

# DIGNITY Fort Lauderdale

## The Word

November 2009

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

### From the President

*Dear friends in Christ,  
I'm back...in fact, most of us in last year's Dignity FTL Board are back. Only one person from the previous Board was not re-elected and that was due to his choosing not to run. The entire Board thank Bill W for his fabulous service last year as Treasurer as well as for his many other years of being in the Board in many different capacities. Bill has more than earned a respite from all the intense work that he has been engaged in on behalf of our Chapter. Replacing Bill as Treasurer will be Diego B who will also continue to serve as Secretary. Diego did a fantastic job last year and he will continue to do so now as Secretary-Treasurer. Finally, all the old Board members welcome two new ones: Roy L and Shirley M. Not only does the election of Shirley and Roy represent Dignity FTL's growth as new members step forth to take on leadership roles but it also heralds our Chapter's development as more legitimately diverse and appropriately inclusive. In Roy and Shirley we now have on the Board representation from members of our apostolate's non-Catholic Christian and heterosexual allies. This is truly a blessing from the Lord and we are all very happy about how their presence will help Dignity FTL to further commit ourselves to be an apostolate to Roman Catholic LGBT individuals as well as their families and friends-many of*

*whom may have a different spirituality or sexuality than our own.*

*It's going to be an exciting year; let us go forth wishing all peace and every good.*

*Pax et Bonum, Fr. Gus*



### Chapter Events

Every Sunday 7:30 PM @MCC.....	Holy Mass
Every Tuesday 7:30 PM @GLCC.....	Bible Study
November 1, 6:30 PM.....	Board Meeting
November 1, 8:30 PM.....	Annual Elections
November 12, 7:30 PM.....	Board Planning Meeting

# Happy Birthday

# Referendum Results

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



### OCTOBER:

Bill M 10/7  
Gary S 10/15

### NOVEMBER:

Fr. Roger 11/6  
Melinda D 11/25

### DECEMBER:

Derrick G 12/5  
Michael E 12/8  
Fr. Ed 12/11  
Joe M 12/16  
Danny R 12/20  
Shirley M 12/26

**Dignity FTL**  
**General Meeting**  
**October 25, 2009 8:30 pm**  
**MCC Chapel**

## Agenda

*Vote on three (3) proposals which have been presented to the general membership for adoption by Dignity FTL.*

## Meeting Minutes

*Presider: Fr. Gus  
Vote Counters: Fr. Gus & Fr. Dave  
23 persons were present (21 members, 2 guests)  
2 members opted not to participate in the voting  
1 member participated by proxy  
20 votes were cast on each proposal*

### Proposal 1:

*We affirm Dignity USA's vision of inclusivity for LGBT people in the Church and society but we disassociate ourselves from any attempt by Dignity USA to promote dissent from Roman Catholic Church dogma.*

*Vote on proposal 1: For: 14 (70%) Against: 6 (30%)  
Proposal 1 is adopted by Dignity FTL*

### Proposal 2:

*We accept St. Clement's invitation to participate as Dignity FTL once a month in a parish Mass in order to promote the presence of LGBT people in the Church and to promote a gay and lesbian outreach in the Church and society.*

*An amendment to this proposal was made and accepted by the overwhelming majority of those present in a hand vote.*

## 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.

# BOARD MEETING

## *Amendment to proposal 2:*

*Mass will continue to be celebrated each Sunday evening at the MCC Chapel on the weekends when we participate in the St. Clement's parish Mass.*

*Vote on proposal 2 with the amendment: For: 16 (80%) Against: 4 (20%)*

*Proposal 2 with the amendment is adopted by Dignity FTL*

## *Proposal 3:*

*We affirm our intent to only use Roman Catholic priests to celebrate the Mass as well as for those priests to faithfully celebrate the Roman Rite of the Mass without deviation from the authorized rubrics.*

*Vote on proposal 3: For: 16 (80%) Against: 4 (20%)*

*Proposal 3 is adopted by Dignity FTL*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Diego B.  
Secretary*



## *Dignity FTL*

### *Board Meeting*

*November 1, 2009 6:30 pm*

*MCC Library*

## *Agenda*

- 1. Opening Prayer*
- 2. Review of October Board Meeting Minutes*
- 3. Approval of Summary of Referendum*
- 4. Review of October Financial Report*
- 5. Pot Luck*
- 6. Election*
- 7. Closing Prayer*

## *Meeting Minutes*

*Members present: Fr. Gus, Nick C., Diego B., Bob B., Chuck S.*

*Members not present: Bill W.*

- Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the president Fr. Gus.*
- Nick C. led us in the opening prayer.*
- October Board Minutes were approved*
- Referendum Summary was approved*
- Treasurers report postponed until Bill W. arrives*
- Pot Luck report postponed until Bill W. arrives*
- Process for election was discussed. Decision was made to elect board in general as in the past and then to have the Board, based on the individual strengths of its members assign the roles among themselves. It was decided that the board should consist of 7 people to try to maintain an odd number: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors at Large. Question was raised about members who were only present for part of the year and it was felt that the participation by these members on the board would be*

welcomed. All members present indicated their willingness to continue to serve the following year if elected. Roy L. sent word of his willingness to serve.

- Since Bill W. had not arrived by 7:09 his items were tabled to the next board meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.
- Closing prayer was led by Diego B.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diego B.,  
Secretary



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

# Election Results

**Dignity FTL  
Board Election  
November 1, 2009 8:30 pm  
MCC Chapel**

## **Agenda**

To select offices among those elected.

## **Meeting Minutes**

President: Fr. Gus

An general meeting was held with the general membership that was present at the conclusion of the mass. The names of 6 people who had indicated their willingness to serve were brought forth by Fr. Gus. These people are:

- Bob B.
- Chuck S.
- Diego B.
- Gus A.
- Nick C.
- Roy L.

Nominations from the floor were taken Shirley M. was added to the list other nominees declined the nomination. Motion to close nominations was made and all nominees were elected as there were exactly 7 nominees for 7 positions.

After the meeting the new board met briefly to decide roles. The following roles were decided:

President: Fr. Gus A.

Vice President: Nick C.

Secretary/Treasurer: Diego B. (Combined role)

Directors at Large: Bob B., Chuck S., Roy L., Shirley M.

It was agreed that a planning meeting for the coming year would be held at Diego B.'s house on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diego B.  
Secretary

# Chapter Finances

## *October 2009 Financial Report*

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

*October 2009 Ending Balance:  
\$2,931.75*

### *Income:*

*Collections at Mass: 406.00  
In Kind Donations: 0  
Mass Intention Donations: 5.00  
Member Donations: 0.00  
Social Activity Income: 101.00  
Total Income: \$ 512.00*

### *Expenses:*

*Advertising: 0.00  
Bank Charges: 0.00  
Events: 0.00  
Organist Stipends: 60.00  
Priest Stipends: 60.00  
Rent: 300.00  
Social Activity Expenses: 0.00  
Website: 0.00  
Telephone: 14.55  
Total Expenses: \$ 434.55*

*October 2009 Net Income:  
\$ 77.45*

# Planning Meeting

## *Dignity FTL*

*Board Planning Meeting  
November 12, 2009 7:15 pm  
Fr. Gus' House*

### *Agenda*

1. *Opening Prayer*
2. *Review of Referendum*
  - a. *Disassociation from Dignity/USA dissent*
  - b. *St. Clement Parish Mass*
  - c. *Roman priests and Roman Rite of the Mass*
3. *Review of Election*
  - a. *Bill W.*
  - b. *Roy L.*
  - c. *Shirley M.*
  - d. *Directors at Large*
    - i. *Bob B.*
    - ii. *Chuck S.*
    - iii. *Roy L.*
    - iv. *Shirley M.*
4. *Bylaws*
5. *Spiritual*
  - a. *Holy Mass*
  - b. *Bible Study*
  - c. *Retreats*
  - d. *Other*
    - i. *Confession*
    - ii. *Pilgrimage*
6. *Social*
  - a. *Home Socials*
    - i. *Traditional*
    - ii. *Pot Luck*
  - b. *Dinner and a Movie*
  - c. *Film, Fraternity, Fun*
  - d. *Birthday Celebrations*
7. *Outreach*
  - a. *Advertisement*
  - b. *Pride Fest*
  - c. *Stonewall Street Festival*
  - d. *Other*
8. *Fund Raising*
  - a. *Garage Sale*

- b. Other
- 9. New Items
  - a. Fr. Michael
  - b. USCCB Marriage Pastoral
  - c. Anti-NARTH events
  - d. Others
- 10. Closing Prayer

### **Meeting Minutes**

*Members present: Fr. Gus, Nick C., Diego B., Bob B., Chuck S., Roy L., Shirley M.,  
Members absent: None*

*Meeting was called to order by Fr Gus at 7:36 pm*

1. Opening Prayer - Roy L.
2. Review of Referendum - Items were read, no questions or discussion
3. Review of Election
  - Bill W. - Opted not to run, had commented that he did not wish to run again 2 months earlier, has served on the board for many years. Bill was an excellent treasurer; he was honest and trustworthy though he did not like fundraising. He will be missed. Roy L. will coordinate recognition.*
  - Roy L. & Shirley M. - welcome, they represent 2 new groups on the board, non-Catholic Christians and the straight community, respectively.*
  - Directors at Large*
    - i. *Bob B. - Continue to head the Welcome Committee*
    - ii. *Chuck S. - Continue to head Liturgical Ministries*
    - iii. *Roy L. - Will take over coordination of scheduling priest and organist (Bill W. has requested to be relieved of this responsibility, but he did schedule through early December)*
    - iv. *Shirley M. - Will be responsible for following*

*up on visitors and members that have fallen away.*

*A welcome packet should be prepared and include a welcome letter, Diego & Roy will work on the letter. Packet will also include Dignity FTL Card, Dignity USA's Catholicism and Homosexuality brochure. Diego will get folders and Nick will make copies.*

*Nick C. will coordinate refreshments along with Joe M.*

4. *Bylaws - Need to locate, Diego will look though files which were turned over to him by Bill W.*

5. *Spiritual*

*Holy Mass & Bible Study are going well, move on in the interest of time*

*Retreats - Do we want Advent & Lenten retreats? Consensus is yes, Nick C. will follow up with priests to plan retreat.*

*Confession - Point was brought up that non-faculty priests cannot hear confessions as confessions & marriage are faculties which MUST be granted by the Bishop, they are not valid except in the case of imminent death.*

*Pilgrimage - St Clements has pilgrimage to Canada, last year a small group went to Rome, it may be nice to plan something as a group this year. The idea of St. Leo's Abbey was brought up and Chuck S. will gather information on it.*

6. *Social - We should try to have something monthly.*

*Home Socials - Every couple of months as volunteers to host emerge would be good. Nick C. volunteered to host in January*

*and Diego B. & Roy L. volunteered to co-host by cooking.*

*Dinner and a Movie - Will try to plan these events throughout the year supplementing the home socials, Diego B. will coordinate.*

*Film, Fraternity, Fun - These will also supplement the home socials, Roy L. will coordinate. These are more informal gatherings that do not involve meals; rather they are more getting together to do fun things.*

*Birthday Celebrations - Birthdays will be recognized during the intercessory prayers, Shirley M. and Bob B. will help coordinate. Diego B & Roy L will work on other recognitions of birthdays.*

#### **7. Outreach**

*Advertisement - Dignity FTL will continue to advertise in the Blade twice per month, leading up to our St Clement Mass weekend, an anonymous donor indicated he may continue to pay for advertisement during other weeks.*

*Pride Fest & Stonewall Street Festival - tabled for future discussion due to time.*

- a. *Other - St Clements Mass, it was decided that the most logical Mass to participate in would be the Saturday 5 pm Mass, weekend was not chosen.*

**8. Fund Raising - Tabled in the interest of time.**

#### **9. New Items**

*Fr. Michael - Email was read - he will not be able to celebrate Mass for us for the time being, if things change he will let us know.*

*USCCB Marriage Pastoral - decision was made to forward emails and information to general membership*

*Anti-NARTH events - decision was made to forward emails and*

*information to general membership*

*Who counts as members of Dignity FTL? Bylaws will need to be reviewed, Diego will follow up. Suggestion was made that more catechesis on the Mass should be offered and that non-liturgical announcements should take place outside of the Mass. Nick C, as Vice President will be responsible for these so that the President (who is a priest) can de-vest.*

*Meeting was adjourned at 10:18 pm  
10. Closing Prayer - Roy L.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Diego B.  
Secretary*



# Special Announcements



## 1. Papal Intentions

**General:** That all the men and women in the world, especially those who have responsibilities in the field of politics and economics, may never fail in their commitment to safeguard creation.

**Mission:** That believers in the different religions, through the testimony of their lives and fraternal dialogue, may clearly demonstrate that the name of God is a bearer of peace. 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. Dignity FTL Website

Our webpage is back up, please check it out at:

[www.dignityftl.org](http://www.dignityftl.org)

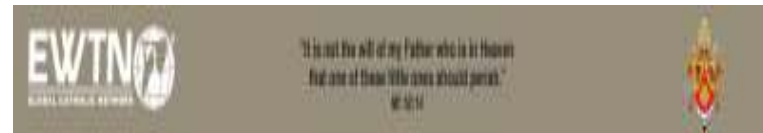
We have to thank John M. for the design and Julian M. for the maintenance. Great job guys!

## 4. Other recommended websites:

[www.newliturgicalmovement.org](http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org)



[www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)



[www.cathcandy.wordpress.com](http://www.cathcandy.wordpress.com)







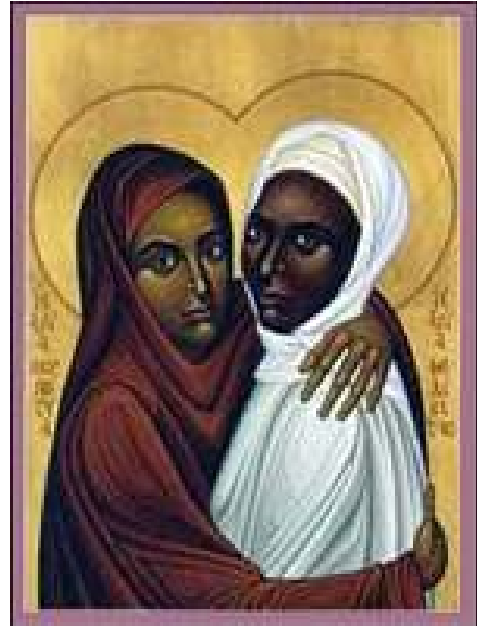
*Dignity FTL,  
A  
Roman Catholic LGBT  
Apostolate,  
Sponsors:*

*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-Treasurer  
Bob B, Director at Large  
Chuck S, Director at Large  
Roy L, Director at Large  
Shirley M, 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@bellsouth.net

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

Holy Mass: Every Sunday at 7:30 PM

Annual Dues \$50.00

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

