



# Newsletter

July 2005

## Dignity/Seattle Liturgy

*Reminder*

Liturgy is at 6:00 p.m. every 2nd Sunday: July 10, August 14  
Ravenna United Methodist Church 5751-33<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE Seattle

## End of St. Joe's 7:30 Mass

### Archdiocese orders cessation of GLBT Mass after 25 years: November 1980 to June 2005

By Leo N. Egashira

How terribly ironic to end the only official gay/lesbian Mass in the Archdiocese of Seattle on Pride Sunday, June 26, 2005. The decision by the Archdiocese to cease the Mass was made one month earlier, resulting in four weeks of disbelief, anger, frustration and sadness.

**25 Years of History.** (The summary below is based on Pat Roche's compilation of Dignity/Seattle's history.) Liturgies specifically aimed at the gay community started as ad hoc Dignity/Seattle home masses during the period 1973 to 1975. From 1976 to 1980, Dignity sponsored monthly masses at Sacred Heart Church.

As Dignity/Seattle membership grew in the hospitable environment of the Archdiocese under the enlightened leadership of Raymond Hunthausen, the need for weekly masses prompted the move to St. Joseph Church in November 1980. As Dignity thrived in the 1980s (with mass attendance regularly exceeding 120 worshippers), the Archbishop came under increased scrutiny by the Vatican for his pastoral, inclusive ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics, among other issues.

**The First Exodus Mass.** Things came to a head, and under mounting pressure from Rome, Dignity was forced to hand over sponsorship of the Mass to the newly-formed Archdiocesan Catholic Gay & Lesbian Ministry (ACGLM). Dignity's "Exodus Mass" of July 10, 1988 drew 300 people and the Seattle Men's Chorus. The following Sunday, ACGLM's first mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Hunthausen and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Murphy, a concrete and moving show of support for a hurting flock. Despite this, Dignity suffered a great loss of membership as many Catholics simply lost hope in transforming the church.

In 1993, an unbridgeable political gulf opened between the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), the lobbying arm of the three state dioceses, and the ACGLM. The WSCC spoke against passage of the "Gay Civil Rights Bill," whereas the ACGLM (an official ministry of the Archdiocese) urged passage. The internal contradictions and political fallout led the ACGLM to take its only logical course of action: It handed back the 7:30 Mass to Dignity/Seattle on April 25, 1993.

Despite Dignity's "victory," tensions borne of the fundamental differences between Dignity's mission and official church teachings simmered below the surface. Things came to a boil again in 2001 when the Archdiocese asserted its authority to ban anything contrary to official church teachings. Concretely, that meant that Dignity had to abandon its increasingly gender-inclusive and same-sex affirming ministry; Dignity's liturgical banner and Dignity literature were not allowed on church property; and control of the purse-strings would pass from Dignity to the parish.

**The Second Exodus Mass.** In September 2001, Dignity/Seattle's membership voted overwhelmingly to reject the Church's attempt to squelch dissent and honest discussion. And on September 30, 2001, Dignity sponsored its "Last Mass" at St. Joseph's for a second time.

The "divide & conquer" policy of the church against its gay and lesbian flock has been successful, if success is measured by alienation, the breaking up of one faith community into several, polarization, and forcing people to either follow the party line or be considered something less than authentically Catholic.

On October 7, 2001, one week after the Exodus Mass, Dignity sponsored its first mass on non-Catholic church property in 21 years. On the same day, the 7:30 mass continued as part of St. Joseph Parish's new ministry to gays & lesbians. Both groups suffered drastically decreased participation, as people chose one or the other, or a different faith community.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Inside: Pride Week Breakfast grosses over \$2100!**

## Upcoming Events

**The Third Exodus Mass.** Although I was not privy to the discussion about discontinuing the "gay Mass," it's not difficult to discern the Archdiocese's motives. In a gracious move that acknowledged our common roots and goals, the 7:30 Mass Community (as it was called) invited Dignity/Seattle to take an active role in its final mass. And so, Dignity/Seattle's liturgical banner was prominently displayed next to the altar for the last time, in an explicit show of defiance. Many Dignity members, past and present, broke bread with their brethren at St. Joseph's in a final show of unity and shared loss.

The final Exodus Mass was presided by the Rev. Chris Weekly, S.J., who conveyed heartfelt, emotional gratitude for the grace bestowed by the GLBT Catholic community to the larger church community. He pointedly mentioned the transformational and healing power of Dignity liturgies in the 1990s when he was in residence at the parish.

After closing words by Father Weekly and leaders of Dignity and the 7:30 Mass Community, the congregation belted out "City of God," which was also the final song in the two previous Exodus Masses. It is worthy to note that "City of God" is DignityUSA's unofficial anthem, as well as the theme song for the groundbreaking 1983 DignityUSA Convention in Seattle.

**The Next Chapter.** What happens next, if anything? It is difficult to hazard a guess in the current hostile climate of the official church. As has happened in the two previous expulsions, people will scatter to the four winds--to Dignity, to local Catholic parishes, to other faith communities, to no faith community. But, there is hope that the multi-faceted GLBT Catholic community can come together, if not in worship, then in shared activities. The best example of that occurred the day before the Exodus Mass: Dignity/Seattle's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Week Breakfast was a cooperative effort, that in no small part relied on the many volunteers and donors from the 7:30 Mass Community. The next such cooperative opportunity will occur on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, when the former 7:30 Mass Community will sponsor a rummage sale fundraiser for Lambert House (details in next column).

As Father Weekly stated, "Death brings new life." In what form that new life manifests itself is the question. For Dignity/Seattle, the end of 25 years of gay masses at St. Joe's poses both challenges and opportunities. We've been down this road before, and we should offer ourselves as a resource for all GLBT Catholics and as a spiritually fulfilling home for those searching beyond the confines of a Catholic church building.

### **"Love Welcomes All" Conference Saturday, July 9, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Newport Presbyterian Church**

Theme is "Achieving emotional and spiritual health in families with gay and lesbian youth." Sponsored by Bellevue Eastside PFLAG, Seattle PFLAG, Pacific NW Reconciling Ministries, Evangelicals Concerned, and Religious Coalition for Equality. For complete details, please refer to last month's Dignity/Seattle Newsletter, which is on-line at <<http://www.DignitySeattle.org>>

### **Dignity/Seattle General Membership Mtg. Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. Ravenna United Methodist Church**

Annual General Membership Meeting and Potluck starting at 4:00 p.m. and Mass following at 6:00 p.m. Please participate and vote on proposed by-laws changes and electing new board members.

### **St. Joe's Rummage Sale for Lambert House Saturday, September 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church Basement**

Last year, the 7:30 Mass Community and supporters were able to sponsor the largest third-party fundraiser ever held for Lambert House, service center for GLBT youth, to the tune of \$7000! 100% of the proceeds go directly to Lambert House. Donations of saleable items are needed (but no beds, sofas, futons or similar heavy items). Volunteers are also sought to help with set-up prior to the sale and work on the day of the sale. To donate or to help, please contact Bill Caldwell at 206/320-1479 or Higinio Martinez at 206/669-4127.

## Dignity/Vancouver BC

**Dignity/Vancouver BC 604/432-1230**

Friday, July 15. 7:30 p.m. Liturgy at Vincent W's. 604/325-1554.

Sunday, July 24. 6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper at Lee L's. 604/408-3442.

**Vancouver Gay Pride Weekend  
Saturday - Monday, July 30 - August 1  
Sunday, July 31. Gay Pride Parade at 12:00 noon.**

## A very successful Pride Week Breakfast 2005

Over \$2100 in gross receipts were collected from the raffle and breakfast on Saturday, June 25, 2005. Proceeds will be divided among Multifaith Works, Verbena and Dignity/Seattle. Please patronize these donors and thank them on behalf of Dignity/Seattle.

### Raffle Grand Prizes

- 4-night stay at "The Vermont Street Cottage," San Francisco, donated by **John Weston**.
- 3-night stay at the "Pacific Suite" condominium, Lincoln City, OR, donated by **Joe Weston**.
- 4-hour yacht cruise on the "Distant Drummer" sailboat with gourmet meal served aboard, donated by **Alan Scott**, Dignity member.

### Raffle Prizes

- One tee-shirt, donated by **The Cuff**
- Two tee-shirts, donated by **Mae's Restaurant**.
- Gift certificate for dinner for two at **Galerias Gourmet Mexican Restaurant**.
- \$30 gift certificate from **QFC Broadway Market**
- \$15 gift certificate at the new **23<sup>rd</sup> & Madison Safeway Store**
- \$20 gift certificate at the **15<sup>th</sup> & John Safeway Store**
- \$50 (value) gift basket from **Market Spice Stores**
- Bouquet of 12 or 24 balloons from **The Red Balloon Company**
- Two gift certificates for massages from **John Sabol, L.M.P.**
- Brunch for two at the **Rosebud Café**
- Dinner for two at any **Julia's Restaurant**

### Food Donations

- 15<sup>th</sup> & John Safeway Store
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & Madison Safeway Store
- QFC Broadway Market
- Bill Caldwell
- Laure Hauge
- Paula Lavalley & Tish Charette
- Jim Rankin
- Paula Hills
- Teri Lapetino & Janet Voorhies

### Volunteers

#### Friday set-up:

Paul Allen, Bill Caldwell, Laure Hauge, Steve Kearney, Paula Lavalley, Bob Mitchell, Patrick O'Hogan, Jim Rankin, Pedro Reyes, Alan Scott, Dan Shaughnessy, Jim Weston.

#### Kitchen Crew:

Laure Hauge, Paula Hills, Jordan Johansen, Teri Lapetino, Paula Lavalley, Janet Voorhies.

#### Welcomers:

Tish Charette, Bob Mitchell, Delia Vita, Jim Weston.

#### Servers:

Norman Davis, Greg Hermsen, Steve Kearney, Gene Martinez, Jerry Newsted, Robby Parkhurst, Jim Rankin, Pedro Reyes, Pat Roche, Dan Shaughnessy, Randy Vanheusden, Brian Wade, Cecil Young.

# Official Business

## Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Jim Weston	President, Membership chair
Jim Rankin	Vice-Pres., Social co-chair
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary, Liturgy chair
Delia Vita	Treasurer, Special events chair
Paula Lavallee	At-large, D/USA Secretary
Steve Kearney	At-large, Social co-chair
--vacant position--	At-large

Dignity/Seattle 206/325-7314  
P.O. Box 20325 Seattle WA 98102  
Website <<http://www.DignitySeattle.org>>  
E-mail <[weston16@msn.com](mailto:weston16@msn.com)>

Newsletter Editor: Leo N. Egashira  
206/723-4759, <[Legashira@yahoo.com](mailto:Legashira@yahoo.com)>

## Board Minutes Summary, June 7, 2005

(Edited for publication.)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. at Jim Weston's condo. Dignity prayer was said. All board members present.

Meeting minutes were read. Correction made in Old Business: By-Laws "A proposal was made to change the minimum no. of board members required from 7 to 5 instead of 3."

M/M/S/C: To approve the minutes as corrected.

### President's report: (Jim Weston)

- Soliciting prizes and donations from merchants.
- Completed ad for the Multifaith directory.
- Completed SGN ad for Pride Week.

### Treasurer's report: (Delia Vita)

#### Checking Acct.

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$1096.28</b>
Deposits:	
Membership:	102.50
Donation from J.R.	15.00
May Collection:	147.00
* Pride Week Breakfast:	\$245.00
Pledged amount (Jim Rankin):	100.00
<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>\$609.50</b>
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$1705.78</b>

#### Expenses:

RUMC rent:	75.00
April & May Newsletter print & mail:	52.80
Telephone:	36.47
Multifaith Works ad	20.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$184.27</b>
* Prideweek Breakfast printing	82.69
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$266.96</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$1438.82</b>

#### Savings Acct.

**Beginning Balance:** \$1,561.64

**Ending Balance:** \$1,562.08

M/M/S/C: To accept financial report as submitted.

#### Committee Chairs' reports:

##### Social Committee: Jim Rankin & Steve Kearney

- Dinner at the Spaghetti Factory in Lynnwood on May 29th. Three people showed up.
- Working on the Pride Breakfast. See "Old Business."

##### Liturgy Committee: Denise Arceneaux

- Rev. Philip Knowles scheduled to preside at Mass on June 12th. No one scheduled for July at this time.
- The Board decided not to have a service on Pride Sunday with 2 in favor and 4 against.
- The Board was asked to consider holding two services a month instead of one. We decided against this for the summer and agreed to reevaluate this in the fall.

##### Membership Committee: Jim Weston

- Jim has identified five new members to whom Dignity needs to write letters. Our membership is up to 37.

#### Old Business

- M/M/S/C: To accept the by-laws as submitted. Jim W. and Denise will inform the membership of proposed changes in a letter by July 14<sup>th</sup>, with voting at the August 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.
- Pride Breakfast: Working on logistics. Jim W. placed ads in two Pride Week editions of the SGN at 2 x \$45. The Board agreed to pay the extra cost.

#### New Business:

- Staffing a table: On July 9<sup>th</sup>, PFLAG will sponsor "Love Welcomes All" at Newport Presbyterian Church from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They requested that we staff a table, and Jim W. agreed.
- Staffing a table: Requested by GLBT Center from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on June 12<sup>th</sup>. No volunteers.
- The Board voted as a chapter in the National Election.
- Housing assistance needed: (Ed. Note update: Ryn Johnson found a place!)
- The Board decided against having a booth at the Gay Pride Festival.
- Newsletter: Leo sent each one of us the June Newsletter in electronic format. The Board may survey Chapter members to see if they prefer receiving the Newsletter in electronic form to save on postage and printing.

**Next Meeting:** Date to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Denise Arceneaux, Secretary