



# Newsletter

## May 2010

### 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)
May 9, June 13	→ 6:00 p.m.	Dignity/Seattle

A pancake breakfast following St. Ignatius Mass is held every 4th Sunday (May 23rd), a shared fellowship with our host congregation, Ravenna UMC.

#### Dignity/Seattle Volunteer Opportunity

### Food Lifeline Warehouse

Wednesday, May 5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
1702 NE 150th St., Shoreline

This year, at our membership meeting, members said they wanted to do some group volunteer activities. Well, we have organized the first one, so come join us.

Help process food for the food bank, hot meal programs and shelters: Apply labels, repackage bulk foods, sort donated food. Anyone six years old and older is welcome

So, come help a good cause for a few hours, then perhaps we can gather for a social somewhere to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Pre-registration is required, so please let us know ASAP if you are interested in participating. [Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com) or 206-659-5519/

#### Richard Gaillardetz in Seattle

Friday, May 7 2010, there will be a workshop at Seattle University Student Center, Room 160, led by Richard Gaillardetz; a teacher in the College of Arts and Science's: Religious Studies Program at the University of Toledo. He is the author of seven books and has received numerous awards. The workshop is titled Surviving in a Polarized Church: Spirituality for Living with Ecclesial Tension. Registration is at 9:30 and the sessions run from 10 to 3. The event is sponsored by Catholic Ministers for Church renewal ([www.catholicministers.org](http://www.catholicministers.org)). You can check their website as well as [www.gaillardetz.com](http://www.gaillardetz.com) for more information and registration.

### 22nd Annual Pride Week Breakfast Saturday, June 26

Our 22nd annual Pride Week Breakfast and Raffle will be held on Pride Week Saturday, June 26th. Tickets will be in the mail shortly, so look for yours. If you do not receive any by mid-May, or you want more tickets, please contact us at [Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com) or 206-659-5519.

We are in need of raffle items. Please contact Delia via Dignity/Seattle, if you have an item or service you can donate or can acquire from a merchant.

Also, we need help before and during the breakfast. During the first few weeks of June we need people who can follow up with vendors we have contacted through mail for raffle donations. This task would require either a phone call or in person visit to the businesses, most of which are on Capital Hill. Then on the day of the breakfast, we need people to serve breakfast. If you can help with either task, please let us know at [Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com](mailto:Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com) or 206-659-5519.

**Save the Dates:  
Dignity's 22nd  
Annual Pride  
Week Breakfast  
Saturday, June 26**

**Seattle Pride Parade  
Sunday, June 27**

## Board Members & Contact Info

### Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Michael Linden	Vice-President
Delia Vita	Treasurer
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary
Alan Scott	Member, Social chair

### DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle

Leo Egashira At large (Publications)

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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.

### Dignity/Seattle Board Meeting April 7, 2010 (Unofficial; edited for publication)

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. at Delia Vita's house. Dignity prayer was read. All board members were present. Minutes were read.

**M/M/S/C:** To approve the March 10, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted.

#### President's report: (Paula Lavallee)

- Paula is continuing to send e-mails to the g-mail list.
- Paula filled out a form for DignityUSA's chapter coordinators.

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

<b>Checking Acct.</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3,604.49</b>
Deposits	
Collection March	180.00
<b>Sub-Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$1810.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,784.49</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
RUMC Rental (April)	100.00
USPS PO Box Annual Rental	116.00
PW Breakfast Hall Deposit	100.00
<b>Sub-Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$316.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,468.49</b>

The Scholarship fund for yearly membership currently has	\$150.00.
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>\$3,318.49</b>

<b>Savings Acct.</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,600.77</b>
Interest income	0.05
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,600.82</b>

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

#### Liturgy Committee: (Denise Arceneaux)

Philip Knowles will preside in April. He will also be asked to preside in May if he's available.

#### Membership Committee:

- We are still receiving mostly e-mail inquiries from people.
- Michael reported about the Young Adult Caucus associated with DignityUSA.

#### **Old Business:**

- Volunteer Opportunities: Paula will set up the Food Life Line event for May 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., advertise it and see how many people respond.
- Marriage Equality: The Marriage Equality discussion after Mass in March went well.
- Pride Breakfast: Central Lutheran Church is reserved and Delia paid the deposit. The SGN ad price went up from \$75 to \$105 for the same ad submitted as before. The Board decided to put an ad in the SGN for their pre-Pride issue. Volunteers: PFLAG wants to volunteer for the Breakfast. Tickets: Alan said the tickets are ready to be printed. He will print more raffle tickets than he did last year. He also made revisions to the mailing list for tickets. A mailing party for the printed tickets will occur on Wednesday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Delia Vita's house in conjunction with the meeting. Raffle donations: Janet and Terri are making another quilt for the raffle. The raffle donation letters will be sent out after Delia has had a chance to e-mail the old raffle donation letter to members on the Board for them to revise.
- Voice Mail: Michael will get a White Pages quote for getting the Dignity/Seattle phone no. published.
- Dignity Weekend Out: The subject was tabled for another meeting.

#### **New Business:**

Quarterly DignityUSA conference call: Report from the President: National now has a new database for tracking members. DignityUSA will provide more information on training on the database in the near future. National also redid their own website allowing chapters to do their website as well. The Board decided that as long as Pat McArron is still doing our website, we don't need one of our own. National will do a fundraiser video conference and is open to suggestions for one. They also talked about the child who was refused re-enrollment in a Boulder, Colorado Catholic School because the mothers were

lesbians. DignityUSA took out an ad against the move. Balloting will also be done on-line from now on.

**Next Board meeting: April 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Delia Vita's house in conjunction with the Mailing Party.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by:  
Denise Arceneaux

### **Dignity/Seattle Board Meeting April 27, 2010** (Unofficial; edited for publication)

Meeting was called to order at 6:27 p.m. at Delia Vita's house. Dignity prayer was read. All board members were present. Minutes were read.

**M/M/S/C:** To approve the April 7, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted.

#### Social Committee (Alan S. & Delia V.)

The 2nd quarter Birthday/Anniversary Brunch is scheduled for June 12th at Galerias at 12:30 p.m..

#### Liturgy Committee: (Denise Arceneaux)

Philip Knowles will preside in May.

#### Membership Committee:

There is a woman who lives on Capitol Hill and needs a ride to and from the Dignity services.

#### **Old Business:**

- Eight people are coming so far to the Food Lifeline event scheduled for May 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m..
- VoiceMail: Quote from White Pages tabled until the next meeting.
- Pride Breakfast: Solicitation Letter for Raffle: Delia has the solicitation letter made out and will expand the list of vendors to whom the letters will be sent to about 193. Alan's sailboating trip will still be a prize in the raffle. Tickets will be handled tonight and then mailed out. Leo needs to include in the newsletter that we are still looking for help for Pride breakfast. Volunteers: Greg Hermsen and Ray Curry will be helping with Pride Breakfast.

#### **New Business:**

"Yellow Pages United" scam: We have been in receipt of a \$400 invoice from a company supposedly called "Yellow Pages United." This is a scam and the company is not legitimate so please don't pay the invoice should you personally receive it in the mail for Dignity.

**Next Board meeting: June 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Delia Vita's house.**

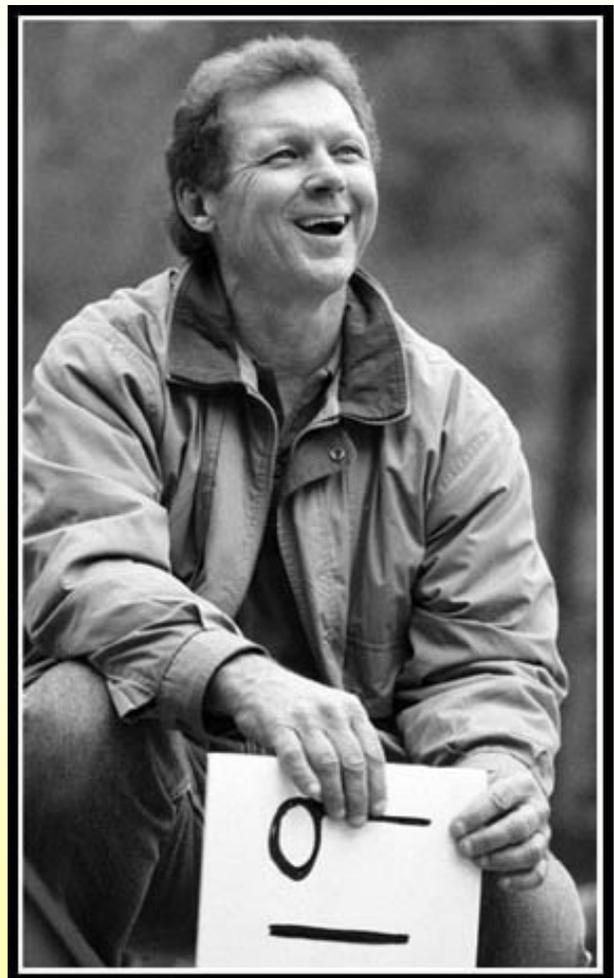
Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by:  
Denise Arceneaux

### **Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois in Seattle**

By Leo N. Egashira

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, Father Roy Bourgeois spoke about "Shattering the Glass Ceiling," his promotion of women to the Catholic Priesthood. The Call To Action—Western Washington-sponsored event was held at St. Mark's (Episcopal) Cathedral, an irony not lost on the approx. 150 people who attended.

He started with the words, "First, I apologize to women for being silent so long." He then recounted his faith journey: Roy grew up in Louisiana in a traditional Cajun Catholic town, where the status quo was accepted without question: There was no critique of church or foreign policy. In the 1960s, he volunteered for military duty in Vietnam. The incredible suffering he witnessed was the turning point in his life. He turned and looked to God for answers. Someone recommended the Maryknoll Missionary Order. And, has Fr. Bourgeois states, "Being a male, I was able to pursue my call." *(continued on Page 4)*



**Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois**

(continued from Page 3)

He was ordained in 1972 and sent to work in the slums of La Paz, Bolivia for five years, and became acutely aware that the U.S. government supported the military dictatorship that oppressed the common people. It was easy to see why Latin America gave birth to Liberation Theology, which was not top-down, but circular, epitomized by the belief that "We are Church." Fr. Bourgeois' questioning and activism got him arrested and deported from Bolivia.

Back in the U.S., he became even more aware of other disingenuous U.S. activities in Latin America. In 1980 Fr. Bourgeois became involved in issues surrounding U.S. policy in El Salvador after four U.S. churchwomen—two of them his friends—were raped and killed by Salvadoran soldiers. The U.S. not only supplied weapons to the Salvadoran military, but trained the soldiers who were killing peasants, opposition leaders and activist Church workers. In 1990, Fr. Bourgeois went to the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA—or as he calls it "School of Assassins") at Fort Benning, Georgia and started the SOA Watch movement ([www.SOAW.org](http://www.SOAW.org)) that seeks to close the SOA through vigils and fasts, demonstrations and nonviolent protest, as well as media and legislative work. What started with ten protesters in 1990 grew to 15,000 protesters by November 2009.

While opposing foreign policy injustices, Fr. Bourgeois became aware of women religious oppression. He listed four compelling arguments:

1. The call for priesthood comes from our God. Who am I to negate women's call?
2. The current policy is rooted in sexism, which is immoral.
3. It implies that men are worthy, but women are not. With the serious scandals in the institutional church, we know better. If we had women priests, and yes, a woman pope, this cover-up would not have been possible.
4. It is a grave insult to an all-loving God, who made men and women of equal dignity.

What reason does the Vatican offer? Tradition—Jesus only chose male apostles. But, there is a problem with this rationale: Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the resurrection, while the male apostles were hiding. And, only women were present at both the crucifixion and resurrection. Society didn't believe in women then. 2000 years later, the Church still doesn't believe in women.

Fr. Bourgeois decided that he could not remain silent, for silence is the voice of complicity. A few years ago, during a live Vatican Radio interview, he blurted out, "There will never be justice until women can be ordained." The Italian interpreter stopped, yanked the microphone, and the radio station started playing a Gregorian Chant!

In August of 2008, Fr. Bourgeois was invited to attend, give a homily and jointly preside at the ordination of a RomanCatholicWomanPriest (RCWP) in Kentucky. In less than three months, he received a letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ("pretty fast compared to the Vatican's reaction to the sex scandals!") stating that he had "caused a church scandal," and to recant in 30 days or be excommunicated. Fr. Bourgeois sent a letter within two weeks. There has been no communication since then.

Following Fr. Bourgeois' presentation, RCWP ordinand, Diane Whelan of Olympia related her own journey that will culminate in an ordination on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Olympia.

During a question and answer period facilitated by both speakers, a few more major points were emphasized:

- The Church cannot address sexism without addressing the Church's addiction to power and the status and privileges that that power confers.
- Rarely do people voluntarily give up power.
- Change will come from the bottom-up, not top-down
- There is a very real need for a Vatican III to talk about mandatory celibacy and women's ordination—two issues not addressed in Vatican II.

The following day, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Father Bourgeois spoke on "A Struggle for Justice in Latin America" at Evergreen State College In Olympia. During May 2010, he will continue his tour in New York State and Toronto.

## Dignity/Vancouver BC/Dignité



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Information for May events was not available as of press time. D/V sponsors 2-3 events per month. Please contact them for information if you are headed to Canada.