



Newsletter

1st Quarter 2020



Upcoming Events

**Call to Action—Western Washington
9th Annual General Meeting
Saturday, February 15, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
St. Patrick Church, 2702 Broadway E**

Please join our sister reform organization, Call To Action, as they host the Executive Director of CTA-USA, Zachary Johnson. See flyer on p.4.

**D/Seattle's Food Lifeline Volunteer Night
Thursday, April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
815 - 96th St, Seattle WA 98108**

Come enjoy the fun and know that you are helping to feed families in need. To help with planning, RSVP to 206-659-5519 or Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com.

Spring Quarter Brunch
Date to be announced via e-mail

Save the date
Pride Week Breakfast
Saturday, June 27, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Central Lutheran Church

Bread and Baked Goods for
the Needy - Feb 6, 2020

Four Dignity/Seattle members joined with others in sorting a wide variety of baked goods into boxes of buns, bagels, sliced bread, desserts, assorted baked goods, etc. During the 2+ hour volunteer session at Food Lifeline in South Park 17 pallets were stacked with 10,420 pounds of bread and baked goods which is the equivalent of 8683 meals. Distribution began the following morning as the pallets were delivered to food banks and homeless shelters to feed those in need.



Board Members & Contact Info

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President, Nat'l Conference Committee Chair
Paula Hills	Vice-President, Liturgy Comm.
Delia Vita	Treasurer, Social Comm.
Alan Scott	Secretary, Social Comm.
Laure Hauge	At-large

Dignity/Seattle	206-659-5519
P.O. Box 20325	Seattle WA 98102
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Newsletter Editor:	Leo N. Egashira
206-723-4759	Legashira@yahoo.com

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.

Dignity/Seattle Board Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2020 *(edited for publication)*

Meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m. at Delia Vita's home. Dignity prayer was read. Board members Paula Lavallee, Paula Hills, Delia Vita, Alan Scott, and Laure Hauge were present.

The September 14, 2019 board meeting minutes were distributed, reviewed and approved by all.

President's report (Paula Lavallee)

Received four requests from individuals to be included on the social list.

Secretary's report (Alan Scott)

Maintained the website with addition of two newsletters and several announcements and events.

Treasurer's report: (Delia Vita)

September 14, 2019—January 5, 2020

Checking Account

Beginning Balance:	\$3,582.89
Donation	600.00
Donation for blankets	170.00
Total Deposits:	\$ 770.00
Sub-Total:	\$4,352.89

Expenses:

USB thumb-drives for Mary's Place	\$ 241.62
Blankets for Tiny Cabins 5	171.90
Christmas Party expenses	55.00
Sub-Total General Expenses:	\$ 468.52
Ending Balance:	\$3,884.37

Savings Account

Beginning Balance:	\$1,622.55
Interest income	0.18
Ending Balance:	\$1,622.73

M/M/S/C: To accept the January 5, 2017 financial report.

Committee Reports:

Social Committee: (Alan Scott and Delia Vita)

- The December 1st Christmas Party at Delia's home on Queen Anne Hill was attended by 12 members and friends. Donations were collected for blankets for Tent City 5.

Old Business:

- The board approved funding of a one year Dignity membership scholarship for an existing member. Delia will send a check to Dignity/USA for that membership.
- Alan delivered 21 blankets to Tent City 5 located near the Magnolia Bridge at Interbay shortly before Chris

New Business:

- Pride Breakfast: Delia will reserve Saturday morning, June 27 at the Central Lutheran Church Hall for this year's annual breakfast. Alan will print tickets, envelopes, and letters in April and stuffing envelopes will occur at the next board meeting in early May. Food Lifeline was again designated as a beneficiary. Discussion followed on designating a homeless youth charity. Paula to contact Mary of CareTeams on their status. The board to investigate additional organizations serving homeless youth such as Youth Care of the Orion Center and a St. Joe's Parish outreach to homeless youth.
- First Quarter Brunch: The Varsity Inn located in Wallingford was again selected for this year's first quarterly brunch. The board selected February 1 at around noon. Alan will check with a few of the regular attendees to select an optimal time.
- Second Quarter Brunch: McMenamins that has continued to support the Pride Breakfast was selected for the second brunch venue. Board members will communicate by email to select an optimal date and time.
- Summer Picnic: Board members to communicate by email to select dates and times. Alan will contact Seattle Parks and Recreation once preferred and alternate dates are proposed.
- The next Food Lifeline volunteer evening is scheduled for Thursday evening, February 6th.

The next board meeting will occur in early May with the exact date to be decided. Time and location to remain 5:30 p.m. at Delia and Annah's home.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by:

Alan Scott, Dignity/Seattle Secretary



← December 1 Christmas Party

Great food, wonderful friends, and Delia and Annah's beautifully decorated home and generous hospitality made for a memorable Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1. No one left hungry as there was plenty of delicious ham, salads, and pies. A big thank you goes out to those contributing to this year's collection for the purchase of wool blankets for Tent City 5 at Interbay.

→ Tiny Cabin Village Blanket Donation

A mighty big thank you goes to all who contributed during the recent Dignity/Seattle Christmas Party towards the purchase of 19 wool blankets for TC5.

On Thursday, December 12, 2019, Alan of Dignity/Seattle met with Kyle Monzingo who is the Site Co-ordinator for the Tiny Cabins Safe Harbor Interbay Village on 15th Ave W adjacent to the Magnolia Bridge. Kyle commented on their need for blankets and mentioned that spare blankets will be made available to residents in other Tiny Cabin Villages in the Seattle area.



← Three King's Game Day

The second annual Three King's Game Day began with a taco lunch provided by member Gerry R. Guest Jessica related her adventures on moving to Seattle. She also provided the fascinating game "Space Cats Fight Fascism" where in the year 3,000,000 space cats are waging a galactic rebellion against a rising tide of fascism and anti-cat bias. Unfortunately we Space Cats lost but those watching the Seahawks' game celebrated the Seahawks' win.



CALL TO ACTION

Inspire Catholics, Transform Church

WESTERN
WASHINGTON



9th Annual CTAWW GENERAL MEETING



ZACHARY JOHNSON, Executive Director, CTA-USA

773-988-2352, zach@cta-usa.org

Zach has a long history in the Catholic social justice community. He comes to Call To Action from the Salvation Army Harbor Light Center, Minnesota's largest homeless shelter, where he was Program Director. Zach also organized and hosted the 2016 national Faith and Resistance Retreat on Racial Equity, and has worked with the Catholic Worker Community, Minnesota Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC) and the Minnesota Harm Reduction Coalition. He's a regular guest speaker on topics of homelessness, social justice, anti-racism, and applied ethics, and is a graduate of Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. He works part times with the Twin Cities Homeless Shelters. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and daughter.

Join us on

Sat, Feb, 15th from 1 PM-4PM.

The event will be held at

St. Patrick's Church

2702 Broadway East, Seattle, WA

on N. Capitol Hill.

. BUSINESS MEETING:

Our gathering will include a financial report and a review of 2019 CTAWW activities. We are committed to provide inspiring educational opportunities, 'action experiences', prayer and the encouragement/support of small faith groups.

. TITLE OF ZACH'S TALK:

STRATEGIC CHANGE:

**Modern Movement Lessons
for Church Reform**

**For more information call
Betty Hill at 360-357-6207
www.ctaww.org**

Letter sent to Immaculate Conception Parish & Pastor and Archbishop Etienne

Some thoughts about the challenges facing the church—the parish and institutionally

January 6, 2020

Dear fellow parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish;

Two Sundays ago on December 29, 2019, Fr. Maurice announced actions taken by the South Deanery to address the shortage of priests, difficulty of attracting and engaging (young) Catholics, and other issues. And then last Sunday, January 5, 2020, he mentioned the forces of darkness in both church and society that present obstacles to practicing and growing the faith.

I sat in the pews both times saddened and angered by the darkness in the church—almost all of it self-inflicted, and the church's refusal to shed light on that darkness and address them properly.

I posit that most of the dysfunction in the church can be attributed to misogyny and the clericalism that stems from an exclusive “old boys” club. I am not at all surprised that there is a shortage of presiders when the church willfully ignores or casts aside the gifts of women, who are perhaps even more socialized than men to be pastoral leaders. Relatedly, what does the church find objectionable to ordaining married presiders who have the lived experience of what it means to be in an intimate human relationship and, often, raising a family?

Do you think the sex abuse scandals and cover-ups would have occurred or been as extensive had women and people with children been in pastoral and leadership positions in the church?

Misogyny is also the root cause of homophobia. They're two sides of the same coin. Without addressing misogyny, the church will never overcome its irrational fear of and ostracization of LGBTQ people, who are not only an integral part of the Body of Christ, but have many unique gifts to offer.

How these issues have affected me personally. It's a wonder that I, as a gay man, still consider myself Catholic when bishops have advocated taking away civil rights from LGBTQ people and firing LGBTQ employees. It's also a church that won't honor our relationships. That's why I am an active member of DignityUSA, an organization of LGBTQ Catholics, where I served on the national board for 12 years speaking out against our own members' internalized misogyny and advocating for the rights of transgender Catholics in church and society. I am used to and appreciate women presiders, married gay presiders, and an inclusive language lectionary. Those are things that I will insist at my wedding and/or funeral . . .

which I doubt a Catholic parish in the Archdiocese will honor and allow.

Out of eight surviving siblings, only two of us call ourselves Catholic. One of my sisters has actually stated the church's patriarchy and misogyny as reasons why she feels she is unwelcome in the church. She's right, and I won't argue with her.

My gay friends who were raised Catholic are some of the most anti-Catholic people I know, and believe that most of religion is evil. It is a sad state of affairs that I can't and won't argue otherwise.

The local parish and the institutional church. While local parishes like Immaculate Conception are full of wonderful people who actively live out Catholic social justice teaching, and who embody what it means to be “church,” the institutional church presents the opposite situation. While I acknowledge there is little we can do at the individual parish level to effect change in the institutional church, not saying anything about misogyny, clericalism, homophobia, etc., enables the continuation of failed and failing practices. Priests and others who depend on the church for their livelihoods, and parishes as well, are in a tough spot if they attempt to speak truth to power; I get that.

Financially, I can support the local parish, but I feel that if I support the institutional church, I am contributing to my own oppression and to policies that I believe are morally bankrupt. I will continue to support church reform organizations like DignityUSA, Call To Action, or Roman Catholic Women Priests. It seems counterproductive to expend efforts in addressing some of the local issues Fr. Maurice mentioned when a systemic, institutional dysfunction prevents any true and long-lasting resolution. I'm sure I'm not the only one here at Immaculate who feels conflicted about this current state of church affairs. If there are like-minded or curious people who are interested in acknowledging and discussing these multiple “elephants in the room” that have weighed down the church for so long, please feel free to contact me to set-up an informal chat after Mass or an actual meeting at some other mutually agreeable time.

Yours very sincerely,
Leo N. Egashira

Note: Fr. Maurice has agreed to meet with me after returning from a sabbatical in February-March.