



Newsletter

October 2007

Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

Ravenna United Methodist Church 5751-33rd Ave NE Seattle
Sundays at 8:00 a.m. – St. Ignatius Community Liturgies
Second Sundays at 6:00 p.m. – Dignity/Seattle Liturgies

Every Sunday	→ 8:00 a.m.	St. Ignatius
Oct. 14 & Nov. 11	→ 6:00 p.m.	Dignity/Seattle

President's Annual Report

By Jim Rankin

September 22, 2007

(edited for publication)

Dignity/Seattle membership is 35 at last count. We lost a few and gained a few. The support at services is still minimal. Our chapter has raised enough from our Sunday collections to pay \$75 rent for Ravenna United Methodist Church, but not often the rest of the bills such as phone, PO Box and the SGN ad. Though we did receive a couple of cash donations. The diminishing balance of our treasury has made it possible to pay the rest of our bills.

There were five board members, most of whom have served for several years. I worry about burnout, which has the potential for the death of our chapter. We need new people willing to serve on the board.

Our 2007 Pride Breakfast was very successful. There were times when it was difficult to find space for groups of people. Volunteers from our chapter and former chapter members serving as waiters and kitchen staff helped to make this breakfast a success. Alan Scott took charge of printing the breakfast and raffle tickets. We were able to donate \$750 to both Verbena and Multifaith Works.

Steven Kearney organized one social event this year at Costal Kitchen Restaurant. Steven has been doing the set up for the social hour following our second Sunday liturgy.

The Board started offering electronic newsletters, reducing the cost of printing and postage. Paula Lavallee continues with this task.

Dignity/Seattle liturgies are on the second Sunday of each month. The Rev. Philip Knowles of the St. Ignatius Community presides on a regular basis. He is an excellent presider and homilist. ▼

The New 2007-2008 Board

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Dignity/Seattle Board, which takes office with the start of the new fiscal year, October 1, 2007.

Thanks go to **Steven Kearney**, who is leaving the Board; we hope he will continue to be an active part of the community.

Paula Lavallee and **Delia Vita** were re-elected to two-year terms. **Alan Scott** was newly elected to a two-year term. **Denise Arceneaux** was re-elected as a write-in candidate to serve a one-year term. **Jim Rankin** has one year left in his current term. Note that the write-in candidacy was planned to balance the staggering of terms. Thank you, **Bob Mitchell**, for serving as Election Chairperson!

And finally, a very special note of appreciation goes to **Paula Lavallee**, (and her proud, supportive, and now utterly relieved spouse, **Tish Charette**) who has just completed four years of distinguished service on DignityUSA's National Board of Directors. Paula has served very ably as the National Secretary and as a co-chair of two DignityUSA conventions: Las Vegas in 2003 and Austin in 2007.

St. Louis Jesuits Benefit Concert

Friday, October 19th, 8:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, 732-18th Ave E (at Aloha), Seattle

The writers and performers of some of the most beloved modern liturgical music—*City of God* (Dignity's unofficial anthem), *Be Not Afraid*, *One Bread, One Body*, *Here I Am Lord*—will perform at a 25 year reunion concert to benefit the centennial of St. Joseph Parish & School. For more information and to purchase the \$40 tickets, please call 206/329-4824 or visit the website:

<http://www.stjosephparish.org/ArDisplay.aspx?ID=497&SecID=26>

Official Business

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Denise Arceneaux (Officers to be decided
Paula Lavallee at the October Board
Jim Rankin Meeting)
Alan Scott
Delia Vita

DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle

Leo Egashira At large, Communications

Dignity/Seattle 206/325-7314

P.O. Box 20325 Seattle WA 98102

Website <http://www.DignitySeattle.org>

E-mail mjrankin2000@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Leo N. Egashira

206/723-4759 Legashira@yahoo.com

We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

Dignity/Seattle Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

(edited for publication)

September 22, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. in the parlor at Ravenna United Methodist Church. A quorum was present.

The President's Report (edited & reprinted on front cover) was distributed and read silently by all.

Delia Vita read the treasurer's report (reprinted on Page 3). She said that while our combined savings/checking account balance was about \$2600, our average operating expenses amounted to approximately \$250 a month including rent, whereas, our average collection was down to approx. \$150. Therefore, we have to dip into our savings/checking account each month to make up the difference. So those who decided not to continue to contribute to Dignity/Seattle because they thought we had too much in our treasury should reconsider. Delia also indicated that we made a substantial contribution to DignityUSA (approximately \$1000 total) to help them through their financial crisis last year.

Votes were tallied and Alan Scott, Paula Lavallee and Delia Vita each received 16 votes. Denise Arceneaux received four write-in votes and Leo Egashira received one write-in vote.

A Question & Answer period followed:

Leo Egashira was asked about the reinstatement of the Annual Dues by Dignity. He indicated that he did not know the details about the implementation – whether anniversary dates would all be changed to October (when the new policy takes effect) or whether they will be staggered and how much each chapter will get. (DignityUSA has since come out with details about the policy and each member should be getting renewal notices staggered throughout the year. Also, "chapter support" has been set at \$10 from the \$50 membership fee.) Leo did say that DignityUSA had to reinstate the policy because, despite increased membership, they were not getting increased donations to offset the "No Dues Policy."

A question was then raised about whether we will continue with a scholarship fund to help pay for membership for those who can't afford the fee. (The John Peterson fund has already been liquidated). Delia said we have yet to decide that issue as a Board. Kay Finnell of the Ravenna United Methodist Church said that we should contact them about whether we will continue with the scholarship fund. Denise Arceneaux then thanked Kay Finnell for RUMC's continual support of Dignity/S and indicated that this support has been essential to our survival over the years.

Pat Roche made a comment about the powerful presence of Bishop Fresen's visit to Seattle in November 2006, and brought up the idea of us joining together with the 200-plus progressive Catholics in the area who attended her meetings.

Denise Arceneaux indicated that as liturgy co-chair she was doing the best she could to include more women as presiders in our monthly liturgy but it's been difficult finding women without scheduling conflicts since they seem to be in such high demand.

Addendum: Mary Lolis called the voice-mail and said that she has recently been diagnosed with cancer and needs our prayers.

Next board meeting: Early October, TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Arceneaux, Secretary

Treasurer's Monthly Report**Checking Account**

Beginning Balance 8/02/07	\$2,557.41
Deposits:	
Collection Monthly: August	73.00
Collection Monthly: September	122.40
Transferred from Savings 5/07	300.00
Total Income	\$495.40
Subtotal	\$3,052.81

Operating Expenses

Admin.: PO Box rental	78.00
Admin.: Telephone	40.00
Admin.: Supplies/Gifts/misc	47.78
Advertising: SGN	30.00
Liturgy: Presider's stipend	60.00
Newsletter printing /mailing August	39.05
Newsletter printing /mailing September	47.40
PW Breakfast: Verbena	750.00
PW Breakfast: Multifaith Works	750.00
Rent: Ravenna United Methodist	75.00
Dignity USA-mailed 5/07	300.00
Total Expenses	\$2,217.23

Ending Balance 9/24/07 **\$ 835.58**

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$1,790.94
Interest Income	0.39
Adjustment	4.59
Ending Balance 9/24/07	\$1,795.92

Treasurer's Annual Report

For the period: 9/1/2006- 9/24/2007

Checking Account

Beginning Balance 9/24/05	\$2,056.06
Deposits:	
Transferred from savings account	300.00
Collection Monthly	1788.40
Donation from members/friends	617.42
Membership DignityUSA	0.00
Pride Week Breakfast	2403.00
Fundraising: Raffle	105.00
Total Income	5213.82
Subtotal	\$7,269.88

Operating Expenses

Admin.: PO Box rental	158.00
Admin.: Telephone	485.86
Admin.: Supplies/Gifts/misc	90.82
Advertising: SGN	400.00
Liturgy: Presider's stipend	390.00
Newsletter printing	501.24
GLBT Community Center	150.00
Donation to Dignity/USA	1005.00
33rd Anniversary Dinner/Fundraising	129.12
PW Breakfast: Advertisement	210.00
PW Breakfast: Verbena	750.00
PW Breakfast: Multifaith Works	750.00
PW Breakfast: Food/rent/advertising	439.26
Rent: Ravenna United Methodist	975.00
Total Expenses	\$6,434.30

Ending Balance 8/30/06 **\$835.58**

Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$2,087.27
Interest Income	8.65
Transferred to Checking	-300.00
Ending Balance 8/30/06	\$1,795.92

Submitted by:
Delia C Vita, Treasurer
September 24, 2007

San Francisco 2009 Convention**Pre-registration discount extended to Dec 31!**

Your \$100 deposit by Dec. 31, 2007 for DignityUSA's 40th Anniversary Convention in San Francisco, July 2-5, 2009, will earn a 10% discount off the regular registration rate (which was \$240 at the recently concluded Austin 2007 Convention). The Convention Committee has secured an amazing \$119 + tax rate for double occupancy at the Parc 55 Hotel downtown! Additional persons are assessed an extra \$20. This special convention rate is valid June 24 to July 10, 2009, which includes SF's Gay Pride Weekend, June 27-28. Please visit <http://www.dignityusa.org> for further information & forms.

St. Ignatius Community News

St. Ignatius Catholic community has started offering liturgies every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at Ravenna UMC. All are welcome, but Dignity/Seattle members and other progressive Catholics are heartily encouraged to support this new ministry. Father Phillip Knowles, affiliated with the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, is the presider. For more information about the St. Ignatius community, please visit <http://www.ignatiusecc.org/>. To find out more about the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, visit <http://www.ecumenical-catholic-communion.org/>

ECC Bishop Peter Nickman's Visit

From St. Ignatius' weekly e-bulletin:

Thanks to all of those who were able to take part in our liturgical celebration and potluck September 21st, when Bishop Peter visited. Your presence made the event special. In his homily, Peter reminded us that when we invite Jesus to a meal, he brings all of his friends. It was a wonderful reminder that Eucharist is a gathering of friends who come together around the memory of one who is greatly loved.

Ravenna Saturday Night Movie

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Saturday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.

Dignity/Seattle's host church, Ravenna UMC, hosts free movies regularly on Saturday nights; to confirm upcoming movies, visit the website: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/ravenna/>. For October 13th's Harry Potter movie, fans are encouraged to dress as their favorite Potter character and join in for a pizza party following.

Dignity/VancouverBC/Dignité

Box 3016 604/432-1230
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X5 dennisl-h@telus.net

Sunday, October 7th. 6:00 p.m. Preparing & serving Thanksgiving Dinner for "Friends of Life Society," at Diamond Centre, 1459 Barclay St., (West End) Vancouver.

Friday, October 19th. 7:30p.m. Worship liturgy at Gerry W's. 604/435-1950.

Saturday, October 27th. 6:30 p.m. Halloween potluck social—costume optional—at Lee L's. 604/408-344

Commentary

Rethinking and expanding the definition of the Dignity/Seattle faith community

By Leo N. Egashira

This month, Dignity/Seattle marks its 34th year as the Voice of GLBT Catholics in the region. We have members in Spokane, Yakima, Blaine, Centralia, Oregon, etc. The scattering of residences is equally mirrored by the number of worship spaces at which we gather.

The same is true among church reform groups in the region. None of us can meet as "Call to Action" or "Dignity" communities in Catholic churches. So, when Catholic Bishop Patricia Fresen toured Seattle and Olympia in November 2006, she was hosted by three non-Catholic churches.

As Pat Roche noted at the Membership Meeting (see minutes on Page 2), Bishop Fresen's visit attracted over 200 progressive Catholics. Why not, he wonders, join together in community with all these allies? In Pat's e-mails to me, he suggests: "Pick an existing Mass (at one of Seattle's progressive parishes) and encourage people to attend. Wait and see how that goes. And, if it grows, start something new."

I wholeheartedly agree with Pat's idea of strength in numbers and mutual support. Why not join the ten regular attendees at Dignity masses together with other disenfranchised or dissatisfied Catholics? Our emphases may be different, but the overall goals are remarkably similar: An open, inclusive Catholic Church.

But, like many progressive Catholic activists facing an unresponsive church, I have shifted my focus

from working from within the church to building an authentic "catholic" (meaning "universal") faith community that uses inclusive language, that is led in prayer by married, women or gay priests, that celebrates gay-lesbian weddings, that honors the diversity that enriches the Catholic Church. Right now, those hopes can only be realized outside the official church.

I'd like to see Dignity/Seattle work mutually with a resource in our midst—the budding St. Ignatius Community, which just started offering weekly masses at 8:00 a.m. Can we "offer" the 6:00 p.m. slot for joint St. Ignatius -- Dignity masses, in return for resumption of weekly liturgies? Would such a move encourage former Dignity presiders to resume offering masses on a rotating schedule? Would we see an increase in attendance, not only by (former) Dignity members who yearn for weekly sustenance, but also by others?

There is room to explore Pat's approach, my approach and other creative proposals. While a faith community that physically gathers is important, the internet has allowed the possibility of a virtual faith community. Dignity/Seattle can and must provide community to both.

Ultimately, the spiritual growth of these church reform groups and individuals scattered throughout the region depends upon connecting, allying and working with each other. ▼