

APRIL 2012



Facebook: Dignity Philadelphia  
www.dignityphila.org  
DignityPhila@aol.com  
(215) 546-2093

# The Independence

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

## MARK RATKUS REMEMBERED AS FAITHFUL DIGNITY MEMBER AND SERVANT OF GOD

by Michael J. Rocks

Dignity/Philadelphia will celebrate the life of Mark Ratkus at a Eucharistic Liturgy on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at Noon at St. Luke and the Epiphany's Main Sanctuary.

Those of us in Dignity who attend the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy regularly know of Mark's long and faithful service to the Liturgy Committee, and in particular to liturgical planning and liturgical music in the community celebration of the Holy Mass. As a cantor he would proclaim the psalms and acclamations in a powerful and reverent singing voice. As a child of the Second Vatican Council, he was committed to ongoing development of liturgy from the lay person's point of view. Mark was active in the evolving reformation of the Roman Catholic tradition from the first reforms fostered by Vatican II. As a Christian Brother for many years he had a special talent to lead others in the work of planning and celebrating in the Roman Catholic tradition. He knew the Council documents well and would sometimes refer to specific paragraphs of a specific document to show the intention of the Council on liturgical matters.

It is so fitting that we celebrate Mark's life in a celebration of Mass because the Holy Eucharist was at the very center of Mark's religious and spiritual life. Dignity became an important part of his life because of his openness and authenticity as a truly liberated Gay Roman Catholic man. He served God on the fringes of the institutional Catholic Church because he could not be his true and authentic self as a Gay man in the institutional church. Mark was greeted at the gates of heaven by Jesus and his Blessed Mother Mary, and by his own mother, and those close to him who are already in heaven, and God welcomed Mark into the joy of eternal life as a faithful and true servant of God and of the truth of God's love, mercy, and acceptance of all humanity. And be sure that God blessed him especially for being true to God's call to be an open and loving Gay man as God created him to be in the face of a lifetime of oppression by society, and by our very own Roman Catholic Church leadership. Mark has been an open advocate for GLBT rights as a professor at LaSalle, as a former Christian Brother, and as a leader in Dignity Philadelphia. He had no fear when it came to being who he truly was in any and all situations that he found himself in. He serves as a model to anyone who has a problem accepting his or her own alternative sexuality with love, passion and self acceptance and especially with joy.

Most of us in Dignity had a special relationship with Mark. Some as close social friends, some as confidants, some as a mentor, or as a singer and liturgical planner--- but for all of us Mark was a fellow pilgrim on the road to freedom in the City of God on earth. He will be greatly missed by many of us because we have shared our own faith and our own hopes for the end of oppression by the institutional Roman Catholic Church with Mark; we could always look to him as the model of courage to witness to the holiness of Gay life in the face of hatred and oppression. We have celebrated the Holy Eucharist together hundreds of times with Mark serving the community liturgy with his singing, his insights into the meaning of liturgy, and by his hunger for God at the Eucharistic table. His physical presence around our altar will be replaced by his spiritual presence in our community forever.

Perhaps our only consolation in our present sorrow and grief is that Mark is still present to us in a very real way as his soul enjoys the rewards of eternal life and the knowledge and experience of God face to face through the eyes of his soul in heaven. We ask you Mark to whisper our names in the ear of our Savior Jesus Christ and of his mother Mary, and ask that we may also someday enjoy the happiness of Eternal Life in heaven. Pray for us Mark that we remain faithful to God's call to service in the Dignity community. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR MARK RATKUS

**Friday, March 30th:** 1:00 - Mass at LaSalle University in De La Salle Chapel. The chapel is in the lower level of College Hall which is at the SE corner of 20th Street & Olney Avenue.

5:00 - Memorial Service in lobby of Holroyd Hall / Hugh & Nancy Devlin Center for Science & Technology. Holroyd Hall is at the easternmost part of campus next to Central High School.

**Saturday, March 31st:** 12:00 - Celebration of life sponsored by Dignity / Philadelphia: The Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany - 330 South 13th Street (between Pine and Spruce Streets) Philadelphia, PA 19107-5916

Mass in the upper church will be followed by a reception in the church hall on the lower level. Parking will be allowed on the east side of 13th Street (across from the church) between Spruce and Lombard Streets.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The one most important factor that I would like to stress is my admiration for the dedication and passion that I see at Dignity. These dedicated members are the backbone of what Dignity Philadelphia is all about. Those of you who faithfully make sure that the altar is set up every Sunday with fresh flowers; then take them after the service and use them to bright someone's day. Then there are those who make sure the chairs are set for Mass and then others who help to take them down afterwards. Then there are those who make sure that the music selections are just the right songs. We are blessed with those who set the food out for each social and continuously remind everyone of the potlucks, and the need to bring something. Then there is the one that sells the 50/50 tickets without so much as a thought. Then you have the ones that run around making sure to find the volunteer for the readings each week. You have the person who makes sure that we have a Presider ready for Mass and make sure everyone is organized to take the gifts up. I commend you for your devotion to Dignity because you make sure Dignity happens every week.

Then you need to look deeper and you see the ones that make sure that all of our members are accounted for. There are those who put the newsletter out so that our members can be informed of what's going on at Dignity. You have those who keep the records in order and most of all those who help write the records. It takes one brick at a time to build a community. I just wanted all of those who make Dignity happen to know that you have not gone unnoticed. I am so very thankful for all that you do because let's face it; there would be no Dignity if it weren't for all of you.

Thank you  
Joanne

## IT IS AWARD TIME AGAIN!

At the last Steering Committee meeting, March 4, the following awards were discussed and possible Ad Hoc Chairs were appointed. Requests for candidates for these awards will be announced during the following weeks during Liturgy. If you have some suggestions, please write these down and give to a member of the committee or a member of the Steering Committee. The major awards are:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:** *Community Service Awards will be determined by the Steering Committee based upon the nominations brought directly from the community. Candidates, which can be individuals or organizations, for this award must have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Community. The awards will be presented at the Anniversary Social Event.* Please see our Secretary to submit your nomination with a short description.

**DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS:** *Chapter Service Awards were first presented in 1978. The candidates for this award will be determined by an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Linda B., Rob B. and Michelle P. Nominations are solicited from the Dignity/Philadelphia community in recognition of outstanding service to Dignity/ Philadelphia. The awards are presented following the Anniversary Mass.*

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:** *Criteria for this award will be mailed to the different colleges and universities in the area from the Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Joanne C., Nancy R. and David K. However, students from the community are welcome to apply; please ask a member of the SC for the criteria.*

The motions on these awards are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

## PUT US ON YOUR CALENDAR

Dignity is planning some evenings out for us to gather together in the next few months.

The Independence Studio on 3 at the Walnut Street Theatre is producing "A Grand Night for Singing" in May and June. It is a cabaret-style evening with two performers singing the hits of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Tickets will be about \$35 and a date will be announced.

Then the Camden Riversharks are sponsoring a Pride Night on June 21, Thursday, at Campbell Field in Camden. This is a great chance to see baseball up close and personal. Tickets will be either \$7 or \$9 depending on seat level. Car pools will be arranged.

Put us on your calendar.

## SEMI-ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING APRIL 22 (AT 8:30 P.M. AFTER LITURGY)

The Semi-annual Business has been scheduled and the agenda is as follows:

### Opening Prayer

### Approval of Agenda

**Approval of Minutes from meeting on March 20, 2011 needed since meeting on September 18, 2011 did not have a quorum and became a community meeting.**

### Old Business

1. IRS 990EZ for Dignity/Philadelphia
2. Brainstorming activities

### New Business

1. Ad Hoc Committees: Elections, Chapter Service Awards, Scholarship
2. Committee Coordinators

### Officer Reports

President                      Secretary  
Vice President              Treasurer

### Committee Reports

Community Life – Vacant      Communications  
Education – Vacant              Liturgy

### Motion to Adjourn

### Closing Prayer

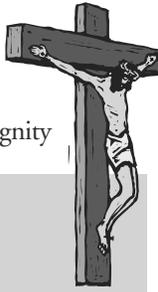
Please make a note to attend this meeting since we will present the budgets, discuss awards, elections, committee coordinators, and other important information you need to know as members of the community. All the officers, and committee (continued on page 3)

coordinators, will also report on their activities and upcoming plans. Any complaints or concerns can be discussed at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

## EASTER SCHEDULE

Per the Liturgy Committee, the following is the schedule for Holy Week activities:

- April 1 Passion/Palm Sunday: Eucharist Liturgy at 7 p.m.
- April 5 Holy Thursday: Eucharist Liturgy and washing of the feet at 7:30 p.m.
- April 6 Good Friday: Prayers Around the Cross in collaboration with St. Luke's at 7 p.m.
- April 7 Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Liturgy at 10 p.m.
- April 8 Easter Sunday: There will be NO service at Dignity



**A Challenge From the Cross:  
Bless those who curse you.**

## CHURCH, CONSCIENCE AND POLITICS

*Submitted by Father Joe McOscar*

Unless you have been visiting some other galaxy in recent weeks you have to be well aware about the controversy about birth control, health care coverage and politics. And so I offer for your consideration the following observations of Doctor Leonard Swidler of Temple University and a Catholic theologian.

“Not only are the massive majority of U.S. Catholics who use birth control not committing “sin,” they are following traditional Catholic moral teaching in so deciding.”

This is not the position of some wimpy, left-leaning far-out rejected theological opinion. This is the standard, most-favored moral theological position traditionally taught for over a hundred years in Catholic seminaries. See the standard text used in Catholic seminaries when my former colleague at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Tubingen, Josef Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) and I studied in the 1940-50s: Ad. Tanquerey, *Theologia Moralis Fundamental*, 1902. On pp. 297 ff. it treats of the favored doctrine of Probabilism.

In brief, Probabilism is the Catholic moral theology teaching that in cases of dispute among moral theologians (that is, learned theologians who study matters of right and wrong actions), one may, in good conscience, follow an opinion that a significant number of moral theologians support, even if only a minority hold that position.

Now, in fact, the vast majority of Catholic moral theologians have in the past almost half century favored the position that artificial birth control may in good conscience be used. One need only

recall that the Vatican Commission (all named by the pope) given the task of addressing precisely that question almost fifty years ago overwhelmingly answered it in the affirmative: One may in good conscience use artificial birth control.

Nevertheless, Pope Paul VI in 1968, rejecting this position of 95% of his commissioners, issued his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* in which he said that birth control was not morally licit. However, the matter did not end there for Catholics. In response, the National Bishops' Conferences of Belgium, Germany, Canada and the United States issued public statements saying that, in the end, individual Catholic couples may follow their own consciences on the matter of artificial birth control, even if that led them to oppose Pope Paul VI's position (according to current polls, over 90% of American Catholics approve of birth control). The U.S. bishops explicitly stated that “the expression of theological dissent is in order.” (see: <http://arccatholic-rights.net/dissentlen.htm>.)

Doubtless the bishops then were remembering what they (including the bishop of Rome, Pope Paul VI) had all passed just three years before at Vatican Council II, the “Declaration on Religious Liberty,” *Dignitatis humanae*: “Nobody is forced to act against his convictions in religious matters in private or in public.... Truth can impose itself on the mind of man only in virtue of its own truth... The search for truth should be carried out... by free enquiry... and dialogue.... Humans are bound to follow their conscience faithfully in all their activity.... They must not be forced to act contrary to their conscience, especially in religious matters.” (emphasis added)

Thus, if Catholic laity are convinced that birth control is morally right for them, they may practice it in good conscience by 1) following the traditional Catholic moral theology doctrine of Probabilism, 2) following the 1968 National Conference of U.S. Bishops teaching on the acceptability of “theological dissent,” and 3) following the teaching of all the Catholic bishops of the world at Vatican Council II that “Humans are bound to follow their conscience faithfully in all their activity.... They must not be forced to act contrary to their conscience, especially in religious matters.”

Hence, over 90% of U.S. Catholic laity may claim their right of Religious Freedom to being afforded access to birth control equal to that of non-Catholic Americans.”

To this I can add my own memories of being a young parish priest when *Humanae Vitae* was promulgated. There was a widespread consensus at the time that Pope Paul was persuaded by some of the Vatican reactionaries that the credibility of the Church would be in serious jeopardy if he went along with the recommendation of the Papal Birth Control Commission. In point of fact this decision turned out to be a monumental stumbling block regarding Church credibility – at least until the recent uproar over the way the clergy sexual predators was handled. In confessional practice at the time the matter of birth control became a non-issue among the vast majority of even practicing Catholics.

I also remember well being taught the principle of Probabilism in Moral Theology even in that bastion of orthodox priestly formation, St. Charles Seminary, in the days BEFORE the Second Vatican Council.

*(continued on page 4)*

Finally, in the closing words of the Birth Control Encyclical, Pope Paul asked for a large helping of compassion and understanding towards this issue:

“...omit nothing from the saving doctrine of Christ; ...always be joined with tolerance and charity, as Christ Himself showed in His conversations and dealings with men [sic]. For ...He came, not to judge, but to save the world, ...patient and abounding in mercy...?”

“Husbands and wives, therefore, ..., must find stamped in the heart and voice of their priest the likeness of the voice and the love of our Redeemer.

“So speak with full confidence, ...convinced that the Holy Spirit of God is present and ...illuminates from within the hearts of the faithful and invites their assent.”

May I add my own observation that assents is a two way street because the Church is all of us – the People of God – and not just a privileged few.

## IT IS ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

Sometimes I feel like I am in a time warp and I am constantly typing the same thing over and over and over again! Remember “Ground Hog Day”? Anyway, another year has passed and we need to think about people running for a Steering Committee position or chairing a Steering Committee. This year, the President, Joanne Collins, and the Secretary, Kevin Davies, have agreed to run again for their positions. But this does not mean those individuals cannot be challenged – competition can be healthy for an organization. We also have various vacancies that need to be filled: Vice President and Treasurer; plus two committee coordinator positions available if anyone is interested (you can get appointed to these, hence not an elected position). This is your opportunity to share your leadership skills with YOUR community. Please consider running for an officer or committee coordinator this year. The schedule for the upcoming elections is as follows:

Saturday, April 7 at Easter Vigil - 1st Announcement

Sunday, April 15 - 2nd announcement

Sunday, April 22 - 1st Nominations

Sunday, April 29 - 2nd Nominations

Sunday, May 6 - Meet the candidates – if necessary (very much like the GOP debates)

Monday, May 7 - mail ballots - if necessary

Sunday, May 20 - Close of Voting

## THIS AND THAT AT DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA...

- Currently there are 146 members of Dignity Philadelphia.
- Dignity Philadelphia is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013; if you are interested in serving on this committee, please let a SC member know of your interest.
- A beautiful “thank you” letter was received from **the Camden**

**Area Health Education Center** for our 50/50 donation of \$107. In addition to the form letter, the handwritten note stated: “Thank you very much for your donation and all the wonderful work that Dignity does.” The letter was sent from Michael S. DeShields, MD, president, Board of Trustees. (We should also thank Al C. once in a while for doing the 50/50 – thank you All!)

- The **Community Emergency Fund** was established to help members during hard times with food vouchers. If you have a need, talk to a SC member.
- Members, as well as Presiders, are welcome to submit articles for the newsletter, IF it relates to religious or Dignity-related events. I will not accept ISO notices!
- Every quarter, the Steering Committee designates an AIDS organization for their 50/50. If you know of an organization (501 (C)), or volunteer at such an organization, you can present this to the SC for consideration. AND if you want, you can do the 50/50 during the month your organization is featured!
- The SC also welcomes women’s groups, GLBT groups, and any other not-for-profit group for 50/50 contributions. While we try to limit it to local groups, we have been known to fund national groups – such as Wildlife Federation, Canine Companions and the Red Cross.
- Pictures that appear in this newsletter are available to members. Please ask Dolores for a copy; she will print out in color and photograph paper.

## GIRL SCOUTS – 50/50 FOR APRIL

At the March Steering Committee Meeting, several motions were made and passed by the officers. One of the motions was for the 50/50 for April, and it states



**Motion 12-03-01** made by Jimmy; seconded by Dolores: Be it moved that the April 50/50 be donated to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, Regional Service Center, 2020 Rhawn Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19152. Passed unanimously.

**FYI:** Per *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sunday, March 4, the Girl Scouts celebrate 100 years in existence. The first group of girls was “rounded up” in March 12, 1912. This group “mixed girls who were Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic.” A year later, the first troop was form for “black girls” and a year after that, troops were founded for “girls attending schools for the blind, and deaf.” By 1917, the enrollment was up to 13,000. And the “inclusiveness has continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as Girls Scout troops have admitted not only members who are gay, but, in at least one recent case, a transgender child as well.”

### Monthly Munchie

It is the crucified people who will lead us to the center of things.”

**-Jeanette Rodriguez**

## OTHER STEERING COMMITTEE MOTIONS:

**Motion 12-03-02** made by Jimmy; seconded by Kevin: Be it moved that the Elections Ad Hoc Committee consist of Jimmy C., Melissa H. and Bill B. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 12-03-03** made by Jimmy; seconded by Dolores: Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Chapter Service Awards consist of Linda B., Rob B. and Michelle P. Passed unanimously.

**Motion 12-03-04** made by Jimmy; seconded by Kevin: Be it moved that the Ad Hoc Committee for Scholarship Award consist of Joanne C., David K. and Nancy R.

Motion passes with 5 “Yes” votes, and 1 “No” vote.

**Motion 12-03-05** made by Jimmy; seconded by Kevin: Be it moved that D/P be a sponsor of the film “Taking a Chance on God” at the QFest; to be coordinated by Dick O’Malley. Passed unanimously.

## DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA 1984

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the newly opened Hershey Hotel was indeed a grand event. Members and friends turned out in their best threads for awards presentations, food and drink, and dancing. (The first decade of Dignity/Philadelphia was history and, as such, memorabilia was collected and placed in a “time capsule” to be opened in 1993 at the chapter’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

In February, 1984, Dignity/Philadelphia helped to form G.L.I.R.C.O.R.S., the Gay and Lesbian Inter-Religious Committee on Racism and Sexism which sponsored a presentation on “Black Spirituality” by Rev. Renee McCoy. The chapter authorized the production of its first button in April and also sponsored an Art Show and Auction conducted by Fine Arts Gallery, Inc. This event was a great financial success.

John Schott (Scotty) was leading the Region III House of Dignity, Inc. As our president, Michael Flynn met with the Assistant Chancellor of the Archdiocese, a meeting of information and sharing and a restatement of policies from both sides. Dignity also made it to the “Credo” television program when our president spoke on the segment dealing with gay men and lesbians and organized religion.

The Sixth Biennial Convention of Dignity, Inc. was held in Seattle in the summer of 1983. Our chapter contributed \$500.00 for a women’s hospitality center at the convention hotel. Locally, the chapter also began to respond to the health crisis with a monthly rosary prayer group after Liturgy, with regular 50/50 donations to AIDS groups in May and by a series of AIDS-related workshops which presented seven speakers over the year.

We reached out to members and friends with many social events including Games Nights, Dignity Cinema, the first inner-tubing trip on the Delaware, a Run-With-Dignity group and even a member who took many of us flying. The Liturgy Committee began to implement suggestions from the inclusive language report in their use of music and lectionary. Meetings were held for home liturgies in New Castle,

Delaware, which would eventually lead to a charter for Dignity/Integrity Wilmington. Many of our members were involved in the early formation of this neighboring chapter, the new kind in the region.

We also began to advertise regularly in the Philadelphia Gay News and Au Courant as part of our outreach. The Gay/Lesbian Community Center and Dignity co-sponsored an evening with Brian McNaught, author of “A Disturbed Peace”, and had a book-signing reception at Dignity House.

We celebrated our 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and gave a Community Service Award to Mayor W. Wilson Goode for his appointment of the Mayor’s Commission on Sexual Minorities. On November 15, 1984, Michael Flynn spoke at the Christian Association on Penn’s campus after being denied space at the University Newman Center.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL POT LUCK DINNER

The Paddy-Jo Pot Luck May 18, 2012, was a mouth-watering success. In addition to the multiple vegetarian dishes, tons of ham and chicken entrees, the event was most memorable due to the visit of St. Patrick himself. Additionally, Dignity/Philadelphia Chaplin Barbara Gindhart was given the Michael Durkin Award – congrats Barbara! AND, if that wasn’t enough, Jimmy Calnan – who is always remembering everyone’s birthday, anniversary and other events – was surprised with a birthday cake, and ice cream, given to him during the social. Happy Birthday Jimmy – you are truly a gift to Dignity/Philadelphia, and may you always “stay forever young.”



**Top Left:** Pictured with St. Patrick (aka Michael Rocks) are the Pot Luck Worker Bees: Louis G., John R., Kevin D. and Leo Chang who set up everything for this event.

**Bottom Left:** Two generous assets to the Dignity/Philadelphia community: Mrs. Barbara Gindhart, and the Michael Durkin Award winner, Barbara Gindhart.

**Right:** Celebrating his umpteenth birthday is Jimmy Calnan; a Dignity blessing on your special day:

May God grant you many years to live, For sure God must be knowing.  
The earth has angels all too few. And heaven is overflowing.

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

## April 2012 – National Volunteer Month

- Sunday, April 1 Passion/Palm Sunday Liturgy at 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 5 Women’s Ordination Conference (WOC) Vigil at the Cathedral, 11 a.m.  
Holy Thursday Service at Dignity at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 6 Good Friday, Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 7 Easter Vigil Liturgy at 10 p.m.
- Sunday, April 8 Easter Sunday, No Liturgy Service at Dignity
- Sunday, April 15 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 22 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.  
Semi-annual Business Meeting at 8:30 p.m. –  
Agenda will be published in the April newsletter
- Sunday, April 29 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.  
Craig Scott Memorial Mass

## May 2012 - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

- Friday May 4 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, May 6 Equality Forum Table 12 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
Couples’ Blessing Mass at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, May 13 Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.  
Mother’s Day
- Thursday, May 17 Ascension Thursday, Eucharistic Liturgy at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 20 Eucharistic Liturgy/39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at 7 p.m.  
39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pot Luck at 4:30 p.m.  
Anniversary Social at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, May 27 Pentecost Sunday, Eucharistic Liturgy at 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 28 Memorial Day (official start of summer)

## 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 May newsletter is April 22, 2012**

*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**

- Joanne Collins – President
- Jimmy Calnan – Vice President
- Kevin Davies – Secretary
- Linda Barrett – Treasurer
- Jim Clay/Dick O’Malley - Liturgy Committee Co-Coordinators
- Vacant – Community Life Committee Co-coordinators
- M. Dolores Vera, Michelle Perrone - Communications Co-coordinators
- Vacant – Education Committee Coordinator
- Chaplains:** Barbara Gindhart & 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](mailto: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**