

dignity san francisco

Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

Dear Members and Friends,

A Happy New Year to all! The year has started out with some variable weather, which may be indicative of the times we have ahead of us—stormy alternating with sunny and warm. We hope that you will make the community of Dignity San Francisco a part of your spiritual life in the coming year, and hope you will come together with us to partake of our community and Eucharist as we struggle and celebrate God's love for us as family.

• *Christmas Eve Liturgy*

Our traditional Christmas Eve Liturgy celebrating the Nativity of the Lord was celebrated at Seventh Avenue Church on December 24th at 9:30pm. The sacristy was decorated by members of both the Seventh Avenue and Dignity communities, and our congregation was made more complete by the participation of several visiting neighbors from the St. John of God parish on 5th and Irving who added to our music ministry. Mass was followed by a dessert social.

• *Upcoming Quarterly Member's Meeting*

There will be a Quarterly Members' Meeting On Sunday, January 30th immediately following our mass at Seventh Avenue Church in the social hall. **IT IS CRITICAL that we have a quorum (25% of active members) present in order to vote on adopting the new bylaws for**

our chapter, which will have an effect on our upcoming elections in March. We will also be discussing the budget, Pax et Bonum, and several new initiatives for the New Year. Please plan on joining us for this important meeting.

• *Our New Fund Raising Effort!*

DignitySF is now enrolled in the e-scrip program, which raises money by contributing a small portion of each purchase that you make using a credit or merchant card (such as a Safeway or Von's membership card) that you designate at no cost to you! **You can learn more about this service and sign up at the website www.escrip.com. Our Dignity program I.D. # is 500000331.** It's a good opportunity for us to earn some much-needed funds without resorting to savings or contribution appeals. *Thank you, Angelo Wong, for investigating and setting this opportunity up for us!*

• *Benevolence Fund*

Our chapter's Benevolence Fund (formerly the co-chair's discretionary fund) is now up and running thanks to your generosity. **This fund will be reserved for members who have urgent unmet financial need in providing basic necessities** for themselves and their families (food, rent, insurance and utilities). The money for this fund will come exclusively from a second collection each 5th Sunday of the >

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JOHN BROWN

&

JOE CURTIN,

Co-CHAIRS

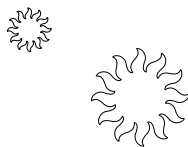


CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD



"The last thing many of us think about is a way to be as gentle with ourselves as we are with others"

— Thomas J. Wicks

BOARD OF DIRECTORS +

Co-Chairs, John & Joe

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Henry Chau

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Marian Hernandez



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month and from future fund-raising events. The fund will be administered similar to other local Bay Area churches-members can request assistance, and they are expected to replace the money that they are given as soon as they are able so that it will be available for future members' needs. **We will have another special second collection for the fund on Sunday, January 30th** and will report details of the fund with the treasurer' report at the Quarterly meeting.

• Election News

Dignity Elections are just around the corner (March 6)! We have several open positions: Co-chairs (2), and Members at Large (2). **Please contact Joe Curtin or call the Dignity office if you are able to serve in one of these positions.** Current Board members would be happy to share their experience with you. We urge you to consider serving the community by running for office on the Board of Directors.

• Pax et Bonum

Please complete your nominations for the Pax et Bonum awards for 2005 and get them to Joe Curtin. Each year we honor two recipients for service to Dignity San Francisco, and two for service to the greater LGBT community. Previous awardees are listed on the nomination forms. **Please set aside this important date on your calendar (Saturday, April 2nd, details of location and cost to be announced).**

"Each person has inside a basic decency and goodness. If she listens to it and acts on it, she is giving a great deal of what it is the world needs most. It is not complicated but it takes courage. It takes courage for a person to listen to her own goodness and act on it"

— Paraphrased from Pablo Casals

• Member News

Dick Olsen has been conducting a homeless outreach program, distributing packets of food to homeless persons on a twice-a-week basis. **The packets cost \$1 each** for the distributors (the recipients are given the packets at no charge), and can be used in lieu of donations when asked for money by a homeless person. **Please contact Dick directly** if you are interested in participating in this outreach program.

• Mayor Invited to Join our Liturgy

Your co-chairs have extended an invitation for Mayor Newsom to participate in any of our upcoming liturgies. The invitation was extended upon hearing of the Mayor's allegedly being threatened with denial of communion by some San Francisco parishes. We do not know if he will take us up on our offer, but want to be clear that **we do not put restrictions on our members and guests receiving communion with us.**

• Reminders and Thank-Yous

The Dignity Board meetings are now held on the Third Sunday of the month at 2:30 pm 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.

We thank you for your support during the holiday season and your attendance at our Advent and Christmas liturgies. May the New Year bring you joy, peace and the chance to bear witness to the abundant love that is God's gift to all creation, without boundaries.

Peace,

John and Joe, your co-chairs