MEET THE NEW DIGNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

While the elections for the new Dignity Board of Directors happened in June, and commissioned in July, we had not had a group picture of this illustrious group. So, when they were all at church for service recently, we took their picture – finally. Here then is Dignity’s governing body for the 2018-2019 yearly term:

From left to right, Kevin Davies – Director/Record Keeper, Rob Baker – Director/Membership, Joe Orr – Director/At Large, Erin McMenamin – Director/Finances, and Michael Rocks – Director/President. While some of these smiling faces may look familiar, due to the change in our by-laws, some are serving out their term, while other are newly elected, and will serve for the next two years. Congratulations to all!

DIGNITY AT OUTFEST, SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, 2018

Dignity was well represented at Outfest, which many of you know is held in the gayborhood. On the working group was Dick, Joe and Michael R., and here is their picture right after they had set up the Dignity tent. There was a sign-up sheet and 26 people expressed interest and signed in for a $25 gift certificate to Giovanni’s Room. The lucky winner was a Dignity member – and yes, it was a random drawing! Thank you to the men who set up the tent, with a little help from Michelle Perrone – you all did a great job of representing Dignity and helping spread the good news of our ministry.

As is the case when it is almost election time, politicians tend to come ‘out’ and encourage us to vote. Bob Casey was in attendance, and I just had to run his picture in our newsletter – he is after all Catholic! However he did not come by the Dignity table.
CHAPTER TO CONTINUE REVISION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER
By Michael J. Rocks, President

Dignity Philadelphia started a process to revise the words used for the “Lord’s Prayer” at the Sunday Mass over 5 months ago. The process was prompted by Pope Francis’ comment on the translation used in the American Church. The Pope suggested using “Do not let us enter into temptation” instead of “Lead us not into temptation” in the present English translation. The Pope wanted to be clear that God never “leads” us into temptation but rather guards us against the temptations that our world presents.

While the Board of Directors was reviewing the proposal from the Liturgy Service Group, a decision was made to make further changes to the Lord’s Prayer. The term “Father” was replaced by “God” and the archaic use of “art and thy” was replaced by is and yours, and the adoption of the Pope’s suggestion to say “do not let us enter into temptation”. The new version was printed on poster boards and the Board announced that after using the new version for three months, the chapter would hold a community meeting to evaluate the congregation’s experience with the revised “Lord’s Prayer”.

The feedback from the members who attended the meeting was generally supportive of the new effort to adopt a translation of the “Lord’s Prayer” with words we use in our everyday language. Many wanted to question the use of the words “hallowed” [meaning holy] and “trespass” [meaning to offend or to sin]. The general consensus of the community meeting was to continue the use of the present “revision” while the leadership of the chapter seeks to arrange an educational event addressing issues of vernacular and inclusive language in the translation of the “Lord’s Prayer”.

Dignity Philadelphia has a history of making meaningful and relevant changes to the Eucharistic Liturgy when necessary. We accept God’s challenge to be a “prophetic” community, willing to continue to respond to God’s plan for this community to freely, without the burden of the rules of the Vatican, to celebrate the Eucharist in the most meaningful manner.

After engaging in the educational process of informing ourselves in a meaningful way about the vernacular and inclusive translation of the scripture, the Liturgy Service Group will propose a final revision of the “Lord’s Prayer” which will then be used at the Sunday Mass. We pray for the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The members of the congregation are invited to participate in this ongoing process of change. All meetings of the Chapter are open to all members. The leadership will keep you informed as the process continues.

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met September 2 and October 7, and the following motions came out of these two meetings:

**Motion 18-09-01**: Made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Erin McMenamin. Be it moved that D/P place a ½ page ad for $225.00 in the LGBT Elder Initiative’s “A Cause for Applause” program booklet. Passed unanimously

**Motion 18-09-02**: Made by Erin McMenamin; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the November 50/50 be donated to Philadelphia Family Pride. Passed unanimously.

**Philadelphia Family Pride (PFP)**: Philadelphia Family Pride’s mission is to build community for LGBTQ+ parents, prospective parents, grandparents and their kids of all ages – including adults, youth, kids, toddlers and infants. They support LGBTQ+ families in the greater Philadelphia region through advocacy, education and family-centered events. PFP is an inclusive community for LGBTQ+ prospective parents and families to engage in social events, education and advocacy. They strive to create a fun, reflective and supportive environment where their diverse identities are valued and nurtured while working to promote a more just world.

**Motion 18-09-03**: Made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P establish a working committee for Outfest on October 7, 2018. Members on the committee are Dick O’Malley, Michael Rocks and Joe Orr with others to be asked. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 18-10-01**: Made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P establish the 9/17-17 – 8/31/18 Audit Committee Working Committee with Mike Viola, Rob Baker and a third person to be determined. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 18-10-02**: Made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P select Calcutta House for the December 50/50 and Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd for the January 50/50. Passed unanimously.

**Calcutta House** provides housing and highly essential supportive health and human services for homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley region. We have been hosting Dignity’s Holiday Party here for almost 25 years! Various factors have changed, at Calcutta House as well as with Dignity’s participation. Based on these factors, the Dignity Board decided that we would just collect money for them this year. So please be generous in purchasing 50/50 tickets during December, in honor/memories of all the fun we enjoyed in the past.

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DIGNITY BRUNCH

A heartfelt “Thank You” to Dick O’Malley for helping Dignity celebrate another exciting brunch. Saturday, October 20, Dignity members got together and enjoyed each other’s company and ate some wonderful food. A total of 30 members were in attendance and Dignity made a $445 profit. This money goes towards the expenses incurred by the Liturgy Service Group, which benefits all of us. And thanks to the negotiations between Dick and KNOCK, Dignity gets all the profits from the brunch. Dick makes sure the wait staff is taken care of, and we get to keep all the $$$. What a deal! Next time you are at KNOCK, thank them for their hosting our event. Again, thanks Dick – it was a great way to spend Saturday afternoon. And to prove we had a great time, check out the pictures.

IN MEMORIAM

Joe McOscar
Joseph Byers and Tom Charnock

We can keep their spirit alive in our hearts and minds by remembering them at Mass on 11/4/18. If you have a picture, a memento or a keepsake of these men, and of your loved ones, please share them with Dignity at the altar for people we have lost this year, and in prior years. Join us in a joyous celebration of the lives of departed friends and relatives.

The Day of the Dead aka All Soul’s Day

November 4, 2018 – please come early and help us construct the Dignity altar.

Double Munchie

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”
- Winston Churchill

Happy Thanksgiving

“It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.”
-W.T. Ellis

Merry Christmas
Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd (in honor of Joe Byers): The Congregation of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, (LBGS) is a Roman Catholic pontifical institute of religious Brothers whose members work in a variety of social service and health care related ministries to the poor and needy throughout the United States, Canada, England, Ireland and Haiti. Money collected will be designated for Haiti, at Mary Byers request.

CAKES, CAKES AND MORE CAKES

It wouldn’t be a Dignity newsletter if we didn’t include a picture, or two or three, of members celebrating their birthdays. And included in these pictures is a cake that was purchased specifically for Joe McOscar’s Mass on August 26, 2018. It was good to have Barbara in attendance, as well as a niece visiting from New Zealand – who serenaded the Dignity community! What a tribute to Joe, and to hear about from the community of memories they had regarding him. And then we had cake! Here are some pictures to talk about! FYI, while we had an August cake, there were no members present to celebrate with us. So, we ate their cake anyway!

And Birthday cakes will also be celebrated November 11 and December 16, so do come for social and help us celebrate more attractive members!

DEO GRATIAS AWARD

And I saved the best for last – OK almost last (editor’s prerogative). I was very surprised, shocked and honored to receive this award on Oct 7, 2018. While it is usually given at the September Pot Luck, I was away in the great state of Texas (see picture). This unexpected award was a real shoker since I assumed someone had gotten it at the pot luck. And it was given to me for reporting all the late-breaking news I do for this newsletter entitled The Independence. I enjoy working on this so much, I never expected to receive an award – and a prestigious one at that – for something I love doing. Thank you Dignity Community, and to Michael Rocks in particular, for giving me this award. I am honored and very appreciative to receive the award. And it is an honor to be of service to this community that has shown so much love to Michelle and me (considering our orientation). Thank you all.

OH NO! THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER

Two events coming up should be on your calendar already! One is the Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Sunday, November 18 at 4:30 p.m., and Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, December 23, at 6 p.m. Remember, anything and everything is welcomed at the Thanksgiving Pot Luck. Louis and Leo can turn 2 fishes into a banquet for everyone – and still have some left over. Think about what you enjoying cooking and eating, then make this for the pot luck. This is one of our best attended pot lucks of the year, so don’t hesitate to cook a turkey, or stop by Acme and pick up some green Jello-salad. Everything is appreciated and eaten. However – here is the catch – if you decide to bake a Big-A** Turkey or a Spiral Sliced Ham, please let Louis or Leo know, so they can plan accordingly.

And this year, similar to last year, we plan to have the Christmas Vigil Mass starting at 6 p.m. This year, since Christmas is on a Tuesday, we will be expected to come to Mass on Sunday, December 23, go home, bake, feed the pets and change to your gay apparel, and be back on Monday, December 24 for the Christmas Vigil. We will be having a Christmas Social after our Vigil celebration. And to reward everyone, we will not have Mass on Christmas Day! Mark those calendars Dignettes!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
(weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

November is National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and American Diabetes Month

Thursday, Nov. 1  All Saints Day
Friday, Nov. 2  All Souls Day
--- Prayer Around the Cross – Upstairs at 7 pm
Sunday, Nov. 4  Mass at 7 pm (Day of the Dead Celebration)
--- Healing Mass
--- Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm
Wed., Nov. 7  Broad Street Ministry, 10:30 am
Sunday, Nov. 11  Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday
--- Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 pm
--- Veterans Day
Sunday, Nov. 18  Mass at 7 pm
--- Thanksgiving Pot Luck 4:30 pm
--- The Rosary Society Meeting at 6 pm
Thursday, Nov. 22  Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, Nov. 25  Mass at 7 pm
--- World AIDS Day

December is Safe Toys and Celebrations Month

Saturday, Dec. 1  World AIDS Day
Sunday, Dec. 2  Mass at 7 pm
--- Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 5  Broad Street Ministry, 10:30 am
Friday, Dec., 7  Prayer Around the Cross, Upstairs 7 pm
Saturday, Dec. 8  Feast of Immaculate Conception
Sunday, Dec. 9  Mass at 7 pm
--- Liturgy Service Group Meeting, 4:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 12  Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday, Dec. 16  Mass at 7 pm – Birthday Cake Sunday
--- The Rosary Society Meeting, 6 pm
Sunday, Dec., 23  Mass at 7 pm
Monday, Dec., 24  Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6 pm
Tuesday, Dec., 25  Christmas Day – enjoy! (No Mass at Dignity)
Sunday, Dec., 30  Mass at 7 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 January/February 2019 newsletter is Dec. 9, 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.

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:_______________________________________________________________

Electronic payment at razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia

Please make check payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.
Electronic payment at razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia

Board of Directors

Michael Rocks – Director/President of the Board
Rob Baker – Director (Membership)
Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)
Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)
Joe Orr – Director (At Large)
Jim Clay/Dick O’Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators
Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Service Group
Rev. Ron Hoskins – Chaplain on leave of absence

Individual annual dues:
Dignity/Phila $20;
Dignity/USA $30
$ _____ Total

Couple’s annual dues:
Dignity/Phila $35;
Dignity/USA $60
$ _____ Total

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.

Scholarships available for Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Director of Membership for more information.

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