

- Dignity Spirit -

Dignity/San Francisco Co-Chairs Report January/February 2000 Gino Ramos and Gilbert Gonzalez

This is indeed a very special time, to be alive at the turn of a century and a millennium. We have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. God's grace will continue to come down upon us.

Dignity's future depends on you. As of last Sunday, January 2, 15 people have returned their stewardship cards. We all expect Dignity to not only exist but also hold exciting activities. Neither will happen unless you do your part. The mailing we did for stewardship last year included postage paid reply envelopes for your convenience. Please remember that anything helps, even the smallest contribution of your time, talent or treasure goes a LONG, LONG way. We encourage you to be generous. We encourage you to be imaginative in the ways you can contribute to Dignity's mission.

We also encourage you to come to our Chapter's first quarterly meeting this Sunday, January 9, after Mass. At the meeting, we will 1) give you another update on the results of the stewardship campaign so far, 2) ask our treasurer to give a brief explanation of our budget for this year, 3) give you suggestions on how to involve yourself in the campaign against Prop 22, the Knight initiative.

We will also be soliciting your opinions regarding Sunday Mass. Attendance nowadays ranges from 20 to 50. A significant portion of our budget goes to rent. Is it time to find a smaller worship space with lower rent somewhere else? What about moving to the Castro or even the East Bay? Do we still want Mass every Sunday? With priests becoming less and less available to us, do we want to do as other chapters do, attend Mass at a regular parish and organize other activities instead?

Under the same conditions, would we like to pursue other forms of worship? Maybe breaking away from our Sunday Mass tradition will allow us to be truly creative in forming spirituality unique to transgender, lesbian, bisexual and gay Catholics? This discussion was started at the Future Search conference. The board needs to hear from you so we can make decisions that are best for the community. Write a letter, send an e-mail or a fax or leave a message on the phone. We want to hear from you!

A couple of things that our chapter needs to focus on in the next couple of months are Pax et Bonum and elections of new officers. The Pax et Bonum committee's first meeting was held on Wednesday, January 5. Anyone interested in helping make the evening successful can get in touch with Paul Woolley, chair of the committee. With regards to elections, please start thinking of whom you might want to see lead the chapter. Also, please look at yourself and recognize that your voice on the board is a valuable one, you might consider running for the board!

Have you recovered yet from the holidays? The rest of the year is coming. Fast.

Yours Sincerely in Christ, Gilbert and Gino

