



Dateline

Monthly News Bulletin

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DignityUSA works for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy and support.

Lewis Tanner Resigns from the Board of Directors

Sam Sinnett, DignityUSA President, expressed feelings of loss reporting that Lewis Tanner has resigned from our national board of directors.

In resigning Lewis said, "It is with great sadness that I must resign from the DignityUSA Board of Directors effective March 15, 2007. I have enjoyed working with the Board these four-and-a-half years. My responsibilities at work have greatly increased in the last year."

Sam says, "When you see Lewis at our Convention in Austin, TX this summer, thank him for being one of the most talented, hard-working and energetic Directors we have had during his term on the Board. The Board of Directors and I will miss his wisdom and leadership. Lewis felt work priorities prevented him from contributing his fair share to the work of the Board. He will continue serving on our Human Resources Committee."

Saying Good-bye to Dignity/Hartford

Saying good-bye is always hard. Saying good-bye to a chapter that started over 32 years ago is even harder. However, around 40 members gathered at the Quaker Meeting House in West Hartford, Connecticut on March 4, 2007, to say farewell to the Dignity/Hartford chapter, but not to one another.

From the introduction to the liturgy, where we were told how DignityUSA and its chapters have been a spiritual home to many for so many years, to the inspiring words of the homily that it was good that we were here, members shared Eucharist at the Quaker Meeting House for the last time. However, many hope to hold reunions and talk via e-mail, continuing the family spirit that has been part of this group from the beginning. After sharing the Eucharistic bread and wine, many of the members continued the celebration by sharing good conversation at dinner in a nearby restaurant.

Dignity/Hartford will be donating funds in its treasury to DignityUSA and many of its supplies to other groups that have a need for them.

Also mentioned during the evening was that anyone wanting to transfer membership to Dignity/Boston or DignityUSA should contact the National Office or send an e-mail to vicepresident@dignityusa.org.

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DignityUSA thanks Dignity/Hartford for all it has done during 32 years of service. We hope all members who have passed through its doors will continue to Amplify the Voice for all GLBT Catholics.

Fundraising News:

Dignity/Washington (DC)

Dignity/Washington (DC) and National Board member Tom Yates will be hosting a house party themed "A Greek Festival" at the Dignity Center, 721 8th St SE, Washington, DC, Saturday, April 28, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

For directions and further information, please contact Dignity/Washington dignity@dignitywashington.org, or 202/546-2235.

Call for DignityUSA Convention 2007 Silent Auction Packages

Planning has begun for the DignityUSA Convention 2007 Silent Auction. Auction Co-chairs Edwards Buice (Dignity/Chicago) and Gene Corpuz (Dignity/Honolulu) will be contacting DignityUSA chapters and asking each to put together a package that best highlights their city or region.

"We are looking for items that will be attractive to DignityUSA members who enjoy travel as well as items that folks can **take home with them** from the convention," said Edwards. "Hotel or Bed and Breakfast stays, restaurant certificates, special artwork, foods or other items that promote a city or state will help make this a superb auction."

Donated items need to be confirmed by June 20, 2007, in order to be in the auction. For more information, contact Edwards at havana97@sbcglobal.net.

Interested in putting on a fundraiser for DignityUSA?

Wine & cheese tasting? Progressive dinner? Spare change collection boxes? Silent auctions? Garage sales? For more ideas and suggestions on putting on a successful (and fun!) event, please contact DignityUSA National Board Member Tom Yates tyates02@comcast.net.

**See Special Request
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Announcements

DEFENDERS LLC WASHINGTON 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

APRIL 14

Defenders LLC Washington will be hosting a Mass and dinner at the Dignity Center, 721 8th St SE, Washington, DC, on Saturday April 14th at 6:00 p.m., as part of its 15-year anniversary celebration. This will be followed by a bar night at the D.C. Eagle.

Defenders LLC Washington is a local chapter of Defenders USA, an affiliate of DignityUSA. For further information, contact info@defendersdc.org

“QUEERING THE CHURCH” CONFERENCE BOSTON UNIV. APRIL 18-19

On April 18th and 19th, the Center for Practical Theology at Boston University School of Theology will be hosting a conference on “Queering the Church: Changing Ecclesial Structures.” Too rarely are opportunities available to reflect upon the potential impact of queering the church, and this conference promises to be an exciting forum for dialogue and reflection on topics of immense importance to the GLBT community and their friends.

Speakers include: Marcella Althaus-Reid, Kelly Brown Douglas, Robert Goss, Carter Heyward, Mark Jordan and Irene Monroe.

Program and registration information details are at: <http://www.bu.edu/ccrd/conference/index.html>

DignityUSA's
18th Biennial Convention
Austin, Texas
Thu-Sun, July 5-8, 2007
See www.dignityusa.org for details

Happy Anniversary
& Congratulations to:
Sarasota (FL) - 3 years
Fort Lauderdale (FL) - 21 years
Hartford (CN) - 32 years

DIGNITY/SAN FRANCISCO PAX ET BONUM AWARD

APRIL 28, 2007

The Community of Sts. Elizabeth of Hungary & Francis de Sales are proud to announce that Bro. Neil V. Christensen, CSEF, founder of the community, is the recipient of two awards.

Neil is this year's recipient of Dignity/San Francisco's *Pax et Bonum* award for his service to that chapter. He serves as Co-Chair. The award will be presented on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the *Pax et Bonum* Gala Awards Dinner, at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco.

The second award will be given by the Metropolitan Archbishop of all Canada, Old Catholic Church, on June 9, 2007, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Bro. Neil will be inducted into the Equestrian Order of St. Michael and St. George, as a Knight Commander. This award is for his work internationally with persons with AIDS, and the establishment of the Community of Sts. Elizabeth & Francis to serve them.

For further information, contact Dignity/San Francisco: dignitysf@pacbell.net, or the Community, c/o Abotneil@yahoo.com.

LAMBDA LEGAL'S "CLOCK IN FOR EQUALITY"

Lambda Legal's "Clock In For Equality: The National Day of Action for Workplace Fairness for LGBT Employees and Employees with HIV" on May 15, 2007.

On Tuesday, May 15, 2007 workers from coast-to-coast will participate in activities that aim to advance basic nondiscrimination measures to rid the workplace of discrimination so all employees can be free to do their jobs. Lambda Legal is working with local groups nationwide to plan simultaneous activities including advocating for nondiscrimination policies to protect LGBT workers and workers living with HIV, supporting a bill or local ordinance that will protect all LGBT workers and workers with HIV from workplace discrimination, and holding educational forums on harassment-free workplaces. Lambda Legal is partnering with local groups as diverse as farm workers to Ernst & Young's and Levi Strauss & Company's LGBT employee associations in cities across the country to produce events and forums aimed at making the work environment places where all employees have the opportunity to do their jobs free of harassment.

For more information about "Clock In for Equality" please visit www.lambdalegal.org/clockin.

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TEXAS A&M UNIV. RESEARCH STUDY

Andrew Reichert, a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology at Texas A&M University, is a member of a research team conducting a survey of GLBT and GLBT-friendly people of faith. The title of the project is "Religious and Spiritual Attitudes and Beliefs in the GLBT Community." The research project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of Texas A&M University (www.tamu.edu).

A group of doctoral students in Counseling Psychology at Texas A&M University are conducting a survey to better understand the ways that faith and sexual orientation interact, along with viewpoints on various religious and societal topics (e.g. baptism, marriage, war or the death penalty). It is hoped that the results and findings will be published.

Andrew and the research team invite members of DignityUSA to participate in the survey found at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=984082851341. The survey is anonymous, voluntary, and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

FEMALE SAME-SEX SEXUALITY SURVEY

Researchers at The University of Minnesota Medical School are seeking lesbian, bisexual, women-loving-women, and transgendered women who have been in a same-sex relationship for at least six months to complete a survey about sexuality. Respondents should be 18 years of age or older and reside in the United States or Canada to participate in the study. The researchers are interested in learning more about women's sexual orientation, sexuality, sexual trauma history and relationships in order to further understand the complexity of lesbian and bisexual women's sexuality. This survey is confidential.

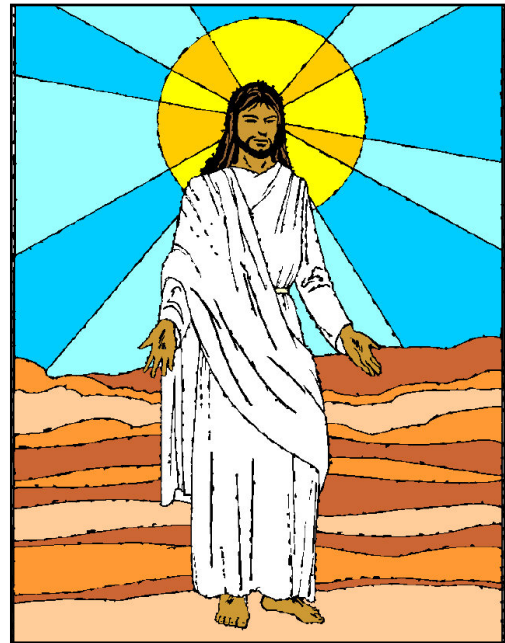
If you are interested in participating, please go to www.lesbianandbisexualsurvey.com and complete the online survey which is approximately 45 minutes long. If you have questions, please email Shana Hamilton, Ph.D. at svhamilton@umphysicians.umn.edu.

Special Request for Young Adults' Concerns Workshop Leader

If you are planning to be at our DignityUSA family get-together in Austin, Texas for the July 5-8, 2007 Convention, and would like to lead a workshop on young people's issues, please contact the convention speaker's chairman, Gary Preuss at Dignity2007@aol.com.

There currently is no workshop specifically addressing the concerns, interests, or needs of young GLBT members.

Workshop sessions are scheduled to last one hour.



*Wishing You and Yours
The Blessings and Joys
Of Easter*