PAYING DUES ELECTRONICALLY

In the membership survey that the Chapter conducted at the beginning of the year, members had suggested that the Chapter consider accepting payments electronically. In response, members of Dignity Philadelphia can now pay their annual dues, purchase tickets for the Liturgy Committee’s Annual Brunch on October 25 and make other donations to the Chapter electronically over the internet. Recently, the Chapter joined Razoo which is an on-line non-profit organization that helps other organizations raise funds electronically. The Chapter initially joined Razoo in order to participate in National Give OUT Day. On National Give OUT Day, people throughout the world were encouraged to donate to their favorite LGBT organization. Dignity USA and the William Way Community also participated in National Give OUT Day.

Members can renew their membership either as an individual or as a couple. Just like the paper membership renewal form, members can also pay their Dignity/USA membership at the same time. People can also make a donation of any amount to the Chapter. Through Razoo, members can renew their membership or make donations at any time, and from any place that has internet access.

Please note that the Chapter did not raise its membership rates. The amounts listed on the website are slightly higher than the rates on the membership form. This is to cover the service fee charged by Razoo. Although there are other websites that the Chapter could have used to allow for electronic payments, the Steering Committee decided to use Razoo because every dollar donated is considered tax deductible by the donor. A donor’s payments are recorded as having been made to the Razoo Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Razoo Foundation sends a monthly check to the Chapter for all the donations received that month less their processing fee. For example, when members renew their membership electronically at $22, the Chapter gets $20 and Razoo get $2. The member’s credit card statement will show a $22 donation to the Razoo Foundation, making the entire $22 an eligible tax deduction. With other online payment systems, not all of the payment made by the donor would have been tax-deductible. The Steering Committee selected Razoo in order to make it easier for members to know what portion of their payment will be tax-deductible. Through Razoo, the full amount of the payment is considered eligible to be deducted from the donor’s tax return.

Here are the steps to make an electronic payment. First, from your computer go to http://www.razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia. If you misplace the link, just go to www.razoo.com and then search for Dignity Philadelphia. Click on our logo to be taken to Dignity Philadelphia’s page. From there, you can select your donation category. Be sure to indicate whether you want your contribution to be a one-time, weekly, monthly, or annual contribution. Then you input your credit card information and you will receive a receipt by email. The Chapter gets a confirming email as well so we know about your payment or donation. If you decide to set up periodic donations, i.e., anything other than a “one-time” donation, your credit card will be billed automatically.

Soon, there will be links on the Chapter’s webpage (www.dignityphila.org) and on Facebook page to make it even easier for members to pay their dues and to make donations.

-Michael Viola, President.

DIGNITY’S ANNUAL FALL BRUNCH
Saturday – Oct. 25, 2014

By Dick O’Malley

Dignity’s annual fundraiser for the benefit of its weekly liturgies will be held on Saturday, October 25th, at 11:30 a.m. at Bill
Wood's KNOCK restaurant at 12th & Locust Streets. Last year's brunch at Knock was a big social and financial success. Both Dignity and Knock are planning to make it even more successful this year!

What's unique about this Dignity brunch is that it is a sit-down, not a buffet style, event. Everything, except alcoholic drinks, is covered by the ticket price, same as last year of $15 for members and $17 for non-members. While the tip for the brunch is included in the price, members are encouraged to tip for any alcoholic drinks ordered.

Once again, in addition to the traditional beverages of coffee, tea, and juice, served along with pastries, members will be able to choose a meal from Knock's varied menu which will include: grilled chicken over greens, almonds, and dried cherries; eggs Benedict with poached eggs on a toasted English muffin and Canadian bacon with hollandaise sauce; eggs Florentine with poached eggs on a toasted English muffin and spinach with hollandaise sauce; Bill Wood's famous Knockburger, an angus beef burger with lettuce, tomato, pickle, and potatoes; L.B.J. Crab Melt; seasoned crab, tomato, Swiss cheese on an English muffin; and a Belgian waffle covered with whipped cream and strawberries.

Since seating is limited, Dignity encourages you to get a ticket(s) as soon as they are available, and, if possible, make a donation in any amount towards a scholarship for members who are unable to pay due to financial circumstances. Dignity, once again, wants to thank Bill Wood and his staff for hosting the brunch.

**MOTIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The following motions were made at two separate Steering Committee Meetings (July 6 and August 3, 2014):

**Motion 14-07-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Grant Shea. It moved that the Steering Committee appoint an Ad Hoc Committee on Weddings to consist of up to five members. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-07-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Grant Shea. Be it moved that the August 50/50 be designated for the Michael Durkin Fund (see below). This fund also provides for the Michael Durkin Leadership Award. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-08-01** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Bradley. Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Audit Committee for fiscal year 2012-2013 consisting of B.J. Welsh and Leo Chang be thanked for their diligent work; and that the Steering Committee accepts their report as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-08-02** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the 50/50 for September 2014 be donated to the AIDS Fund (see below); and the October 2014 funds be donated to Final Farewell (see below). Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-08-03** made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by David Kalinowski. Be it moved that the Steering Committee accepts the proposed budget for 2014-2015 as submitted by the Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 14-08-04** made by Grant Shea; seconded by Dolores Vera. Be it moved that the Steering Committee thank Joe McOscar for the tremendous work he did on the presiders' survey. Passed unanimously.

**Michael Durkin Fund** – this is an internal fund that pays for activities for women who are dues-paying members. These activities can be payment for retreats, membership dues, women-center meetings and other Dignity related events.

**AIDS Philly Fund** – The AIDS Philly Fund grant program supports partner organizations in the Philadelphia Region that provide AIDS and HIV-related services, education, and prevention including increasing public awareness of HIV/AIDS issues. AIDS Philly Fund is also the Philadelphia affiliate of The Names Project, curating panels of The AIDS Memorial Quilt for a local audience. The 28th Annual Philly AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2014.

**Final Farewell** was formed by Patricia A. Quinn to help grieving families through the financial hardship associated with the loss of a child. This fund helps out poor families who cannot afford even the minimal burial and funeral expenses; referrals come from CHOP who identifies families whose child did not survive an illness. With the donated funding and funeral services, the Quinn's are able to help 1-3 families per year. Recently Final Farewell paid for the funeral expenses of the 3 Liberian children who died in a house fire July 5th in West Philadelphia.
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2014

On October 5, the Dignity Community is encouraged to bring a picture of their lifetime companion to Sunday Liturgy for our annual 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 of your pets (we definitely don’t want singing dogs!). 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 PHILADELPHIA IN 2007

Brother Joe Doughtery and three others from the Liturgical Institute of Philadelphia met with the Steering Committee on February 4 and returned to observe our 7pm mass. Their report was broken down into many sections including General Observation, environment, the shape of the liturgy, music, and the service of the Word, silence, Liturgy of the Eucharist, announcements, sending/dismissal and after-care. The report appeared in the June and July newsletters and a Community Meeting was held on July 29. Two of the recommendations acted upon: obtaining use of the parking lot next to St. Luke’s and the A-frame sandwich board to be placed outside the entrance to St. Luke’s before Sunday masses. Thanks to St. Luke’s for its help in constructing the sign and Bill Feindt for the lettering.

D/P member Jimmy Calnan was a panelist on “Homophobia and the College Experience” on March 14 at Community College of Philadelphia.

Delaware Valley Legacy Fund (DVLF) provided a seminar for D/P on March 19 concerning financial and legal questions facing LGBT people and an opportunity to learn more about caring for elderly parents, retirement planning, college planning and protecting yourself and loved ones in PA and NJ. Presenters were James Guccarro (financial consultant), Virginia Gutierrez, Esq., Steve Hyland, Esq. and our President Norman Simmons. John Raymond won the DVLF raffle for $250 and donated it to the chapter.

The Student Weekend Retreat led by Fr. Brennan, with assistance of volunteers from St. Joseph’s Campus Ministry, was held at a retreat house near Reading on March 24-25. D/P brochures were made available for the 30 Gay/Straight Alliance students from St. Josephs and Villanova.

A Day Retreat led by Fr. Ron Hoskins “Road Trip: It Ain’t Easy Being Gay: Spiritual, Social, Political, Personal, and Familiar Challenges” attended by 15 people was held on April 11.

A Dignity Eucharist on April 29 was offered in memory of Barbara Gittings for her pioneer work in recognizing LGBT people in our society. A portrait of Barbara was loaned to D/P from the Gittings Collection of the Independence Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library. The Honorable Ann Butchart (past D/P President) delivered the homily and Sister Jeannine Gramick delivered a eulogy.

D/P presented the workshop “Same Sex Marriage as a Sacrament” at the Equality Forum on May 5.

A Dinner and Cabaret Show held on September 29 starring Gene Cavanaugh with Jason on bass and Jeff McDonald on piano. This was a fundraiser for the chapter coordinated by Dominic Cordone, and Immy & Phil Ferrara.

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<tr>
<th>DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA</th>
<th>BUDGET 2014-15</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas/Easter Appeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Donations for Masses</td>
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<td>Printing $500</td>
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<td>Fund Raising Expense $150</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$21,900</strong></td>
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D/P member Dick O’Malley offered to coordinate the effort to raise funds for a film to be made about John McNeil. Fifty people attended a fundraiser at Knock on October 28 and initially raised over $3,000, with donations still coming in.

D/P member Michael Rocks drafted a “Proposed Guidelines for Coordinator of Liturgical Music.”

New D/P wallet calendars were distributed.

D/P member Joe Snyder led a discussion on “The Right and Wrong of Sexual Activity.” The consensus was that moral judgments of sexual activity are complicated and complex but individual judgment is paramount.

D/P members Barbara Gindhart and Dick O’Malley met with other welcoming and affirming religious groups to help develop a new program at the William Way Community Center called “Out & Faithful” which will consist of a series of panel discussions on spiritual and ethical topics.

A petition to amend the Constitution was signed by the members of the Steering Committee: “There shall be at least one General Business Meeting of the membership convened semiannually each calendar year.” From this, an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to study the Constitution and By-Laws and make recommendations for any necessary updating. Members of that committee: Jimmy Calnan, Dolores Vera, Bethany Davis, Tony L., Mark S. and Kevin Davies.

DUSA reinstated their dues policy. D/P membership form amended to indicate new dues structure and choices that individuals can make regarding membership at each level: local D/P and/or DUSA.

D/P invited Marc Adams and two co-workers from HeartStrong to make a presentation on their mission and work.

TRAVELING TOGETHER: STORIES FROM THE YOUNG, QUEER, AND FAITHFUL

On Wednesday, August 27 at 6:30pm, the William Way Center will host a story sharing event focusing on the intersection of queer identity and spirituality. Queer people in their 20s and 30s are living in an increasingly secular society, especially among their peer group. On top of that, religious institutions are sometimes positioned as the enemy in queer spaces. Come and hear from a diverse group of young queer people whose spirituality is a core part of their identity and life journey. You’ll hear from story tellers of various faith perspectives and backgrounds about why spirituality is relevant in their lives as young queer people, and how they’ve stayed resilient and faithful against the odds. Story tellers will share their personal perspectives and experiences touching on topics such as: finding queer narratives in religious texts, reinventing religious/spiritual traditions, “fight or flight” strategies in dealing with congregations that are not overtly LGBTQ welcoming, talking intimately about viewing and navigating one’s personal faith life in the broader context of one’s institutional faith life, and so much more ...

This event is building upon March’s Coming Out Together: Stories of LGBTQ Spiritual Acceptance event which welcomed over 100 people to hear from local congregations about their journey to become welcoming to LGBTQ people. The audience let us know they wanted to hear more stories. In particular, they wanted to hear from queer young adults finding their way in spiritual spaces and breaking down the walls that prevent us from bringing our whole selves to the communities we inhabit. A $5 suggested donation at the door will get you meaningful stories, and beer/pretzels.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES – DIGNITY AND DIGNITY-RELATED

Broad Street Ministry: September 3 and October 1: Volunteers needed, at least 10, to help serve dinner to homeless people. BSM is also in need of men’s clothing, summer style jackets, pants and shirts. And don’t forget travel-size toiletries for men and women!

Birthday Cake Sundays: September 21 and October 12: Dignity provides a half-sheet birthday cake from Acme for all members celebrating a birthday for the corresponding month. The September cake is especially special since M.D.Vera’s birthday is September 23!

October 12 – Outfest is coming to the gayborhood. Dignity will be needing members to sign up and staff (not man!) the Dignity booth for this Sunday. Please see BJ or David K. to sign up for a 2 hour shift.

Bi-monthly Munchie

“Frantic Orthodoxy is never rooted in faith, but in doubt.”
- Reinhold Niebuhr

ENJOY THE SUMMER
**DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA AGENDA FOR SEMIANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, September 28, 2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Opening Prayer</th>
<th>Officer Reports</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approval of Agenda</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval of Minutes from meeting on 3/23/14</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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**Old Business**

1. Tax Status
2. Ad Hoc Committees
   * Memorial Panels
   * Membership Survey
   * Audit (9/1/12 – 8/31/13)
   * Weddings
   * Bylaw amendment

**New Business**

1. Young Adult Caucus retreat (July 25-27 in Washington, DC)

**Committee Reports**

- Community Life
- Communications
- Education
- Liturgy

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer**

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**SEPTEMBER 14 – 1ST DIGNITY VEGETARIAN POTLUCK**

Now that I have your attention, please note that it will NOT be a vegetarian potluck – sorry if I scared some members!

This is our annual Clyde Samms Potluck Dinner which is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, 2014, at Dignity Philadelphia. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their favorite dish to share. We welcome entrées, side dishes and desserts – all of which will be eaten up! BUT if you don’t cook, feel free to bring in refreshments – such as soda, juice or a nice bottle of wine. Or if you don’t encourage drinking, pick up some bread or donuts and contribute these. Appetizers are also welcomed, even if cheese and crackers is your specialty – we promise to eat these too. I always quote Julia Child, “People who love to eat are always the best people.” So mark your calendars, get out your “Dining with Dignity Cookbook”, start your shopping list, and surprise everyone. AND don’t forget the vegetables! We hope to see everyone there!

- Dolores Vera (Communications Co-coordinator, Vegetarian, Sept. Birthday Person, and Creative Force)
CALENDAR OF EVENTS - AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER
(items in italic are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter – with more detail)

Thursday, August 21  Mummer’s Museum String Band

Sunday, August 24  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27  William Way Center event

Thursday, August 28  Mummer’s Museum String Band

Sunday, August 31  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

September is National Suicide Awareness Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15)

Monday, September 1  Labor Day

Wednesday, September 3  Broad Street Ministry

Sunday, September 7  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

9/11 Commemorative Mass Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Potluck 4:30 pm and Investiture of Committee Co-chairs

Sunday, September 21  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Birthday Cake Sunday Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23  First Day of Autumn and M.D. Vera’s Birthday

Wed., September 24  Rash Hashanah (begins at sunset)

Sunday, September 28  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Semi-annual business meeting

October is LGBT History Month

Wednesday, October 1  Broad Street Ministry

Friday, October 3  Yom Kippur

Sunday, October 5  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 12  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Outfest and Welcoming Rite

Monday, October 13  Columbus Day

Sunday, October 19  Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

AIDS Philly Walk

Saturday, October 25  Dignity Bunch (see article in newsletter)

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 August/September newsletter is October 19, 2014.

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 construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons, employees, and/or members of organizations.

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: _________________________________________________________

Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, PO. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

Steering Committee

Michael Viola – President
Jimmy Calnan – Vice President
Kevin Davies – Secretary
Mike Bradley – Treasurer
Jim Clay/Grant Shea – Liturgy Committee Co-coordinators
Vacant – Community Life Committee Coordinator
Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Co-coordinators
David Kalinowski/B.J. Welsh – Education Committee Co-coordinator
Chaplains: Barbara Gindhart and Father Ron Hoskins

Individual annual dues:
Dignity/Philadelphia $20;
Dignity/USA $30
$_______ Total

Couple’s annual dues:
Dignity/Philadelphia $35;
Dignity/USA $60
$_______ Total

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.

Scholarships are available for Dignity/Philadelphia and Dignity/USA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Vice President for more information (vp.dignityphiladelphia@gmail.com).