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# DIGNITY / FORT LAUDERDALE INC. The Word

*Serving the Catholic GLBT Community, their families & friends in Broward & Miami-Dade Counties.....*March, 2005

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## **Message from the Board:**

We are inundated with so many words. We read words in newspapers, mail and e-mail, magazines, books, work related reports and words is the missalette. We hear words in conversations, on television and radio, and in homilies. So many words, how quickly they pass through our eyes and ears. It struck me that twice within less than six weeks, from the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on January 9th to the Second Sunday of Lent on February 20th, we have presented in Matthew's Gospel accounts the same words: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." Having these words repeated by Matthew in so short a time frame certainly suggests that these are very important words, but why are they important to us as Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Catholics?

We have all been baptized whether as an infant, youth or adult. It makes no difference our age at our baptisms, the important thing is that we were baptized! Our baptisms made us like Jesus, it made us God's daughters and sons. From the day of our baptism we each began enjoying a new relationship with our Father.

I would like to speak about two our brothers in Christ. The first is Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. He has long been our supportive voice to his brother bishops and the world. An article about him in the February 15, 2005 issue of the Detroit Free Press gives a 1997 quote about Gay Catholics: "The more the experiences of gay and lesbian people are shared within the whole church, there will be an evolution, I am confident, in the way we teach about

.....continued on page 2

## **Chapter's Events**

*Every Sunday at 7:30 PM.....Liturgy  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 6 PM.....Board Meeting  
March 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> .....Pride Fest  
March 19<sup>th</sup> 6 PM.....Dinner & Movie Night  
March 27<sup>th</sup> .....Easter Sunday*

## **MITE BOXES**

Continuing a Lenten practice started by chapter several years ago, mite boxes were distributed last month. The mite box is an old church custom based on the story of the widow's donation in the gospel of Luke. In the early church, at the end of the day, people would put their loose change in a mite box during Lent. The boxes were returned to the church on Easter and distributed to the poor.



In prior years, our collections have been given to such local charities as Poverello, Catholic Charities HIV/AIDS Ministry and the Wellness Center. If you know of any local charity who you would like the board to consider as the recipient of this year's mite box collections, please contact a board member. The board will choose an organization at its March board meeting.

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

Our monthly dinner and movie night will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> around 6 PM. We will meet at Bona Pizza located at Five Points in Wilton Manors (The intersection of NE 26<sup>th</sup>

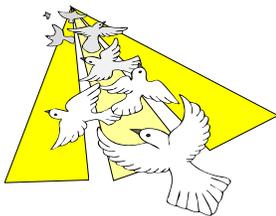
Street, Wilton Drive and Dixie Highway.) After dinner we will go to a movie. You do not have to be a member to join us for a night of fun. If you are interested in joining us, please contact George Cullen at 954-739-0003. George will contact you on Saturday morning with the exact time that we will meet at Bona Pizza.

## 2005 GAY PRIDE FEST

On March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> FT Lauderdale will again be celebrating Pride Fest at Holiday Park. Dignity/ Ft Lauderdale will have a booth at the fest and needs people to staff the booth for a few hours. If you plan to be at Pride Fest anytime during the weekend, please volunteer to spend some time at the booth. If you are interested, please sign up after any Liturgy or see Liz or Mary.

## A INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS, LOVED ONES & FRIENDS

You are cordially invited to attend the consecration of Monsignor Victor A Yorio, FFSF as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Reconciliation Catholic Church on March 19, 2005 at 10 AM at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church located at 1900 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ft Lauderdale (off Davie Blvd.) Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please RSVP by March 11, 2005 at 954-965-9652 or [FrancisMission@aol.com](mailto:FrancisMission@aol.com).



In lieu of gifts, Fr Victor has requested that you make a donation to the Franciscan Friars of South Florida,

Directions: Take I-95 and exit at Davie Blvd and go west. Turn left on 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. (A publix will be at the intersection.) Go southbound on 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. For more information, please call 954-965-9652.

## OUR NEW WEBSITE

Yes, Dignity/ FT Lauderdale has a website. We are all indebted to Roger Howman for all his work in designing it and getting it up and running. The website address is [www.Dignityftlauderdale.org](http://www.Dignityftlauderdale.org). Come visit us the next time you are online.

## 2005 DIGNITY CONVENTION "THROUGH TRUTH TO FREEDOM"

Just a reminder that the Dignity USA Convention will be held on July 7 - 10 in Philadelphia. For further information, please go to [www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org). Registration forms can be found on the website or at any Sunday Liturgy.

### .....Board's Column cont'd from pg 1

human sexuality." In 1999 he was one of three keynote speakers at Dignity's National Convention. On September 19, 2003 he sent this letter to DignityUSA: "Dear Friends at DignityUSA, Thank you for the Certificate of Appreciation. I am grateful and honored to receive it. Working with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities has been a true blessing for me. I have seen an entirely new face of God. Please know that I will continue to work for a Church that is inclusive and welcoming to all God's people. Peace, Tom Gumbleton". Bishop Gumbleton proclaims to the world that we members of the GLBT community are also God's Sons and Daughters.

I also want to speak of our own Vic Yorio, President of Dignity/Ft Lauderdale, a gay man who is a priest, was married and is the father of five children, a man who works tirelessly for the GLBT community. Perhaps you may not always agree with Vic, but no one can deny his sincerity and total commitment to his GLBT sisters and brothers. Vic is also Bishop-Elect of Reconciliation Catholic Church and on Saturday, March 19, 2005 will be consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Reconciliation Catholic Church. Now is the time us, his brothers and sisters, to stand in solidarity with him, in gratitude for all his efforts for us as individuals, as members of Dignity and the GLBT community. I urge you to share this great milestone in the life of our brother, Victor.

Each of us, whether a Tom Gumbleton or a Vic Yorio, is unique and precious. We are sons and daughters loved by Abba, Our Father. Those

who will listen will hear the Father say: "These are my beloved Daughters and Sons in whom I am well pleased."

Bill Petzing  
Secretary

### Prayer of St Patrick

I take for my sureties:

The power of God to guide me,  
The might of God to uphold me,  
The wisdom of God to teach me,  
The eye of God to watch over me,  
The ear of God to hear me,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
The hand of God to protect me,  
The way of God to go before me,  
The shield of God to shelter me....



Christ be with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ within me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ at my right, Christ at my left,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks  
of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who  
speaks to me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

DIGNITY/FT LAUDERDALE, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES  
February 6, 2005

PRESENT: Dick Rogers, Melissa Pages, Mary Sullivan, Chuck Smith, Bill Petzing and Vic Yorio

Call to order: A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM.

A motion was made by Bill Petzing and seconded by Mary Sullivan to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2005 meeting. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mary Sullivan and seconded by Melissa Pages to approve the Treasurer's report for February 6, 2005. The motion passed.

#### Committee Reports:

Liturgy: The rite of blessing of throats for the feast of St. Blaise will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2005.

Social: Need chairperson and members. St. Valentine Couples Blessing and Social will be on February 6, 2005. Need a host for the March social.

Advertising/Membership: The latest membership list has been received from Dignity USA. Melissa Pages and Dick Rogers will work on composing a letter to those who are inactive or have dropped their membership.

Social Justice: The Mite Boxes will start next Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent.

Others (e.g., Fundraising, Other GLBT Group Outreach, etc.) Pride Fest will be March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Dignity National is sending material for use in our booth.

Old Business: Information article in Women's magazine; involving social justice and Dignity and Donation to Light University to honor John McNeil. Vic Yorio has tickets for Sr. Jeanine Grammick's event on February 15, 2005.

New Business: Vic Yorio and Bishop Michael Hillis attended Integrity/Ft Lauderdale's meeting on February 2, 2005. Discussions included Integrity and Dignity co-sponsoring a boat trip and possible theater presentations. Dignity/Ft Lauderdale's web site is now up; [www.dignityftlauderdale.org](http://www.dignityftlauderdale.org). The board discussed the manner in which the Our Father and Sign of Peace is conducted at our weekly liturgy.

Adjournment: Dick Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Bill Petzing. The motion passed.

CATHOLIC DEFINITIONS

**Choir:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sinc.

**Incense:** Holy smoke

**Jesuits:** An order of priests known for the ability to found colleges with good basketball teams.

**Jonah:** The original “Jaws” story.

**Kyrie Elieison:** The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava.

**Magi:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

**Manger:** 1. Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn’t covered by an HMO. 2. The Bible’s way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.

**Pew:** A medieval torture device still found in Catholic Churches.



*Franciscan Mission of the  
Reconciliation Catholic Church  
For times and locations of Liturgies please call Friary at  
954-965-9652*

*“Serving the Disenfranchised”*

*Dignity / Ft Lauderdale Inc.  
Board of Directors*

President .....Vic Yorio  
Vice President .....Dick Rogers  
Secretary .....Bill Petzing  
Treasurer.....Mary Sullivan  
Director .....Nick Caputo  
Director .....Melissa Pages  
Director .....Chuck Smith

Newsletter Editor .....George Cullen

Meeting Place: The Chapel at  
MCC Sunshine Cathedral  
1480 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ft Lauderdale, FL

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National Website: www.Dignity.org

Suggested Single Contribution/ Newsletter: \$45.00  
Suggested Couples Contribution/ Newsletter: \$74.00  
Newsletter Subscription (Mailed): \$10.00  
Dignity/Ft Lauderdale Inc is a 501(C)(3) Organization  
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**DIGNITY/ FT LAUDERDALE INC MEMBERSHIP FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Single Contribution (\$45.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes local newsletter)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Couple Contribution (\$74.00) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Annual Newsletter (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Make membership check payable to:  
Dignity/USA Inc.  
1500 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Suite 11  
Washington DC 20005

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