



# The Independence

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

## JIM CLAY RECEIVES 4TH DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN SEPTEMBER 2017

By Michael J. Rocks, President

The Chapter President presented the Dignity Philadelphia President's Lifetime Achievement Award to Jim Clay after Sunday Mass on the evening of the 19th Annual Clyde Sams Potluck Supper on September 17, 2017. Jim was the fourth recipient of this award which was founded in 2013 by then President Joanne Collins as a way of recognizing long time Dignity members who have continued to serve the Chapter over the course of many years. (Dignity Philadelphia will celebrate the 45th Anniversary in 2018.)



Jim was well deserving of this award. He has served as a leader of the Liturgy Committee for nearly 42 years. Jim has been the scheduler and coordinator of the Priest Presiders for Eucharistic Liturgies for over 35 years. Presently Jim has been the "angel" who puts up the Dignity Banner and the Memorial Panels each Sunday; wheels out the "sandwich board" in the front of Saint Luke's on Sunday evenings; most notably he chooses and writes the Weekly Munchies that are on the whiteboard as you enter Saint Luke's on Sunday evenings, and the Newsletter Munchies as well.

Jim is well known in the Chapter for several things including his phone calls, his flashy wardrobe, his unique accessories and his famous sayings such as "Did you miss me?" "Do you want to address your brother or \*\*\*\*\*". He makes numerous phone calls to members regarding the Eucharistic Liturgies and you can count on his greeting "Happy Monday, (Tuesday, etc.) This is your brother James calling....." In recent years, Jim himself admits that he has been having slight memory issues, so sometimes these days you might even expect the same call twice. In any case, Jim brings what is always bright and light in his love to the members and in his total dedication to the work of Dignity Philadelphia.

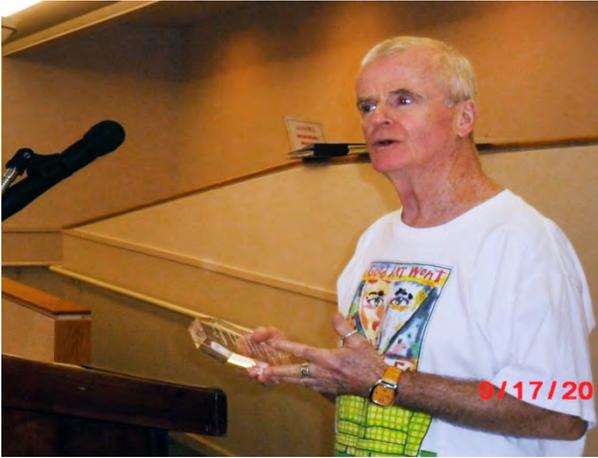
As famous as Jim is for the clipboard that he carries at all times filled with notes; for his evening suppers in the Dignity office that he packs himself due to his "declining income"; and more recently his solar powered dancing figures he sets up on his work table/dinner table in the Dignity Office at Saint Luke's---- he is equally infamous for his various personal accessories that he wears for particular occasions. Most of his accessories either light up, blink, make noises or are just plain silly, yet he shows them off faithfully and with joy to the amazed members. Jim is part of the fabric of Dignity Philadelphia and he is loved and admired by ALL of our members because of his humble, dependable and joyful lifetime of service to Dignity Philadelphia.

As President and personal friend, I chose Jim for the Lifetime Achievement Award this year because of his unwavering dedication to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, for his example of holiness in his humble and faithful devotion to God, the Holy Trinity, to Mary and to the universal and the Dignity saints in heaven. Jim lives his Catholic life by his example and serves the Catholic Church with humility. For many, many years I have often found many of my own ways to cope with the pressures of continuing to serve the Chapter as a leader, by looking at Jim Clay and by my own admiration of his precious character, his loving personality, his unwavering faithfulness

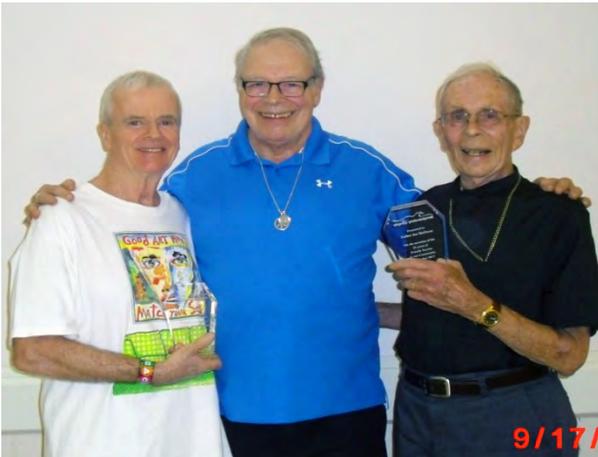
*continued on next page*

*continued from last page*

and dedication to God, and his most holy and humble soul. Brother James-- may God bless you and keep you now and forever. We love you soooooooooo much!



Jim Clay thanking the President for the award.



Jim Clay, Michael Rocks and Father McOscar showing off their awards (Father McOscar received a special award for 25 years of service to Dignity Philadelphia).

## **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DIGNITY BRUNCH THANK YOU DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA**

Once again, Dignity members and friends showed up Saturday, Oct. 21 to celebrate another year of being together, and eating together. Compliments were flying back and forth regarding the great food and the excellent service. This was probably one of the better Brunches we have had in years. After all the accounting was done, the Liturgy Service Group cleared \$500 for its Sunday liturgies! The members of the Liturgy Service Group wish to thank the community



and members - including family members and friends - for a very successful event. Let's do it again next year!

October was an extremely busy month for Dignity members. On October 8th, we celebrated Outfest in the neighborhood, had a productive retreat on Saturday 13th, attended the successful brunch mentioned earlier and planned Dignity's first baby shower. The following pictures are just a sampling of the great participation at these events.

### **Brunch – October 21 at Knock**



Robert, Kevin, Ed, Michael L. and Joe C.



Jim Clay, Barbara and Joe McOscar



Kathy and Tommy – friends of Michael Rocks and supporters of Dignity Philadelphia

*continued on next page*

continued from last page



Pat, Richard and Michael F - always a joy to see this group!



Ben and Rick – one of Dignity’s happy couples.



Richie and Jimmy N. with Dignity President Michael Rocks.

**And we went from one happy event to another –  
Dignity’s 1st Baby Shower, October 22, 2017**



Rae Michelle at 4 days old!



Proud mothers B.J. and Erin admiring their baby’s first rainbow blanket, knitted by Mike Viola.



Several generations of Dignity members. Thank you Joe and Mary for enhancing our celebration.

Dignity welcomed Michelle Ray on Oct. 22, 2017. While we had planned the baby shower, supposedly 2 weeks prior to her arrival, she surprised us all – including her

*continued on next page*

*continued from last page*

family. At 4 days old, she slept thru our celebration, which included a variety of gifts and more food! Congrats to B.J. and Erin! Since her birth, they have brought their child to church and all the Dignity Presiders have had the opportunity to bless her. She is truly a blessed child in so many ways.

## **AND NOVEMBER STARTED OUT JUST AS BUSY...**



Dignity Philadelphia celebrated the lives of people we lost this past year with an altar on November 5, 2017 in commemoration with All Souls Month and Day of the Dead.



And we celebrated Thanksgiving Day on November 19, 2017

## **MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTIONS**

The monthly meetings of the Board of Directors were held October 1 and November 5, 2017. The following motions were made during these meetings:

**Motion 17-10-01:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the November 2017 50/50 be donated to Calcutta House. Approved unanimously

**Motion 17-11-01:** Made by Michael Rocks; seconded by Jimmy Calnan. Be it moved that the Director/President nominate a Working Group for the 45th Anniversary with co-chairs Larry Sutter and David Kalinowski and members Michael Rocks and Kevin Davies. Approved unanimously

**Motion 17-11-02:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamain. Be it moved that the December 2017 50/50 be donated to Career Wardrobe. Approved unanimously

**Motion 17-11-03:** Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Working Group for Calcutta House consist of Jimmy Calnan, Rob Baker and Erin McMenamain and others. Approved unanimously

### **50/50 for November is Calcutta**

**House.** The mission of Calcutta House is to provide housing and highly supportive health and human services for people living with and dying of HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley region. This mission is based on the premise that housing is the foundation for the most effective and compassionate treatment, management and prevention of the disease. Dignity Philadelphia has a 23 years relationship with this non-profit. (See Upcoming Events for Holiday Party.)



**50/50 for December is Career Wardrobe.** The mission of this organization is to empower women to work. They do this by providing the professional clothing and professional development opportunities that instill self-confidence.

## **Double Munchie!**

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

John 1:14

## **Merry Christmas**

“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Happy MKL Day of Service**

## UPCOMING EVENTS – GET YOUR CALENDARS READY!

**Broad Street Ministry** – Join us for this very worthwhile volunteer opportunity. We will be serving guests on January 3, February 7 and March 7, 2018. And afterward, we treat ourselves to pizza and soft drinks! If you are interested, please see Jimmy Calnan to sign up.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception** will be celebrated on December 8th at 7:30 pm in the Dignity office. (In Catholic school, we called this the Feast of Spontaneous Combustion.)

**Birthday Sundays** – everyone gets cake when 1, 2, 3 or more of our members are celebrating a birthday. We will celebrate December birthdays on Sunday 17th, and January birthdays on the 14th of the new month in the New Year! Join us in wishing the October and November celebrants a happy month, happy year and many more!



October Birthday guy is Michael.



Celebrating birthdays in November are Michelle, Barbara and Dick O'Malley.

## AND SPEAKING OF CAKE AND CELEBRATIONS, JOIN US AT CALCUTTA HOUSE!

This year, Dignity Philadelphia is planning a BIG, BIG Holiday Party at Calcutta House on Monday, December 18th at 7 p.m. We will supply the gifts – always fabulously wrapped – the cake, ice cream and soft drinks. And Calcutta House residents supply the love! OK, we supply love too, but the residents remind us that Christmas is about giving to others, and expecting nothing in return. Our mission is to make them happy and we supply the happy via food and gifts! And the entertainment, along with the singing is always provided by Father Ron – and the residents always look forward to his being there. It wouldn't be a holiday party without him! Join Dignity Philadelphia in this beautiful tradition which we have been doing for close to 25 years. See Jimmy Calnan for gift tags, if you need a ride or you just want to contribute money – all are welcome to participate.



## OH NO! CHRISTMAS ALREADY?

We all have checked our calendars, made Christmas lists, decorated the house and have done all our baking. And you may be wondering about Christmas Mass since Christmas is on a Monday, so what happens to our Sunday Liturgy???? This year, the Liturgy Service Group is moving the Mass to an earlier time. We will have Mass on Sunday, December 24 – and this will be the Christmas Eve Vigil at 6 pm. And we will also have our Christmas Social – so bring in something great for our Christmas Table. We are hoping for a bigger crowd due to the time change, so please invite your friends and relatives. Come celebrate with us! And on Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day – there will be NO MASS.

So what happens New Year's Eve, you ask? Sunday, December 31, we will have our usual Sunday Mass at 7pm. Please do not start drinking until AFTER service! And next day, enjoy the Mummers Parade down Board Street. Some traditions we don't temper with!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018

## December is Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa all in one month!

- Sun., Dec. 10    Mass at 7 pm – 2nd Sunday of Advent  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm
- Tues., Dec. 12    Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sun., Dec. 17    Mass at 7 pm – 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Rosary Group Meets at 6 pm  
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Mon., Dec. 18    Calcutta House Christmas Party  
(see article in newsletter)
- Sun., Dec. 24    Christmas Eve Vigil at 6 pm – social to follow
- Mon., Dec. 25    No Mass
- Sun., Dec. 31    Mass at 7 pm – Holy Family Sun.

## January is Mental Wellness Month

- Mon., Jan. 1    New Year's Day
- Wed., Jan. 3    Broad Street Ministry, from 3-5:30 pm
- Sun., Jan. 7    Mass at 7 pm  
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm
- Sun., Jan. 14    Mass at 7pm – Commemoration of MLK Day  
Liturgy Service Group Meeting at 4:30 pm  
Birthday Cake Sunday
- Mon., Jan. 15    MLK Day of Service
- Sun., Jan. 21    Mass at 7 pm – Mass of Christian  
Unity Sunday  
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 pm
- Sun., Jan. 28    Mass at 7 pm

## P R A Y E R   I N T E N T I O N S



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 February/March 2018 newsletter is January 20, 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/Rev. Ron Hoskins** – Chaplains



*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**

**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)*