



Newsletter

November 2007

Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

Ravenna United Methodist Church 5751-33rd Ave NE Seattle
 Sundays at 10:00 a.m. -- St. Ignatius Community Liturgies
 Second Sundays at 6:00 p.m. – Dignity/Seattle Liturgies

Every Sunday	→ 8:00 a.m.	St. Ignatius
Nov. 11, Dec. 9	→ 6:00 p.m.	Dignity/Seattle

Upcoming Events of Interest				
Sat	Nov 10	4 th Qtr. Celebration Lunch	Next col.	
Sun	Nov 11	Monthly Mass		
Thu	Nov 15	What Makes Us Catholic?	Below	
Sun	Nov 18	Trans Remembrance Day	Next col.	
Fri	Nov 30	World AIDS Day Luncheon	Page 3	

Sr. Fran Ferder & Fr. John Heagle

What Makes Us Catholic?
Finding Our Deep Identity in the Gospel Vision
Thursday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Parish, 2707 Broadway E, Seattle

There is a great deal of discussion in our faith community today regarding 'Catholic Identity'—those qualities that make our spiritual tradition unique. Church leaders tend to emphasize aspects such as hierarchical authority, papacy, and devotional practices that set us apart from other Christian denominations. While accepting the role of historical development, this presentation seeks to re-ground our identity in the gospel vision of Jesus regarding the reign of God. The message and mission of Jesus is the primal model and the ongoing measure of who we are called to be as the Body of Christ in today's world.

Presenters Fran Ferder and John Heagle are the co-directors of Therapy & Renewal Associates, a counseling and renewal resource in the Pacific Northwest. They also serve as adjunct faculty in the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, an ecumenical graduate program that prepares women and men for professional ministry. They are internationally recognized leaders of workshops and conferences, authors of several articles, tapes, and books on spirituality, ministry, and human relationships, including their most recent book, *Tender Fires: The Spiritual Promise of Sexuality*. www.tenderfires.com ▼

Quarterly Celebration

4th Qtr. Celebrations for Dignity members & friends
Saturday, November 10, 12:30 p.m.
Mae's Phinney Ridge Café, 6412 Phinney Ave N

To all Dignity Members and Friends of Dignity:

In celebration of all who have anniversaries or birthdays in Oct., Nov. or Dec., members, guests, and friends are all invited to enjoy the meeting of the Dignity family on Saturday, Nov. 10th at Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

This hopefully will be the first of many such quarterly gatherings. A few years ago Dignity and friends would meet monthly for a luncheon social to share stories of the month's activities and to show appreciation to restaurants that contribute to the production of Dignity's Pride Breakfast.

We certainly hope you are able to participate in our first quarterly gathering. Invitations were sent out via "Evite," and responses should be done through Evite. If you have not received an Evite invitation, or would like further information, please contact Alan, 206/295-4895.

Looking forward to seeing many dear friends.
 The Dignity/Seattle Board

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sunday, November 18, 10:30 a.m.
Ravenna United Methodist Church

Our host faith community will be honoring Seattle's Transgender Day of Remembrance at its regular 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. Church member Shannon Buzard will be speaking. All are welcome. For more information, contact RUMC at 206/525-7988.

→ 10:00 a.m. New Mass time for St. Ignatius

Official Business

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Jim Rankin	Vice President
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary (Liturgy chair)
Delia Vita	Treasurer (Social co-chair)
Alan Scott	At large (Social co-chair)

DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle

Leo Egashira	At large (Communications)
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We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

Board Minutes Summary, October 11, 2007

(Edited: For complete minutes, see Secretary)
Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at Delia Vita's house. Dignity prayer was read. All board members were present except for Steve Kearney, the outgoing Vice President.

Minutes were read.

M/M/S/C: To approve the August 2, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes and the September 22, 2007 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's report: (Delia Vita)

Submitted September 24, 2007

Checking Acct.

Beginning Balance	\$2,557.41
Collections/Donations August	73.00
Collections/Donations September	122.40
Adjust. Transfer from Sav. 05/07	300.00
Total Income	495.40
Sub-total	\$3,052.81

Expenses

Admin PO Box rental	78.00
Admin: Telephone:	40.00
Admin: Supplies/Gifts/misc	47.78
Advertising: SGN	30.00

Liturgy: Presider's stipend	60.00
Newsletter printing/ mailing August	39.05
Newsletter printing/ mailing Sept	47.40
PW Breakfast: Verbena	750.00
PW Breakfast: Multifaith Works	750.00
Rent: RUMC	75.00
Dignity USA-mailed 5/07	300.00
Total Expenses:	\$2,217.23
Ending Balance:	\$835.58

Savings Acct.

Beginning Balance	\$1,790.94
Interest income	0.39
Adjustment	4.59
Ending Balance	\$1,795.92

M/M/S/C: To accept financial report as submitted.

Committee Reports

Liturgy Committee: (Denise Arceneaux)

Philip Knowles will preside in October. Denise A will continue to pursue other possible presidors.

New Business:

- Board and Committee Positions: **M/M/S/C:** To accept nominations (per shaded text box left). Jim R. will continue to pick up the mail from Capitol Hill and Denise A. will continue to monitor the v-mail.
- Reinstitution of the John Peterson Scholarship: Having previously kept \$200 liquidated from the John Peterson Scholarship in our Savings, the Board decided to take it out of our Savings account to be used toward paying for the membership of those who cannot afford to pay. We will also find a way to replenish it in the future should we use it up. Denise A. will notify Kay F. of RUMC about our decision to reinstitute the scholarship.
- Response to commentary by Leo about possibly sharing space with St. Ignatius E.C.C.: There was some concern expressed about doing so. The Board decided to table the issue for the time being.
- Reactivation of Membership Committee: Paula L. indicated that the Membership Committee needed to be reactivated because of the reinstitution of Membership Dues. Also the old membership packets need to be updated as well. Paula L. has the old disks. The subject of creating new membership packets and contacting members will be brought up at our next meeting in November.
- Social scheduled: It was mentioned that if we could schedule more social activities this year, more life could possibly be brought back to the chapter. While Delia V. and Alan S. will continue to brainstorm ideas for social functions, they brought up the idea of celebrating (*continued on page 3*)

(continued from page 2) 4th Quarter birthdays at a restaurant. Jim R. suggested we go to a restaurant that has contributed to our Pride Breakfast Raffle in the past. The Board decided to tentatively schedule a 4th Quarter birthday party for Nov. 10th at Julia's in Wallingford if we can arrange ahead of time for seating for all of us. Alan S. will contact all Dignity members and friends about the party. He will contact Tom S. and use his old social list from St. Joseph's group for a mailing list. He may also use a net-based service for initiating contact as long as he can hide addresses and responses.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 7th at Delia V's house at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise Arceneaux, Secretary

San Francisco 2009 Convention

Pre-registration discount extended to Dec 31!

Your \$100 deposit by Dec. 31, 2007 for DignityUSA's 40th Anniversary Convention in San Francisco, July 2-5, 2009, will earn a 10% discount off the regular registration rate (which was \$240 at the recently concluded Austin 2007 Convention). The Convention Committee has secured an amazing \$119 + tax rate for double occupancy at the Parc 55 Hotel downtown! Additional persons are assessed an extra \$20. This special convention rate is valid June 24 to July 10, 2009, which includes SF's Gay Pride Weekend, June 27-28. Please visit <http://www.dignityusa.org> for further information & forms.

Dignity/VancouverBC/Dignité

Box 3016 604/432-1230
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X5 dennisl-h@telus.net

Monday, November 5th. 7:30 p.m. Business meeting at Dennis B's. 604/669-3677.

Friday, November 16th. 7:30p.m. Worship liturgy at Dennis L-H's. 604/430-3466.

Saturday, November 24th. 6:30 p.m. Potluck social—Tentatively set—at Vincent W's. 604/325-1554.

Monday, December 3rd. Business meeting at Gerry W's. 604/435-1950.

Complimentary lunch invitation by David Jaeger

2007 World AIDS Day Luncheon

Friday, November 30, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

Dear Friend:

I wish to invite you to join me at the 2007 World AIDS Day luncheon, sponsored by Multifaith Works.

Multifaith Works has been in existence since the late '80s, and has helped countless persons living with and dying from AIDS, and in recent years many people living with other chronic illnesses (especially Multiple Sclerosis). I was a witness and collaborator in their work when I was ministering in the years between 1990 & 2002 and in the name of the Catholic Archdiocese, to and on behalf of persons with AIDS, their loved ones and families, and their caregivers.

Multifaith Works builds a community of compassion by mobilizing volunteers from many spiritual and cultural backgrounds. Catholic parishes have provided a lion's share of volunteers and financial help. Directly and indirectly, countless volunteers and donors have lovingly, and many in a very personal way, provided practical and emotional support and housing for people who otherwise might have been homeless, or at least alone and abandoned. It has been truly a monumental spiritual and corporal work of mercy.

Would you join me at my table for this year's World AIDS Day luncheon? It will be on Friday, November 30th from 11:45 a.m. and ending exactly at 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Convention Center (800 Convention Place) in downtown Seattle; the lunch is complimentary (paid for by a generous donor); and you will experience very moving presentations about the spirit and programs of Multifaith Works.

At the end of the event, you will have a totally non-pressured invitation and opportunity to pledge some support to Multifaith Works for the year ahead.

Please let me know if you can join us. My contact information is: (206) 227-5602 ; davidpjaeger@msn.com; 6807 Holly Park Dr S, Seattle WA 98118.

With fond regards and gratitude for your consideration,

David Jaeger

Guest Commentary: Originally published in *Entre Hermanos*' "Noticias" newsletter, October 2007.

Gay & Catholic: A Statement of Faith

By Mike Perez



Mike Perez, arrested in Washington, D.C., during a protest at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in November 2000. He spent three days in jail.



St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, January 2001. Mike Perez, with his arm on Pat Roche's shoulder. Pat is a Dignity/Seattle member & Past-President of DignityUSA.

Hola Hermanos y Hermanas;

I was born a Roman Catholic to a family that went to every Easter Mass and slept-in all the other Sundays. My grandmother was very religious and introduced me to the church and the rosary. I still love and use the rosary as a spiritual comfort today. It is true, I used to walk over a mile alone at the age of 8 or 9 years to church. I believed it looked good and people used to say, "Look at little Michael; he is such a saint." If they only knew the secret I held. Still, I somehow knew that God and my beloved saint, San Martin, were still very important to me. Every one of us kids had our First Holy Communion, but I was the only one to be confirmed. The highlight of my religious life was when my grandmother had me on the float as Juan Diego--que lastima! I would have made a wonderful virgin at the time.

So why talk about my faith and the church since they have been less than accepting of my homosexuality? Like many, when our faith in God was taken from us by the church, we were left defenseless. If our families rejected us, we were left with nothing. Why? Because I refuse to believe them. The church, not the Vatican, is a part of me! A part that makes me the good and hopeful gay, Latino man that I want to be.

A little history: I left the Catholic Church, but continued to attend different churches. After years of studying the

bible, I decided to go back to the Catholic Church, but as a visibly activist gay man who lives out his faith. I joined DignityUSA, the GLBT Catholic organization, as well as Soulforce, an ecumenical organization that actively confronts church hypocrisy. I have been refused communion at the National Basilica in Washington, D.C. and jailed for three days for protesting at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in a joint Soulforce-DignityUSA "direct action." I have engaged in peaceful, publicly visible prayer at The Vatican. For seven years, I have challenged the church's stance on homosexuality at national and international gatherings of progressive Catholics. And I continue to be a thorn in the local Bishop's diocese by continually asking them to be open to us as homosexuals. Today, I do belong to a Catholic Church in Seattle that accepts me and gladly gives me communion. They try to keep the openness quiet so the Bishop doesn't come down on them, but they are a great church for many of the church's minorities.

We cannot let church leadership take away our faith and self esteem. The bible and church doctrine have tried to exclude us, but we can use the bible to reclaim our faith for those of us that still miss practicing it. I would welcome your comments and questions at my personal email, goodnufco@yahoo.com. ▼