

MARCH/APRIL 2020

The Independence

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

Facebook: Dignity Philadelphia
Twitter: @DignityPhila
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DignityPhila@aol.com

A Few Thoughts from Dignity Philadelphia President Michael J. Rocks

Our community is delighted that Kate and Kaeden are now the editors of *The Independence*. They are a gift to our community. Both have great spirits and they have become part of the fabric of Dignity Philadelphia since they found our community. They found us and we are happy that they did. We love you Kate and Kaeden!

The Archbishop has responded to our first letter to him. We asked to begin a dialog with him as recommended in Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation - "Amoris Laetitia"/"The Joy of Love." You should all read at least Chapter 8 of the document. Google AMORIS LAETITIA and you will find multiple free copies on the Internet - [or click here to access the Amoris Laetitia](#). The Holy Father makes pastoral recommendations in this prophetic document that open a new vision for the pastoral and spiritual care and inclusion of LGBT, Divorced and remarried, and cohabiting Roman Catholics. The Archbishop made it clear that he cannot change or compromise Church teaching, but our goal is to have a pastoral and spiritual conversation with the Catholic leadership in Philadelphia. I wrote to the Archbishop and said that we are all very familiar with Church teaching and that we are not interested in trying to change "teachings" - we are interested in creating a new vision of pastoral and spiritual care of LGBT Roman Catholics in the Philadelphia area. I plan to arrange a date and time for a meeting when the Coronavirus pandemic allows for persons of my age to come out of the house to visit.

COVID-19—or as it is commonly referred to, the Coronavirus—has done what nothing else has done in the nearly 47 years of Dignity Philadelphia—cancelled the Sunday Evening Mass. We have already cancelled until March 22nd and it is quite likely that we will be cancelling for some time into the future. We will stay connected through our email system. **If you would like to hear from other Dignity members during this time of physical isolation, please send your phone number to dignityphila@aol.com (only if you want other members to have your phone number) and we can try to connect Dignity folks by telephone.** Most of all, we need to pray for an end to this pandemic. Try to say the Holy Rosary at least once each week. You can say one decade of the Rosary each day until the end of this crisis. We may not be able to have the Eucharist together but we can pray together spiritually.

Pray that we may be able to celebrate the Easter Vigil together this year and see if we can fill up the room in the joy of being together again. Pray for those who already have the virus and stay home unless you must leave for an important reason.

God bless us all.

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Motions from the Board of Directors Meetings in February and March

Motion 20-02-01 Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Rocks. Be it moved that the 50/50 for March 2020 be donated to Mary Howard Health Center. Passed unanimously

Motion 20-02-02 Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Working Committee for Elections 2020 consist of Michael Rocks, (ask Kaeden Thompson and Joe Chudzinski). Passed unanimously.

Motion 20-02-03 Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the Working Committee for Audit Committee 9-1-18 thru 8-31-19 consist of Mike Viola and Mark Stephens. Passed unanimously.

Motion 20-02-04 Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Michael Rocks. Be it moved that the Audit Committee report for 9-1-18 to 8-31-19 be approved and that the Audit Committee be thanked for their work. Passed unanimously.

Motion 20-03-01 Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the April 50/50 be for MANNA. Passed unanimously.

Election for Three Vacancies on the Board of Directors

Three of the five positions for the Board of Directors are open for this year's elections. The elected directors will each serve a two-year term. An individual is eligible to stand for election to the Board if the member is in good standing for a minimum of one year.

Election schedule is as follows:

- 1st Announcement: Saturday, April 11 at the Easter Vigil
- 2nd Announcement: Sunday, April 19
- 1st Nominations: Sunday, April 26
- 2nd Nominations: Sunday, May 3
- Candidates night, if necessary: Sunday, May 10
- Mail ballots, if necessary: Monday, May 11
- Ballots due and results announced, if necessary: Sunday, May 24

These dates are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions on meeting in groups.

Announcement of Bishop Nelson Pérez as the new Archbishop

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, Nelson Pérez assumed the post of Archbishop of Philadelphia in a ceremony at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. Appointed by Pope Francis, Archbishop Pérez has a long history in Philadelphia. He earned his Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in the late '80s and his first assignment after ordination to the priesthood was as parochial vicar of Saint Ambrose Parish, Philadelphia from 1989 - 1993. He also served as Pastor of Saint William Parish, Philadelphia (2002 - 2009) and as Pastor of Saint Agnes Parish, West Chester (2009 - 2012).

Pérez, the former bishop of Cleveland, is the first Hispanic Archbishop to lead the five-county archdiocese. He is the 14th Roman Catholic bishop and 10th Archbishop of Philadelphia.

You can follow Archbishop Pérez on Twitter [@ArchbishopPerez](https://twitter.com/ArchbishopPerez) as well as on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia website archphila.org/administration/#archbishop



Double Munchie

Happy Black History Month (February)

“We did not come to fear the future, we came to shape it.”

- President Barack Obama

Happy Women's History Month (March)

“Our rights are not up for grabs and neither are we.”

- Gloria Steinem

Thank You & Happy Retirement to Rev. Rodger Broadley

Longtime friend and ally of Dignity Philadelphia and the broader LGBTQ community, Rev. Rodger Broadley retired in January. Since the spring of 1980, Rev. Broadley has served as the rector of the Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany. After a 40-year tenure, the longest of any rector in the church's 185-year history, he is ready for a turning point in his spiritual journey. On Sunday, January 26th, Rev. Broadley joined members of Dignity Philadelphia for Mass. The Dignity Philadelphia community gave him a card and a gift to thank him for his decades of friendship.



Happy Birthday!



Introducing Kate Huffman & Kaeden Thompson - New Dignity Members & Editors of The Independence Newsletter



Hi there! Our names are Kate Huffman (pronouns she/her/hers) and Kaeden Thompson (pronouns he/him/his). We are a couple who joined Dignity Philadelphia in Fall 2019. We are so blessed to be part of this community and are excited about serving as the new editors of *The Independence* newsletter. Kaeden is a higher education professional with a passion for working with underserved students. He is the Associate Director of College Admissions at Philadelphia Futures, an organization that provides low-income, first-generation-to-college students with the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary for admission to and success in college. Kaeden enjoys biking, reading, and a good beer. Kaeden grew up in five different countries and his parents are Irish-American and Trinidadian-West Indian. Kate is a musician and arts administrator who grew up in the rural Midwest. She currently works in fundraising for a performing arts organization. Kate has been playing her clarinet in the Dignity worship band and is also a member of the Philadelphia Freedom Band, a welcoming community band for LGBTQ folks and allies. If we haven't met you yet, feel free to send us an email at kate.huffman93@gmail.com to say hi!

Michael R. and Ed W. celebrated their birthdays in February!

Prayer Intentions



As in-person Mass is currently suspended due to COVID-19, commonly referred to as Coronavirus, please email your prayer requests to Kevin at kevin_davies69@hotmail.com.

Calendar of Events

These dates are all subject to change due to the COVID-19. Please check the website

www.dignityphila.org for up-to-date information on upcoming events.



Support Dignity Philadelphia

Dignity Philadelphia is A Caring, supportive community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender Catholics, our families and friends. Dignity Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates based on the generosity of member and supporter donations. If you would like to donate to Dignity Philadelphia, please see the information at the bottom of the newsletter to mail in a cash or check.

You may also donate online at

<https://www.mightycause.com/donate/Dignity-Philadelphia>



Articles published in the Dignity Philadelphia newsletter, The Independence, are not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors of Dignity Philadelphia. 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.

A Poem – “Pandemic” by Rev. Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath--
The most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
In ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love--
For better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Board of Directors

Michael Rocks - Director, President of the Board
Joe Orr - Director, Membership
Kevin Davies - Director, Record Keeping
Rob Baker - Director, Finances
Jimmy Calnan - Director, At Large

Service Groups

Jim Clay and Dick O'Malley - Liturgical Service
Group Coordinators
Kate Huffman & Kaeden Thompson -
Communications Service Group
Rev. Ron Hoskins (on leave of absence) - Chaplain

BECOME A DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA MEMBER

A community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics, our Families and Friends

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: _____

Please provide your email address to receive Dignity Philadelphia's newsletter *The Independence* and the latest news via email blasts. Your support through your dues to DignityUSA will entitle you to voting privileges in national elections, subscriptions to the monthly Dateline and Quarterly Voice, discounted registration for biennial conventions and other DignityUSA events; and access to Dignity News email list and chat groups.

Individual Annual Dues:	Couple's Annual Dues:
Dignity Philadelphia - \$20 DignityUSA - \$60 (Optional)	Dignity Philadelphia - \$35 DignityUSA \$120 (Optional)
\$_____ Total	\$_____ Total

Scholarships are available for Dignity Philadelphia and DignityUSA memberships. Contact the Dignity Director of Membership, Joe Orr, for more information at dignityphila@aol.com.

Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to:
Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105

Electronic payment at <https://www.mightycause.com/donate/Dignity-Philadelphia>

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.

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 in

7 STEPS

- 01** Wash your hands frequently
- 02** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- 03** Cover your cough using the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- 04** Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough
- 05** Stay at home if you feel unwell
- 06** If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first
- 07** Get information from trusted sources

