



DIGNITY / FORT LAUDERDALE

THE WORD JULY 2012

Serving the Roman Catholic GLBT Community, its families & friends in Broward County since 1986

God Blesses GLBTQs***

This election year there is likely to be much discussion from the “Christian Right” regarding “same sex relationships”. Oh my, and what a surprise, NOT! Well, I have news from the “Christian Left” and the news is that God speaks to me and He/She is OK with “same sex relationships”. Being on the left though I believe that the “Right” has the right to say anything they want except when it blasphemes God. Hatred, literal interpretation of sacred scripture as primarily a historical document rather than the communication of God to people, further marginalizing people already marginalized, as Jesus Christ would NOT do, is nothing other than blasphemy and an abomination to God. I will not call anyone names, but if the shoe fits....(but, that judgment is between oneself and his/her creator/God, and not me!). It does point though for the need for GLBTQs to claim that we too can speak for a God who loves, and not allow any group, religion, person, pope, nun, minister, bishop, priest, etc. to usurp what God has ordained in us!

As I have written in my recent letter published in the South Florida Gay News: “The GLBTQ community I believe has a spiritual core that needs to be recognized and proclaimed. And all GLBTQs need to claim it. Perhaps due to the persecution that the community has gone through, and continues to, in large measure, due to “religion,” we rightly turn away from religion”. More precisely though, GLBTQs need to look beyond misguided religion toward affirming communities and faiths/creeds where it is acknowledged that God is at the core of existence, and where misguided religion failed. We do this because God innately “hard-wired” in us to be creative.

“I want it to be affirmed in the GLBTQ community the Spirit is uniquely and sublimely

Upcoming Events:

Every Sunday 7:00 PM..... Liturgy
July 14th 5:30 PMDinner/Movie Night
Aug 4th 8 PM ...Theater Night: Late Nite Catechism
Aug 11th 8 PMTheater Night: The Best Man

manifested here as God, whatever you choose God to be. This is not what we normally hear about the community, actually though the media and religious folk we too often hear just the opposite. Somehow it’s thought we can’t be trusted in marriage, in relationships, speaking authoritatively about God, or in doing God’s work here on earth. I’ve got a newsflash for those who think this way, and something that GLBTQs already know: God is with us, alive, joy-filled, creative, and is wonderfully and continually revealed to and in us!” (from my Letter to the Editor of South Florida Gay News, March 6, 2012).

“My point: GLBTQs, individuals and wholly are part of God’s wonderful and purposeful creation – and it is as it meant to be. Our spirits reflect what is revealed to us as unique and loving in who we are, in the way we are with ourselves and with/or others. I won’t hit you over the head with my spirituality, but just for all to know: I love my GLBTQ community since we reveal God to each other. We are joy. We are life. We are imbued with love. And we are willing to share who we are. We hope and pray no religion misses the beauty of being who one is called/created to be since the experience brings joy to the heart!” (from my Letter to the Editor of South Florida Gay News, March 6, 2012).

At Dignity-Fort Lauderdale we are a group that rejects some of the opinions of our Roman Catholic Church regarding GLBTQ sexuality. Essentially, so not

DINNER & THE NEW BATMAN MOVIE
SATURDAY, JULY 21ST AT 5:30 P.M.

Our monthly dinner and movie night will be held on Saturday, July 21ST at 5:30 PM. We will meet at Peter Pan Diner located on the south east corner of Oakland Park Blvd and Dixie Highway. Afterwards we will go to see the new Batman movie, "The Dark Knight Rises"

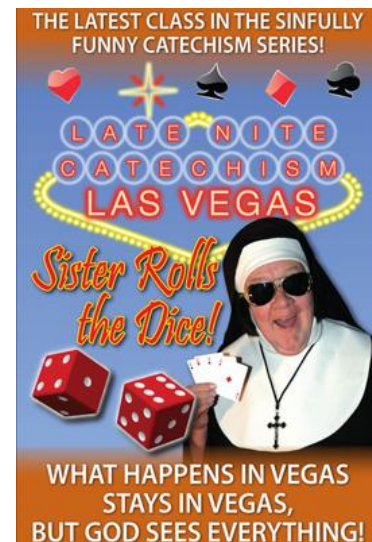


starring Christian Bale as Batman and Anne Hathaway as the Catwoman.

If you plan to attend the dinner or the movie, please contact George Cullen at 954-465-3317 or at GFCullen@bellsouth.net by Friday night, July 20th.

LATE NITE CATECHISM: LAS VEGAS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT 8:00PM

"Late Nite Catechism Las Vegas: Sister Rolls the Dice" will be playing at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts during the weekend of August 3rd – Aug 5th. The chapter plans to attend the August 4th performance at 8 PM.



to throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater, we call the Church to reform! This is not any different than when St. Francis called the Church of his era to begin anew in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We are a sinful church no different than it ever was or will be this side of heaven. However, our Catholic identity is rooted in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in concert with the apostolic tradition and tradition of the Church. It is not the first time in history that Rome/the Vatican has seen change as challenging and regarded it as heretical. Remember, Galileo who proclaimed the world was round.... :-)

*** Recently, I was made aware that the "Q" in GLBTQ was not appreciated by some of my brothers and sisters in Christ. In my recent studies at Florida Atlantic University I realized that young GLBTs (teen through 20's) like to include "Q" to mean "queer" or "questioning". Being older, now at 54, my history was not positive toward the word "queer". Presently, I am being challenged to be comfortable and recognize those who are "questioning" or "queer" are a part of the GLBT community. Without a need to proclaim anything, other than open arms, I am saying GLBT and "queers" and "questioning" are all welcome here! And so I need to change and feel comfortable with those who are questioning and/or queer into our group! You who are questioning, and/ or consider yourself queer, are welcome here!

Kevin P. Hanaway, MA MBA MDiv MS RN is a regular priest presider at the Dignity-Fort Lauderdale.

OUR SUMMER "READING" ASSIGNMENT

Last month, Fr. Andrew asked us at Mass to look at two clips on the internet which involves a debate between Christopher Hitchens and Stephen Fry. The following is for people who weren't at Mass or who may have misplaced their papers. Google "The Intelligence Squared Debate unedited" and search for Christopher Hitchens Dec 19, 2009 and Stephen Fry Jan 16, 2010. They each run about 20 minutes.



C Hitchens



S Fry

This is the latest class in the sinfully funny Catechism series. The Naples News calls it "sharp, witty and spectacularly brilliant" and says: "Anyone from Buddhists to Zoroastrians will enjoy attending this 'Late Nite Catechism'." The convent needs a new roof, so the order has decided that Sister (with her extensive gambling experience running the Church Bingo for the last 25 years) will organize a Las Vegas night! Sister will tackle topics ranging from Magicians and Show Girls to live animal acts and the dangers of drive-through marriage chapels. Don't forget: "What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas", but God sees everything!

Tickets are \$35. If you plan to attend, please contact George at 954-465-3317 by Sunday July 29th

"THE BEST MAN" WITH TED DVORACHEK
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH AT 8:00 P.M.

Ted Dvorchek, a friend of the chapter, will be performing in the Pembroke Pines Theater of the Performing Arts' production of Gore Vidal's "The Best Man". The show will be performed at Katz Theater is located at 17195 Sheridan Street in Pembroke Pines on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from July 20th to August 12th with Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 PM.



If anyone would like to attend the Saturday evening August 11th show, please contact George by Sunday, August 5th. Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$16 for seniors (62 & over).

| Dignity/Fort Lauderdale Inc. Statement of Income and Expenses For the Period Ended June, 2012 | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income: | June | YTD |
| Collections | \$ 381.00 | \$ 3,577.00 |
| Dues | - | 120.00 |
| Donations | - | 200.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 381.00 | \$ 3,897.00 |
| | | |
| Expenses: | | |
| Rent | \$ 200.00 | \$ 1,300.00 |
| Priest's Stipends | 60.00 | 150.00 |
| Organist Stipends | 120.00 | 750.00 |
| Advertising | - | 225.00 |
| Website | 25.00 | 56.96 |
| Supplies | - | 168.63 |
| Other | - | 249.25 |
| Total Expenses | 405.00 | 2,899.84 |
| | | |
| Increase/(Decrease) | \$ (24.00) | \$ 997.16 |

I praise you for I am wonderfully made. Psalms 139:14



