
DIGNITY / FORT LAUDERDALE INC. The Word

Serving the Catholic GLBT Community, their families & friends in Broward & Miami-Dade Counties.....July 2008

From the President:

The Moment of A But

For the last month or so, I have what can only be describe as writer's block when it comes to writing this column. (So you now know why there was no newsletter last month!) I thought about writing about the parables that are the main theme in this month's gospels or writing about something patriotic for the fourth of July but the well was empty.

I then rummaged through my closet and found a book I have turned to in the past for inspiration, "The Best American Spiritual Writings (2004). I read a couple of articles and came across one I hadn't read - "Ah, But the Breezes" written by Noelle Oxenhandler.

In the article she writes about how we think we will be happy when this happens *and* that happens *and* etc. BUT something happens and we are no longer happy - I thought the promotion would make me happy and it did for a while *but* it doesn't anymore. There seems to always be a "but" somewhere - Things would have been perfect but I would have been with my partner for 25 years but..... There always seems to be buts that kill the *ands* in our lives.

Oxenhandler uses the Buddha's upbringing as an example. His parents were a king and queen and did everything they could to make him happy. They provided him with beautiful gardens *and* a large palace *and* bountiful food *and* loving friends *and* etc *and* etc. *But* Buddha went outside the palace and saw an old man, a sick man, a corpse after which he went on a spiritual journey to figure out the meaning of life.

Many times we look outside of ourselves for happiness and fulfillment - a partner, a good job, designer clothes, the latest model car, money *but*

Chapter's Events

Every Sunday 7:30 PM..... Liturgy
July 13 Sunday 7:30Memorial Mass for Leon
July 19 Saturday..... Movie & Dinner Night

any happiness they bring usually doesn't last. And then that but appears which Oxenhandler describes as "the moment of the but." When something outside of our expectations or dreams intrudes (ex. But that wasn't my plan, But this is not what I had in mind.) these moments are a call to return to God. We will always find these buts in our lives and have our plans frustrated. We will fall and fail in our attempts for outside happiness. The trick is to go back to what makes us happy. Jesus explained two millenniums ago - love God with your whole heart, mind and body and love your neighbor as yourself. True happiness comes from within us not from the outside.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR LEON SIERADZKI

On Monday, June 30th at 1:30 AM, long-time member, Leon Sieradzki, passed away. Leon was very active in the chapter during the 80s and 90s and was an officer for several terms. In recent years, poor health prevented him from attending.

On Sunday, July 13, we will have a memorial Mass for Leon. His ashes will be brought by his caregiver before they are sent to Michigan to be scattered where his long-term partner is buried. We hope all of Leon's friends will be able to attend and pay their final respects to him and to celebrate his life..

DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT: THE DARK KNIGHT

On Saturday, July 19th, we will hold our monthly dinner & movie night at the Lotus Kitchen located at 1434 NE 26th Street in Wilton Manors. Afterwards we will see the new Batman film, "The Dark Knight."



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 Lotus Kitchen.

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME TO PRAY AT WORK

When a co-worker comes in a little too happy singing "good morning" to everyone and you think, "someone ought to slap the s%^# out of her", you need to pray at work.

When someone comes in and announces "office meeting in five minutes " and you think, "what the f#\$@ do they want now?", you need to pray at work.

When your computer is mysteriously turned off and you want to say, "which one of these b#!%\$ turned off my computer?", you need to pray at work.

When you take some vacation time and come back to find a mountain of paperwork sitting on your desk because no one else would do it and you think "sorry a## m#\$!*^F%^8#s'* you need to pray at work.

If you ever thought about poisoning, choking, punching or slapping someone that you work with, you need to pray at work.

If you avoid saying more than hello or how are you doing to someone because you know it's going to lead to their whole f%&#\$!# life story, you need to pray at work.

If you know all the words that have been bleeped out, you DEFINITELY need to pray at work!

Let us bow our heads and pray.

DIGNITY USA 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

We have enclosed with this month's newsletter information regarding the National Convention which will be held in San Francisco July 2nd through July 5th. We hope many of our members will be able to attend the convention.

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
1480 SW 9th Ave
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 22884
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33335

Telephone: 954-463-4528

Email: DignityFTL@bellsouth.net

National Website: www.DignityUSA.org

Liturgies: Every Sunday at 7:30 PM

Annual Dues: \$50.00

Dignity/Ft Lauderdale Inc is a 501(C)(3)

Organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.

DIGNITY/ FT LAUDERDALE INC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Annual Membership \$50.00 _____

Address

Additional Donation _____

City

State

Zip

Make membership check payable to:

Dignity/USA Inc.

P O Box 376

Medford, MA 02155

DignityUSA 2009 National Convention

San Francisco, CA

Talking Points

Dates of Convention

July 2nd through 5th, 2009

Content of the Convention

- DignityUSA's 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Theme: Together We Will Reach the Promised Land
- The convention will be a Facilitated Process with different tracks
 - Ethnic Communities
 - Gender Identity
 - Liturgy
 - Women's Concerns
 - Youth
 - Progressive Catholics
 - Dignity Historical Perspective, in light of our 40th Anniversary
- There will not be a leadership day; instead we are planning a Service Day before convention—more details to come.

Keynote Speaker: Mary E. Hunt, PhD, Co-Founder and Co-director of WATER
Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D., is a feminist theologian who is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. A Roman Catholic active in the women-church movement, she lectures and writes on theology and ethics with particular attention to liberation issues.

Featured Presenter: Richard Rodriguez

Richard Rodriguez is a prominent writer, an associate editor with Pacific News Service in San Francisco, a contributing editor of Harper's and the Los Angeles Times, and a regular essayist on the "Jim Lehrer News Hour." He is the author of *Brown: The Last Discovery of America* (2003), *Hunger for Memory* (1983), and *Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father* (1992). Born and raised in California, Richard earned a bachelor's degree at Stanford University, after which he spent two years at Union Theological Seminary studying with leading Protestant and Jewish theologians. He later spent time at London's Warburg Institute and Oxford before earning a Ph.D. in Renaissance Literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

Richard received a 1997 George Foster Peabody Award for his News Hour essays on American life. The Peabody Award is designed to recognize "outstanding achievement in broadcast and cable," and is one of television's highest honors. Richard's awards include the Frankel Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the International Journalism Award from the World Affairs Council of California.

Hotel Accommodations

Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin St., San Francisco, CA 94102

- Located in the heart of downtown San Francisco at Fifth and Market Streets
- Across the street from San Francisco Shopping Center
- Only 14 miles to San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
- Quick access to public transportation (buses, cable cars, trolleys, and BART) to all San Francisco attractions, the East Bay and area airports.
- Situated in the midst of the Civic Center, the financial district and next to the renowned Union Square shopping area and theatre districts.
- Other attractions within walking distance include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Metreon and the Yerba Buena Gardens, and the Powell Street cable car stop within ½ block of hotel.
- Special Convention Rate: \$119/night *good for the week before and after the convention.*
- Reservations: 800-595-0507 (When making reservations mention the Dignity Convention to get the special rate.)
- Other Hotel Inquiries: 415-392-8000

Come for Pride ~ Stay for Dignity

Participants at the convention are encouraged to come early and participate in the 2009 SF Pride celebration. Pride festivities begin on Saturday, June 27. Be part of the Dignity USA 40th Anniversary Pride Parade Contingent on Sunday, June 28. Those who come early can take advantage of the Parc 55 Hotel's special convention rate which is good for the week before and after the convention.

Plan Your Vacation in the SF Bay Area and Wine Country

The convention committee is organizing an overnight tour to wine country as well as day trips within the Bay Area, and discounts at area attractions. The details are being planned now.

Registration Rates

The Early Registration Rate is \$250. For this convention we are offering a special "Young Adult" rate of \$125 for members under 30 years of age.

SAN FRANCISCO IN 2009

DIGNITYUSA 40TH ANNIVERSARY

NATIONAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

July 2nd through July 5th 2009 – Parc Fifty Five Hotel

Pre-register NOW with \$100.00 Deposit.

Registrant ONE	Last Name	First Name	M. I.	Email:
Registrant TWO	Last Name	First Name	M. I.	Email:
Home Address		City, State	ZIP	Primary Phone Number ()

Join a Team NOW, help with San Francisco 2009: Welcoming; Choir Member;
 Fundraising; Liturgical Dancer; Publications; Eucharistic Minister; Mailings;
 Volunteer Recruitment/Training/ Supervision; Team Building Skills; Cultural Awareness;
 Musician: _____; Sign Language Interpreter; Publicity and Press; Lector;
 Registration; Addressing Phobias in Our Community; Addressing Inhibition;
 Burn Out and/or Depression in our Leaders.

Outreach/community building: Youth; Women; Trans; 12 steppers;
 Progressive Catholic, Spiritual, and/or LGBTQ Groups; Other _____.

PARC FIFTY FIVE HOTEL AT \$119/NIGHT!!

Room rates are \$119 per night for single/double plus \$20 each for the 3rd and 4th (plus room tax). Kids under 12 are free. The hotel is one block from BART which brings you to the City from SFO or Oakland Airport for about \$5.00. Convention rates are available June 24-July 10, so plan your vacation now! Gay Pride is June 27 and 28. Join us in a large Dignity 40th Anniversary contingent. We will soon announce details of a Dignity Cruise to Alcatraz, a picnic on Angel Island, tours of the City and the Wine Country, and activity discounts for sites in the City. Come to San Francisco, we intend to show you a great time!

REGISTRATION FORM

Your \$100 deposit today will be applied toward the regular registration price.

Make checks payable to "DignityUSA 2009 Convention" or use the following for credit card.

Circle: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Other _____

Credit Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Return to: SAN FRANCISCO 2009, DIGNITYUSA, PO BOX 376, MEDFORD, MA 02155-0004