

# The Independence

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

## UNITY SUNDAY: A BIG SUCCESS

Dignity Philadelphia celebrated Christian Unity Sunday on January 20, 2019, and Rev. Rodger Broadley, from St. Luke and the Epiphany, gave the homily. The theme for 2019 was “Justice and only justice you shall pursue”. This homily was well received and he also concelebrated with Rev. Kathleen Schuck. This was a first time service with these two Presiders at Dignity, and based on the success, we have to do this again! Attached is a picture of the Presiders. (Thank you Larry S. for the picture.)



## PREPARE FOR THE RITE OF RECONCILIATION

*First Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2019*

### SCRIPTURE

Over the course of the week of Ash Wednesday read the following Scripture texts [as cited] in relation to Reconciliation as the History and Mystery of our Salvation:

God Creator has shown forth God’s mercy by reconciling the world to Godself in Christ and by making peace for all things on earth and in heaven by the blood of Christ on the cross. [Read 2 Corinthians 5:18]. The Jesus Christ became human and lived among us in order to free us from the slavery of sin [Read John 8:34-36] and to call us out of darkness into God’s wonderful light [Read 1 Peter 2:9]. Jesus therefore began his work on earth by preaching repentance and saying: “Repent and believe the Gospel” [Read Mark 1:15].

This invitation to repentance, which had often been sounded by the prophets, prepared people’s hearts for the coming of the kingdom of God through the voice of John the Baptist, who came “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” [Read Mark 1:4].

Jesus, however, not only exhorted people to repentance so that they would abandon their sins and turn wholeheartedly to God [Read Luke 15.] but welcoming sinners, he actually reconciled them with the Creator. [Read Luke 5:20 and 27-32]. Moreover, Jesus healed the sick in order to offer a sign of his power to forgive sin. [Read Matthew 9:2-8].

### THEOLOGY

Read the Documents of Vatican II- in particular from the following excerpt from:

**Constitution On The Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium  
Solemnly Promulgated By His Holiness Pope Paul Vi  
On December 4, 1963:**

Christ is always present in God’s Church, especially in our liturgical celebrations. Christ is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of God’s minister, “the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross”, but especially under the Eucharistic species. By Christ’s power he is present in the sacraments, so that when anyone baptizes [or forgives] it is really Christ himself who baptizes [or forgives]. Christ is present in God’s Word [the Scriptures], since it is Godself

*Prepare for the Rite of Reconciliation (continued)*

who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. Christ is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for Christ promised: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20).

### **EXPRESSIONS OF FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is the greatest gift that we can receive. The whole reason why Jesus came among us as a human and suffered and died for us on the cross was to give us the gift of reconciliation with God the Creator and with our brothers and sisters. God’s whole purpose was to heal the rift that had been caused by the sin of Adam. Jesus’ goal is for us to be brought into a perfect union with God the Creator and with each other. God wants us all to have that amazing experience of being forgiven—not just for a moment but for all eternity.

*During the week of Ash Wednesday spend time thinking about the mystery of God’s mercy and forgiveness, of forgiveness and mercy in ourselves, and forgiveness and mercy with our family, friends and neighbors.*

### **PRAYER**

#### ***A Prayer to the Holy Spirit (by Cardinal Mercier)***

*“I am going to reveal to you the secret of sanctity and happiness. Every day for five minutes control your imagination and close your eyes to all the noises of the world in order to enter into yourself. Then, in the sanctuary of your baptized soul (which is the temple of the Holy Spirit) speak to that Divine Spirit, saying:*

*O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will.*

*If you do this, your life will flow along happily, serenely, and full of consolation, even in the midst of trials.*

*Grace will be proportioned to the trial, giving you the strength to carry it and you will arrive at the Gate of Paradise, laden with merit. This submission to the Holy Spirit is the secret of sanctity.”*

## **EASTER VIGIL LITURGY SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019 6:00 PM**

*by Michael J. Rocks, President*

In 2018, Dignity Philadelphia changed the time of the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Instead of beginning at about 10 pm, the Liturgy now starts at 6 pm. The change was made to so that the congregation would not have to be returning home at such a late hour.

The celebration of the Easter Vigil is the central and holiest liturgy of the entire year. The celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core belief of Christianity. This year the Chapter is reaching out to all of our members to encourage them to attend the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

The entire liturgy takes only about 1 ½ hours at most. The liturgy begins in darkness with the blessing of the New Fire, a sign of Light from Darkness. Then the Pascal Candle is prepared and blessed. The congregation is able to see the traditional preparation and blessing of the Pascal Candle and everyone lights their candle from the Pascal Candle. Then the congregation processes to the Altar. Dignity uses the minimum number of readings [as recommended by Pope Francis] so that the service moves more quickly. Finally the lights are turned on the Glory to God is sung while the bells are rung. By the way that is the only time you hear bells at the Dignity Mass. Father Larry Nardoizzi presided at the Vigil in 2018 and he will be presiding again. Father Larry also introduced some new customs to the liturgy and the celebration is very reverent and inspiring.

The rest of the Mass continues after the Gospel. Baptismal Vows are renewed and the congregation is sprinkled with the Easter Water which has just been blessed. The rest of the Mass goes on as usual and the final dismissal is sung in the traditional way with the extra Alleluias.

In more recent years the Vigil has had fewer and fewer members in attendance. This year the leadership of the Dignity Philadelphia Chapter is asking you to join us that night in the most holy celebration of the Mass in the entire year. It is truly a myth that the Vigil “takes too long”. The Vigil Mass is only about 20 to 25 minutes longer than the regular Sunday Mass. Help us restore the Easter Vigil Mass as the central liturgical celebration of the year. Come to the Easter Vigil at Saint Luke and The Epiphany on **Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Lent is coming up, and while Dignity Philadelphia does not distribute ashes, you may want to consider St. John's on 13<sup>th</sup> St. to get your ashes on **March 6, 2019**. For your information, this church distributes ashes on an hourly basis – so there are no excuses for not getting a BIG cross on your forehead and blatantly – but in a quiet way – announcing your faith to everyone who sees you! And yes, please correct them when they mention Xerox toner!

Birthday Sundays are scheduled for March 17 (maybe we will get a green cake?). Do come to church service and reward yourself with cake later.



*A heart-felt thank to Jimmy Calnan for always bringing the cakes. And thank you also to Louis for taking the birthday pictures.*



*Two-fifths of this group does not appear to be happy celebrants but did pose for the picture, while the other three-fifths are a pretty happy group! Happy birthday to all – no matter your age. Left to right are Harold, Michael L., Kathy, Robert and Steven.*

Broad Street Ministry is back on schedule, and Dignity members are desperately needed for **March 6** (yes, Ash Wednesday) and **April 3, 2019**. There are not enough Dignity volunteers and we find ourselves having to recruit “friends of” Dignity members! Please consider helping out, even if just one time during a quarter.

March 24, 2019, we will be having a Business Meeting, and everyone is always welcome to come. This meeting will be after our Sunday Liturgy. This is the perfect opportunity to question the Board on actions taken, changes you want to see, ask about the budget, who determines the 50/50 recipients, why is the attendance

so low, what are we doing about recruitment, can we get some new music, etc. This forum allows members to find out what is happening in our community, ask questions and find out what the next couple of months will bring. And the anniversary celebration is coming up in May. Do you have any ideas on how we should celebrate? Do come to this meeting and let us hear from you. As mentioned earlier, this is your community. The agenda is as follows:

## DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA AGENDA – SEMIANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

Opening Prayer

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from September 23, 2018

### Old Business

1. Status on “Our Father” prayer
2. Implementation of Goals – The Future of Dignity/Philadelphia

### New Business

1. Elections Committee
2. 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Potluck and Mass on Sunday, May 19

### Board of Directors Reports

Director/President

Director/Membership

Director/Record Keeping

Director/Finances - report since last semiannual business meeting on 09-23-18

Director/At Large

### Service Groups Reports

Communications

Liturgy

### Working Groups Reports

Broad Street Ministry - monthly

Birthday Cakes – monthly

Audit Committee (9/1/17 – 8/31/18) – recap by Mike Viola and Rob Baker

Dim Sum (2/16/19) – recap by Henry Chou

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

## MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met January 6 and February 3, 2019, and the following motions came out of these two meetings:

**Motion 19-01-01** made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P raise the Presider stipend from \$50 to \$75 per liturgy. Passed unanimously

**Motion 19-02-01** made by Erin McMenamain; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the March 50/50 be donated to Mercy Hospice. Passed unanimously

**Motion 19-02-02** made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Erin McMenamain. Be it moved that D/P appoint an Election Committee consisting of Jimmy Calnan and Dolores Vera. Passed unanimously

**50/50 for March** – March is National Women’s History and the recipient is our next door neighbor. Mercy Hospice is a community grounded in faith and service, where women and children without permanent housing can find opportunities for a new beginning. They strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and support in which individuals and families can heal and grow in their ability to lead fulfilling, self-sufficient lives.



*(Editor’s note 1: As many of you know, they are located right next door to St. Luke’s and in the summertime we can hear the children outside playing. They have been in existence for over 35 years. As a result in the 1970s deinstitutionalization of patients from psychiatric hospitals in the area, many women found themselves homeless on the streets. Another factor was the increasing incidence of drug use and drug addiction. The “bag ladies” phenomenon became an increasingly common sight in various parts of the city.)*

*(Editor’s note 2: If you noticed in the motions, we will have two Board of Directors positions that will become available this summer. What do you think? Are you mildly interested? Talk to one of the present Board members, get some additional information, as well as your questions answered and consider running for a position. I cannot think of a better way to serve our community!)*

## GRACIAS, THANK YOU, GRAZIE, DANKE, תודה

We always want to call someone and say “thank you” and due to our busy schedules, we don’t get around to it. So, I want to thank some people who should be thanked, and more often, because of the work they do.

Norm Simmons – how wonderful to have you as our newest Presider! Thank you for agreeing to serve in this capacity;

Roger Broadley – thank you so much for participating in our Christian Unity Sunday, and for a great homily (we need to invite you more often!);

Mary Byers – how very thoughtful of you to cater our social on Sunday, January 27; it was such a pleasure hearing people talk about Joe, and how he enhanced our lives, AND followed with a great eating feast! Thank you for thinking of us.

## AND THANK YOU FOR OUR MEMBERS WHO DO SO MUCH WEEK AFTER WEEK:

Jimmy Calnan – if it weren’t for you, we wouldn’t have cake! Thank you for ordering and picking up a cake every month; and thank you for taking care of our theater/entertaining needs whenever you think something will interest the community;

Louis G. and Leo C. – week after week you both set up our social table – what would the Chapter do without you guys? There is always something good for everyone at the table.

Larry Sutter – while you are no longer a sacristan, we need to thank you for all the work you did in setting up the altar AND doing the linens; and

Henry Chau – you always remind us of the Lunar New Year and make it possible for all of us to partake of this Chinese feast, and for keeping us current of your singing events!

**When you get a chance, please let these members know we appreciate their work.**

## Double Munchie

“What was written about us was written without us.”

– Sr. Joan Chittister

**Happy National Women’s History Month**

“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow that you forget the joy of Christ Risen.”

– Mother Teresa

**Happy Easter**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH AND APRIL 2019

(weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

## March is National Women's History Month

- Sun., March 10 Mass at 7 pm, 1st Sunday in Lent – Rite of Reconciliation
- Sun., March 17 Mass at 7 pm, 2nd Sunday in Lent (St. Patrick's Day)  
Birthday Cake Sunday  
Rosary Group, 6 pm
- Tues., March 19 St. Joseph's Day
- Sun., March 24 Mass at 7 pm, 3rd Sunday in Lent  
Semi-Annual Business Meeting
- Sun., March 31 Mass at 7 pm, 4th Sunday in Lent

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- Wed., April 3 Broad Street Ministry, 10:30 am  
Sign up and be a volunteer
- Sun., April 7 Mass at 7 pm, 5th Sunday in Lent  
Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Sun., April 14 Mass at 7 pm, Palm Sunday  
Liturgy Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm
- Sat., April 20 Easter Vigil, 6 pm
- Sun., April 21 Easter Sunday – no Mass at Dignity
- Sun., April 28 Mass at 7 pm  
Rosary Group, 6 pm  
Bring Friends and Family to Dignity

## 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 May/June 2019 newsletter is April 17, 2019**

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)
- 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



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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.*

**Please enclose your 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](http://razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia)

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

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