

- Dignity Spirit -

Dignity, San Francisco

May/June, 2000

Co-Chairs' Report

Gilbert Gonzalez and Gino Ramos

“Where the Spirit leads, I will follow...”

Greetings:

A joyful Easter to you! We hope you are getting caught up in the explosion of color and light now that the days are longer and the rain has stopped.

During the Mass at Most Holy Redeemer on Maundy Thursday, I was thinking about how similar Dignity/San Francisco's situation is to the Israelites at the First Passover. Like the Israelites, we are asked to wear our sandals and carry our walking sticks in our hands. Like the Israelites, we are a people on the move. We have to be ready to move on short notice, we can only eat bread from yeastless dough. We have no time to wait for the bread to rise. Like the Israelites, God does not forget to nourish us. Like the Israelites, we put our trust in God that we are being led to freedom from oppression.

As we approached Good Friday, I recognized in a stronger way than before that often, it is my will that I would like to be done and not God's. Why worry too much about the future of Dignity/San Francisco? Perhaps if I let God do the work, we would see better results!

As we continue to bask in the warmth of spring, in the glory of the Easter season, we might ask ourselves, what do we need to let go of so God's work can be done? Which dreams are ours and which dreams are God's? Fr. Zachary Shore said that Christ's greatest bequest to us is the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit guide us as we continue our journey to God, wearing our sandals and carrying our walking sticks.

In Our Prayers:

Gino Ramos is not able to co-author this letter because he is in the Philippines. Please pray for Gino's father who is in poor health and for his family who have all come home to surround the father with their love.

Board Changes:

Please join us in congratulating our newest Board Members - **Emily Weaver** and **Paul Ziller**, directors-at-large. Also starting a new term as Treasurer, continuing on the Board, is **Jim Remer**. We wish them all the best as they carry out their responsibilities as officers of the organization.

Pride 2000

Our last big event, Pax et Bonum, was a success. We hope that you will be generous in donating your time to our next big event - Pride Day, June 24 and 25. There are plenty of opportunities to involve yourself: the Parade Committee, the Beverage Booth or the Information Booth. Please contact **David Turner** if you are interested in helping out.

Membership Sunday

Pentecost, June 11 will be Membership Sunday. Be there to applaud members who have shown their loyalty to the movement for equality in the church by maintaining their memberships with Dignity/San Francisco.

Until next time, enjoy yourself this Easter!

- Gilbert -



From the Dignity/USA DATELINE of APRIL 2000:

Gay Catholics Call for Inclusion in Pope's Jubilee Apology

On March 9, 2000 Dignity/USA issued a press release calling upon John Paul II to include the GLBT community in his apology.

The Papal apology comes as part of the commemoration of 2000 as a Jubilee Year, a time when the Church has designated as "a year of reconciliation and forgiveness" in accord with ancient Judeo-Christian tradition.

Marianne Duddy, Dignity/USA Executive Director, said that the Church has harmed gay people in numerous ways throughout history. "From its keeping homosexuality shrouded in silence to its irresponsible naming of us as unforgivable sinners, to harmful interventions in public policy debates, the Catholic Church has caused gay and lesbian people untold grief," she said.

"The Church bears responsibility for people living in shame and despair, and even committing suicide. Too many people were

told they were damned to Hell because of their love for people of the same sex. Of course the Church should apologize to us. It would be a welcome first step," Duddy said.

Mary Louise Cervone, Dignity/USA President, also noted that Cardinal Roger Mahoney, Archbishop of Los Angeles, the nation's largest Roman Catholic diocese, mentioned gay and lesbian people in his recently apology, and acknowledged that the Church is homophobic at times. She also said that Bishop Gumbleton of Detroit received a warm response when he asked the Dignity community for forgiveness at the organization's national convention last summer. "We are pleased that these two Church leaders have taken this step," said Cervone. "It represents a good beginning, and gives us hope that one day the Church will fully affirm its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members."

The full text of the Press Release can be seen at the Dignity/USA website.