



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jon Garinn, Co-Pastor
214-621-9530
garinns@sbcglobal.net

Dignity/Dallas co-pastors encourage marriage-equality demonstration

DALLAS, TEXAS (Nov. 13, 2008) — As thousands of people nationwide prepare to hold public demonstrations in support of same-sex marriage, Dignity/Dallas leaders say fair-minded Catholics have a particular obligation to make their voices heard.

“Catholic bishops played a central a role in the passage of ballot initiatives amending state constitutions in California, Arizona and Florida to declare that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are not equal under the law,” says the Rev. Jon Garinn, co-pastor of Dignity/Dallas. “We need to communicate that many Catholics disagree with their leaders and that gay and non-gay Catholics alike affirm and celebrate the loving relationships of GLBT people.”

Joe Solmonese, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, says the Mormon and Roman Catholic churches played “a huge role” in getting the amendments passed. He questioned whether members of those communities “have forgotten the lessons of their own struggles against persecution.”

“We haven’t forgotten,” says Cliff Garinn, Dignity/Dallas co-pastor, “because many of us still struggle.”

The Garinns agree that marriage rights are basic human rights and that, as such, discriminatory laws must be overturned.

“We want all fair-minded people to join us in this demonstration,” Jon Garinn says. “The foundational principle of our form of government is that all are created equal, so we need to make clear that same-sex couples should no longer be denied full and equal access to the rights and responsibilities bestowed by civil marriage.”

Garinns encourage demonstration

Dignity/Dallas is part of DignityUSA, a national organization that works for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender person in the Catholic Church through education, advocacy and support.

Dignity/Dallas celebrates Catholic Mass every Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Congregational Life Center chapel at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Services are open to all.

About Dignity/Dallas

For more than 35 years, Dignity/Dallas has provided a spiritual home for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, and their families and friends in North Texas. For more information, visit www.dignitydallas.org.

About DignityUSA

DignityUSA is the nation's foremost organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, their families, friends and supporters. Founded in 1969, it is an independent nonprofit organization with members and chapters across the country. DignityUSA works for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the life of the Church and society. For more information, visit www.dignityusa.org.

###