



Newsletter

May 2012

Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

Ravenna United Methodist Church 5751-33rd Ave NE Seattle
 Every Sunday → 10:00 a.m. St. Ignatius (UPSTAIRS)
 May 13, June 10 → 6:00 p.m. Dignity/Seattle

A pancake breakfast following St. Ignatius Mass is held every 4th Sunday (May 27th), a shared fellowship with our host, Ravenna UMC.

Support the Sisters!

Prayer vigils have been scheduled by Call To Action-Western Washington for Tuesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. this month (May 8, 15, 22, 29) in front of **St. James Cathedral**, 804-9th Ave. Seattle's Archbishop Peter Sartain has been assigned to supervise the investigation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents 80% of women religious in this country.

All friends and family are welcome. If you have candles, please bring them with you..

D/Seattle 2nd Quarter Brunch

Saturday, May 19, 12:30 p.m.
Mae's Phinney Ridge Café
6412 Phinney Ave N
206/295-4895 (D/S organizer #)

To all Dignity Members and Friends of Dignity,

In celebration of all who have birthdays or anniversaries in April through June 2012; members, guests, and friends are all invited to enjoy brunch Saturday, May 19th at 12:30pm. Mae's website provides a description of their new entrees: www.maesafe.com/article.aspx?SHOW=12237) along with a 10% off coupon.

You should have received a "Punchbowl" invitation via e-mail. RSVP via Punchbowl. If you did not receive an invitation, please contact Dignity/Seattle 206/659-5519. We need a count so that enough space can be set aside at Mae's

Please bring any unwanted cellphones, laptop computers, and spent ink cartridges as Dignity is continuing to collect these for recycling as a way of supplementing the Dignity Convention scholarship fund.

The Dignity/Seattle Board

Upcoming Events of Interest

- May 8, Tue:** **Support the Sisters, Cathedral**
- May 8, Tue** **D/S Board Meeting and Pride Breakfast Mailing Party**
- May 13, Sun:** **Mothers Day Dignity Mass**
- May 15, Tue:** **Support the Sisters, Cathedral**
- May 18-20** **2012 Western Regional Call To Action Conference, Portland, OR**
- May 19, Sat:** **Quarterly Brunch Celebration**
- May 22, Tue:** **Support the Sisters, Cathedral**
- May 27, Sun:** **Dignity at St. Ignatius Mass**
- May 29, Tue:** **Support the Sisters, Cathedral**
- June 23, Sat:** **24th Annual Pride Week Breakfast**
- June 24, Sun:** **GLBT Pride Parade: March with Catholics for Marriage Equality!**

Pride Weekend June 23-24

Saturday, June 23: Dignity/Seattle will host its 24th Annual Pride Week Breakfast at Central Lutheran Church on Saturday. Proceeds will benefit Rosehedge/Multifaith Works, Bailey-Boushay House and Dignity/Seattle's Convention Scholarship Fund. Details next month..

Sunday, June 24: March in or cheer on the 2nd largest parade in Seattle, and one of the largest GLBT Pride Parades in the nation. This year's celebration will take on special meaning, with the passage of the State's Marriage Equality Law and likely vote to uphold the law in the November 6, 2012 general election. Join fellow Catholics and others in the **Catholics for Equality—Washington State** contingent. Information: <http://www.facebook.com/CatholicsForMarriageEqualityWashingtonState>.

Board Members & Contact Info

2011—2012 Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Paula Hills	Vice President
Delia Vita	Treasurer
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary, Liturgy
Alan Scott	At large, Social

DignityUSA Board Members from Seattle

Paula Lavallee	Secretary
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/Vancouver BC/Dignité



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

Monday, May 7th, 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting at Dennis B's. 604-669-3677

Monday, May 21st. Victoria Day statutory holiday.

Saturday, May 26th, 6:00 p.m. Joint Worship Liturgy & Pot Luck Supper at Gerry W's. 604-435-1950

Monday, June 4th, 7:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting at Kevin/Don's. 604-874-3428



Pentecost Sunday

May 27, 2012

Marriage Equality & -Nuns Investigation: In the Maelstrom

Just before Easter this year (April 8, 2012), Archbishop of Seattle Peter J. Sartain, requested over 200 parishes to have Referendum 74 petitions available at weekend Masses, April 14-15. If organizers collect enough signatures by early June, voters will decide on the fate of the Marriage Equality Law recently passed by the Washington State Legislature.

However, the request was not mandatory, but optional. Surprisingly, the pastor of St. James Cathedral, Fr. Michael Ryan, refused to allow petitions, stating that doing so would "prove hurtful and seriously divisive in our community."

Other parishes in the Archdiocese, most notably St. Joseph on Seattle's Capitol Hill, Dignity/Seattle's former host parish for over two decades, and St. Mary's in Seattle's Central District, also refused the Archbishop's request.

The controversy surrounding the Church's political involvement was among the top local stories in early April. On Page 3 is a reprint of an Op-Ed that encourages Catholics in the pews to make their pro-equality voices heard; it appeared in *The Seattle Times* on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

On Page 4 is an April 14th letter written by Leo N. Egashira to the pastor of three Southeast Seattle parishes requesting that he not allow the collection of Referendum 74 signatures.

The brouhaha about the Archdiocese's overt political action was still continuing, when, on April 19, the Vatican appointed Archbishop Sartain to supervise the investigation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, which represents 80% of Catholic women religious in the U.S.

The print and broadcast media was rife with articles and opinions on the heavy-handed actions of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

On Page 4 are two more letters. The Nun's Investigation letter by Leo Egashira was published in *The Seattle Times* on April 23rd, and in *The Seattle Gay News* on May 4th.

The May 1st letter by Janice Van Cleve to the Archbishop addresses his actions on both the Marriage Equality and Nuns' Investigation issues. Janice was a former co-editor of the Dignity/Seattle Newsletter in the early 1990s, together with Leo Egashira. A retiree, Janice is a very visible political activist in Seattle's Democratic Party circles.

Originally published on-line Friday, April 13, 2012, and in the print edition of The Seattle Times on Saturday, April 12.

Catholics should ask their bishops to stand up for marriage equality

Washington Catholics must stand up for marriage equality and refuse to sign petitions, promoted by the state's bishops, opposing equal opportunity for some families, write guest columnists Barbara Guzzo and Kirby Brown.

By Barbara Guzzo and Kirby Brown
Special to *The Times*

WE disagree with our bishops' position on marriage equality. Last Sunday, in our parishes, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. It is this Easter faith that makes us strong and guides us as we form our consciences. Our communities are made of people who work to make the world better, neighbors who look out for each other. We pull together through good times and bad. Our quest is to love one another as Jesus loved us. Our goal is to build strong families, healthy communities and a better future for all God's children.

As Catholics, then, we are disappointed with the bishops of Washington state. The very Sunday after Easter, our bishops are telling Catholic congregations to sign a petition opposing equal opportunity for some families. Everything in our tradition leads us to believe that gays and lesbians should be welcomed into the full life of our communities, as we believe Jesus would have welcomed them.

Our representatives in Washington state passed a law this year providing marriage equality and promoting strong families. This is civil marriage, marriage in the eyes of the state, a binding contract that allows partners to enjoy a set of civil and human rights involving health, financial and end-of-life decisions. It allows partners to profess their love and commitment and to have these affirmed and recognized by their friends, families and the state.

As lay leaders in our parish, we teach marriage preparation for couples; we accept the church's right as a religion to perform sacramental marriage within its chosen parameters. Nothing in this legislation changes religious rights or Catholic marriage.

State law is a different matter. We uphold the state of Washington's right to grant equality to all committed couples living in our state with the opportunity for a civil marriage in the eyes of the law.

The bishops of Washington state are threatening the very fabric of the Gospel by excluding a few of our neighbors, brothers, sisters and children. The majority of Catholics in America support marriage equality. American Catholics take their church's teaching on social justice very seriously.

And yet, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has not only loudly opposed equal rights for homosexuals to civil marriage, the conference is pooling the

money of the faithful with that of right-wing organizations that use hatred to divide our country.

The National Organization for Marriage, for instance, in recently released documents, plans to use its close relationship with Catholic bishops to "drive a wedge between gays and blacks" and another strategy to make "opposition to gay marriage an identity marker" of the Latino culture. This does not reflect the teachings of Jesus.

We know the Catholic hierarchy can do better. For the sake of the many kinds of families that make up our parishes, we ask them to do so. Throughout the scandals of the last decades, we have stood strong in our faith, continued to tithe and to raise our children in the church. Now, as Roman Catholics, we reluctantly stand up to our bishops in this public forum.

For Catholics who go to Mass this Sunday as we will, please do not sign the petition that the Washington state bishops have asked your pastor to promote this weekend. Its goal is to end marriage equality in Washington state. If the referendum goes to the November ballot, please vote for equal rights for all families.

Hard as it may be to speak up, please tell your pastor, your parish council and the bishops themselves to show compassion and dignity to families of all kinds in Washington state. Please ask them to reconsider participating in the petition drive. In the spirit of Easter, let us all treat our neighbor as we would treat ourselves.

Barbara Guzzo, left, and Kirby Brown are members of Catholics for Marriage Equality in Washington State. Guzzo, a married, lifelong Catholic in Seattle, has facilitated marriage preparation sessions for more than 30 years. Brown, a lifelong area Catholic, is retired after working in pastoral ministry and social services.



April 14, 2012

Dear Fr. Paulino;

I recently attended the St. Edward School Centennial, having been a St. Ed's student from 1961 to 1968. It was a wonderfully planned event--kudos to all who were involved! I credit my Catholic education for instilling strong social justice values and a sound foundation in the "Three Rs."

Regarding the Archbishop's efforts to overturn Marriage Equality for all Washington citizens, I hope and pray that you will heed the informed conscience of the super-majority of Catholics and follow the brave, principled stand taken by Fr. Ryan of St. James Cathedral, Fr. Whitney of St. Joseph, and other pastoral leaders in the Archdiocese by not allowing collection of signatures for Referendum 74. Please do not participate in the further marginalization of a segment of our human family that deserves full inclusion, love and support.

As the pastor of three very culturally diverse parishes in Southeast Seattle, your ministry has been one of openness and inclusion. Please extend that openness and inclusion to the much less visible gay and lesbian individuals who are integral members in all our varied communities.

Yours very sincerely,
Leo N. Egashira

Originally published on-line Saturday, April 21, 2012 and in the print edition of The Seattle Times on Monday, April 23. Published in The Seattle Gay News, May 4.

Editor;

As a progressive Catholic educated by nuns who ingrained in me the social justice teachings of our faith, I find the hierarchy's inquisition against women's empowerment, women's rights and women who enter the Catholic religious life utterly despicable and, sadly, totally contrary to Christian ethics. The hierarchy is using the excuse of "tradition" and "morality" to preserve power and privilege; indeed, even the most casual observer of The Vatican and its minions would easily assume that the hierarchy's sole purpose for existence is Darwinian self-preservation.

Control of territory, exclusion, and the exercise of absolute authority are predominantly male traits in nature. Is it surprising, then, that a thoroughly artificial, insular, all-male, celibate hierarchy would act any differently?

"What would Jesus do?" is exemplified by selfless Catholic nuns—teachers, social workers, hospital staff and missionaries—who are actively alleviating the inequalities in our society. They deserve our respect, admiration, support and prayers.

Leo N. Egashira

May 1, 2012

Archbishop Peter Sartain
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Peter,

You are not having a good Easter, are you? First you are ordered to launch an anti-gay petition signing for Referendum 74 and then you are ordered to smack down the nuns of America for getting uppity. This isn't really the pastoral work you signed up for when you came to Seattle, was it?

Seattle is a very progressive city, as you must well know by now. The *sensus fidelium* of Seattle Catholics may not be what you've been used to in Joliet or Little Rock or Memphis. We appreciate more the Huthausen type of archbishop – you know, the kind that feeds the hungry and houses the homeless. Authoritarian types that attempt to impose a fossilized Vatican agenda are really going to be out of step with the laity here.

Seriously, how can a hierarchy of old men rife with sexual abuse, obstruction of justice, and hateful rhetoric claim any kind of moral ground to tell loving families they cannot have civil marriage? Especially when the civil authorities have already made it law? How can they claim to tell women what to do with their bodies or threaten excommunication for civic leaders who pass laws to help people rather than punish them? Doesn't the Catholic Church have enough on its hands trying to pay off its sexual abuse settlements? If the church hierarchy really must get its collective skirts in a bundle, how about condemning torture by federal agents? How about condemning the unsustainable income gap between the bloated 1% and the rest of us? Too big? How about police brutality right here in Seattle?

On the other hand, if you really are not here to tend the flock but instead juice your resume for a cardinal appointment down the road, good luck with that. You might check out Matthew 23 on your way.

Janice Van Cleve
Seattle