

## **DIGNITY Fort Lauderdale**

**The Word**

**October 2009**

*Serving the Roman Catholic LGBT community, its families & friends in Broward & Miami-Dade Counties since 1986*

### **From the President**



*Dear friends in Christ,*

*This may well be my last From the President column as I'm not sure if I'll be running for re-election (or in the event that I do run, whether I'll be re-elected). However, this is an issue to*

*be discerned and determined in the future. For now I want to briefly review some of this past year's successes, as well as failures, and to focus on the present opportunity for all to choose what comes next for Dignity FTL.*

*The Annual Board Election of 2008 and subsequent Board decisions have certainly contributed to many Chapter innovations and corresponding progress. Among these have been the maintaining of a weekly Mass schedule, monthly Ad Orientem celebrations, increased reverence in reception of Holy Communion, and increased frequency of Confessions as well as having Mass intentions for loved ones and increased Mass attendance.*

*There has also been an increased emphasis on catechesis as best exemplified by the new weekly Bible Study as well as the three part series on the Magisterium, the Virgin, and the Eucharist in previous issues of this very Newsletter.*

*Our social gatherings have continued and expanded to include regular home gatherings as well as movie outings.*

*And we have instituted a policy of transparency and accountability whereby everyone is informed of all that is happening behind the scene, including the monthly Board meeting and our Chapter finances.*

*In addition, our presence in the local LGBT community has significantly increased as we chose to participate in Pride Fest and the Stonewall Festival as well as to advertise regularly in the South Florida Blade. Likewise, our involvement with the Archdiocese of Miami has also significantly increased as we have come out to them, sort of speak, and are working through proper channels to spearhead a gay and lesbian outreach in the local Church and have a gathering place in one or more of our area's parishes.*

*Of course, everything has not been smooth sailing. Financially we have done very well given the historic recession we are all in and the increased expenses that we have incurred by trying to develop a webpage, by participating in the two local LGBT pride events, and regular media advertisement. Nonetheless, we end this Board term with a Year to Date deficit of \$ 285.75.*

*However, we now come to a point where our Board's direction for the past year, and the Chapter's course for the future one, will have to either be endorsed or rejected by you, the members.*

*I very much welcome this opportunity that we all have in the upcoming elections to be clear about our hopes, expectations, and goals for Dignity FTL and to make the necessary choices that will either confirm our Chapter's increased Roman Catholic orthodoxy and affiliation with the Miami archdiocese or have us change course.*

*I know I speak for the whole Board when I say that it has been a privilege for all of us to lead and serve our Chapter and that we want to thank all of you for your support and assistance through innumerable events and projects.*

*Personally, I want to congratulate you for having opened your mind and heart to my initiatives. You have given them a fair shake and are now in a very good position to evaluate what has gone before you this past year and to decide whether to continue in the direction of*

*increased communion with Rome or to opt for some other association.*

*I hope that at the very least my initiatives have exposed you to a different vision of what being a gay or lesbian Catholic can be about and have encouraged you to consider how this Roman Catholic LGBT apostolate can increasingly become a group of women and men who are equally proud of being LGBT as they are of being Roman Catholic and who seek to reform the Church's view of sexual minority issues not by dissent but rather by the witness of their own holiness of life.*

*In closing, I want to thank again all those who have shared with me the responsibility of sitting on the Board and all of you dear friends in Christ, members of Dignity FTL and visitors alike. THANK YOU ALL.*

*Pax et Bonum, Fr. Gus*



### **Chapter Events**

Every Sunday 7:30 PM @MCC.....Holy Mass
Every Tuesday 7:30 PM @GLCC.....Bible Study
October 4, 6:30 PM.....Board Meeting
October 24, 7:30 PM.....Potluck Party
November 1, 8:30 PM.....Annual Elections

# Happy Birthday

# BOARD MEETING

October 4, 2009 6:30 pm  
MCC Library

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



### SEPTEMBER:

Fr. John	9/2
Jerome Z	9/2
Robert O	9/8
Fr. Michael	9/9
David M	9/20
Nick C	9/22

### OCTOBER:

Bill M	10/7
Gary S	10/15

### NOVEMBER

Fr. Roger	11/6
Melinda D	11/25

## Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review of September Board Meeting Minutes
3. Review of September Financial Report
4. Garage Sale
5. Pot Luck
6. Website
7. Dignity USA
8. Priest
9. Closing Prayer

## Meeting Minutes

Members present: Fr. Gus A., Diego B., Bill W., Bob B., Chuck S.

Members not present: Nick C.

Guest present: Roy L.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by the president Fr. Gus.
- Roy L. led us in the opening prayer.
- July Board Minutes were approved.
- Treasurers report postponed until Bill W. arrives
- Garage Sale was a success, brought in \$191 and many Dignity members came by to help and encourage. Suggestions for the future included holding in an area with more traffic, consider advertising in the local paper to attract the professional garage sale shoppers, pricing items beforehand which would imply a place to temporarily store merchandise. There are other venues for the future. Tables from the GLCC were borrowed without permission. GLCC was not pleased.
- Bill W presented the September financial report. There was a net increase during the month of September of \$97.41, YTD there has been a net decrease of \$285.75. Only unusual expense was from GoDaddy.com and there was 1 less organist stipend. Question was raised about the phone expense, is it worth it, does it get much use? Bob B. will investigate with Dick and Bill who monitor the telephone. Report approved
- Potluck - will be held at Charlie L.'s house, many have signed up to bring dishes, we will

## Regular Announcements

**Disclaimer:** Dignity FTL provides the following announcements as a free service for our members; no endorsement is intended only information.

1. Nick C, a **licensed real estate agent**, has offered to donate to Dignity FTL 20% of his commission on any purchase or sale that he makes through working with another Chapter member or someone else referred to him by a Dignity FTL member. Please contact Nick at 954.895.6119.

2. Bill F is offering **home health care service**. Please contact Bill at: 954.610.5045.

post dishes so others know what is needed.

Suggested donation will be \$5

- Website - has temporarily been taken off line. Fr Gus reported that John M. has done a marvelous job of developing the website and went beyond our expectations, unfortunately there was a difference of opinion as to the process prior to going live with new items which resulted in the website being taken down temporarily for security reasons. Diego B. reported that John M. made it clear that he did not wish to return in the capacity of webmaster. John M. turned over all files so that it would not be necessary to start from scratch and Fr. Gus is currently searching for a new webmaster.
- Dignity USA - Nick C. raised a concern at the last meeting about our continued affiliation with DUSA. DUSA is not truly a Roman Catholic organization but a "Catholic" one and it allows each chapter to operate independently in whatever direction their membership feels comfortable. We don't have to endorse them and they don't govern us. Their national recognition gives us credibility but the concern is how the Archdiocese of Miami will feel about our affiliation with them as we work to become more active members of our local Church. Brief discussion ensued and a motion was made to make this issue a task for the new administration since this is the penultimate meeting for this board and to allow the membership to express their point of view on the issue. Motion passed.
- Priest - Issue is brought up due to concerns which have been voiced about the celebration of the Holy Mass a couple of weeks ago. Diego B. commented that he was one of the people voicing concerns and that he felt personally insulted by the political nature of the homily. A discussion followed, which included among other items:
  - o The continued use of priests who do not have faculties - there is a benefit to the congregation in that some priests without faculties do follow liturgical norms and are well received by the community. There is an added plus that 3 priests have started the process of incardination from their experience with DFTL.
  - o It is one thing to preach on morality and political postures and another to be partisan.

- o We are an inclusive community and we cannot exclude those that have points of view which differ from ours. There are proper forums for discussing differences but the homily is not one of them.

A motion was made that Fr Gus address this concern with the responsible priest and based on his response the board will consider whether to invite that priest in the future to celebrate Mass for us. There was one negative vote on this motion, motion passed.

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.
- Closing prayer was led by Roy L.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diego B.  
Secretary



**JESUS, save us**  
**MARY, intercede for us**

# Chapter Finances

*September 2009 Financial Report*

*August 2009 Ending Balance: \$2,845.79*  
*September 2009 Ending Balance: \$2,854.30*

***Income:***

*Collections at Mass: 407.00*  
*In Kind Donations: 0*  
*Mass Intention Donations: 20.00*  
*Member Donations: 20.00*  
*Social Activity Income: 221.00*  
*Total Income: \$ 668.00*

***Expenses:***

*Advertising: 0.00*  
*Bank Charges: 0.00*  
*Events: 0.00*  
*Organist Stipends: 90.00*  
*Priest Stipends: 60.00*  
*Rent: 300.00*  
*Social Activity Expenses: 0*  
*Website: 106.04*  
*Telephone: 14.55*  
*Total Expenses: \$ 570.59*

***September 2009 Net Income:***  
***\$ 97.41***

***N.B. There is an obvious discrepancy between our August 2009 ending balance, the September 2009 net income, and the September 2009 ending balance.***

***As soon as I became aware of this discrepancy I contacted the Treasurer for a clarification.***

***Bill W's explanation follows:***

***\*\*After much thought as to how to word the changes to the financial statements without being too wordy or confusing, I am suggesting the following:***

***During our current fiscal year the present Treasurer decided to computerize Dignity Ft. Lauderdale's financial information. In the process of doing so incorrect beginning balances for the bank balance and Retained Earnings were used. When the August financial statements were prepared an error in the Year to Date expenses was discovered and an adjustment was made for the under reported expenses, but the Balance Sheet accounts were not adjusted. Adjustments to the bank balance and opening equity amounts were made for the September financial statement report, thus if you added the September Net Income to the August bank balance you would not have the same amount as presented on the September financial statement. As always our financial records are open to the membership and the Treasurer is available to answer any questions you might have about the income and expenses for our chapter. \*\****

# Special Announcements



## ***1. Papal Intentions***

***The Holy Father's general prayer intention for October is: "That Sunday may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the risen Lord, participating in the Eucharist."***

***His mission intention is: "That the entire People of God, to whom Christ entrusted the mandate to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may eagerly assume their own missionary responsibility and consider it the highest service they can offer humanity."***

***Please keep the Pope's intentions in your own daily prayers.***



## 2. Confessions

Everyone is encouraged to regularly receive the Sacrament of Penance. Priests are always available, before and after the Holy Mass as well as by appointment, to assist when one is in need of reconciliation with God and His Church.



## 3. Potluck Party

Our first home social this Fall is a wonderful departure from our more common social activities; it's a potluck party!!!

We are blessed to have many good cooks among our membership and this is a great opportunity for many to showcase their talent and taste and for all to enjoy a fabulous evening of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising.

**Charlie L** will be hosting this exciting soiree at his home and everyone is welcomed, including members' family and friends.

Everyone is asked to bring a delicious dish or two and to contribute \$5.00 to our Chapter's fundraising efforts.

### Directions:

Take I 95 to Commercial Blvd. (East.)  
Go east on Commercial.  
Go over Intracoastal Bridge.  
Make a right at the first traffic light after the Intracoastal Bridge (onto Sea Grape).  
Go to the end of Sea Grape (about 5 blocks).  
Make a right at the end of Sea Grape (onto Hibiscus)  
Go one block and the house is at the intersection of Hibiscus and Tropics Drive (on a hill with a white wall).

### Telephone:

cell 954-654-0111  
home 954-491-5565.



## 4. Annual Board Election

What is your vision for Dignity FTL?  
Do you support the direction that our Chapter has taken this past year?  
Who would you like to see lead and serve in our elected Board?  
Do you want to be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director at Large?

Don't forget: pray, discuss, nominate, run, vote!  
November 1, 2009 at 8:30 PM.



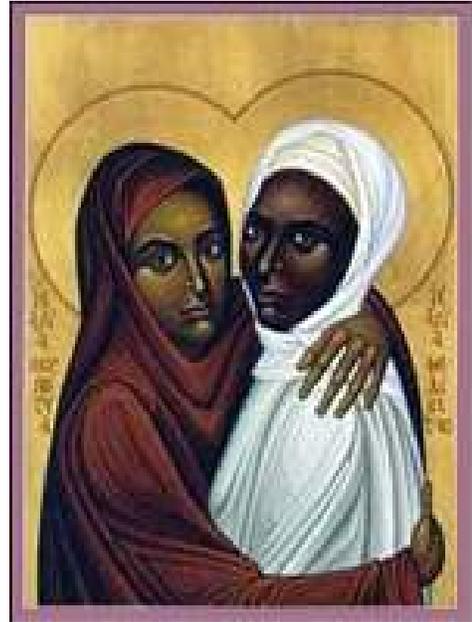
*Dignity FTL,  
A  
Roman Catholic LGBT  
Apostolate,  
Sponsors:*

*Holy Mass  
every Sunday  
7:30 PM  
MCC  
(Chapel)  
1480 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315*

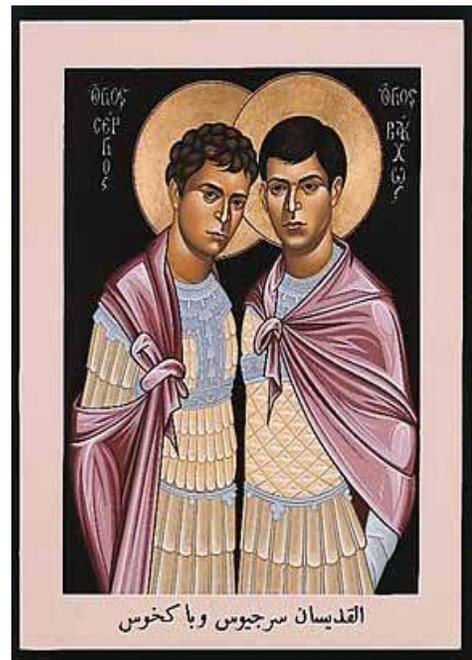
*Sacred Scripture Study  
every Tuesday  
7:30 PM  
GLCC  
(Room 2)  
1717 North Andrews Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311*

*Advent and Lenten Day Retreats  
Pilgrimages  
Home Socials  
Film Nights  
Community Outreach*

*Contact Dignity FTL at:  
P.O. Box 22884  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335  
Tel: 954.463.4528  
Email: [Dignityftl@bellsouth.net](mailto:Dignityftl@bellsouth.net)  
Web: [www.Dignityftl.org](http://www.Dignityftl.org)*



*Saints Perpetua and Felicity  
-Pray for us*



*Saints Sergius and Bacchus  
-Pray for us*

*Dignity / Ft Lauderdale, Inc.  
Membership Form*

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Please make membership check payable to:

DIGNITY USA INC.  
P.O. Box 376  
Medford, MA 02155

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.*

*Board of Directors*

Fr. Gus, President  
Nick C, Vice-President  
Diego B, Secretary  
Bill W, Treasurer  
Bob B, Director at Large  
Chuck S, Director at Large

Meeting Place: The Chapel at the  
Sunshine Cathedral, MCC  
1480 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33315

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

Telephone: 954-463-4528  
Email: DignityFTL@aol.com

National Website: [www.DignityUSA.org](http://www.DignityUSA.org)

Holy Mass: Every Sunday at 7:30 PM

Annual Dues \$50.00

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Service.

***THE DIGNITY PRAYER***

*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*

