



# Newsletter

January 2008

## Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

|                                 |                              |                         |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ravenna United Methodist Church | 5751-33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave NE | Seattle                 |
| Every Sunday                    | → 10:00 a.m.                 | St. Ignatius (UPSTAIRS) |
| Jan. 13, Feb. 10                | → 6:00 p.m.                  | Dignity/Seattle         |

## President's New Year Message

### A Blessed and Happy New Year to All!

As we were putting up our new calendars around the house this week, I was struck again at how fast the days, and now years, seem to be going by. It seems the older I get, the faster the years go by. I have been at my "new" job for 12 years now; Tish and I will celebrate 19 years together this year; I have been a Dignity member for 19 years. Where have the days, months, years flown? Where am I going? Where *should* I be going? Am I making the most of my time while I have it? Questions I'm sure we all ask ourselves, especially now, as we begin a new year with new resolutions.

Dignity/Seattle will celebrate its 35th anniversary this year. For 35 years we have celebrated, laughed and cried together. For 35 years we have been a voice in the church; we have been a place for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people along with our friends and family to come together to worship and play, to pray and just be. Our numbers have fluctuated over the years. Faces have come and gone. Lives have come and gone. New faces continue to arrive, while some of the old still shine on. Some leave and return, many move on to something new. What has held us together for 35 years? Why am I still here after all these years?

I am here because I believe in the mission of Dignity. I am filled with happiness to see the face of an old friend come back to pray or play with us. When we can sit and laugh and ask, "Do you remember when...?" And all too often ask "What ever happened to...?" I am filled with hope when a new face walks through the door, when I know we still have a reason for being here, that there still is a need in our church for Dignity.

During the past five years I have co-chaired two Dignity-USA National Conventions and served on the national Board of Directors as secretary. This work gave me the opportunity to work with like-minded people from across the country. People whose passion for Dignity and for justice in our church and society give me strength and encouragement. This work forced me to become very famil-

iar with the by-laws, mission and purpose of DignityUSA. And every once in a while, when I questioned what I am doing, I would read the Statement of Position and Purpose and again be filled with hope and direction. I encourage all of you to read it. (You can find it at <http://www.dignityusa.org/purpose.html>).

So, where are we going? What is Dignity/Seattle going to do this year? Do we have the strength and numbers to continue to be the voice in our church? Do we have the conviction to stand up and have our voice heard? Can we support and encourage those who need someone to say, "Yes, you can be gay and Catholic at the same time. And YES, you are loved by God." Our chapter has not been politically or socially active for several years. It seems all our energy has gone into the survival of our chapter. We exist, but sometimes, I feel, just barely. A few hands are doing the work and holding it together. But that can change—with your help.

Your presence at our liturgies gives strength to our chapter and support to the constant flow of new faces. Your presence at our social functions brings life to the community. Your helping hands at liturgy and events like the Pride Week Breakfast gives vitality to the chapter. Your donations give us the means to continue our work.

What are you going to do this year to support Dignity/Seattle? Will you join us for liturgy? Can you help plan our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party? Will you share your treasure to help us grow and survive another 35 years? Can you come play with us during our quarterly birthday/anniversary celebrations? Will you help Dignity/Seattle grow? Is Dignity/Seattle included in your New Year resolutions?

I wish you all health, happiness and love in this New Year. I hope to see you all soon.

Paula Lavallee, President, Dignity/Seattle



### Official Business

**Dignity/Seattle Board Members**

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Paula Lavallee   | President                   |
| Jim Rankin       | Vice President              |
| Denise Arceneaux | Secretary (Liturgy chair)   |
| Delia Vita       | Treasurer (Social co-chair) |
| Alan Scott       | At large (Social co-chair)  |

**DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle**

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Leo Egashira | At large (Communications) |
|--------------|---------------------------|

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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.

### Upcoming Event of Interest

**Harry Potter & The Order of the Phoenix**  
**Saturday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Ravenna United Methodist Church**

Please join members of our host church in this free series of Harry Potter movie nights. A pizza party and discussion will follow.

### Dignity/VancouverBC/Dignité

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

Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. 7:30 p.m. Business meeting at Gerry W's. 604/435-1950.

Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. 5:00 p.m. Preparing and serving diner for members of "Friends for Life Society," Diamond Centre, 1459 Barclay St. (West End) Vancouver.

Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. 7:30 p.m. Worship liturgy at Lee L's. 604/408-3442.

Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Business meeting at Kevin & Don's. 604/435-874-3428.

**Next Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at Delia's home.**



**The Board  
of Dignity/  
Seattle  
wishes  
everyone  
a blessed  
and joyous  
2008**

