



Newsletter

Third Quarter 2022

Work for
Peace in
Ukraine



R.I.P. Jim Rankin: May 23, 1936 – October 7, 2021



Jim Rankin, a long-time member of Dignity/Seattle, passed away last autumn . . . during a time when Dignity/Seattle had suspended activities due to COVID-19. Jim was always there to help out at Dignity events, particularly at the annual Pride Week Breakfast.

Here is what Jim's sister, Catherine Thompson, wrote: "He spoke often of his involvement with Dignity of Seattle and how very much he enjoyed it. Jim was a wonderful son to our mother and brother to his siblings. He was very outgoing and made many friends at home and in his travels. He went to the U.K. ten times and enjoyed each trip.

He taught school for 30 years, mostly the lower grades as he really like little kids and thought they were fun and funny. He is well remembered by many he taught. The last six months of his life he struggled so. Now at least he is pain free and at peace. . . . Please offer prayers for him at one of your meetings. He would like that. I would love a copy of anything you print about him. Thank you. Cathy."

Requiescat in pace, dear Jim.

Dignity/Seattle Board Elections and Annual Membership Meeting, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022



Ballots will be sent electronically the week of August 22. If you do not receive one, please contact Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com



Dignity/Seattle's annual membership meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming.

Inclusive Catholic Community Home Liturgy, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
2130 N 86th St, Seattle 98103. Adina: 206-271-7560. More information on p.2

New Inclusive Community in Seattle A growth opportunity for Dignity/Seattle?

By Leo N. Egashira

In July, Roman Catholic Woman Priest (RCWP) candidate, Adina Meyer, contacted Dignity/Seattle and invited us to participate in an inclusive community home liturgy that was held on Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Paula L., Tish, and Leo were among the 16 who attended the eucharistic liturgy in the Licton Springs neighborhood between Green Lake and Northgate. The priests who co-presided were a man and a woman. The non-sexist, inclusive language of prayers and the selection of music were reminiscent of D/S liturgies from 20 years ago. Afterwards, there was a sharing of a delicious potluck brunch and conversations about each of our unique faith journeys.

While it was apparent that everyone was supportive of women's rights and leadership in the church, as well as inclusion and affirmation of LGBTQ persons, a major impetus for this first meeting was the impending closure of three parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle—St. Patrick, St. Mary, and Our Lady of Mount Virgin. The closures resulted in newly “homeless” parishioners looking to create a Catholic faith community that better reflects their progressive, inclusive values.

For now, the plan is to hold once-a-month liturgies (co-) presided by priests, RCWP, and married priests. For D/S, the formation of this inclusive community provides an opportunity for rejuvenation of the chapter as well as becoming a part of a much larger and much stronger faith community.

The idea of a very broad inclusive community brings to mind the [“Living Beatitudes Community: A Ministry of Dignity/Dayton,”](#) an extraordinarily thriving and active Catholic faith community, with strong ties to and involvement in DignityUSA, RCWP, and the Federation of Christian Ministries. Indeed, Dignity/Dayton has called forth several of its members to serve on the DignityUSA Board. Adina, Paula, and Leo are in touch with a DignityUSA board member who is part of Living Beatitudes.

The next scheduled liturgy is on **Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., 2130 N 86th St, Seattle 98103.** Please contact Adina at 206-271-7560 if you can attend. If you are interested in taking an active role in the formation and direction of this faith community, please contact Paula plandtish@aol.com, Leo Legashira@yahoo.com or Adina adina@seattleinclusivecatholic.org.

Here is Adina's e-mail from August 4, 2022 sent to the “Seattle Inclusive Catholic” list-serv:

Dear Friends;

This past weekend I had the honor of participating in the ordination to the priesthood of my sister in Christ, Dr. Donna Johnson-Smith. As Kate and I carried the paten

and chalice down the aisle, the choir sang "The Summons" by John L. Bell: "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?"

The next morning, sixteen people came to our house to share in an inclusive eucharistic liturgy. The priests who co-presided were a man and a woman - did you know that according to Ally Kateusz in her book *Mary and Early Christian Women*, there are no depictions of eucharistic celebrations before the year 300 that do not have both a man and a woman at the altar?

At both events, there were many tears - tears of joy, of relief, of sorrow for the long history of exclusion. In the words of co-president "Elias Cohen," tears are a kind of Living Water, a sign of the Presence of the Divine Spirit in our midst this weekend.

You can learn about upcoming events - and read more about the fight for justice and inclusion in the church - in the latest issue of [Junia's Journal](#).

I hope to see you soon!
Love from Adina

Dignity/Seattle's Annual Summer Picnic

The August 6, 2022 picnic at beautiful Magnolia Park was attended by about a dozen folks on a very nice summer day. It was the first in-person gathering of the calendar year. We enjoyed food cooked on the grill by Tom S., as well as delicious potluck offerings by the attendees. Alas, we were so relaxed and chatting away . . . that no-one thought to take a photo!

Board Members & Contact Info

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavalley	President
Paula Hills	Vice-President
Delia Vita	Treasurer, Social Comm.
Alan Scott	Secretary, Social Comm.
Laure Hauge	At-large

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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.

DignityUSA Conference San Diego, July 8-10, 2022

The DignityUSA National Conference, postponed one year from July 2021 to July 2022, was a really great event and had wonderful speakers. You can watch the main events by following the links to the right, and see the workshops by going to DignityUSA's YouTube channel.

From the "Dateline":

We were so thrilled to see so many of you this past week-end in San Diego! We hope you had a wonderful and memorable experience. For those who were unable to join us in San Diego or join live online, here are the play-backs of our livestreams:

[Opening Ceremonies - Part 1](#)

[Keynote Address](#)

[Saturday Morning Prayer](#)

[Membership Meeting](#)

[History of DignityUSA](#)

[Celebration of the Eucharist](#)

[Defenders Liturgy](#)

[Plenary Session](#)

[Closing and Commissioning Ceremony](#)



Dignity/Seattle was well represented in San Diego. L-R: Leo Egashira (who did readings for a couple liturgies and was part of a history panel), Laure Hauge (the environmentalist who designed the conference's beautiful background and settings), Paula Lavallee (the awesome Conference chair), and Tish Charette (who was the "Jill of all trades")

More San Diego Conference photos



Singer Gina Chavez with Tish

↑ Leo assisting in Drag Queen Bingo!

Conference Chair, Paula Lavalley, in one of her many speaking moments
The background was the handiwork of environmentalist Laure Hauge →



↓ L-R: Michael Flynn, Bill Baird, Leo Egashira, and Debbie Myers on a panel discussion on Dignity's history

