

DignityUSA works for respect and justice for people of all sexual orientations, genders and gender identities—especially gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons—in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy, and support.

Contents:

- Blessings and Best Wishes for the New Year – 1
- Transgender Committee Seeks Volunteers – 1
- Technology Committee Call for Assistance – 2
- Fall Fling 2009 Auction a Success – 2
- Sponsor a Board Member! – 2
- Transitions – 2

Blessings and Best Wishes for the New Year

By Bill Welch, Editor

On behalf of DignityUSA's National Board of Directors, staff, and committees, I extend to you, yours, family, friends, and supportive allies our best wishes for a New Year of God's abiding love and bountiful blessings. May such blessings include: good health, safe travel and life journeys, true peace, genuine happiness, and the fulfillment of personal, shared, and collective hopes, dreams, and goals.

May the Word made flesh and God taking on our humanity — the ultimate sign and message of Christmas — be bulwarks of life, light, hope, and human dignity as we take on Christ's directive of love of God, neighbor, and self, coupled with his invitation — "Love one another as I have loved you."

These are also guides for DignityUSA's work and direction in 2010 and beyond as we build and sustain communities of faith and love at the local level, and serve as a voice promoting and upholding dignity, justice and equality for all in Church and society. We are especially called and challenged to be mentor and advocate in the lives of Catholic gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, as well as those persons on a path of introspection and development of sexual identity and integrated self.

We invite your active participation in our chapters and local faith communities, as well as your contributions of time, talent, and treasure towards the enrichment of DignityUSA and success in its work and mission.



Transgender Committee Seeks Volunteers

A volunteer Transgender Committee within DignityUSA is in the formation stage as we close out 2009. It is the fruition of the Transgender programming during DignityUSA's 40th Anniversary Convention in July 2009 in San Francisco.

The purpose of the committee is to increase awareness of, provide education, and advocate for Transgender issues in DignityUSA in order to make the organization and its chapters welcoming and affirming spaces for transgender Catholics.

The committee is seeking volunteer female-to-male persons to provide balance and better representation and support of FTM issues. Please contact Clarice by e-mail at claricerd@hotmail.com. Thank you.





Technology Committee Call for Assistance

DignityUSA is looking for volunteers to assist us in making recommendations for using new and evolving technologies more efficiently.

We are looking for skilled people who can advise and guide us on how to use the technologies and what we need to have in place to move forward in electronic media, use of the Internet, web publishing, Twitter, Facebook, and other evolving interfaces.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact technology committee chair Alice Knowles at alice_knowles@comcast.net.

Fall Fling 2009 Auction a Success

DignityUSA's Fall Fling 2009 on-line auction was a success thanks to the efforts of member Jack Frielingsdorf, project coordinator, member donations, and over 100 bidders.

Twenty-seven items were sold, raising over \$4,600 for DignityUSA.

Watch for our spring 2010 auction.

Sponsor a Board Member!

At its last meeting this fall, DignityUSA's National Board decided to begin raising funds to help defray the cost of traveling for our Board members. As many of you might know, due to the financial stress DignityUSA has experienced in the past few years, we have been asking our National Board members to pay for their own expenses when we meet in person, three times a year. Depending on where the Board member lives and where the meeting is taking place, the cost of airfare, hotel, meals, and incidentals can easily run over \$1,000 per trip.

We have been fortunate enough to have been able to have a group of talented and generous individuals who have been willing and able to assume both the personal and financial responsibility of being a Board member for many years now.

We understand, however, this is not the way we want to run the organization indefinitely. We are very aware that because of the financial burden that being a Board member entails, we are leaving out a number of talented individuals who would be able and willing to serve us well at the national level. We do not want finances to be the only reason why a skillful Dignity member chooses not to run.

It is for this reason that the Board has decided to enlarge the meaning of the Talent Acquisition Fund to include funds to help pay for some of the costs of our Board members. "Board expenses" is a new line item in our 2010 budget. In addition to that, we would like to introduce a new "Sponsorship" program. We imagine that there are members out there who might have the financial means to pay for the cost of being a National Board member but do not have the inclination to run for the Board themselves; or some of you who have served on the Board before but have no desire to do it again. But maybe you would be inclined to "sponsor" the expenses (partially or totally) of someone else. Perhaps you have a young leader from your chapter who you think would contribute a lot at the national level and you want specifically to sponsor him or her; or maybe you just want to contribute money to the TAF with a directive that the money be used to help sponsor a Board member. We can use your help. Please consider becoming a "Sponsor of a Board member." It is a good way to develop new leadership and ensure the future success of DignityUSA.

For further details and/or to make donations to the Talent Acquisition Fund or Sponsor a Board Member Project, please contact Peggy Burns, Operations Manager, at info@dignityusa.org, by phone (202-861-0017) or (800-877-8797), or by mail at Operation Manager, DignityUSA, PO Box 376, Medford, MA 02155-0004.

Let us hear from you. And thanks.

TRANSITIONS

WEDDING/UNION ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Pilarski (Dignity/New Mexico) and partner Ken Mayka celebrated 30 years together on December 29, 2009.

Happy Anniversary & Congratulations to:

Palm Springs (CA) - 5 years
Brooklyn (NY) - 33 years
* Arizona - 33 years

* Dignity-Integrity Chapter