

dignity san francisco

# Spirit

"Lord Send Out Your SPIRIT!"

*Dear Members and Friends,*

Today is Thanksgiving Day and on this day I give thanks to God for *Dignity*. For over thirty-two years, *Dignity* has been my family and this community has been an anchor of hope as I seek daily to serve God and neighbor.

At the recent retreat of our chapter's *Board of Directors*, we reviewed the activities which we offer to our local family and we were filled with pride as we reflected on the sacrifices which our members continue to make in order that all of us may grow in the life of the Holy Spirit. We were grateful that we are able to offer weekly Mass where we are nourished by the preaching of the Word which touches our real experiences as LGBT persons and where we are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ, as "Food for the journey". During the summer months, we were a visible presence at several **Pride events**, particularly in the parade and at the festival. We co-sponsored the screening of the documentary "Saint of 9/11" at the **Metreon Theater**, a 9/11 event remembering one of our own *Dignity* saints, Fr. Mychal Judge, Chaplain, FDNY. As is our custom, we had a booth at the **Castro Street Fair**, where we met many new friends who not only had their pets blessed in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, but received the blessing of knowing that LGBT Roman Catholics stood "out and proud" in this City of St. Francis.

Our Board members are committed to taking our *Statement of Position and Purpose* and offering it as an invitation to grow in fellowship, in Truth and Love. Our annual *Pax et Bonum* celebration honors those individuals who make a difference in the life of our community, and we are grateful for the "unsung heroes" who embody the values of that Statement which singles out our ministry as unique and vital for the life of the LGBT Catholic family.

At their recent fall meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. Catholic bishops voted to enforce guidelines on ministry to "persons with homosexual inclination". Just as *DignityUSA* clearly challenged the flawed nature of these guidelines, **our own chapter responded to the media in pointing out ways in which the bishops could become more pastoral in their ministry to us**. Missing in the guidelines were the voices of LGBT Catholics whose Truth dispels the myths of the impoverished psychology and theology upon which those guidelines are based. It is not yet clear what the effects might be in the Roman Catholic Church in America; it is our hope that the parish-based ministries will continue without interference by diocesan bishops. But one fact remains clear: **Dignity will not be silenced by the many falsehoods put forth in the guidelines**. Thanks to you, our members, we will be able to stand in the

BROTHER RICHARD

JONATHAN, SSF

&amp; NEIL CHRISTENSEN,

Co-CHAIRS

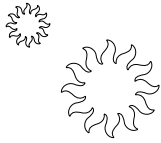


CELEBRATING

OUR SEXUALITY

AND LOVE AS

GIFTS FROM GOD



prophetic tradition of the saints in "speaking the Truth in Love."

**And so I give thanks for you and your invaluable witness.** Thank you for sharing with *DignitySan Francisco* your *Time, Talent and Treasure*, so that the Holy Spirit may not only take root in our hearts, but be moved to soften the hearts of those who refuse to behold the presence of God in our lives, our relationships and our families.

*May God continue to give you Peace and All Good!*  
— Brother Richard Jonathan, SSF, Co-Chair

**• Membership Quarterly Meeting**

On Sunday, November 19, 2006, after Mass, we held our *Quarterly Membership Meeting* in the church hall. **We began our meeting with the viewing of a DVD presentation entitled, "What if Jesus Was Gay".** This film was made by a group of young students who interviewed members of our *Dignity* community and it portrayed beautifully the depth of our ministry. All of us were impressed by the professional nature of this project and we are grateful to Josh and his friends who were responsible for this creative presentation.

After the film, we had an informal chat with **Mario Torrigino** of the *National Board*. He informed us of changes in the *National Office* and shared with us the importance of our voices in response to the recent gay ministry guidelines published by the American bishops. **He challenged us to remain faithful in our own ministry to help those who might be adversely affected by those guidelines.**

It is our hope to plan a fundraiser for our national organization, so please stay tuned for further details!

**We discussed the recent change in time for Sunday Liturgy and it was agreed to keep the starting time at 5:00pm.**

We also discussed ways to invite new members into our family and it was announced that a new ad would be used as part of our outreach.

Our Board is always looking for new ways to attract members to our ministry. Please feel free to share your ideas with us. And always remember: **our Board meetings are open to everyone and we are delighted to hear from you.** ✨ **We meet the third Sunday of the month at 2:30pm in the church hall.**

**• More Thanks!**

Let us extend a special thank you to all who participated in our recent Thanksgiving Dinner and to those who "took a chance" in our Thanksgiving raffle. This event was a great success and we are grateful for the work of Jack and others who organized the raffle and sold tickets. Next year's raffle promises to be an even bigger success!

**• Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- December 3:** *First Sunday of Advent*
- December 10:** *Second Sunday of Advent* and celebration of the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, with musician Rennea Couttenye
- December 17:** *Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday*
- Saturday, December 23:** 5pm Liturgy: *Vigil Mass* of the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
- Sunday, December 24:** We will join the community of **St. John of God**, 11:30pm for *Service of Carols*, Midnight: *Christmas Midnight Mass*
- Sunday, December 31:** 5pm Liturgy: *Vigil Mass of the World Day of Peace*, with *Blessing of Committed Relationships*

**• Convention 2007**

Please mark your calendars: **July 5-8, 2007; DignityUSA 18th Biennial Convention; Austin, Texas**

Join members of *DignitySan Francisco* and our extended family throughout the world in our family reunion! See any of our Board members for further information.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe NEWS:**

*Singer, Guitarist Rennea*

*Couttenye returns again to entertain us during our Second*

*Sunday Supper celebration!*

*(see calendar)*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS +**

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Marian Hernandez

*Office Assistant:*

Angelo Wong



**Dignity**San Francisco

1329 Seventh Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94122

phone 415.681.2491

fax 415.681.2492

email dignitsf@pacbell.net