

dignity san francisco

# Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

Dear Members and Friends,

A Happy and Vibrant New Year to you! Our new Dignity year got off to a flying start with our January regular Liturgies and special Healing Liturgy on February 1st.

• **Annual Meeting** •

This month will be busy with our preparations for the upcoming Annual Meeting and **Board of Director Elections on Sunday, March 7th at 7:15pm**—please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. In addition to the election we will be discussing the co-chairs and treasurer's reports, and upcoming potential changes to our bylaws. **Remember—your vote counts.** *Our candidates for office are: Roy Cairo, Secretary; Jack Fahy, Treasurer; John Chavez, Board Member at Large; and Gino Ramos, Board Member at Large.* Thank you to our candidates for offering their service to the chapter, and please support them by voting March 7th!

• **Pax et Bonum Gala** •

The remainder of March will also be big as we will have our annual gala, the Pax et Bonum Dinner Dance, at the Crowne Plaza Union Square Hotel, 480 Sutter Street (at Powell) **on Saturday, March 22nd.** No host cocktails will start at 7:00pm, followed by dinner and awards at 8:00pm and dancing until midnight. We are excited to announce this year's awardees: *For Service to the GLBT Community: Christopher Daley; for service to the Church: Call To Action, Fr. Louis Vitale, O.F.M., for service to the Dignity community: Paul Ziller and Victoria Valencia.*

Tickets are \$50 and can be obtained from Joe Curtin. We hope you can join us for this celebration of our community life, now in its 21st year.

• **Executive Director Visit** •

We are doubly blessed the weekend of March 26-28, as in addition to our Pax et Bonum gala celebration we expect a visit from **Matthew Gallagher, the new Executive Director of Dignity/USA.** He is planning to attend both the Pax et Bonum dinner and our regular Sunday liturgy and social hour on March 28th. He has promised to speak with us about current issues facing the national Dignity organization, and answer your questions. We invite everyone to come to both events and have a chance to meet Matthew—and to give him a warm Dignity/San Francisco welcome!

• **Lenten Liturgies** •

The season of Lent is upon us, and we invite all Dignity members and friends to renew their LGBT spirituality by joining us as we prepare for the Death and Resurrection of our Christ with several liturgical celebrations. We will have a combined Ash Wednesday service with Seventh Avenue Church at 7:30pm on February 25th. This is a prayerful way to begin your Lenten preparation and will be co-presided by Fr. Ralph and Pastor Jeff Gaines from Seventh Avenue Church. We will have liturgies each Sunday in Lent, focusing on different aspects of unique spirituality, culminating in the celebration of the **Easter Triduum** with the services of Liturgy on **Holy Thursday, April 8th**, combined Taize prayer service with Seventh Avenue Church

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JOHN BROWN

&amp;

JOE CURTIN,

CO-CHAIRS

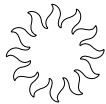


CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD



*Lo menos que podemos  
hacer en servicio de algo es  
comprenderlo”*

*The least we can do in  
service of others is to  
understand them.*

— Jose Ortega y Gasset

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS +**

*Co-Chairs, John & Joe*

*Secretary, Gilberto Gonzalez*

*Treasurer, Jim Remer*

*At-Large Members,*

Henry Chau

Neil Christensen

Vladimir Maldonado

Victoria Valencia

*Women’s Group Coordinator,*

Trudy Guella



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on **Good Friday, April 9th, Easter Vigil on April 10th and Evening Vespers on Sunday, April 11th.**

More details on these services will be printed in the Dominical Digest and posted on our website, [www.dignitypacific.org/sanfrancisco](http://www.dignitypacific.org/sanfrancisco).

• **Liturgy Training** •

During the season of Lent, we are also asking our **Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and all members of our Liturgy Teams** to attend a renewal session with Fr. Ralph. *New ministers are welcome as well. The sessions will be from 4:10pm to 5:10pm* (just before liturgy) on Sundays as follows:

**February 29:** Lectors, **March 7:** Eucharistic Ministers, **March 14:** Lectors, **March 21:** Eucharistic Ministers, **March 28:** Lectors.

Your co-chairs ask that you plan on attending one of the above sessions for each of the ministries that you perform, and we appreciate your commitment to our liturgical celebrations. We could not do it without you!

• **Taize Prayer** •

We continue to celebrate a Taize prayer service monthly with the St. John of God parish, on 5th Avenue at Irving. The hour of song, scripture readings and meditation takes place at **7:30pm on the Second Monday of each month.** All are welcome to join us!

• **Reminders & Thank-yous** •

A short reminder that Dignity Board meetings are now held on the **Third Sunday of the month at 2:30pm** at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian to be more convenient for members (especially those who live out of town) to attend. Please come and bring your ideas with you! Your presence will improve our decision-making process and make it more responsive to your needs and desires for the future of the chapter.

Our Second Christmas Eve Mass at the Center on Market Street was a festive celebration attended by 47 members and friends. We are grateful to Fr. Ralph for his efforts to make this liturgy a success, along with the liturgical and music ministers, and the 10 or so volunteers who helped to prepare the space and clean up afterwards.

We look forward to your continued support as we celebrate our 30 years of worship, witness and service as bisexual, lesbian, gay and transgender Catholics and members of Dignity/USA.

• **Tithing List** •

These organizations have received a portion of our weekly collection during January 2004:

- AIDS/Breast Cancer Emergency Fund
- Asian and Pacific Island Wellness Center
- Coming Home Hospice
- Dolores Street Community Services
- EQCA
- Filipino Task Force on AIDS
- Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, Inc.

These organizations have received a portion of our weekly collection during December 2003:

- Larkin Street Youth Services
- Lyon-Martin Women’s Health Services
- LYRIC
- MHR AIDS Support Group
- Project Open Hand
- Quixote Center
- St. Paul of the Shipwreck School
- Sisters of Loretto S. Jeannine Gay Ministry Fund
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Worker Farm
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- New Ways Ministry
- Support Services for Sexual Minority Youth
- Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual Network, the National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- Call to Action
- Women’s Ordination Conference
- Future Church
- Mary’s Pence
- Interfaith Alliance
- Southern Poverty Law Center

We thank all of our generous members and donors who make our tithing practice possible. It is Dignity/San Francisco’s policy that 10% of weekly collection income is donated to local, state, national and international organizations that further social justice, support of the sick (especially those living with HIV/AIDS) and the poor, recognition of the rights of sexual minorities by our Church and peace among religions as well as nations. Please give generously to keep this ministry going! Thank you.

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