

OCTOBER 2011



# The Independence

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

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## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Joanne R. Collins

I can't believe that summer is over. Well it's time to get down to business. Dignity needs you. We have three committees that are vacant: The Education Committee, the Community Life Committee, and Communications Committee. The Education Committee is responsible for promoting the personal growth, knowledge, skills and interest of our members and the LGBT community. Community Life Committee is responsible for fostering the communal and spiritual life of Dignity. It includes organizing the retreat and socials and organizes discussions on spiritual and ethical topics. The Communications Committee is responsible for putting out The Independence which is our monthly newsletter by email or mail. They help collect articles and other news from our members and the community. They also help coordinate advertising and maintain our website. Anyone interested can join the Liturgy Committee, which is responsible for the weekly and special liturgies of Dignity, which includes liturgical planning of the Eucharistic ministers, lectors, singers, and musicians. The Steering Committee will help anyone interested to get the committee together. Each committee meets once a month and then the chairperson will report at the monthly Steering Committee. All you need is about a couple hours a month. So please think about getting involved because we came up with a lot of good stuff at the brainstorming community meeting and now we need help to make it all happen. Remember YOU make Dignity what it is.

## JOIN DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA FOR LITURGY SERVICE AND BRUNCH

by Jim Clay, Liturgy Committee Co-Coordinator

The Community of St. Mary Magdalene is where Eileen DiFranco, a Roman Catholic Womanpriest, who is one of our Presiders, presides at Mass on Sunday mornings.

Dignity Philadelphia is planning a visit to celebrate Mass with this community on November 6, 2011 at 9 a.m. A car pool is being planned to leave St. Luke's at 8:10 a.m., or you could meet us there for this service. We will provide directions. This community celebrates Mass at

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church  
600 Burmount Rd.  
Drexel Hill, PA

Perhaps we might also want to do brunch afterwards. If you are interested in attending this service, please see Dolores Vera or yours truly.

Our 7 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Luke's will be celebrated as usual.

## DIGNITY BRUNCH - OCTOBER 23

by Dick O'Malley, Liturgy Committee Co-Coordinator

Dignity/ Philadelphia will be holding its annual Brunch on **Sunday, October 23, 1 pm**, at Tavern-on-Camac (TOC), 243 S. Camac Street 19107. Tickets are \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members. Proceeds from the brunch will help Dignity meet the expenses of its Sunday liturgies. You will need to get your tickets early, from a member of the Liturgy Committee, since there is a limit of 32 people.



The brunch will feature a cornucopia of scrambled eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, toast & jam, sweets & coffee. There will also be a cash bar. We will be meeting downstairs in the Terra restaurant. For those not familiar with TOC, it is located on Camac Street, located between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and between Spruce and Locust Streets.

Please make every effort to attend the brunch that will present an opportunity to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. Enjoy good company and good food. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 23 at 1 p.m.** For your information, the Tavern's web sites are: [www.tavernoncamac.com](http://www.tavernoncamac.com) or [www.terrapa.com](http://www.terrapa.com) (phone 215-545-0900).

# STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

by *Kevin Davies*

Later this month everyone will receive a mailing concerning Dignity/Philadelphia's Stewardship Program. Dignity/Philadelphia has been an active part of the community for over 35 years due to our members' generosity in time, talent and treasures. Dignity/Philadelphia has been a Roman Catholic presence providing the local LGBTQ community and our family, friends and allies with Eucharistic Liturgies, Retreats, Chaplain Services, Social Activities and Charitable Support. The Stewardship Program gives you an opportunity to easily make your Sunday contributions. Dignity/Philadelphia is a tax exempt charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible. You can make your donation on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. These donations help to ensure Dignity/Philadelphia of guaranteed income throughout the year to support the LGBTQ community and our friends and allies. Your stewardship helps meet our expenses and ensure the future of our organization. Please consider joining the Stewardship Program. Thank you.

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT DIGNITY,

by *Dolores Vera*

You are invited to either bring your pet, or a picture of your pet, to this special Sunday liturgy in honor of St. Francis of Assisi - the patron saint of animals. Given the time of our service, the logistics involved in bringing a pet to St. Luke's, your pet's weight, age and disposition, or your pet's failure to finish Obedient School, we would strongly encourage Dignity members to bring a picture(s) of their companions, which can then be blessed by proxy. And I know for a fact that if we have a pet, we all have millions of pictures of said pet. I know I have a special folder entitled, "Noel Cohen's Folder." And I also know that he could use a blessing! Several years ago when we did this blessing at Dignity, 2 dogs were brought in and "stole the show" - it was very distracting. Again, if your pet is contained and not prone to singing when music is provided, then do bring him/her in, and show off the little guy or guys! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, and we can talk about picture vs. attendance. I can be reached on 215/476-8578.

# DIGNITY THROUGH THE YEARS

by *Jimmy Calnan*

When Dignity USA was preparing to celebrate its 25th Anniversary at a bi-annual convention, chapters were invited to prepare a book of their history for display. From this came the history books that we keep on file in the office. As a lead in to the chapter's 40th Anniversary in 2013, we are going to reprint in each monthly newsletter one year's fact sheet. 1973 was reported in May, 1974 in June, 1975 in July, 1976 in August and 1977 in September.

# 1978

In 1978 the Steering Committee was reorganized by the new President, Ann B., into four officers and four committees - Inreach, Outreach, Minorities (in later years to become the Committee for Women's Concerns) and Spirituality. Last names began appearing on a regular basis in the newsletter; our chapter continued the tradition of setting up an information booth at the Super Sunday festival and Dignity members were proud to count chaplains serving the gay/lesbian community. Misselettes were used in place of song sheets (and not very well received) and the Dignity Service Awards became annual events. In March 1978, Dignity members put on a production of Pinter's "The Collection" at Trinity Memorial Hall to a very appreciative audience of members and friends. Later in the year the chapter purchased 100 tickets to the show "Platinum" at the Shubert Theatre. An annual retreat was held on the grounds of Villanova University and was attended by twenty-five people.

During the year, Ann and Al R. had sent a questionnaire to Dignity and in October the results - not too controversial - showed that the typical chapter attendee was a single, gay, white male (surprise!) in his late twenties whose primary contact with our group was the weekly liturgy. Most people, men and women, regarded Dignity/Philadelphia as a "gay parish."

One of the main events of the year was a co-sponsored event with Daniel Berrigan speaking on "Religion and Gay Civil Rights" at the University of Pennsylvania. Over 250 people, many from the chapter attended the talk. On the Dignity national level, Walter Kay, was elected President at the Chicago convention, resigned from office and was replaced by International Secretary Carla Kaesbauer. Also, many Dignity chapters, including our own, sent representatives to the huge ERA March on Washington.

## -EDITOR NEEDED-

Dignity Philadelphia is in need of an editor for The Independence newsletter. Once the material is typed, Creative Characters does the rest of the work. If needed, someone on your committee will ensure that it is folded, sealed, stamped, and mailed out to circa 50 members. Everyone else gets an electronic copy.

As editor, you report news/events, motions, 50/50 recipients and calendar of events; the Steering Committee is extremely helpful in suggesting what gets reported. Members also submit pictures for some of the events - and these get plugged into the articles. This volunteer activity takes about 5-8 hours a month. As editor of the newsletter, you will get a vote as a Steering Committee member. You help to move the chapter forward by contributing and acting on major decisions proposed by the Steering Committee and members of the chapter. This representation on the Steering Committee requires 2 hours a month - the 1st Sunday of the month.

If you are interested or have questions, please call me - Dolores - on 215-476-8578. I will write step-by-step instructions on what is required, and who the Communications Committee members are.

Please consider helping out Dignity Philadelphia by volunteering to serve as editor and contributing to the Steering Committee.

## TIDBITS AND PIECES:

- Dignity/Philadelphia membership is currently 154 members.
- If a member of the chapter needs to take advantage of the Emergency Community Fund, please see the President or one of the coordinators of the Community Life Committee.
- Parking is available next to the church. Please see a member of the Steering Committee for a special placard.
- Limited funds in the Dan Estes and Michael Durkin funds for convention participation and attendance. The Estes Fund is for people with HIV/AIDS and the Durkin fund is for women. Please see a member of the Steering Committee to determine if you are eligible to help defray a part of the expenses to attend the convention. Donations to these two funds are always accepted.
- D/P is advertising in QueerTimes Weekly for seven weeks. Check us out at <http://www.QUEERTimes.net/09.16.11.html>  
Thanks to Tony L. for formatting the ad.

## ARCHDIOCESE/MALVERN RETREAT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

*by Alice Foley*

The Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities is coordinating a retreat to be held from October 11 until 13. This is for adults with disabilities and those who have been unemployed for quite some time. This retreat will be held at the Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA 19355. Any person interested may pay their own "free will offering" or "nothing". To request a registration form call Mr. Peter Schumacher at 215-412-4382. Thanks.

## NEWS FROM WOC

*by Alice Foley*

The South Eastern Chapter of Women's Ordination Conference is coordinating a gathering with Sister Teresa Kane in late October. As former leader of the Association of Religious Sisters, this sister spoke to a former Pope saying "Remember the Women." So SEPA WOC is presenting their Mary Magdalene Award for her overall lifetime of service. For more information see [sepa.woc.org](http://sepa.woc.org) or Alice Foley who will soon have the exact date and place.

## MONTHLY MUNCHIE

### HAPPY OUTFEST!

All buried emotions are buried alive.

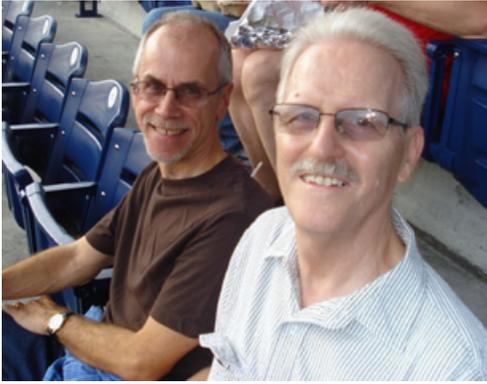
### HAPPY ALL HALLOWS EVE

## DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA BUDGET 2011-2012

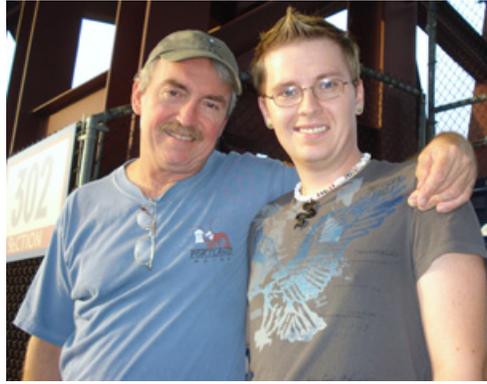
<b>Income</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
Sunday Contributions	\$ 8,700.00
Christmas/Easter Appeal	\$ 2,000.00
Donations	\$ 3,300.00
Stewardship	\$ 5,400.00
Fund Raising	\$ 2,500.00
Membership Dues	\$ 2,300.00
Donations for Masses	\$ 500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,700.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Dollars</b>
Advertising	\$ 3,750.00
Awards / Dues	\$ 450.00
Annual Subscriptions	\$ 300.00
Events	\$ 400.00
Hospitality	\$ 600.00
Insurance	\$ 600.00
Keyboardist	\$ 1,200.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 500.00
Newsletter	\$ 1,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 800.00
Postage	\$ 750.00
Presidential Discretionary Fund	\$ 600.00
Printing	\$ 400.00
Rent – Church	\$ 6,240.00
Rent – Office	\$ 4,310.00
Stipend/travel for homilist/preside	\$ 600.00
Student Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Telephone	\$ 400.00
Retreats	\$ 400.00
Fund Raising expenses	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,700.00</b>

# D/P ATTENDS GAY NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES ON AUGUST 26



*Bob and Bill*



*Brandon (r) and Friend*



*David (r) and Friend*



*Shot from across the stadium*



*Jimmy and Rob*



*Michael and Friend*



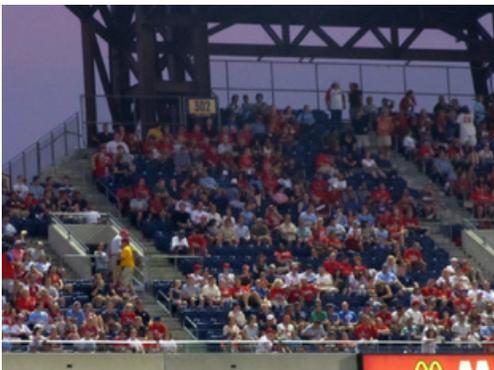
*Melissa, Phillies fan, Barb, Anjeanette and Suzanne*



*Suzanne and Anjeanette*



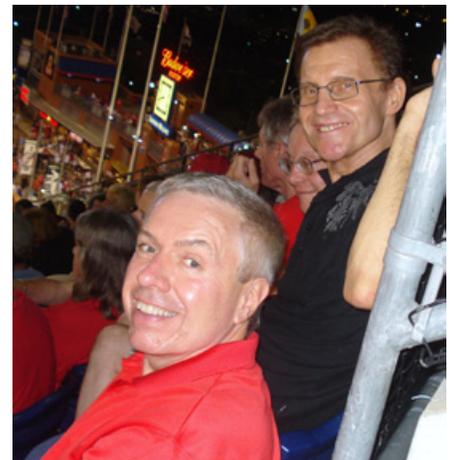
*David, Dick and other Phillies Fans*



*Another shot from across the stadium*



*The Phanatic*



*Kevin and Steven*

## **50/50 FOR OCTOBER – WILLIAM WAY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ELDER SERVICES**

Taken from the William Way  
Community Center website are the  
Senior Programs offered:



### **CONNECTING GENERATIONS (FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM)**

This program fosters connections between LGBT people across generations and provides opportunities for meaningful, mentoring interactions for younger and older LGBT people. Participants get together at least twice a month for friendly conversation, trips to local attractions, or any number of activities that may interest both participants.

If you would like to become a friendly visitor, know a senior, or are a senior who would benefit from this program please contact Ed Miler. 215-732-2220 [emiller@waygay.org](mailto:emiller@waygay.org)

### **MORNINGS OUT (SENIOR MEN'S SOCIAL)**

This is a free weekly get-together for senior gay men. The program offers social and educational opportunities every Tuesday morning at the Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light refreshments are served and there is no need for a reservation. There are topics of the day, informal discussion, guest speakers and field trips to restaurants and points of interests around the area. Free. If you would like more information please contact Ed Miller at 215-732-2220 or [emiller@waygay.org](mailto:emiller@waygay.org)

### **WOMEN'S WEDNESDAYS (SENIOR WOMEN'S SOCIAL)**

This free monthly get-together for lesbian seniors and their friends meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30 PM. to 7:30PM The program offers an opportunity for senior woman to network and forge friendships. Light refreshments are served and no need for a reservation. Women participate to discuss topical issues, share life experiences, and to enjoy one another's company. If you would like more information please contact Ed Miller 215-732-2220 [emiller@waygay.org](mailto:emiller@waygay.org)

#### **Silver Foxes (Senior Social for Women and Men)**

A monthly get-together for gay men and lesbians age fifty and over that meets the 4th Sunday of the month from 3pm-5pm at the Center. Activities for Silver Foxes include guest speakers, films, and casual discussions in the relaxed social atmosphere of the Philadelphia Room at the Center. Silver Foxes is free and includes refreshments.

## **LGBT AGE 50+ RAP SESSION**

Thursdays, 1-2pm This is a unique forum where people can discuss their feelings and experiences related to being LGBT and age 50 + in a casual, open and nonjudgmental environment. This new outlet has been created by and for older adults. Stop in to share what's on your mind and to just listen to what others have to say.

### **DIGNITY/PHILADELPHIA REVISED MEMBERSHIP FORM BEGAN JANUARY 1, 2011 OCTOBER RENEWALS – PLEASE CONSIDER DIGNITY/USA MEMBERSHIP**

The Steering Committee has made a commitment to have a closer relationship with DignityUSA and they need your help. Please, when renewing your Dignity/Philadelphia membership also join DignityUSA. Please visit the DignityUSA website (<http://www.dignityusa.org/>) to see all the work DignityUSA does for us.

Over the years Dignity/Philadelphia has been one of the largest chapters in DignityUSA and we need to reclaim that position.

What does it mean to be a member of DignityUSA? By being a member of DignityUSA, you make a commitment to a national, if not international, organization and become a voice for GLBT Catholics and our friends. The media works with, and knows, DignityUSA and reaches out to the national office when a counterbalance viewpoint is sought.

Please speak with a member of the Steering Committee if you would like more information.

TOGETHER, our Voices are heard – locally, nationally and internationally! Let yours be heard – join both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA.

### **MOTIONS FROM THE SEPTEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Motion 11-09-01** made by Jimmy Calnan and seconded by Linda Barrett. Be it moved that the proposed Budget 2011-2012 be approved as submitted. Passed unanimously

**Motion 11-09-02:** Be it moved that the October 2011 50/50 be designated to the William Way Community Center for elder services. Passed unanimously

**Motion 11-09-03:** Be it moved that an Ad Hoc Retreat Committee be formed consisting of Joanne Collins, Linda Barrett, Dick O'Malley and Kevin Davies to coordinate the Nov. 5 day retreat. Other members to be appointed. Passed unanimously

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

## October is LGBT History Month, Disability Awareness Month and National Pro Bono Month

- Sunday, Oct 2 Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm with Blessing of the Animals**
- Tuesday, Oct 4 St. Francis of Assisi
- Friday, Oct 7 Prayer Around The Cross at 7pm
- Sunday, Oct 9 Outfest – Coming Out Day Block Party at 12pm  
Visit the Dignity Table  
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm – Solidarity Sunday and Matthew Shepard 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**
- Monday, Oct 10 Columbus Day
- Tuesday, Oct 11 National Coming Out Day
- Wed, Oct 12 Matthew Shepard 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Sunday, Oct 16 AIDS Walk – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm – Healing Mass**
- Sunday, Oct 23 TOC Brunch at 1:00pm – see Jim Clay for tickets  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Sunday, Oct 30 **Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Monday, Oct 31 Halloween

## November is All Souls Month

- Tuesday, Nov 1 Mass for All Saints Day at 7:30pm
- Wed, Nov 2 All Souls Day – NO MASS
- Friday, Nov 4 Prayer Around The Cross at 7pm
- Sunday, Nov 6 Visit to Eileen DiFranco's church (see article)  
Steering Committee Meeting at 4:30pm  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Friday, Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Sunday, Nov 13 Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30pm  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Sunday, Nov 20 Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at 4:30pm  
**Eucharistic Liturgy at 7pm**
- Wed, Nov 23 Mass for Eve of Thanksgiving Day at 7:30pm
- Thur, Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day
- Sunday, Nov 27 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
World AIDS Day Mass at 7pm
- Monday, Nov 28 Visit Calcutta House for gift requests



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please sign our Prayer Intentions book if you have anyone you would like the community to remember in our prayers.

**The deadline for submission of articles for the November newsletter is October 16, 2011.**

### 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
- Vacant – Communications Co-coordinator
- 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**