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

**Dignity/Dallas leaders cheer New York governor,
denounce New York archbishop**

DALLAS, TEXAS (April 17, 2009) — The Rev. Jon Garinn and the Rev. Cliff Garinn, co-pastors of Dignity/Dallas, praised New York Gov. David Paterson for introducing legislation that would recognize marriage equality for same-sex couples. At the same time, they denounced New York’s Catholic archbishop for placing defeat of the legislation atop his agenda.

“I know Tim Dolan well,” said Jon Garinn, referring to the former spiritual leader of Milwaukee who was installed as New York’s 10th archbishop on April 15. “He has an enormous personal appeal, and he could make a significant impact on defeating the legislation through the power of his charisma alone. Hopefully, New Yorkers will recognize that behind his friendly demeanor is the same myopic understanding of our life and love that has been at the center of Catholic teaching for too long.”

Following in the footsteps of Cardinal Edward Egan, whose 9-year tenure as archbishop of Gotham’s 2.5 million Catholics was more reserved, the 59-year-old Dolan takes the bully pulpit of the nation’s second-largest diocese at a pivotal moment in New York’s same-sex marriage debate.

“He definitely knows how to engage the culture,” said Cliff Garinn. “Dolan is bold and gregarious, so he won’t shy away from taking on this issue. Unfortunately, he can be very persuasive, and we’ve already witnessed the impact that religious leaders can have on marriage equality. Dolan’s placing this issue at the top of his agenda should be a wake-up call.”

Dolan’s media savvy makes him a real threat to legalizing same-sex marriage in the Empire State, Jon Garinn adds.

Dignity leaders decry archbishop's agenda

“He may be a religious leader, but he’s poised to become one of the most powerful political leaders in New York,” he said. “Unlike his predecessor, Dolan won’t shy away from the cameras to get his message out.”

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.

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