



# Independence

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

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## MICHAEL FLYNN HONORED AT DIGNITY USA CONVENTION

Michael Flynn, long time Dignity Philadelphia member, was honored at the DignityUSA Convention this year in Minneapolis, MN. Michael received the Michael Bushek Service Award for demonstrating exceptional long-term service to Dignity at the national level. The award is named for Michael Bushek, longtime DignityUSA national newsletter editor. You make us all proud Michael Flynn!



*Dignity Philadelphia is very proud of having Michael Flynn, honoree, in our chapter.*



*Mary Anne Duddey presenting Michael Flynn his award.*

## REPORT ON DIGNITY'S 2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION

*by Dick O'Malley*

Attendance at the 2013 DignityUSA Biennial National Convention in Minneapolis was good – a little under 300 registrants – somewhat less than the 2011 convention in nearby Washington D.C. which has a location that is easier and cheaper to reach being located on the east coast. The convention had something of interest for almost everyone. I would like to focus on the new phenomenon of the large number of young adults who attended the meeting and on a workshop given by a highly acclaimed Christian theologian, Dr. Patrick Cheng, based on his recent book: “From Sin to Amazing Grace.”

Dignity now has a national Young Adult Caucus. DignityUSA estimates that 30 young members, aged 20 to 30, attended the convention, with a few more between 30-35. While they came from all over the country, from Boston to San Antonio, three chapters, Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. are significantly represented in the Young Adult Caucus. The Caucus distributed an invaluable handout on “How to Grow a Young Adult Presence in Your Chapter: Tips from the Dignity Young Adult Caucus.” In it, the caucus addressed two prime questions: (1) how do you **attract** young adults and (2) how do you **keep** them in the chapter.

Most young adults rely on the electronic media to communicate with one another, including Facebook and Tweeter, as well as up-to-date websites. They also pay attention to public displays of visibility, such as Pride parades and festivals. Once they come to a liturgy, how do you keep them coming back? Vibrant and good music, plus liturgies help, as well as appeals to spirituality, and involvement in the liturgies, such as gift bearers initially, and being welcomed and mentoring. Having a “safe space” is crucial to keeping them; a strong policy forbidding unwanted physical contact or sexual advances is also very important. At the kiss of peace, for example, start with a handshake, not a hug and certainly not a kiss. This advice applies not only to young adults but to anyone. Being a “hugger,” I paid particular attention to this advice.

The Young Adult Caucus in Minneapolis showed great interest in a newly suggested idea of inviting young adults from nearby chapters to a retreat or a trip to the shore. All in all, with the new Young Adults Caucus, the Vatican may not have heard the last of Dignity for a long time to come.

## NOTES ON A WORKSHOP

In Dr. Patrick Cheng’s workshop on “From Sin to Amazing Grace – Discovering the Queer Christ,” he makes the distinction between two different models of sin: the “crime-based” model of the Roman Catholic tradition and the “Christ-based” model of Eastern or Orthodox Christianity. In the former, Christians were provided a list of sins, such as, at one time, eating meat on Friday was a mortal sin, for which violation a Christian would suffer either in purgatory or in hell. In the Orthodox tradition, sin represented a failure to follow Christ’s teachings or example, such as to love thy neighbor, or a failure to follow the model of Christ as the liberator from oppression, or the model of Christ who wants us to love ourselves and not feel shame or self-hatred. In the latter model, sin represents a separation from Christ

*(continued on next page)*

and forgiveness would be an attempt to reunite oneself with Christ. Sin, Cheng contends, represents isolation; on the other hand, grace fosters interdependence or activism.

Cheng's ideas seem very relevant to Dignity Philadelphia's plan to make confession or the Sacrament of Reconciliation more available at its liturgies. [Giovanni's Room at 12<sup>th</sup> & Pine Streets would be able to order his book for anyone interested.]

The success of Dignity's 2013 Convention was probably evident in the fact that over 100 persons have already registered for the 2015 convention in Seattle (Boston will host the 2017 meeting).

## DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA IN 2000

D/P received its copy of the DUSA Re-Imagining Questionnaire. This document allowed each chapter to provide valuable input regarding the future of Dignity and potentially a new structure.

D/P produced its first Directory.

D/P celebrates the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Freedom to Marry Day on February 13.

D/P members attend the Millennium March on Washington on April 13.

D/P member Jan Sparrow participated in the Alaskan AIDS ride.

PGN Lambda Award nominations for Defenders Philadelphia and DUSA President / Dignity Philadelphia member Mary Louise Cervone.

D/P participated in a membership drive with Boston, New York and Washington for three months. The winner (with highest % increase) would receive all four convention tickets (each city pledged the cost of a convention ticket of \$250). This was in response to DUSA's Membership 2000 Campaign drive to increase membership in DUSA. D/New York was the winner with a 22% increase (D/P had 18%).

At the request of Dolores Vera, 62 rainbow rosaries were produced at the Mother Cabrini Residence for sale to our members. All were sold!

D/P members Mary Louise Cervone and Kathleen Burke and their son Danny are profiled in *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* section dated Tuesday, August 29. Photos in the article showed 1) Mary Louise positioning the cross after processing in (Dignity banners in the photo); 2) Mary Louise and Father Scott singing during the Dignity Mass; and 3) a picture of Mary Louise, Kathleen and Danny.

D/P sent a letter to the Sisters of Mercy—Merion in appreciation for the courage of issuing a statement regarding Sr. Jeannine Gramick. A dozen "I Will Not Be Silenced" buttons were sent with the letter.

D/P made a donation to Priests for Equality as seed money for the publication of their inclusive version of the Torah, which is the second volume of its inclusive Old Testament.

D/P hosted the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting with 12 visitors from Pittsburgh, NOVA and Washington.

Under the leadership of Jimmy Calnan, over 2,000 prayer cards and ribbons were distributed for the Jubilee Year 2000 observance of Solidarity Sunday. Some of the distribution sites: Tabernacle United

Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, William Way Community Center, Cathedral Church of the Saviour (Episcopal), University Lutheran Church, OUTFest Block Party, Margaret Roper Forum (an independent Catholic education group) and Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul at the 9:30am parish mass.

A Day of Reflection was held at Siloam on November 18 with the theme of the day "Giving Thanks to God."

## SAVE THE DATES

(submitted by *Community Life*)

On-going events:

- Broad Street Ministry - we coordinate about 15 members volunteering on the last Wednesday of each month to feed 200 homeless and food challenged people at the church on South Broad Street; look forward to **August 28**; Dignity folks donated \$85 for us to purchase 18 water pitchers for the dinner tables
- Birthday cakes - near the middle Sunday of each month we provide a half-sheet birthday cake from Acme for all members celebrating that month; this cake will be available **August 11**.
- Games Night - on the last Friday of every other month, we coordinate an evening of board and card games, pizza and soda; about a dozen people attend each time; **August 30**.
- **July 4** - dim sum luncheon at Joy Tsin Lau in Chinatown; Rob Baker coordinated for 10 attendees who then walked to the Phila History Museum for their LGBT History Exhibit

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Gay Night at the Phillies - Wednesday, August 7 at 7:05, \$28 tickets to be coordinated by Melissa and Jimmy
- Camden Riversharks minor league baseball game Gay Night on Thursday, Sept. 5; more info on this in September newsletter
- Movies under the stars @ Penn's Landing, dates TBA

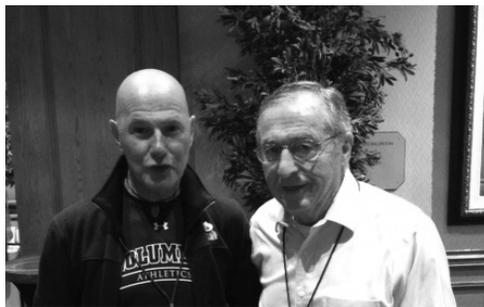


*The 4<sup>th</sup> of July eating group, left to right are John O., Michael V., Jimmy Calnan, Larry, Jack B., Dolores, Michelle, Alice, Rob (coordinator of the event), and Joe O.*

# DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA AT THE DIGNITYUSA NATIONAL CONVENTION



*Jim Clay and Father Bourgeois*



*Bernard Lynch and Dick O'Malley*



*Dick, Jim Clay, David K. and Michael Flynn.  
(Picture by Dick)*



*Dick O'Malley, Sister Jeannine Gramick, Jim Clay, Tom Oriens, Michael F., Dave K., Michael L., Dick Young, Tom Streeper, and Bernard Lynch. (pictures courtesy of Dave K.)*



*Dick, Jeannine Gramick and Michael Flynn (picture by Dick)*



*Dick, Dick Young, David K., Jim Clay and Michael L., proudly holding up the Dignity banner. (Picture by Dick)*



*The Young Adult Caucus at the Dignity convention; this is the next generation of LGBT Dignity members. (Picture by Dick)*

## FALL POTLUCK – SEPTEMBER 15

Time to get your Dignity cookbook out and get ready for the upcoming potluck. As many of you know, we have not gotten together since the anniversary dinner. We gave Louis and Leo a couple of months off, but now, it is time to start planning again. As you all know, we can always use the protein food group (turkey, ham, beef, poultry and tofu!). So you may consider making meatballs, ribs, sausages, etc.; and side dishes are always welcome. If you are unsure what to cook, talk to Louis or Leo for suggestions. Remember, the potluck starts at 4:30ish p.m., but members are always welcome to come as early at 3ish to help decorate and set up a welcoming environment. We look forward to seeing all of you at this event. It gives all of us a time to get together, renew friendships and share gossip network with other Dignity members. Bring your friends, family, acquaintances, and join us for this fun potluck. We look forward to seeing you.



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## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND

Since the hot weather has us running our air conditions all day, we may realize that we are short on money for utilities. And if we pay the utilities, are we going to have enough money for food? If anyone finds themselves deciding on where to budget your money, remember that we have the Dignity Community Emergency Fund. This fund is ready to help those in our Dignity Philadelphia community who are going through difficult times in this rough economy. If you, or a member of the Dignity community you know, could use some extra funds for those necessities of life, please let a member of the Steering Committee know of the need. All referrals will be treated in confidence and with sensitivity. Please talk to one of them, or email [President.DignityPhila@gmail.com](mailto:President.DignityPhila@gmail.com)

## THIS AND THAT...

- + Remember: Gay Night at the Phillies on Wednesday, August 7, 2013
  - + The Eucharistic Liturgy for September 15 will be celebrated by the priest who created the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner for us. He will also be available to answer questions or entertain comments regarding the banner.
  - + June Pride Parade was a big hit; kudos to Joanne, Linda, family members and Dignity friends and members who made this a successful parade group. At Penn's Landing, we had 100 people who signed up at the table; one lucky winner won a \$25 gift certificate from Giovanni's Room. Thanks to everyone who staffed the table at Penn's Landing.
  - + Dignity Philadelphia presently has 126 current members; 14 have lapsed – probably forgot due to the heat wave – and 5 were dropped from our rolls.
  - + August Mummers string bands will be performing

August 1	Greater Overbook
August 8	Hegeman
August 15	Fralinger
August 22	Trilby
August 29	TBA
- All performances are at the Mummers Museum at 8 p.m. rain or shine. Please join us!
- + Noticed anything new on the Dignity masthead?

## MOTIONS FROM JULY 2013 STEERING COMMITTEE

At the July 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee, the following motions were presented and voted on by the members present:

**Motion 13-07-01:** Motion made by Mike Bradley; seconded by Jimmy Calnan. Be it moved that the Treasurer will create a Capital One 360 account in the amount of \$20,000 from the TD checking account. Passed unanimously

**Motion 13-07-02:** Motion made by Michelle Perrone; seconded by Jimmy Calnan. Be it moved that Joanne Collins, Linda Barrett and their family be recognized for their work in the past two Pride Parades. Passed unanimously

**Motion 13-07-03:** Motion made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Mike Bradley. Be it moved that the 50/50 for August 2013 be designated for MANNA\*. Passed unanimously

**Motion 13-07-04:** Motion made by Michelle Perrone; seconded by Larry Sutter. Be it moved that an Ad Hoc Committee for Membership Survey be created and the VP as chair, Dolores, Mike Viola and others as members. Passed unanimously

## 50/50 FOR AUGUST



\*MANNA was founded in 1990 by seven members of the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. This mission was to help comfort people dying of AIDS at a time when ignorance of AIDS and the stigma associated with the disease was at its height. Often shunned and isolated from family and friends, these people often found MANNA to be the only source of love and care they knew...as well as the only source of nourishment and nutritional support they needed during their time of medical crisis. MANNA meals helped sustain them during the often dark days and lonely nights that followed their diagnosis.

In 2006, MANNA expanded its outreach to neighbors with other critical illnesses – cancer, renal and cardiac disease and diabetes. Today, operating from a renovated 10,000sq foot facility on Ranstead Street in Philadelphia, MANNA has a staff of more than 30, a full commercial kitchen and a fleet of trucks that bring warm and nourishing food to our ill neighbors in Southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

Three meals a day...seven days a week...52 weeks a year – MANNA's care and concern defies borders and boundaries to reach out to those at acute nutritional risk due to their illnesses. Each month MANNA delivers 65,000 meals to those who struggle with serious diseases. They feed, nurture, and support. And they do it all complete free of charge.

## MONTHLY MUNCHIE

Your religion is the story you tell about your life."  
– Fr. Andrew Greeley

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

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month (USA)

- Friday, Aug. 2 Prayer Around the Cross
- Sunday, Aug. 4 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 7 Gay Night at the Phillies at 7:05 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 11 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Aug. 15 The solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation);  
Liturgy Mass at 7:30 p.m. in Dignity office
- Sunday, Aug. 18 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Newsletter deadline for September newsletter.
- Sunday, Aug. 25 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m. This memorial mass will honor the life of Don Capille
- Wed., Aug. 28 Broad Street Ministry from 3-6pm
- Friday, Aug. 30 Games Night at Dignity 7-10pm

## September is National Preparedness Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month (U.S.; September 15 to October 15)

- Sunday, Sept. 1 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 2 Labor Day
- Thursday, Sept. 5 Camden Riversharks (more info in Sept. newsletter)
- Friday, Sept. 6 Prayer Around the Cross
- Sunday, Sept. 8 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.; 9/11 Remembrance  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Sept. 11 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11
- Sun., Sept. 15 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.;  
Investiture of Committee Co-coordinator  
Potluck at 4:30 p.m.  
Newsletter deadline for October newsletter
- Sunday, Sept. 22 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.  
Semi-annual Business Meeting  
(agenda in Sept. newsletter)
- Sunday, Sept. 29 Eucharistic Liturgy, 7 p.m.

## 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 September Newsletter is August 18, 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 – 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](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**