
DIGNITY / FORT LAUDERDALE INC. The Word

Serving the Roman Catholic GLBT Community, families & friends in Broward & Miami-Dade Counties.....June 2007

From the President:

Do We Need Pride Fest????

For the last few years, we have all heard this question. Some say that Pride fest is irrelevant while other say there is still a purpose for it. I have flip-flopped on this question for the last few years. I think we do need it for several reasons. The most important is to celebrate our heritage. Being born and raised in New York, I grew up with many cultural parades and celebrations in Manhattan – Irish, Italian, Polish, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Columbian and on and on. No one would say there is no reason for these groups to stop there parades and celebrations. They have these celebrations to celebrate their heritage and remind themselves where they came from and what their people have contributed to the world.

I think it is important that we celebrate Pride Fest. We, in South Florida, tend to take for granted how we can live our lives openly without fear of attacks. Any gays and lesbians in other parts of the country are not so lucky.

Let's take some time this month to reflect how far we have come in the last 39 years the progress we have made and what we as a community have given to the world. It is something to be proud of.

BOARD CHANGES

In April, we had our annual meeting and elections. Chuck Smith and Dick Rogers have joined Nick Caputo, Bill Weber and George Cullen on the board. Bernie Gagnon decided not to run again. We want to thank Bernie for his support and input during this past year.

The board looks forward to continuing the work that was started last year. Please continue to keep the board and the chapter in your prayers.

<i>Every Sunday 7:30 PMLiturgy</i>
<i>June 10th 6:30 PMBoard Meeting</i>
<i>June 16th 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.....Health Fair</i>
<i>Feb 16th 6:00 PM.....Dinner & Movie Night</i>

MOVIE NIGHT: JUNE 16TH

Our monthly dinner and movie night will be held on Saturday, June 16th at approximately 6 PM at Christina Wan's Chinese Restaurant located at 644 N Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale.

You do not have to be a member to join us for a night of fun. And you do not have to attend both the dinner and the movie. Some people opt for one or the other. If you plan to attend, please contact George Cullen at 954-739-0003. George will call you on Saturday morning with the exact time that we will meet at the restaurant.

OUR SUCCESSFUL MAY SOCIAL

We would like to thank Bill Weber who hosted our May social at his house. It has been awhile since we had one and all who attended agreed that it all had a great time and several people volunteered to host future ones. It is people like Bill who demonstrates the caring nature of our community.

JUNE HEALTH FAIR

The GLCC and Sage will be hosting a health fair on Saturday, June 16th between 10 AM to 1 PM at the GLCC. Dignity and other non-profit groups will have a table there. If time permits, please come and visit the fair.

THE PARABLE OF THE PARROT

Chapter's Events

Many religions have parables or tales written to teach us how to live a good life. In the book, "Buddha is As Buddha Does" author Lama Surya Das recounts a tale of Buddha in one of his former lives. One day a fire broke out in a forest. A dull, grey parrot instinctively flew out of the forest for safety. As he flew over the forest he saw that many animals were trapped so he flew down to a river and scooped up water with his wings, flew over the center of the fire and shook the drops onto the flames. He did this over and over again, even though his small actions had no noticeable dampening effect on the raging inferno, and his wings became more and more charred by the flames.

On a cloud high above, several gods were leisurely feasting and watching the parrot. Some were poking fun at his futile efforts but one of them felt pity for him. This one changed himself into a huge eagle and flew down to urge the parrot to give up and to save himself. When the parrot refused, the eagle was moved to tears by the parrot's compassion. The abundant divine tears put out the fire and saved the forest and its inhabitants. Some of the tears fell on the parrot and turned his gray, burnt feathers into a rainbow of colors.



There are two lessons to be drawn from this parable. The first is we never know how our efforts affect other people. It is like the Allstate commercial where one person does a good deed and inspires someone else to do likewise and it triggers a domino effect. Any act of kindness or words of encouragement may have a small or huge affect on those around us. We never know.

The second lesson is that when we do a selfless act, we don't know what blessings will be bestowed on us. It may be just a sense of peace or a more tangible sign. All major religions instruct their followers to help others. During the day, do a good deed for someone no matter how small it seems. You'll never know what affect it will have on those around you – or on you!

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP???

While there are no dues for membership in Dignity, membership needs to be renewed annually.

Oh God, We, as members of Dignity, pray that we will make decisions which are rooted in the uniqueness of our ministry as Sons and Daughters of a loving God, choosing actions which are defined as life-giving and displaying the courage and commitment to revitalize our spirituality and energize our message. We pray this in the name of that loving Redeemer, Jesus. Amen.

A number of people have been dropped from the membership roll because their renewal form has not been received.

A form is included in this newsletter for those who wish to renew or join Dignity. While people are encouraged to make a donation when they join, it is not a requirement.

Dignity / Ft Lauderdale Inc.

Board of Directors

Nick Caputo	George Cullen
Dick Rogers	Chuck Smith
Bill Weber	

Meeting Place: The Chapel at
MCC Sunshine Cathedral
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Liturgies: Every Sunday at 7:30 PM

Chapter Website: www.DignityFTLauderdale.org
National Website: www.Dignity.org

Suggested Single Contribution/ Newsletter: \$45.00
Suggested Couples Contribution/ Newsletter: \$74.00

Dignity/Ft Lauderdale Inc is a 501(C)(3) Organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.

DIGNITY PRAYER

DIGNITY/ FT LAUDERDALE INC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

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

Address

Couple Contribution (\$74.00) _____

City

State

Zip

Make membership check payable to:
Dignity/USA Inc.
P O Box 15373
Washington DC 20003-5373