

dignity san francisco

Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

Dear Members and Friends,

Thanks for your wonderful support as we start our 33rd year of service to the LGBT Catholic Community! The year started out with a bang, as our 32nd anniversary celebration was attended by about 40 Dignitarians and friends, as was our Quarterly membership meeting after the service. Our theme was witness, and we had several moving stories shared of the joys and sorrows of our witness as LGBT people in our church and spiritual people in our LGBT community. Dignity has indeed saved many lives by its presence, thanks to all of you.

• **New Bylaws**

Thanks to all who attended the last three quarterly membership meetings and provided input into our bylaws revisions. Most had to do with removing outdated articles, but new guidelines were also established for quorums to consider issues other than bylaws, financial responsibility and guidelines for chapter dissolution if that action were ever necessary. Copies of the bylaws can be obtained from the office.

• **Lenten Season**

We started our celebration of Lent with a combined Ash Wednesday service with Seventh Avenue Church. Father Ralph's homily, "May our Lord grant us all the grace we need... and desire" was a wonderful reflection on the

meaning of the ashes, and our ability to benefit from the season of Lent, to let it change our lives in radical ways, and welcome the lover of our Soul.

• **Easter Triduum**

We hope you will plan on celebrating the Easter Triduum with us. We are planning the following services:

- **Holy Thursday**, March 24th 7:30 p.m. Liturgy (time approximate)
- **Good Friday**, March 25th 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service (combined service with Seventh Avenue Church)
- **Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil**, March 26th 7:30 p.m. Liturgy (time approximate)
- **Easter Sunday**, March 27th 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (prayer service)

Please watch the Dominical Digest or your e-mail for further details.

• **Annual Meeting and Elections**

This meeting will take place on **March 6th** at approximately **7:15 p.m.** following liturgy. If you cannot attend, **please fill out one of the absentee ballots** that were mailed to all members earlier this month. They must be received in the office no later than **March 6th!** Your vote is important for the ongoing success of the chapter!

JOHN BROWN

&

JOE CURTIN,

Co-CHAIRS



CELEBRATING

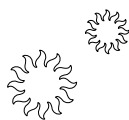
OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD

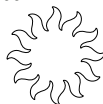
"There will come a time
when you believe
everything is finished.
That will be the beginning"

– Louis L'Amour



"I believe that God is in me as
the sun is in the color and
fragrance of a flower –
the Light in my Darkness,
the Voice in my silence"

– Helen Keller



BOARD OF DIRECTORS +

Co-Chairs, John & Joe

Secretary, Marian Hernandez

Treasurer, Jack Fahy

At-Large Members,

Henry Chau

John Chavez

Neil Christensen

Gino Ramos

Victoria Valencia

Women's Group Coordinator,

Marian Hernandez

• Tithing Report

The following charitable and community based organizations will receive tithing funds (10% of our weekly contributions) for 2005:

- Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center
- Catholic Relief Services
- Coming Home Hospice
- Dolores Street Community Services
- Filipino task Force on AIDS
- Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services
- LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center)
- Marty's Place (AIDS Hospice)
- Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group
- Project Open Hand
- Quixote Center (umbrella org. for Catholics Speak Out)
- Sisters of Loretto (Sr. Jeannine Gramick Gay Ministry Fund)
- St. Paul of the Shipwreck School
- Catholic Worker Farm (HIV Retreat House)
- GLBT Historical Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- New Ways Ministry
- Open House, Senior Community Living with Pride
- PFLAG of the North Bay
- Religious Witness with Homeless People
- Support Services for Sexual Minority Youth
- Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual Network (National Catholic Social Justice Lobby)
- Call to Action
- Women's Ordination Conference
- Future Church (inclusion for all Catholics)
- Mary's Pence (fosters Catholic women's ministry)
- Interfaith Alliance
- Teaching Tolerance (Southern Poverty Law Center)
- AIDS/Breast Cancer Emergency Fund
- Soulforce San Francisco (awarded in January 2005)

Thank you all for your generosity that makes this work of charity possible.

• Don't forget about e-scrip!

Dignity SF 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. number 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 investing and setting this opportunity up for us!

• Pax et Bonum

Please set aside this important date on your calendar and plan to join us (**Saturday, April 2nd, Pan Pacific Hotel**, cost and Pax et Bonum awardees to be announced). We are happy to be able this year to hold our event at a hotel not involved in the current labor dispute.

• 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.

• 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.

This is our last newsletter as co-chairs. We thank you for your support during our two-year tenure (wow, it doesn't seem that long!) and your continued attendance at our liturgies and events. It has been a pleasure working for you and the community—may we go on in this, our 33rd year of continuous service, to bring joy, justice, witness, peace and abundant love to all creation, without boundaries. See you at our next Dignity San Francisco event!

**Peace,
John and Joe, your co-chairs**



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dignity san francisco

Meditation

...ON THE 99 BEAUTIFUL
NAMES OF ALLAH

• Prayers in Unity with our Muslim Brothers and Sisters

During the past two years, we have been praying at the start of liturgy from time to time calling on the name of God in the Muslim tradition. God is too great to have one name, so there are 99 (and according to some Islamic scholars, more than that) and we have been selecting one each week to pray in unity with our sisters and brothers in these troubled times in order to foster peace and justice throughout the world. These are the names we have called on so far:

The Compassionate	al-Rahman	The Witness	al-Shahid
The King	al-Malik	The Most Strong	al-Qawiyy
The Source of Peace	al-Salam	The Restorer	al-Mu'id
The Overall Protector	al-Muhaimin	The One	al-Wahid
The Provider	al-Razzaq	The Giver	al-Muqaddim
The Opener, the Reliever	al-Fattah	The Forgiver	al-Afuww
The Empowerer	al-Mu'izz	The Equitable	al-Muqsit
The Sublime	al-Jali	The Distresser	al-Darr
The Watcher	al-Raqib	The Guide	al-Hadi
The Responsive	al-Mujib	The Everlasting	al-Baqi
The Loving	al-Wadud	The Guide to the Right Path	al-Rashid
The Resurrector	al-Ba'ith	The Patient	al-Sabur

We invite you to bring these names of God into your own prayer and spiritual practice, and to join us in praying for peace, wisdom and understanding between Christian and Muslim cultures in this difficult time of conflict.