



The Independence

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

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A DIGNITY PHILADELPHIA FIRST EVER CELEBRATION

It is always great for us to get together as a group outside of church; so we got together as a group at another church! We had the honor of being invited to this April 22, 2018 baptism of “our” youngest member, Rae Michelle. We helped the parents and their relatives celebrate this first momentous Catholic ceremony – for them and for us! This event was held at St. Vincent de Paul in Germantown and officiated by Dignity’s own Father Paul Morrissey. We were all very touched, moved and some of us teary-eyed, at witnessing this observance of her blessing and initiation into the Catholic Church. We wish this beautiful baby a lifetime of happiness (and very little Catholic guilt). And thank you to the parents, BJ and Erin for letting Dignity members participate in this first holy sacrament. Joyful blessings go out to this little child from this group of caring people who love you and see you as a gift to our community.



Father Morrissey and baby Rae



Proud parents: Erin and BJ

What a great way to start this issue of the spring/summer newsletter.

FATHER LARRY NARDOZZI RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD FOR 25 YEARS OF PRIESTLY SERVICE TO DIGNITY

By Michael J. Rocks, President

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, at the Dignity Sunday Mass for Friends and Family, Father Larry Nardozzi was presented with a special recognition by the Board of Directors and Liturgy Committee for 25 years of priestly service to Dignity Philadelphia.

Larry has been a regular Presider at the Sunday Mass for the LGBT Roman Catholic Community and during the past 25 years he has served as Priest Presider and Homilist. Larry most recently presided at the Dignity Easter Vigil Service to the great joy of the congregation. Larry says Mass with a special reverence and beauty. Larry’s homilies often address the life of a LGBT Roman Catholic in today’s world and Larry’s homilies always help us find a way to be closer to our God of Love and Mercy and better members of our community. The congregation has come to understand Larry’s love for the Sunday *New York Times* and if he doesn’t mention the NYT in his homily somewhere, we will joke with him after Mass We also have come to realize that Dignity has been a special part of Larry’s life of Priestly Ministry and for this our community is every thankful.



Father Nardozzi with his award and cake

45TH DIGNITY ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

At the 45th Dignity Anniversary Dinner Dance, May 19, the Board President gave the Community Service Award to the LGBT Elder Initiative for their commitment to assuring that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults have rights and opportunities to live vibrant, creative and mutually supportive lives. They foster and advocate for services and resources that are competent, culturally sensitive, inclusive and responsive to the needs of LGBT elders in the Delaware Valley and beyond. David Griffith, Director of Programs & Outreach, accepted the award, and is pictured to the right:



Other photos taken at this event included:



The M.C. and fabulous organizer/chair of this event, David Kalinowski



Phil with husband, and unofficial event photographer, Mike and Chaplin Barbara

Chapter Service Awards

By Jimmy Calnan

The Chapter Service Award is given each year to a member or members who have demonstrated their involvement in the community by providing extra service when called on or as perceived.

This year, May 20, the Award went to Wayne M. and Ray G. for their extraordinary service in Dignity's outreach to Broad Street Ministry by serving meals to food-challenged Philadelphians. Both have been involved for many years and are always ready to sign up as needed.

Congratulations and thanks, guys.



Pictured above are Michael Rocks, Dignity President, Ray, Jimmy Calnan, Dignity Volunteer Coordinator for BSM, and Wayne

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met May 6 and June 3, 2018, and the following motions came out of these two meetings:

Motion 18-05-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Rob Baker. Be it moved that the June 2018 50/50 be donated to Philly Pride. Passed unanimously

PHILLY PRIDE PRESENTS, Inc. (PPP) is a group of volunteers who organize "PrideDay" in June and "OutFest" in October. These are the only two events during which the Philadelphia Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community joins together and celebrates as a whole. PHILLY PRIDE PRESENTS is proud to be co-sponsors of the Phila. DYKE March and the Alternative Prom.

The purpose of the pride events shall be the advancement of LGBT rights through the visibility and awareness that the parades and festivals create. This purpose is achieved through the annual PrideDay parade and festival, the annual National Coming Out Day Block Party (OutFest) and other forms of community outreach as may be appropriate. "Coming Out" marks the beginning of the gay self-realization process; "Pride" marks its culmination. In addition to celebrating this uniqueness, these events help thousands discover the breadth of the LGBT community in the Delaware Valley, provide avenues for education, growth and self-realization, and increase the visibility and diversity of the LGBT community.

Motion 18-05-01: Made by Jimmy Calnan; seconded by Erin McMenamin. Be it moved that a Working Group for Philly Pride 2018 consist of Michael Rocks, Dick O'Malley, BJ and Erin. Passed unanimously

Motion 18-06-01: Made by Dolores Vera; seconded by Kevin Davies. Be it moved that the 50/50 for July be New Leash on Life. Passed unanimously

New Leash on Life USA is a Pennsylvania 501(c) (3) non-profit, prison-dog training program, dedicated to improving the life of inmates and saving the lives of dogs. New Leash On Life USA is one of the country's most unique prison-dog training programs. They save the lives of at-risk shelter dogs by training prison inmates to care for, and socialize them to enhance their adoptability. Inmates attend workshops on life-skills and job-readiness, and many receive opportunities for paid internships in the animal care field when they are paroled. Improving the life of inmates and saving the lives of dogs; New Leash on Life USA believes everyone deserves a second chance.

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Motion 18-06-02: Be it moved that David Kalinowski be recognized for excellent work as chair of the 45th Anniversary Committee. Passed unanimously (Editor’s Note: Great work David!)

THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU AGAIN!



As a result of the many 50/50 organizations that Dignity sponsors every month, we occasionally get “thank you” notes or letters acknowledging our generosity. For the past couple of months, we have received thank youse (as we say in Philadelphia) from:

- | | |
|---|--|
| AIDS Fund | Philly AIDS Thrift |
| Career Wardrobe | <i>(for our monetary donation, not for the cookbooks!)</i> |
| Incarnation Institute for Sex and Faith | The Attic Youth Center |
| Mazzoni Center | Sam’s Hope |



Dignity Philadelphia has soooo many important dates upcoming up, that we don’t want you to miss out on the fun!

BROAD STREET MINISTRY

Dignity Philadelphia gets a month off in July, since it is July 4, but we are back on the schedule August 1 and September 5; the first Wednesdays of the month. Feel free to join us in serving lunch – we no longer do dinner. This means that we arrive by 10:30 am and we are out of there by 1:30ish pm. We then do lunch ourselves and have the rest of the afternoon and evening free! If interested, please let Jimmy Calnan know, especially since our regular volunteers tend to go on vacation (how dare they!).

And speaking of Broad Street Ministry (BSM) and vacations, if you have the opportunity to travel, please save those little bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and bars of soap furnished by your “good” hotels. These toiletries, plus any you may buy at the drug stores – travel size – are given to BSM for their clients. They are always appreciated since they are small enough for the clients to carry – they are packaged in brown paper bags and labeled “Personal Care.” They are male and female bags and contain travel size toiletries; they are distributed based on their verbalized gender. So, when traveling, don’t leave these items behind; someone can surely use them! And if at the drug store or dollar store, pick up some toothbrushes, toothpastes, and

deodorants. See Dolores if you need additional information or wish to make a donation.

GAY PRIDE JUNE 10, 2018

Thanks to all who participated in this annual event held at Penn’s Landing. Special thanks to BJ for setting up the tent, special thanks to Dick O’Malley for spearheading this event, and to all the great Dignity volunteers who staffed (not manned!) the booth. Fortunately, it did not rain on us, until it was time to leave for the evening Mass service!



Left: Barbara and Dick at Penn’s; Right: Dignity Philadelphia’s tent with Michael L., BJ and Dick staffing (and posing) at the table. Landing

IF IT’S SUMMER TIME, IT MUST BE MUMMER TIME!

As many of you know, one of our members is Joe Toal, who is a proud Mummer. He wants us all to be aware of the upcoming concerts scheduled at the Mummies Museum, 1100 South 2nd Street, Phila., PA 19147 (2nd Street at Washington Avenue). There is free parking in the museum’s lot and ample street parking. These concerns are free, and held outdoors on the museum’s grounds.

Refreshments are served at 7:30 p.m. and the concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held indoors. Bring your family, lawn chairs (a must) and hearty appetites. Enjoy an old fashioned block party. Buy Philly soft pretzels, hot dogs and sodas. Then, sit back and listen to a famous string band. Join our dancers and learn the “Mummies Strut.” (Schedule is subject to change.) Please join us!

Date	String Band
June 28	South Philadelphia
July 12	Durning
July 19	Polish American
August 2	Quaker City*
August 9	Hegeman
August 16	Uptown
August 30	Broomall
September 6	Ferko
September 13	Greater Kensington

**no affiliation with the U of P – please!*

BIRTHDAY SUNDAYS – REMEMBER WE HAVE CAKE!

The dates for birthday cakes over the summer are: July 15 and August 12, and in September the week after pot-luck. Did someone say pot-luck? Keep reading Dignettes!

Cut and put on your refrigerator the following:

Pot Luck Dinner Sunday, September 16, 2018



Bring something spectacular; show off your cooking skills, and start planning now!

Dignity Brunch Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Knock

Yes, this annual social event of the Fall is now on our calendar. So save your money and be ready for this event!

Specifics on these two events will appear in the August/September Newsletter – stay tuned!

DID SOMEONE MENTION BIRTHDAY CAKES?

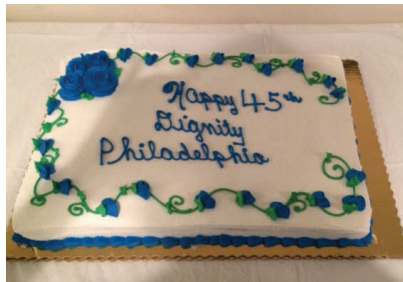


These handsome men, Jim Clay and Mike Viola, celebrated their May birthdays with Dignity cake. While Mike is now married, Jim is available should you want to address or... your brother!

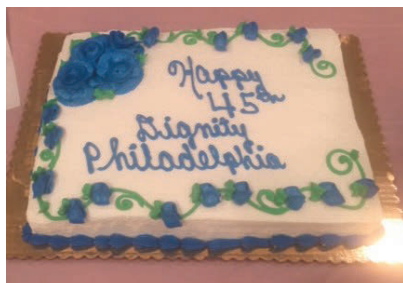


This other group of handsome men celebrated their June birthdays with us also. Pictured from left to right are Jack, Tom (B. Boyles' nephew), Dignity "Chef" Louis, Dan the Musician, Ron (sitting down), award-winning Ray, and Tony. With Dan in the picture, the average age of all these men is 30! Thank you Dan for joining us in our celebration of Mass (and cake!).

PLUS MORE CAKES!



Dinner/Dance Cake 5/19



Sunday Anniversary Cake 5/20

AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT WE HAD TOO MANY CAKES...



Dignity Philadelphia celebrated a special Mass for Bill Boyle

June 3, 2018. His family was in attendance, as well as friends from William Way and Casa Farnese. They all helped us celebrate the great life Bill lead during his short time with us. We miss you Bill.

DISTINGUISHED DIGNITY MEMBERS KEVIN DAVIES RECEIVES DIGNITY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Michael J. Rocks, President



Kevin Davies receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from Board President Michael Rocks

I had to privilege and the honor to give the Dignity President's Lifetime Achievement Award to Kevin Davies, a current member of the Dignity Philadelphia Board of Directors. The award was given at the 45th Dignity Anniversary Mass on May 20, 2018.

Kevin has served on more Steering Committees (now called Board of Directors) over the years than any other leader in the community. Kevin has been president of the Chapter and has spent many hours over the years caring for the records of the Chapter. Kevin prepares agendas for Board Meetings and General Business Meetings, and also prepares the minutes of all the meetings, and distributes copies to the various committee members. In the past Kevin has also served as Editor of The Independence, the Chapter newsletter.

Kevin has been a real leader of the Chapter since he joined in 1981. Kevin serves with gentleness and with great competence; he has a way of raising critical questions and challenging ongoing decision processes in the Chapter. This is an important role---- to ask the hard questions ---- and Kevin does it with grace and sincerity. Kevin is willing to step forward to serve in other critical ways, for example

he joined the 45th Anniversary Committee when it was difficult to get other leaders to serve on the committee.

The only way that Kevin would miss a Board Meeting or a Liturgy Committee Meeting would be if any film festival is in town. Kevin has a passion for watching films and prepares well ahead for the films he will be seeing at the next film festival. Personally, I am thankful for Kevin's willingness to continue as a leader of the chapter, to continue his critical work of excellent record keeping for the chapter, and for sharing his love for the Sunday Eucharist and the Monthly Rosary recitation with me and all the other members. Kevin seems to have a simple yet strong faith that sustains him in all that he does to serve God and to serve God's City of earth. Kevin is well deserving of this award and I am greatly honored to have bestowed this award on Kevin. Thanks again for all your generosity and for all of your love and service to Dignity Philadelphia.

AND MORE DISTINGUISHED DIGNITY MEMBERS



Members receiving membership pins for 45 years in Dignity Philadelphia are Paul Morrissey, Bernie W., and Brian F. (to the right of Board President Michael Rocks)

Double Munchie!

The Religious Right
is neither.

HAPPY PRIDE!

"The Constitution is a promissory note –
and it has yet to fulfill all that it promises."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JUNE AND JULY

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

July is Hot Dog Month, or Pancake Month or International Pickle Month (pick whichever you like to eat)

- Sun., July 1** Mass at 7 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., July 4 Independence Day
(No Broad Street Ministry)
- Fri., July 6 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.,
upstairs at St. Luke's
- Sun., July 8** Mass at 7 p.m.
Liturgy Service Group Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., July 12 Mummings Concert – Durning
- Sun., July 15** Mass at 7 p.m. – Birthday Cake Sun
Rosary Group at 6 p.m.
- Thurs., July 19 Mummings Concert – Polish American
- Sun., July 22** Mass at 7 p.m.
Feast of Mary Magdalene
- Sun., July 29** Mass at 7 p.m.

August is National Hair Loss Awareness Month

- Wed., Aug. 1 Broad Street Ministry, 10:30 a.m.
- Thurs., Aug. 2 Mummings Concert – Quaker City
- Fri., Aug. 3 Prayer Around the Cross, 7 p.m.,
upstairs at St. Luke's
- Sun., Aug. 5** Mass at 7 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Aug. 9 Mummings Concert – Hegeman
- Sun., Aug. 12** Mass at 7 p.m. – Birthday Cake Sun.
Liturgy Service Group Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 15 Assumption of Mary
- Thurs., Aug. 16 Mummings Concert – Uptown
- Sun., Aug. 19** Mass at 7 p.m.
Rosary Group Sun. at 6 p.m.
- Sun., Aug. 26** Mass at 7 p.m.
- Thurs., Aug. 30 Mummings Concert – Broomall

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 August/September newsletter is August 14, 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** – Chaplain
- Rev. Ron Hoskins** – Chaplain on leave of absence



Electronic payment at 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**

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