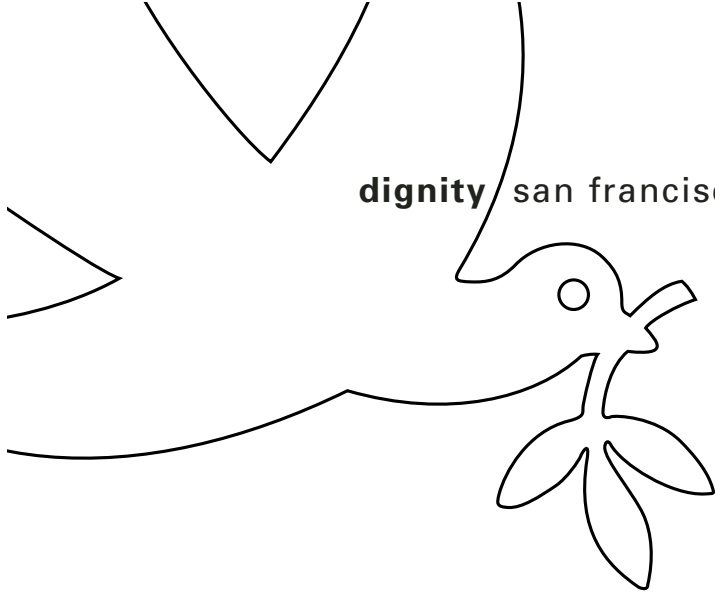


dignity san francisco

# Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"



## YOU: The Future of Dignity/SF

Peace of Christ to all! It has been awhile since the last Spirit publication but that doesn't mean that we are "out of circulation". Dignity/San Francisco continued to thrive despite the almost non-stop challenges brought on by the Vatican under Pope Benedict XVI and by the conservative right wing "christians" wanting us and our rights back in the closets. We Dignitarians were steadfast in our mission and vision for equality and justice for all people of God in the Catholic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) family, having graced publications to give witness to the truth and sacredness of our LGBT sexuality and spirituality.

2005 has been very busy for our chapter, despite the small size of our active participating members who gifted us with their precious time and talent for Dignity to continue to have a visible presence in the LGBT community. From marching in the parade to staffing the information and beverage booths during SF Pride, we are blessed with these dedicated souls who believed and continues to believe in the power of relentless peaceful activism and who wouldn't give in to the pressures of their environments. These same individuals continued with their commitment of visibility during the recently

concluded Castro Street Fair, wherein thanks to our volunteer members, we were able to be seen and be heard yet once again.

**Today, as we prepare for 2006, we are challenged with the question of who will lead us? Who among us is willing to stand up, stand out and stand proud? Who is willing to be seen and heard on behalf of countless Catholic LGBT people begging for acceptance and unconditional love? Who is willing to continue to fight even though our bodies are tired and our spirits broken? Who will be the Christ for others?**

Each one of us is given the opportunity to **RECOMMIT** to Dignity's mission and vision.... our **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE** is upon us. We need your full participation of *Time, Talent and Treasure* in order to continue to serve our Catholic LGBT sisters and brothers who still searches for their spirituality but did not find unconditional acceptance from the mainstream church. Those newcomers and visitors who graced us with their presence, come to Dignity not because they were under any obligation to do so, they come because they needed to, in order to find welcome and hope, they come to be nurtured and affirmed, they come to gather enough courage to continue with their journey. We need to keep our doors open: that include the doors of our hearts and

VERONICA ABRICKIS

&

GINO RAMOS

CO-CHAIRS

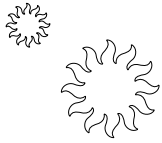


CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD



**Please make a note:**

*Beginning on November 27, 2005, our NEW liturgy time will be at 5:00pm!*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS +**

*Co-Chairs, Veronica Abrickis & Gino Ramos*

*Secretary, Marian Hernandez*

*Treasurer, Jack Fahy*

*At-Large Members,*

- John Brown
- Jim Criss
- Jim Remer

*Women's Group Coordinator,*

Marian Hernandez

*Office Assistant,*

Angelo Wong



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spirits. We need to think not of ourselves and what is in it for me but rather what can we do individually and collectively to be of service to God and God's people.

We hope to see each and everyone of your beautiful faces at least once every month or two.

We hope that with the dawn of our NEW Church Year, Advent 2005, and the **change of liturgy time to 5 pm** beginning on November 27, 2005, we will get to see more of you join us either for liturgy or fellowship.

Our annual Thanksgiving Supper went well with the attendance of about 25 members, although we did prepare for at least 50 people to grace the occasion with their presence. At the same token, our first annual raffle to help defray our dwindling income was better than expected.

**Our congratulations to the winners:** Tom Kaun, John O'Daniels, Jeffrey Chu, Paul Xavier and Vicky Valencia!

We are in the preparation stage for our **2006 Election of Officers** and our annual **Pax et Bonum Awards Banquet**. We need you to participate and be part of the committee(s) or consider running for the board next year.

Remember that the board will choose our *Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer* at their first meeting in March, 2006.

Having been Co-Chair for 3 terms in the past 10 years brought me to the realization that we at Dignity need to be more outspoken and visible against any injustice brought to any human being, but most especially if it is coming from our very own Catholic Mother Church through her leaders. We need to start from a grassroot level to effect change and it can be done both within the church as parishioners and through Dignity. My hope is to build a bridge to connect with our members within the walls of the main-stream church and to build partnership with

the rest of the Catholic community. Knowledge is power. The more the general population know us as out and proud LGBT people living normal lives, the more we can get them to be on our side, as we continue the fight for equality and justice.

Speaking of sides, did you know that Dignity/San Francisco recently adopted a "NO DUES MEMBERSHIP"? That means anyone can be a member as long as they share our mission and vision of equality and unconditional acceptance of LGBT Catholics. How about a member-get-a-member campaign?

We'd like to invite you to celebrate with us during the advent of the new church calendar year with the celebration of the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 11, 2005** which also happens to be our quarterly membership meeting. **On Christmas Eve, Dignity will join the faith community of St. John of God (at 5th and Irving) at 1130 pm for their Midnight Mass.** Please continue to either mail your Christmas offering to the office or give it to Veronica or myself at St. John of God on Christmas Eve.

We would like to end this issue with a passage from Holy Scripture... Luke 10, 1-3: *"After this, the Lord appointed seventy two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."* And so our Dignity journey continues...

With our love and appreciation to all of you and to what you are doing to make Dignity's future hopeful.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** *Gino and Veronica*