develop into healthy, independent, civic-minded adults within a safe and supportive community, and promotes the acceptance of LGBTQ youth in society.

History: In 1993, two graduate students joined forces at Voyage House, a Philadelphia-based social service organization, and founded The Attic. They had planned an eight-week "pilot" project to provide a weekly, after-school support group for LGBTQ youth, who met in the "attic" of the agency. Within the first eight weeks of the group, 41 youth had attended, disproving the misconception that "there are no gay youth." Participating

youth rallied to keep the group alive and worked with the graduate students on a research project to document the group and the need for it to continue. Thus The Attic Youth Center was born!

From what was once a weekly support group, The Attic has grown into a nationally recognized, multi-service youth organization, and is now one of the largest community centers in the U.S. committed exclusively to serving LGBTQ youth and allies.

Forthcoming Motion in November: The Steering Committee will propose having the November 50/50 for Calcutta House. When Dignity Philadelphia members celebrate Christmas with them, we will be able to present them with the money collected from the November 50/50.

50/50 for November: Calcutta House provides 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.

MIA CULPA, MIA CULPA

Please note that in the September newsletter, the date of the Outfest was incorrectly listed as October 6, 2013. The correct date is Sunday, October 13, 2013 – and is held in the gayborhood.

MONTHLY MUNCHIE

Happy Outfest

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."

– *Anais Nin*

HAPPY ALL HALLOWS EVE



Dignettes at the Camden River Sharks game, Thursday, September 3, 2013

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

October is Outfest Month and LGBT History Month

- Friday, Oct. 4 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m. (upstairs)
- Sunday, Oct. 6 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals (pictures preferred!)
- Friday, Oct. 11 National Coming Out Day
- Saturday, Oct. 12 15th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death
- Sunday, Oct. 13 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Outfest
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Monday, Oct. 14 Columbus Day
- Sunday, Oct. 20 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
27th Annual AIDS Walk
Liturgy Committee Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 25 Games Night
- Saturday, Oct. 26 Fall Brunch, 11:30 a.m. (see page 1)**
- Sunday, Oct. 27 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 30 Broad Street Ministry
- Thursday, Oct. 31 All Saints Vigil 7:30 p.m. (Halloween)

November is All Souls Month

- Friday, Nov. 1 All Saints Day
Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m. (upstairs)
(No Mass, see October 31)
- Sunday, Nov. 3 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 Election Day
- Sunday, Nov. 10 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Monday, Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Sunday, Nov. 17 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Newsletter deadline for Dec./Jan. newsletter
- Monday, Nov. 18 Visit to Calcutta House for gift requests, 7 p.m.
(Look for e-blasts, announcements at Sunday liturgies, or call Jimmy Calnan for specifics.)
- Sunday, Nov. 24 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Potluck, 4:30ish p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 27 Mass for Thanksgiving Eve, 7:30 p.m.
Broad Street Ministry, 3-6 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day
- Saturday, Nov. 30 Michelle's Birthday!
- Sunday, December 1 World AIDS Day

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 December/January 2014 newsletter is November 17, 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/B.J. Welsh – 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).

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**