



Dateline

Monthly News Bulletin
Volume 16, No. 9
September 2007

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.

Contents:

- President's Message – 1
- Solidarity Sunday – October 7, 2007 – 2
- DignityUSA at Call to Action Conference in Milwaukee, November 2-4, 2007 – 3
- FREE DignityUSA Polo Shirts – 3
- Minneapolis Womenpriest Ordination – August 14, 2007 – 4
- DignityUSA Board Meeting, October 12-14, 2007 in Washington, D.C. – 4
- Announcements – 4
 - National Coming Out Day – October 11, 2007 – 4
 - *For The Bible Tells Me So* – premieres nationwide in October – 5
 - Southern Comfort Conference Transgender Career Expo – September 14th in Atlanta, GA – 5
 - Clergy United Essay Competition: \$500 Prize – 6

Happy Anniversary & Congratulations to:

- * Tampa Bay (FL) - 31 years
- * Rochester (NY) - 32 years
- * Dignity/Integrity Chapter

DignityUSA
PO Box 15373
Washington, DC 20003-0373
Phone: 1-800-877-8797
Fax: 1-202-543-5511
Email: info@dignityusa.org
Website:
<http://www.dignityusa.org>
DATELINE Editor: Bill Welch
DUSAEditor@comcast.net

President's Message

DignityUSA's President, Sam Sinnett, sent the following e-mail message to our members on August 29, 2007.

Dear DignityUSA Member,

I am writing to advise you of an unfortunate problem DignityUSA experienced in our national office.

During a routine audit our Treasurer, Chris Lawrence, discovered discrepancies in our financial records. Subsequent investigation with our bank in Washington, DC, uncovered evidence of unauthorized debits from our checking account. Fortunately DignityUSA is insured for such losses. We submitted a full accounting for these losses to the insurance company and to the District of Columbia Police. The insurance company has validated the claim and this week fully reimbursed DignityUSA for its losses after our \$100 deductible.

As the police investigation is still underway, we have been advised that we can make no public statement about who might have been involved.

At this time I know of no other problems related to this unfortunate situation. We have updated and – along with our auditor – continue to review our internal controls to ensure this cannot happen again. Please be assured that I have no information or belief at this time that any member's credit card information was compromised in any way. However, the DignityUSA Board of Directors has been advised to make you aware of this unlikely but possible problem.

If you have donated to DignityUSA by credit card and have reason to believe your credit card number was compromised within the past six months or if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me President@DignityUSA.org or 314 652-1850 or Peggy Burns VicePresident@DignityUSA.org.

As always, your Board of Directors thanks you for your financial support of DignityUSA. Know that we will continue to both diligently protect and frugally use the resources you provide for our mission. We could not continue our important and necessary work without your generosity.

Sincerely,
Sam Sinnett
President



Solidarity Sunday – October 7, 2007

Solidarity Sunday is a faith-based anti-violence initiative. Because we understood that, contrary to popular belief, most Catholics are appalled by anti-gay attacks, DignityUSA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a way of making our opposition to anti-gay violence visible.

Solidarity Sunday is held every year on the Sunday before October 11 (National Coming Out Day).



Solidarity Sunday began in 1995 when the Board of Directors of Dignity USA recognized that 70–80% of American Catholics supported equal rights for gays and lesbians. It was decided to invite these people to join in solidarity with us and to work with us to end verbal and physical abuse.

Solidarity Sunday is dedicated to the memory of the many who lost their lives through violence because of who they were or who they were perceived to be. May their deaths not have been in vain. Let us work together to end verbal and physical violence against anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders!

For more information on how your chapter, faith community, or organization can participate in Solidarity Sunday and download a Guide for Small Faith-Sharing Communities, go to our web page at <http://www.dignityusa.org/solidarity/index.html>.

Solidarity Pledge

I pledge:

I will work for civil and human rights for all people, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgender. **Civil rights are not special rights.**

I will seek to stop jokes and unkind language about anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgender when spoken in my presence. **Words that hurt and bigotry are not funny.**

I will speak out against any slander, debasement, lies or dehumanization of anyone, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the transgender, including when spoken by political or religious leaders. **Violent speech leads to physical violence.**

I will work to stop physical violence against anyone, including violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals or the transgender. **Violence against any person is violence against all people.**

Solidarity Interfaith Prayer

Please substitute for the word “God” the most appropriate to your faith tradition.



*Solidarity Interfaith Prayer
Continued from page 2*



God, You are the Creator and Lover of all.
You wish us to live in solidarity with each other
and to rejoice in our diversity.

We pray that all Your lesbian, gay,
bisexual, transgender and straight
children may experience justice,
enjoy peace and spread Your love
throughout the world.

We pray in the name of God, who
welcomes **all** to a holy circle of
friendship. Amen.

DignityUSA at Call to Action Conference in Milwaukee, November 2-4, 2007

DignityUSA is looking forward to seeing many of its members raise our visibility in the church reform movement. Dignity will have a table in the exhibit hall during the entire conference: We are looking for several volunteers to staff the table.

“DignityUSA will sponsor a reception on Friday, November 2nd and will host a caucus to discuss GLBT issues in the church on Saturday, November 3rd.”

DignityUSA will sponsor a reception on Friday, November 2nd and will host a caucus to discuss GLBT issues in the church on Saturday, November 3rd.

If you are planning to attend the CTA Conference and can spare a few hours to help us out, please contact Lewis Tanner at Lewistanner@yahoo.com.

Discounted registrations are available prior to September 15th. For complete information, schedules and downloadable registration forms, please go to <http://www.cta-usa.org/conference2007/intro.html>.

FREE DignityUSA Polo Shirts



Embroidered logo sample

We are clearing out the remaining inventory of DignityUSA polo shirts. The limited inventory consists of sizes L and XL in light blue, white and sport gray. The DignityUSA logo is embroidered on the left side of the shirt. These 50/50 Jersey sportshirts, with fashion knit collar, ribbed cuffs and hemmed bottom, are available **for shipping costs only** on a first come, first serve basis. See <http://www.dignityusa.org/shirts.html>.

Please send your requests to info@dignityusa.org. In your request, please include shirt size and color preference. If you have more than one color choice, please identify by 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority. Also include **SHIP TO** name and address, e-mail address and telephone number. Upon order receipt, a representative of DignityUSA will contact you regarding shipping costs.

Minneapolis Womenpriest Ordination – August 14, 2007

By Gary Kayler, Dignity/Indianapolis

Well, I arrived home from Minneapolis Monday evening (August 13), exhausted but filled with incredible joy. There I witnessed the ordination of three womendeacons and two womenpriests.

“I have to admit when we said hello to Bishop Patricia it was the first time either of us had been kissed by a bishop.”

My trusty roommate Rolf Rodefeld from Madison [WI] and I had a great time visiting with the women and their families as well as Bishop Patricia Fresen who is from South Africa, now living in Germany. I have to admit when we said hello to Bishop Patricia it was the first time either of us had been kissed by a bishop. Patricia is an absolute sweetheart and I immediately took to her last year in Pittsburgh at that year’s gathering to ordain eight priests and four deacons.

“I wore my DignityUSA polo shirt to let them know that Dignity members also supported them.”

What really surprised and delighted the ordinandi was that neither Rolf nor I personally knew any of the candidates but came simply to support them. We spent a great deal of time with womanpriest Alice and womandeacon Kathy and their families. Alice gave us her personal blessing individually too. I wore my DignityUSA polo shirt to let them know that Dignity members also supported them. Corpus and CITI, both organizations for married priests, also showed support, as did Pax Christi. Corpus gave each of the ordinandi gifts from their organization, which I thought was a nice touch.

This was the fifth and final ordination in North America this year. The others took place in Toronto, New York, Santa Barbara and Portland.

For more information go to <http://www.RomanCatholicwomenpriests.org>.

DignityUSA Board Meeting, October 12-14, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

The DignityUSA Board of Directors meets October 12-14, 2007, in Washington, DC. Board Meetings are open to all members. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the DignityUSA Secretary for details: Secretary@dignityusa.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Coming Out Day – October 11, 2007

The theme for National Coming Out Day 2007 will be **Talk About It**, continuing the slogan and branding that the national program has been building since 2005.

National Coming Out Day is a time to celebrate openness and honesty - whether you came out 20 minutes ago, or 20 years ago -

Continued on page 5



National Coming Out Day — October 11, 2007
Continued from page 4

*HRC Coming Out Kits
 NOW AVAILABLE for
 National Coming Out
 Day 2007!*

this is a time for all Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight supportive people to ***Talk About It*** with friends, family and coworkers.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Coming Out Day Kits include:

- Resource Guides to Coming Out
- Straight Guides to GLBT Americans
- Transgender Coming Out Guides
- Poster, Balloons and HRC Stickers
- And everything else you'll need to celebrate living openly!

HRC Coming Out Kits NOW AVAILABLE for National Coming Out Day 2007!

To order your kit, please visit: www.hrc.org/comingoutkits

For The Bible Tells Me So — premieres nationwide in October

“The film reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture, and in the process reveals that Church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a significant misinterpretation of the Bible.”

For the Bible Tells Me So is a documentary by Daniel Karslake, which explores Christianity and homosexuality. The film was a Sundance Selection and showed at the Sundance Film Festival to sold-out audiences. The film documents the experiences of five families, including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopalian Bishop Gene Robinson. The film reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture, and in the process reveals that Church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a significant misinterpretation of the Bible.

The film opens in theatres in New York on October 5 and throughout the country on October 12 and 19. Further information on website <http://www.forthetibletellmeso.org>.

Southern Comfort Conference Transgender Career Expo – September 14th in Atlanta, GA

The First Annual Transgender Career Expo sponsored by Southern Comfort Conference (SCC), in partnership with Human Rights Campaign, has drawn an unprecedented and truly historic number of companies and organizations— well over 20 major participants (more than is listed on the web site).

Spread the word to promote and support this extraordinary event. It is critical that we, as a community, step up and create our own place in

Continued on page 6

*Southern Comfort Conference Transgender Career Expo – September 14th
Continued from page 5*

*The Career Expo
will run from 9:00
a.m. until 4:00 p.m.,
Friday, September
14, 2007*

the world just as these companies have stepped up to the realization that hiring and retaining quality employees is based upon talent and abilities and that being Transgender is irrelevant.

The Career Expo will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 14th (closed during lunch). This is an open event sponsored by SCC and HRC and one need not be registered for the conference to gain value from this function. Please see <http://www.sccatl.org/>.

Clergy United Essay Competition: \$500 Prize

Clergy United for the Equality of Homosexuals is sponsoring an essay competition with a \$500 prize to be awarded around Christmas time.

Pro-gay clergy are invited to submit an essay in response to one of two topics:

“Why the gay rights movement IS/IS NOT the moral equivalent of the civil rights movement.” Further info at www.clergyunited.org.