

dignity san francisco

Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is in full swing, and as usual Dignity has a full slate of liturgical, community and fun activities planned as we enter into our season of good weather and outdoor festivals!

June was **PRIDE** month, and Dignity celebrated with a special liturgy at the UCSF Faculty/Alumni house, followed by a reception. All who attended enjoyed the home-like atmosphere and outdoor garden. We will plan to return there in the near future for other events. Dignity was well represented at the LGBT mass at the University of California Berkeley Newman Center on June 13th. Thanks to Antonio Salas and the LGBT community at Newman for a wonderful event. We hope that we will join together for more such events in the future. Pride weekend was highlighted by a marching contingent in the Pride parade, an information booth and a fund-raising beverage booth, with assistance from the Bay Blades gay and lesbian rowing club. Thanks, rowers, for your help, your smiles and your muscles! **Dignity members raised over \$2,200 for the chapter!**

A big thank you to all of the Dignity and Defender volunteers who made all four of these wonderful events possible!

The highlight of our July activities was the **Healing Liturgy** held on July 13th, with Father Ralph presiding. Several current and past members, as well as a number of guests and our returning accompanist, Matt, made both the liturgy and the sacrament of Anointing of the

Sick a memorable experience. Thanks to all of you who sponsored our AIDS walkers this year—Vicky, Angelo, and your two co-chairs! It was a wonderful, warm event and over 3.1 million dollars was raised for AIDS-related charities in the Bay Area.

In August, over twenty of our members trekked to Las Vegas for the **Dignity National Biennial Convention**, which is always a joyous occasion as far-flung friends reunite and celebrate the gifts of spirituality and love. Fr. Ralph hosted a home liturgy on the **Feast of the Assumption** attended by ten members and followed by a delicious dinner. And several members will spend Labor Day Weekend together at the Russian River on the annual camping trip.

Our regular liturgies have been well attended this summer, with weekly average congregation size increasing steadily (21 per mass in April, 24 in May, 27 in June and 29 in July). Dignity continues to play an important role celebrating God's gifts of our love and our sexuality as witness to all of our communities: lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual persons and Catholics of all sexualities in the Bay Area. This is particularly important with the recent attacks from both the President and the Vatican on the nature of our relationships. As a Catholic community it is our right and our calling to affirm the divine in all of us, to call for justice and equal treatment in the ethics of relationship and to treat all individuals with Dignity and respect. And most of all to celebrate—we are still here and going strong after 30 years of service!

(continued on back)

JOHN BROWN

&

JOE CURTIN,

Co-CHAIRS



CELEBRATING

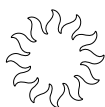
OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD



We walk on frosted ground
 Praising chrysanthemums
 bordering fields;
 Sit on the east edge of the woods
 Waiting for the moon to rise.
 Not having to be alone
 Is happiness;
 We do not talk
 Of failure or success.
 — Chia Tao



BOARD OF DIRECTORS +

Co-Chairs, John & Joe

Secretary, VACANT

Treasurer, Jim Remer

At-Large Members,

Henry Chau

Neil Christensen

Vladimir Maldonado

Victoria Valencia

Women's Group Coordinator,

Trudy Guella



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• **Upcoming Events for the Fall** •

This fall, we are planning several events that will continue our mission to reach out to the GLBT Community, to serve those in need, and to be a prophetic voice for freedom and dignity for Queer Catholics, as well as strengthening the bonds of our own Dignity/San Francisco family.

2003 marks **Dignity/San Francisco's 30th Anniversary**, and we will celebrate with a special **30th Anniversary Liturgy on Sunday, September 21st at 5:30pm at Seventh Avenue Church**, followed by a reception. **Our theme is "Come Home to Dignity"**, and we invite all to wear your pearls and join us, especially those who are former members or haven't attended our liturgies for a while. We would love to see you again, and spend an evening sharing memories of the struggles and triumphs that led us to where we are today.

In September and October, join us at the **Folsom Street Fair** and the **Castro Street Fair** to spread the word about Dignity. We will once again have an information booth at both fairs, and we need many volunteers to staff the booth. Only two hours of your time would be very helpful! Please leave a message on our office voice mail to volunteer.

On Saturday, October 11, Dignity/SF, St. John of God Church and the Defenders will co-host a **Fundraising Dinner for "Marty's Place"**, a non-profit hospice for people with HIV and AIDS. The dinner will be at our old home at St. John of God Church at 5th and Irving in the Inner Sunset district. **Tickets are \$20 and sales will start September 1st.** We need volunteers to help set up and serve the dinner. Contact John Brown at 415.681.2491 or <johnfbrown99@sbcglobal.net>. We need all the help we can get!

Finally, please plan to attend the **Quarterly Membership Meeting on Sunday, September 14**, following the 5:30 pm Liturgy in the Church Hall. At the meeting we will discuss the chapter's response to the recent Vatican statement which vehemently opposes marriage equality for same-sex couples, as well as the start of the annual chapter stewardship campaign, and a report from the **Dignity National Convention** in Las Vegas. We hope to see you there, and at all the events coming up.

• **Calendar of Upcoming Events** •

Saturday, September 13: *Andy Biggi Memorial Service & Reception*, 10:00am, 7th Ave. Church

Sunday, September 14: *Quarterly Membership Meeting*, following our 5:30pm Liturgy, 7th Ave.

★ **Sunday, September 21:** *30th Anniversary Liturgy & Reception*, 5:30pm, 7th Ave.

Sunday, September 28: *Folsom Street Fair*, @ Folsom Street between 7th & 12th Streets

Sunday, October 5: *Castro Street Fair*, @ Castro & Market Streets

★ **Saturday, October 11:** *Marty's Place Fundraising Dinner*, 7:00pm, St. John of God Church, 5th Ave. & Irving Streets

A reminder that our **Board of Directors Meetings** are now held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Seventh Avenue Church. We have had an increasing number of members joining us to voice their opinions on issues facing Dignity San Francisco, and we welcome all members to attend—we are your Board and want to be responsive to your concerns. For those of you who cannot attend but would like to know what the Board is doing, we circulate a draft Board Agenda at the Sunday liturgy one week prior to the Board meetings to solicit member's input—please let us know what issues concern you that we may not be addressing.

• **Volunteer Opportunities** •

We would like to highlight the following volunteer opportunities for the upcoming months:

Folsom Street Fair: Sunday, September 28th, information booth. 2 to 4 hour time blocks. Contact David Turner at <DCTRNP@aol.com>

Castro Street Fair: Sunday, October 5th, information booth. 2 to 4 hour time blocks.

Marty's Place Fundraising Dinner: Set-up crew, serving crew, clean-up crew and assistance selling tickets are all needed.

T-shirt Czar: we need to organize our current stock and order new shirts.

For these 3 opps. contact John Brown at 415.681.2491 or <johnfbrown99@sbcglobal.net>

Vaya con dios! John and Joe, your co-chairs