



DATELINE

Monthly News Bulletin
Volume 19, No. 10
October 2010

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.

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Solidarity Sunday October 10, 2010 A Project of Dignity USA



Solidarity Sunday is a faith-based anti-violence initiative. Because we understood that contrary to popular belief, most Catholics are appalled by anti-gay attacks, DignityUSA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a way of making our opposition to anti-gay violence visible.

Solidarity Sunday is held every year on the Sunday before October 11 (National Coming Out Day).

Solidarity Interfaith Prayer

Please substitute for the word “God” the most appropriate to your faith tradition.

God, You are the Creator and Lover of all.

You wish us to live in solidarity with each other and to rejoice in our diversity.

We pray that all Your lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight children may experience justice, enjoy peace and spread Your love throughout the world.

We pray in the name of God, who welcomes all to a holy circle of friendship.
Amen.

Solidarity Pledge

I pledge:

I will work for civil and human rights for all people, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgender. **Civil rights are not special rights.**

I will seek to stop jokes and unkind language about anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgender when spoken in my presence. **Words that hurt and bigotry are not funny.**

I will speak out against any slander, debasement, lies or dehumanization of anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgender, including when spoken by political or religious leaders. **Violent speech leads to physical violence.**

I will work to stop physical violence against anyone, including violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, or the transgender. **Violence against any person is violence against all people.**



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Archived issues of *Dateline* are at
<http://www.dignityusa.org/dateline>

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A Celebration of Faith and Service: A Brief Report on Video Conference

By Jack Frielingsdorf and Marty Grochala, Members DignityUSA Fund-raising Committee

DignityUSA's first video conference event was held on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at 8 p.m. EDT. Thirteen chapters from Massachusetts to Hawaii participated. While some participants encountered technical difficulties during the presentation, all-in-all the evening was a success. Several thousand dollars were raised to support the advocacy work of DignityUSA and local chapters.

The two speakers: Mark Matson, DignityUSA President, speaking from Ohio and Marianne Duddy-Burke, DignityUSA Executive Director, from Boston, gave uplifting messages and words of encouragement. There also was a video-taped message from U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley (D) from Illinois on the topic of ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act), congressional bills S.1584 and H.R. 3017.

Participating Chapters:

Dignity/Boston (MA)
 Dignity/Chicago (IL)
 Dignity/Columbus (OH)
 Dignity/Dayton – The Living Beatitudes (OH)
 Dignity/Fort Lauderdale (FL)
 Dignity/Honolulu (HI)
 Dignity/Indianapolis (IN)
 Dignity/Metro New Jersey
 Dignity/New York (NY)
 Dignity/Integrity Rochester (NY)
 Dignity San Antonio (TX)
 Dignity San Fernando Valley (CA)
 Dignity/Washington (D.C.)

The final tallies of members participating and funds raised will have to wait until the November 2010 issue of *Dateline*. A quick poll of the organizers, technical team, and presenters indicates that the video conference went well and the minor problems experienced can easily be overcome.

You will be seeing this format of communication used to a greater extent in DignityUSA's future. Many thanks to those who participated, and to the chapters which organized events in support of DignityUSA.

CHAPTER NEWS**Dignity/Northern Virginia News****Chapter Aids Pakistan Flood Relief**

Dignity/Northern Virginia (also known as Dignity/NOVA) raised \$575 for flood relief efforts in Pakistan as a result of collections taken up after Mass the first two weekends of September 2010. The chapter's board of directors authorized an additional contribution of \$500 from the chapter's Belle Fund. A check in the amount of \$1075 was sent to Sister Jeannine Gramick's Loretto Community for use by their sisters in

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All Are Welcome to Witness the Board in Action

DignityUSA's Board of Directors will meet Friday through Sunday, **October 1-3, 2010**, at the Millennium Hotel, 200 South 4th Street, St Louis, MO 63102, (314) 241-9500.

The Board meets Friday evening for about 3 hours; Saturday 9:00 a.m. until about 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, beginning with a liturgy, the Board wraps up its work in a 3-hour session ending at 12:00 noon.

DignityUSA's Leadership Summit will be held in conjunction with the Board meeting on October 1-2, 2010.

DignityUSA members desiring to see a copy of the Board meeting agenda please contact Lewis Tanner (secretary@dignityusa.org).

Happy Anniversary & Congratulations to:

New Brunswick (NJ) - 26 years
 New Mexico - 26 years
 Indianapolis (IN) - 29 years
 Buffalo (NY) - 34 years
 Pittsburgh (PA) - 36 years
 Twin Cities (MN) - 36 years
 Seattle (WA) - 37 years
 New York (NY) - 38 years
 Washington (DC) - 38 years
 † Orlando (FL)
 † Palm Beach (FL)

† Chapter-in-Formation

Dignity/Northern Virginia News Continued from page 2

Pakistan who will ensure that the aid goes directly to the people affected by the flooding with no government fraud taking a cut of the donations.

If you wish to make a contribution, you can do so by sending a check to the Sisters of Loretto at: Loretto Development Office, 4000 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80123-1308. Be sure to put "Pakistan Flood Relief" in the lower left hand corner of the check.

Dignity/Washington (DC) News

Dignity/Washington Hears Father John McNeill Lecture on His Latest Book

Dignity/Washington had the pleasure of having John McNeill and his life partner, Charlie Chiarelli, join the community the weekend of Washington DC Capital Pride, June 12-13, 2010. On Saturday, June 12th, John delivered a widely publicized lecture on his latest book, *Sex As God Intended*. The event and book were highly praised by a diverse audience. The next day John and Charlie attended Dignity/Washington's Sunday Mass followed by a book signing of several of John's works.

The Dignity/Washington Book Club selected *Sex As God Intended* later in summer 2010 for its featured weekly discussions.



(L to R) Allen Rose, President Dignity/Washington, watches John J. McNeill sign copy of book *Sex As God Intended*

Dignity/Washington (DC) News continued on page 4



TRANSITIONS

In MEMORIAM

Peter L. Morris, Dignity/Washington, died August 29, 2010.

BIRTHS

ADOPTIONS

MARRIAGES

HOLY UNIONS

WEDDING/UNION ANNIVERSARIES

Please send DignityUSA member name(s) of the affected person(s) and event to Operations Manager Peggy Burns by email to info@dignityusa.org or by phone 800-877-8797.

For example, in events such as births and adoptions, the name(s) of parent(s) and child or children, or number of girls or boys, and chapter affiliation or city and state. In events such as marriage or holy union, the names of the couple and chapter affiliation or city and state.



Dignity/Washington News
Continued from page 3

Larry Ranly, Dignity/Washington, Participated in Don't Ask, Don't Tell Lobby Day

Larry Ranly, 55, a member of Dignity/Washington, participated in "The Final Assault," a lobby day on the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), on September 16, 2010. Larry, who has only been out for a matter of months, and who first came to Dignity on Good Friday 2010, said that his motivation for participating was very simple.

"I wanted to help. I was available, and honestly, I felt some guilt that I hadn't done more on this issue. I just came out at the age of 55. All those people who did this work before me made it easier for me to find my way. There's no way to pay their work back; you can only pay it forward by helping other people. Now it's up to me to help other people live with the dignity we all deserve."

Ranly, who grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas and has family across the state, met with staff members of the offices of Texas U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison(R) and John Cornyn (R), as well as with Virginia Senator Jim Webb's (D) staff to urge them to repeal the DADT policy. The Senate is expected to vote on the repeal sometime in October 2010.

At the office of Sen. Hutchison, Larry met with the Deputy Chief of Staff and the Military Legislative Assistant. He met with members of Sen. Cornyn's staff and the Military Legislative Assistant for Sen. Webb.

Dignity/Washington Mourns Loss and Celebrates the Life of Peter Morris

Peter Morris, at age 80, was a longtime member of Dignity/Washington. Since May 2010 he had been struggling with many serious medical issues and hospitalized for much of the summer. He succumbed on August 29, 2010. He was preceded by the death of his life partner of 43 years, Jack Frey, in 1997.

Peter served on the Dignity/Washington Board of Directors in 2001-2002, made a tradition of hosting the chapter's annual Christmas Potluck at his Capitol Hill home, and sponsored Dignity/Washington fundraiser cooking classes at his home while sharing his flair for French cooking with many in the community. Together with Tony LaVecchia and Jeff Maier, he pulled together and published the famous 1996 *Dignity Community Cookbook*.



Peter Louis Morris
December 29, 1929 –
August 28, 2010

The Dignity/Washington community mourns his passing. Peter was honored with a Mass of Christian Burial sponsored by the chapter on September 11, 2010, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, followed by the Rite of Committal and internment at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC where he joined his beloved Jack. Many family and chapter members and other friends were in attendance.

Online Auction Rescheduled

By DignityUSA Fundraising Committee

Perhaps you have some holiday treasure, pleasure, or travel getaway to donate. Donate them to DignityUSA's pre-Christmas December 2010 online auction, rescheduled from summer 2010. You will share those treasures with someone else, get a tax deduction, and help DignityUSA raise some cash.

The effort on your part is minimal. Just let Jack Frielingsdorf know what the item is (a picture would be great), the value, and a short description. Contact Jack at Frielys@gmail.com or 973-239-3963. If and when the item sells, he will contact you with the winner's name and give you instructions on how and where to send it. It won't cost you anything to ship as the buyer will cover those costs.

The auction will be held early December 2010. Therefore, we need to hear from you soon in order that your treasures can be included.

More details on the auction will follow in subsequent issues of Dateline and news alerts.

ANNOUNCEMENT

LGBT FRIENDLY TRIP TO NORTHERN ITALY
with Sr. Jeannine Gramick

Visit Pisa, Florence, Bologna, Ravenna, Padua,
Venice, and Milan
March 20 - 27, 2011

Land and air \$2995, includes all expenses
Land only \$2499
Registration due Nov. 30, 2010

Leave from Dulles Airport Washington DC.
Phone: 301 864-3604
E-Mail: gramick@juno.com
Visit <http://www.pilgrimages.com/gramick/>

EVENTS CALENDAR

DignityUSA National Leadership Summit, **Oct 1-2, 2010**, St. Louis, MO. (See p 3 this issue.)

DignityUSA Board of Directors Meeting, **Oct 1-3, 2010**, St. Louis, MO. (See pg 3 this issue.)

"Spirituality on the Margins," a New Ways Ministry retreat near Philadelphia, PA, **Oct. 8-10, 2010**, for all interested in GLBT issues. Contact Frank DeBernardo, director@NewWaysMinistry.org or 301-864-3604.

Fortunate Families, Inc. is sponsoring "Joining Hands ... Reaching Out!" — a weekend gathering for Catholic Parents of LGBT Daughters and Sons — Friday to Sunday, **October 22-24, 2010**, at Techny Towers Conference Center, 2001 Waukegan Road, Techny, IL 60082. Details at www.fortunatefamilies.com.

"Faithful Prophets: God Alive in Every Generation" Call To Action 2010 National Conference November 5-7, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Full conference details and registration form will be found at www.cta-usa.org/conference or call 815-299-7158.

"Developing Catholic Lesbian/Gay Ministry," a New Ways Ministry workshop near Providence, RI, **Oct. 29-31, 2010**. Contact Frank DeBernardo, director@NewWaysMinistry.org or 301-864-3604.

"Spiritual Treasures of Northern Italy," LGBT friendly Pilgrimage, **March 20-27, 2011**. Contact Sister Jeannine Gramick at 301-864-3604 or gramick@juno.com. Visit <http://www.pilgrimages.com/gramick/>.



**Happy
Halloween**