

dignity san francisco



Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

TED MAYLATH

&

PAUL ZILLER,

Co-CHAIRS



CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD

• Greetings to All! •

We have looked forward to this opportunity to make our first contact with our larger *Dignity* family by way of this "Spirit". We are very excited to be stepping into our new positions as Co-CHAIRS of *Dignity/SF*. Thank you for your "votes" of confidence and the blessing we received from the community at our March 18th, Sunday Mass. Many thanks again to our predecessors Gilbert Gonzalez and Gino Ramos for paving the road to where we are now and passing on the pearls of wisdom and history that are the roots of our community's efforts.

We are here to lead you and serve you. At our Holy Thursday mass, led by our presider, we were able to begin this by symbolically washing the feet of you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our two-way contact with you will be invaluable... what makes our community tick. We look forward to hearing from you over the next two years. If you feel *Dignity* could better speak to or serve you personally or demographically or if you feel you have something to bring to our table... inspired ideas, committed hands, prayerful thoughts we welcome your input. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS meet the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 at 7th Avenue. All are encouraged to attend.

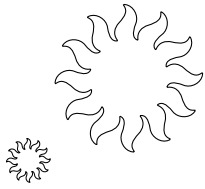
• New Board on Board •

Jim Remer returns as our trusty TREASURER. Clarence Luvisi and David Turner return for new terms as DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE. We are also thrilled to welcome Joe Curtin and Nicole Sotelo as NEWLY appointed DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE. Nicole also continues as our Chair of the *Women's Concerns Committee*. We are very excited to have such committed and active members in place to form our team. The integral position of SECRETARY remains vacant, as does one final two year term of DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE. If you feel called to serve in either of these roles please, please contact us.

• Social Justice Witness •

On March 31, with our *Dignity/SF* banner in hand, a proud contingency of five *Dignity* and *People of Color Support Group* members (John Chavez, Aurora Grajeda, Vladimir Maldonado, Raul Salazar, Kehau Wessel) took part in the Cesar Chavez Holiday Parade, Festival and Interfaith Prayer Service. This is the first official state holiday for Cesar Chavez, and this day was the first time the state has recognized this holiday, commemorating the legacy of this social justice giant.

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God made us a family

We need one another

We love one another

We forgive one another

We work together

We play together

We worship together

Together we use God's word

Together we grow in Christ

Together we love all people

Together we serve our God

Together we hope for Heaven

These are our hopes and ideals

Help us to attain them, O God,

Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

(author unknown)



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• **Peace and Goodness** •

That same evening we celebrated our annual "Pax et Bonum" Awards Dinner. We take this time to acknowledge those who have shown "Peace and Goodness" in their ministry to the LGBT community at large or in our own chapter. This year's award recipients were Sr. Jeannine Gramick, SSND, Co-Founder of New Ways Ministry; Dick Kramer, Director of the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus; Wanda J. Redman, Music Director of *Dignity/SF*; David C. Turner, Member, **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE** and *Membership Committee* Chair of *Dignity/SF*. We were blessed to hear each of these awardees very personal stories as well as the inspired words of the presenters and Mistress of Ceremonies, Janet Cerny.

Sr. Gramick inspired us all with her reflections on the Vatican investigation of her ministry through New Ways Ministry. After receiving a directive to end her ministry to LGBT Catholics, she had to examine her conscience to find what her appropriate response was. She used the analogy of a pair of running shoes to speak to how we all can discern what God's true calling for us is. She shared that one must find the "right fit" in their shoes. One can walk for a short while in the wrong shoes but for the long haul of our lives it is only in the right fitting shoes that one can come to a place of "grace". She encouraged all of us to seek to discover that right fit, which is ultimately where God's will for us is. She truly serves as a wonderful spiritual adviser for us all in her gift of speech and conscience-led ministry! Perhaps Sr. Jeannine taught us even more on the dance floor when she blew through an impressive swing dance routine!

This evening was very moving for us, in particular, as new co-chairs and relatively new members of *Dignity/SF*. We were able to see before

us our community's rich history. We met founders, long-time members, former Co-Chairs, former members who have gone on to lead in other chapters, and so on. What more of a witness to the strength of what we stand for could we have asked for? We thank God for the opportunity to be touched by that inspiration!

• **Women's Faith Sharing Evening** •

All of the women of the community are invited to an evening of faith sharing on Saturday, May 5th at 6:00 pm. Hosted by Nicole Sotelo, you will share stories of women in Dignity's past and create a vision of the community we would like to see in the future. This will be the first gathering of what will be a monthly faith sharing group for women to support one another on our spiritual journey. For more information please contact Nicole at 415.440.7158.

• **We Gotta March!** •

On Sunday, June 24th a contingency of our members and friends (YOU!?) will march in the San Francisco Pride Parade and, as is our tradition, we will host information and beverage booths at the accompanying Pride Festival. We are beginning to do the planning and are in need of at least two people to help organize both the walking contingency and information booth. Please leave a message at our office if you wish to help in this organizing or join us in marching. David Turner is organizing the beverage booth again this year. Please contact him at 510.522.4404 if you are interested in working at the beverage booth only. Thanks to David for spearheading that effort again this year. It is a necessity to have many helpers to allow these efforts to run successfully. Come share in this fun and inspiring annual event!

God Bless!

TED & PAUL