

dignity san francisco

Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

Dear Members & Friends,

it would be impossible for us to reach out to you in this issue of *Spirit* without acknowledging how much our world has changed in recent months. Dire times remind us that we are not self-sufficient, but largely powerless. We have seen how much we really need our faith, our communities, our GOD in the face of these events! We can, through the grace of God, help one another discern meaning and find healing in this and see the mystery in suffering. We are blessed to have this support system in our Dignity/SF community and we NEED and must GIVE to one another now more than ever. Later in this issue one of our members shares with us about the memory of Mychal Judge, one who has served our large Dignity community and was lost on September 11th.

• Celebrating a Dear Friend's Life •

We are very sad to share that on Monday morning, Oct. 22 our dear friend Dr. Carlos Mosca crossed over to the other side, at the age of 39. Carlos was a member of Dignity/USA for almost 20 years. He has been a member of the Defenders/SF for the last 4 years, where he served as Leader last year and Treasurer this year. He also belonged to several square dancing troupes and competed all over the country. On Sunday evening, surrounded by his mother and friends, member Fr. Mike Gifford administered his Last Rites. All present participated in this prayer of farewell and shared Communion.

The MEMORIAL SERVICE will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 7th Ave. Pres. Church. Fr. Mike Gifford will preside. The obituary will be in the BAR (and possibly the SF Chronicle). Members of Dignity and the Defenders and friends are encouraged to come and share in our celebration of Carlos' life!

• Community Gift Giving •

We have recently begun our annual tradition of distributing our tithing funds to those organizations discerned by the Executive Committee, including any appropriate organizations recommended by our members. We made every attempt to balance the list with organizations representing a diversity of age, gender, ethnicity, health needs as well as local vs. national outreach. *Many thanks to Jim Remer, our Treasurer, for compiling our initial list!*

These funds constitute 10% of our weekly Sunday Mass collections. In other words, they are ONLY made possible by your generosity. It's very exciting to continue to be able to give to others in this way! This tradition gives us an opportunity to applaud the goodness in our community and bridge some of the chasms within our larger LGBT and Catholic/Christian communities. Our total tithing fund gift this year totalled \$3740.00.

For our more substantial gifts we have welcomed the director or a representative from each organization to share in our Sunday Mass >

TED MAYLATH

&

PAUL ZILLER,

Co-CHAIRS



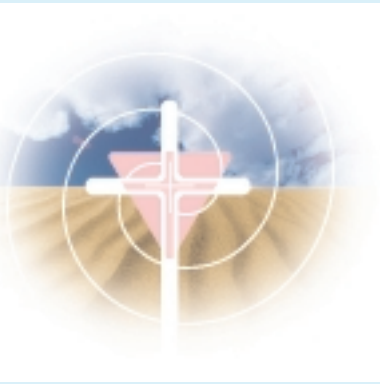
CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD

2003 NATIONAL CONVENTION LOGO:
"A VOICE IN THE DESERT"



with us so that we might meet them and, in a more personal way, thank them for their service to our larger community. We have also been blessed by moving accounts from our first few tithing guests about their service.

Bob Nelson, Director of *Dolores Street Community Services*, shared that it was many Dignity/SF members in the early 80s that helped found DSCS and their willing volunteer work that assisted the organization in getting a foothold on serving the poor and disenfranchised in the Mission and Castro districts. He also shared that about 20 years ago the Dignity/SF community helped him personally in a time of need.

Kevin Gogin, Director of *Support Services for Sexual Minority Youth*, shared three very touching stories of youth who were isolated, confused or suicidal – victims of different manifestations of hate and ignorance. Support Services has been able to help heed this call – to educate, provide solutions, even help save these delicate lives.

Victor Hall of the *Filipino Task Force on AIDS* shared that when he heard from us it was like hearing from "an old friend". He shared that our gift is much needed now because the Filipino community in the Bay Area has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in all the larger community of asian and pacific islanders.

Organizations receiving our more substantial donation of \$200.00 (unless noted):

- *Community United Against Violence*
- *Dolores Street Community Services*
- *Filipino Task Force on AIDS*
- *Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services*
- *LYRIC (Lavender Youth Rec & Info Center) – \$300.00*
- *Religious Witness with Homeless People*
- *Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church (Building Fund)*
- *Soulforce*
- *Support Services for Sexual Minority Youth* (a SF Unified School District School Health Services Programs Dept., recommended by member Dick Olsen) – \$475.00 gift, including a matching amount of \$200.00 from Dick Olsen and the additional amount of \$75.00 from his friend Paul Lippert)

Additional tithing fund recipients:

Alternative Family Project; Catholic Worker Farm; In the Life; Project Open Hand; Women's Ordination Conference; National Center for Lesbian Rights; Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; Call To Action; Catholics Speak Out (Quixote Center); Dignity/Honolulu (25th Anniv. Program); Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; Mary's Pence; LambdaLegal Defense and Education Fund; Network; Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network; Human Rights Campaign; National Organization for Women; Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics & Ritual; Catholics for Contraception; Zen Hospice Project; AIDS Emergency Fund; Future Church; National Campaign for Tolerance; Oasis/California; PFLAG; Priests for Equality (Quixote Center); Q-Spirit; The Interfaith Alliance; American Foundation for AIDS Research; Brethren Mennonite Council for L/G Concerns; Catholic Relief Services; Catholics for a Free Choice; Horizons Foundation; Mercy Center; MHR AIDS Support Group; National Catholic AIDS Network; New Ways Ministry; Quixote Center; Safehouse; Sisters of Mercy of Burlingame; Sojourn Chaplaincy – SF General Hospital; Spectrum; St. Anthony Foundation; Teaching Tolerance; Tenderloin Reflection and Education Center

(For complete tithing fund gift amounts to these organizations, you may review the list on our news board after each Sunday Mass.)

• *Celebration of Commitment* •

On Membership Sunday (The Feast of Corpus Christi), June 17th, we acknowledged membership anniversaries. Although a few months have passed since this commemoration we wanted to be sure to share the good news of these committed members with our full membership. We presented each member who was present with the special Dignity/SF pin to commemorate the year of their anniversary.

25 years: Neil Christensen*, John Kennedy, L. S.*, Angelo Wong

20 years: Steve H., Tom McLoughlin

15 years: Bill Weaver

10 years: Steven Bucholtz, Jack Fahy, Gilberto Gonzalez, Clarence Luvisi, Gino Ramos, David Turner, Kehau Wessel, Margaret Wu

5 years: Linda B., John Brown*, Tim LaBuda, Marta L., Bryan Kelley

1 year: Reynaldo Arsenio, John Pratt, Ernie Seaver, Paul Ziller

* anniversary date acknowledged late, our apologies... we ain't perfect!



"O God our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast
and our eternal home..."

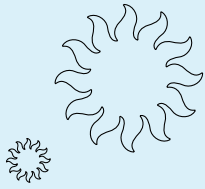
— HYMN EXCERPT

SHIRT DESIGN



dignity
san francisco

(continued on next page)



(If you did not receive your anniversary pin, and would like to, please notify us at the office so that we can mail it to you.)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS +

Co-Chairs, (see front)

*Secretary, VACANT,
seeking a volunteer!*

Treasurer, Jim Remer

At-Large Members,

- Neil Christensen
- Joseph Curtin
- Clarence Luvisi
- David Turner

*Women's Group Coordinator,
Trudy Guella*

*Office Assistant, VACANT,
seeking applicants for pay!*



• Christmas Liturgy at "Home"! •

We will have our annual Christmas Eve liturgy on Monday, December 24 at 9:30pm at 7th. Ave. Presbyterian. Fr. Ralph will preside. If you are interested in being a greeter at this mass please contact us. We really want to allow everyone to feel very much at home!

• Bon Voyage & Welcome •

On August 26th we sang "Happy Trails" to Nicole Sotelo, our coordinator of the Women's Concerns Committee and Women's Faith Sharing Group and an invaluable member for a little over the past year. On this, her last Sunday celebrating with us, we also presented her with a framed "Hildegard of Bingen" Icon print. She will be missed, to say the least. She lent inspiration to our liturgies, Board Meetings, Visioning and Membership Committee Meetings and most importantly to us as people! Keep her in your prayers as she eases into her new job and home setting in Wash. D.C.

We are pleased to report that the "torch has been passed" to our member Trudy Guella! She and her partner Lynn Ford (recently celebrated 6 years together!) will be continuing the Women's Faith Sharing Groups. On October 7th she shared her first homily with us at our Sunday Mass. We are so happy to have her step up to this leadership position and look forward to her serving as homilist again, on Nov. 25th!

• Pax et Bonum Committee •

It's that time of year again! We need to begin planning our Pax et Bonum Awards Dinner & Dance for the new year. The past few years **many** of the same people have put in **many** hours to make this a fun and successful evening. *This year we need some new people on this planning committee!* Please offer us your ideas and time. Contact us to let us know you're interested and then we will follow up to let you know when our initial meeting will be in the new year.

• 2001 Pride Fair Final Earnings •

At our Beverage Booth we, along with our Defenders brothers, raised a total of \$4071.04! (We split the amount between both organizations appropriately.) We are very pleased with these earnings... thanks again for your efforts!

• Our Thanksgiving Family Meal •

On November 11th we share our annual Thanksgiving meal together during our monthly Second Sunday Supper. Come share in this annual family-style tradition with us. Gobble Gobble!

• Call for Photos •

If you have any memorable photos of Dignity/SF and Dignity/USA events and/or liturgies from the past year or two we'd love to get duplicates or make color copies from them! This will allow us to keep our photo collages and communications updated so that we can share with others (particularly at the street fairs) what we have to offer.

Peace, Safety and Much Love! TED & PAUL



Dignity/San Francisco

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• Christmas Gift Giving Idea! •

The NEW Dignity/SF TShirts and Polo Shirts are still available! The cost for each Polo Shirt is \$25.00 for Dignity San Francisco members and \$30.00 for non-members. The cost for each T-Shirt is \$12.00 for Dignity San Francisco members and \$15.00 for non-members. Give them as Christmas gifts! (See shirt design on inside of this *Spirit!*). Inquire about them after Sunday mass or leave a message at the Dignity office.

11 September 2001,

A Friend of Dignity is Lost



It was a little like a 1940's movie. A Catholic priest rushes to a disaster scene to give consolation and to perform the Last Rites. While performing his duties, a large piece of debris falls from a building and he is killed. Religious type music swells up in volume, luminous clouds fill the screen, credits appear, the curtains close and the house lights come up.

But this was not a vintage movie. It was harsh reality. On 11 September 2001, when the World Trade Center Towers were in flames, REV. MYCHAL JUDGE, the New York Fire Department Chaplain, rushed to the scene of destruction, tending the firefighters' spiritual well-being at the hour of their greatest need. He was administering last rites when the first tower began to collapse. The falling debris killed the Franciscan instantly. Hours later, pictures of his being lifted out of the rubble by the firefighters he counseled, were beamed around the world. They carried him to the nearest church and placed his broken body on the altar.

The story does not end there. For Mychal Judge was an extraordinary man who took the gospel as a mandate for social justice, and within this context, gave his support for a wide array of GLBT and HIV/AIDS issues. Judge will best be remembered in the community for giving Dignity, and its AIDS Services Ministry, a refuge when John Cardinal O'Connor expelled the support group for Gay and Lesbian Catholics from Archdiocesan property in 1986. When Dignity was forced to leave its home at St. Francis Xavier Church on West 16th Street, Judge, who as a member of the Franciscan order and did not report directly to O'Connor, welcomed the group's AIDS Outreach Program to the Franciscan's Church, St. Francis of Assisi on West 31st Street.

Less than a week after the 11 September 2001 tragedy, San Francisco held its official gathering to remember those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center. On stage sat the leaders, in full regalia, of every conceivable church group in the city.

As a Catholic, my eyes were drawn to Archbishop Levada and wondered what he would say. Would he talk of the loss of a fellow priest in the rubble of the Trade Center? Would he go so far as to mention Rev. Judge's dedication to social justice within the Church? Instead, my Archbishop got up, read a prayer by St. Francis and sat down.

I have long wondered about a conspiracy of silence that is applied to the biographies of gay men and women who reached high places in their lifetime and made significant contribution to the society in which they lived. A person like Dr. Thomas Dooley, one the most popular celebrities of his day, could have made a difference in the gay movement if the public knew that a fine Catholic physician could contribute his life to a cause of mercy which ultimately helped lead to his early death.

I write this article in the hope that Rev. Mychal Judge will be remembered as a three dimensional person and not a scrubbed up version of a man many in the hierarchy would have wanted him to be.

Personally, I would have trouble praying to a fake.

C R E D I T S :

by Ted Maylath

Re-Imagining Dignity

• National News •

During the National Convention held in Denver two years ago, the House of Delegates determined that for Dignity/USA to continue to be a formidable voice and advocate for change in the Church there would need to be changes made in the organizational structure at a National Level. The 2001 Chicago House of Delegates ended a two-year process, "Re-Imagining Dignity", with a vote to accept the revised By-Laws mailed to the members earlier this year.

This vote sets our course for the next millennia toward justice and equality within our One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church. The most significant amendments made to the By-Laws were: **one person, one vote**; the creation of the Nominating and Election Committees; the dissolution of the official Regions of Dignity/USA; replacement of the representative House of Delegates with periodic Membership Meetings; and Dignity/USA sponsored conferences held in several locations around the country in the years between national conventions.

In the past, the national business of Dignity was taken up at the House of Delegates Meetings during the National Conventions held every two years by Representatives sent by the Chapters. This process was not as successful as it needs to have been for Dignity to be an effective voice for GLBT Catholic awareness and was the impetus for the Re-Imaging Dignity process. With the advent of the revised By-Laws that take effect on the first of September, this representative style of National Governance will be replaced with a Popular Vote. While each Chapter will retain its Chapter Votes, each Member will also have his/her own vote on issues of National Importance. These votes will be mailed to Members and you are asked to vote as the Spirit moves you.

With this change, comes an increased responsibility for all members to become and remain informed about the National and Local issues facing us as GLBT Catholics. Members affiliated with Chapters, such as Dignity/SF, can do this by attending the weekly services sponsored by their Chapters and

reviewing the mailings sent to them by the Dignity/USA. Individual Members with Internet access can stay informed by visiting the National Web-site at www.dignityusa.org, by subscribing to the National News Service DignityNews-Subscribe@yahoo.com, and by attending the National Conventions and Membership Meetings.

To combat the apparent shortage of people willing to serve on the National level, the revised By-Laws have created two new committees. These are the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with bringing forth candidates for the national offices while the Election Committee oversees the process of selecting from among these candidates to fill the offices.

The 2003 National Membership Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, NV. In keeping with the location, the theme will be "A Voice In the Desert." Members can enjoy a 10% (no pun intended???) savings by PreRegistering by the 30th of November 2001. To do so, kindly use the form provided in this mailing. *Members who wish to be a part of the planning of the 2003 Meeting should contact Ted Maylath or Paul Ziller.*

The last item of business for the Chicago Convention was the re-election by acclamation of Mary Louise Cervone and Patrick T. McArron to serve a second term as President and Vice President of Dignity/USA.

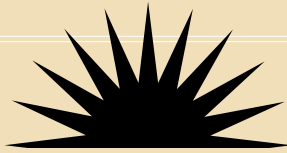
• Regional News •

Prior to the opening of the 2001 National House of Delegates' Meeting in Chicago, the Pacific Region Chapters held our Summer Meeting. During that meeting, the upcoming decision on the structure of Dignity as a national organization was discussed. The Pacific Region decided that, regardless of the outcome of the National Meeting, we would meet again in the Fall. We met on Oct. 13 in Seattle. Gilbert Gonzalez, Jim Paz, Raul Salazar and Paul Ziller represented the community at the meeting. □



Photo: Trudy Guella and Lynn Ford at Chicago Convention

[The 2001 National Conference was held in Chicago from July 2 through 8. Representing our community at the conference were: Bill Baird, Henry Chau, John Ducote, Lynn Ford, Gilberto Gonzalez, Trudy Guella, Ted Maylath, Tom McLoughlin, Jim Paz, Jim Remer, Raul Salazar, Nicole Sotelo, Mario Torrigino. Many thanks to them for their involvement in our national efforts.]



Special Thanks!

• for all those who staffed **information booths**, sharing their faith and listening...

Folsom Street Fair:

Erick B., Henry Chau, Neil Christensen, Joe Curtin*, Gilberto Gonzalez*, Chuck Lawson, Clarence Luvisi, Thelma Luvisi, Ted Maylath*, Ralph Monteiro, Joe P., Jim Paz*, Jim Remer, Mario Torrigino, David Turner*

Castro Street Fair:

L. S., John Brown, Henry Chau, Joe Curtin, Jack Fahy, Gilberto Gonzalez*, Jim Paz*, Vince Phillips*, Gino Ramos, Jim Remer*, David Turner*, Bob Yeargin, Paul Ziller*

* *organizer/planner!*
(may include booth set-up or tear down)

Continuing Member Service:

Paul Riofski, for his inspired and inventive music ministry

Special Member Service:

Trudy Guella, for serving as Co-President and homilist at our Oct. 7 Solidarity Sunday service

Tom Kaun, for serving as Co-President and preparing the general intercessions at our Oct. 7 Solidarity Sunday service

Gilbert Gonzalez & Jim Paz, for hosting their annual Open House to help thank Dignity members for their volunteer service

★ Jennie Maruyama, for producing the *Dominical Digest* program for over 4 years!

Vladimir Maldonado, Kehua Wessel, Raul Salazar & Chuck Lawson, for coordinating the *Día de los Muertos* liturgy and reception

Gino Ramos, for arranging the gift of a beautiful flower arrangement on behalf of our community for the funeral service of our brother Montford Cardwell (a long-time 7th Ave. Presbyterian member)

L. S., for hosting the couple's group gathering



(from left to right): Nicole Sotelo, Gino Ramos, Joe Curtin, Ted Maylath, Paul Ziller, Thad Trela, Gilbert Gonzalez, Neil Christensen, Jim Paz