

FEBRUARY 2018/MARCH 2018



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# The Independence

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

## WANTED – GOOD LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Dignity Philadelphia is currently looking for members to proclaim the word of God and to help distribute the Eucharist during Mass service. Think you qualify? FYI, anyone interested in helping out the community is welcomed to help out the current members. Training is available, so don't worry about performing these tasks "cold turkey". The Liturgy Service Group is available to train interested new members! Training consists of an hour or two, prior to Mass service, with handouts and practice sessions.



As a lector, you will be helped with basic public speaking techniques. You will learn methods on how to approach the lectern and proclaim the word of God – at a pace where you are not rushed and you feel comfortable reading either from the Old or New Testaments. Lectors get to read circa once a month – or more often when the designated lectors cannot make it to service. Some of readings are short and some can be a little lengthier. The Lector Coordinator will usually give you a choice as to which one you chose to read – you can also chose to be the first reader – which means you get to process in with the Presider. Or you can choose to be the second reader. We currently have enough lectors that you can chose to read when you fill comfortable before the community. Readings are always given out a week prior to service, so you will have time to practice. We are currently looking for members so that we have enough people on the rolls.

And you can also be a Eucharistic Minister (EM). Again, we can always use extra members to do this very important task. While EMs are not ordained, their roles carry spiritual value. After all, they do help with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during the communion service. The EM Coordinator will usually assign the roles prior to the start of service – he will tell you if you are to help serve the bread or help with the wine, or grape juice – as we do in Dignity. The EMs are required to be at the altar after we finish with the sign of peace. There is also training available if you are interested in doing this very valuable work. Duties are usually assigned prior to the start of Mass, so EMs are usually assigned "on the spot" and little preparation is needed. By being an EM you help out the community and allow other members to do other duties. We prefer that members not do "double duty" as Jim Clay is fond of saying.

If you are willing to help, can make a time commitment for training, the Lector Coordinator, Michelle, and the EM Coordinator, 50/50 AI, will be glad to help. Please consider helping out with these duties.



## MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTIONS

The Board of Directors met December 3, and the following motion was passed:

**Motion 17-12-01:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the January 2018 50/50 be donated to the Craig Scott Fund. Passed unanimously.

**50/50 for December:** The Craig Scott Fund was started with a donation made by Craig Scott in his will to fund the music ministries. Money from this fund pays for the keyboard players and other items needed by the Music Coordinator. It was Craig Scott's wish that Dignity should always have music as part of its Sunday service.

During the January 7, 2018 meeting, the following motion was passed:

**Motion 18-01-01:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the February 2018 50/50 be donated to Sam's Hope at 901 A East Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. Passed unanimously.

### 50/50 for January 2018:

Founded in February 2013, Sam's Hope, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of companion animals by keeping those facing economic and health challenges, and their pets together through pet food and veterinary care assistance programs. They are located in Wyndmoor, PA.



During the February 11, 2018 meeting, the following motions were passed:

**Motion 18-02-01:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that a Working Group for Elections be designated for the Spring 2018 elections to consist of Dolores Vera, Barb Gindhart and Jimmy Calnan. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 18-02-02:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamain. Be it moved that the March 2018 50/50 be donated to AIDS Library of Philadelphia. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 18-02-03:** Made by Rob Baker; seconded by Jimmy Calnan. Be it moved that Audit 9/1/2016 to 8/31/17 void check numbers 1705, 1724, 1757, 1811 and 2341. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 18-02-04:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the Community Service Award for 2018 be given to the LGBT Elder Initiative. Passed unanimously.

**50/50 for February 2018:** The mission of the AIDS Library is to improve access to health and support services, prevent HIV transmission, and continue to nurture life-long learning. The AIDS Library 25th Anniversary Celebration was in 2012.

### Double Munchie!

"What is logical to the oppressor isn't logical to the oppressed."

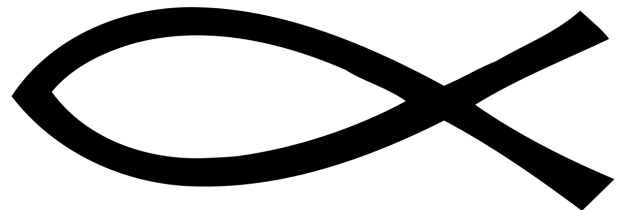
- Malcolm X

### Happy Black History Month!

"Being unwanted is the worst disease any human being can experience."

- Mother Teresa

### Happy Women's History Month!



## CHRISTMAS AT CALCUTTA HOUSE

Once again, Dignity Philadelphia celebrated Christmas 2017 with the residents of Calcutta House. Father Ron Hoskins was excellent, as always. Residents told us they look forward to hearing from him, participating with him in the readings and testing his excellent memorization skills! As always, Father Ron did not disappoint anyone! The following photos document the wonderful (and delicious) cake, a sampling of the gifts from the Dignity members and everybody's favorite, Father Ron, who provided a very prayerful reflection of the season. Please note that whenever possible, we respect the residents' privacy by not including any of their pictures.



Happy Holidays from Dignity!



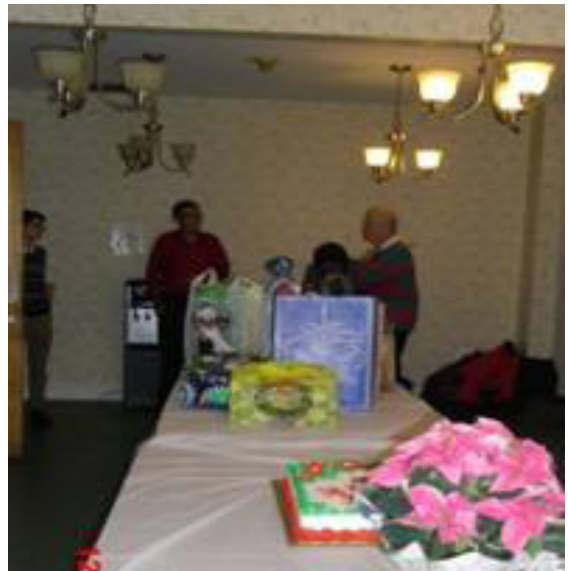
Jimmy (with Rob) did a great job of coordinating everything at Calcutta House – as always. Thank you for another great Christmas event.



Father Ron presiding over the Christmas readings.



Plenty of great gifts!



Emily (visiting from Berkeley) Henry, Michelle's head and Jim Clay.

*continued on next page*



Rafael, Father Ron and Larry, prior to the gift distribution. Note Father Ron humbly acknowledging his amazing presentation and applause; great job Father!



## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU (25TH TIMES)**

Dignity Philadelphia is very fortunate to have Father Tom Orians as one of our Presiders. And we feel doubly blessed that he got to celebrate his 25th anniversary of being a Dignity Presider with us on December 19, 2017. Thank you, Father Tom, for commuting from New York, every 6-8 weeks, to help us celebrate Sunday Liturgy. And thank you for the work you continue to do with Dignity USA.

Plus, Dignity Philadelphia also celebrates birthdays. Starting out the year, a little bit older, were left to right: Michael L., Robert B, Steven B. and Tom. And thanks to them, we all got to eat cake!



Father Tom solemnly celebrating his 25th anniversary as a Dignity Presider.



Happy Birthday Michael L., Robert B, Steven B. and Tom!

## **UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE (AND REMEMBER!)**

In addition to the upcoming 45th anniversary date, Saturday May 19, 2018, as noted on page 1, we also have Birthday Sundays coming up: March 11 and April 15. Also please note that this year our Easter Vigil will be held earlier. The schedule is as follows:

**March 25:** Palm Sunday at 7 pm

**March 29:** Holy Thursday celebration at 7:30 pm

**March 30:** Good Friday - A special Prayer Around The Cross with St. Luke's members, upstairs at 7 pm

**March 31:** Saturday, Easter Virgil at 6 pm

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, May 19th, 2018**

**Dignity Philadelphia 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance**

**Mummer's Museum | 7pm - 11pm**

The ticket price is \$40.00 for Buffet Dinner and Open Bar (Wine and Beer). Ticket information will be sent to members in early April 2018. There will be a DJ and dancing! The 45th Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday May 20, 2018 at 7 PM at Saint Luke and the Epiphany.



## **AND AN IMPORTANT MEETING COMING UP – MARCH 18, 2018**

### **Dignity/Philadelphia Agenda – Semiannual Business Meeting Sunday, March 18, 2018**

**Opening Prayer**

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Approval of the Minutes from  
September 24, 2018**

#### **Old Business**

1. 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Saturday, May 19, 2018)

#### **New Business**

1. Elections

#### **Board of Directors Reports**

Director/President

Director/Membership

Director/Record Keeping

Director/Finances - report since last semiannual business meeting

#### **Service Groups Reports**

Communications

Liturgy

#### **Working Groups Reports**

Broad Street Ministry - monthly

Birthday Cakes – monthly

Calcutta House Christmas Party (12/18/17) – recap

Pitman Theater (1/28/18) - recap

Day of Retreat - recap

Outfest (10/8) - recap

Audit for period 9/1/16 – 8/31/17 – recap

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY, MARCH AND A LITTLE APRIL

## February is Black History Month

Sun., Feb. 18 Mass at 7 pm  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm

Sun., Feb. 25 Mass at 7 pm

## March is Women's History Month

Fri., Mar. 2 Prayer Around the Cross  
St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sun., Mar. 4 Mass at 7 pm  
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm

Wed., Mar. 7 Broad Street Ministry - new time TBA

Sun., Mar. 11 Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm

Sat., Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day

Sun., Mar. 18 Mass at 7 pm  
Rosary Group at 6 pm  
Semiannual Business Meeting at 8:30 pm

Mon., Mar. 19 St. Joseph's Day

Sun., Mar. 25 Palm Sunday Mass at 7pm

Thurs., Mar. 29 Holy Thursday Service TBA

Fri., Mar. 30 Good Friday  
Prayer Around the Cross  
St. Luke's at 7pm

Sat., Mar. 31 Easter Vigil Service at 6pm (note new time)

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sun., Apr. 1 Easter Sunday – no service at Dignity

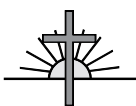
Wed. Apr. 4 Broad Street Ministry – lunchtime

Fri. Apr. 6 Prayer Around the Cross  
St. Luke's at 7 pm

Sun., Apr. 8 Mass at 7 pm  
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Announcement for Elections

Sun., Apr. 15 Mass at 7pm – Birthday Cake Sunday  
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement for Elections

## 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 April/May 2018 newsletter is April 16, 2018**

*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 of the Board
- Rob Baker – Director (Membership)
- Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)
- Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)
- Jimmy Calnan – Director (At Large)
- Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators
- Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Service Group
- Barbara Gindhart – Chaplain
- Rev. Ron Hoskins – Chaplain on leave of absence



Electronic payment at [razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia](http://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 available for Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Director of Membership for more information.

*The total amount of your dues and donations to both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA may be included in one check. We will forward your DignityUSA dues/donations and your contact information to the DignityUSA national office.*

**Individual annual dues:**  
Dignity/Phila \$20;  
Dignity/USA \$30  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

**Couple's annual dues:**  
Dignity/Phila \$35;  
Dignity/USA \$60  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

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