

DIGNITY

A Monthly Newsletter
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P.O. Box 6161, Los Angeles 90055

Feb. 20th Meeting Thirty-five members and guests met at the offices of One, Inc. for a potluck dinner meeting. The dinner was a great success, thanks to Fred F., our new Refreshments chairman. After dinner Joe K. gave a report on membership and publicity: we have 91 members; the March 2 issue of the Advocate will resume publication of our ad. Gabe E. reported on work done by the Social Action Committee: sick visited, home calls made, people helped. Dignity chairman Bob F. addressed the group, explaining our present crisis, outlining the need for such a group and offering a challenge for the future. Those present divided into two groups to discuss the future of Dignity. Later Joe K. and Dennis B. reported for each group. Result; Dignity must continue. All left the meeting with an increased sense of commitment.

NEXT MEETING: March 20, 7:30 p.m., at the offices of One, Inc. (2256 Venice Blvd.) Officers will be elected. All meetings are now open. Feel free to bring interested gay Catholics with you. Speaker for the evening will be Evelyn Hooker, Ph.D., Research Psychologist at UCLA. Dr. Hooker began her fulltime research into male homosexuality in 1953 and has since been accepted as a leading authority on the subject. (Since we must pay for the use of the hall, we are asking a 50¢ donation from all non-members who attend.)

ARCHBISHOP / FR. PAT: On Feb. 11, Fr. Pat and his Augustinian superior (both of San Diego) met the archbishop of Los Angeles by appointment to discuss Father's work with Dignity. The archbishop expressed concern for the gay Catholic in his archdiocese but forbade Father to have anything further to do with the group. Father has respected the archbishop's wishes. (It is interesting to know that the archbishop is concerned for us.)

THANKS: The members of Dignity wish to express publicly and officially their deep gratitude to Fr. Pat for the fortitude he showed in giving his time and talents of leadership to bring gay Catholics together and aid them in recovering a sense of Dignity. When so many churchmen show a fear of association with gays and refuse to see them as Christian or even fully human, it is encouraging to know that one priest in the Los Angeles area has braved public opinion and has dared to show Christian love to his brothers in Christ.

OUR CAUSE: THE GAY CATHOLIC. Dignity will continue. Why? Because there is a need. As gay Catholics, we love the Church. We want the sacraments. Theologians must hear our voice and must realize that we are flesh and blood. We are not abstract moral cases. We have the capacity to love and the need for love as does any human being. Because it is natural for the gay to love his own sex, it is inhuman to demand that he deny himself and others the fulfillment of that love. Sex may have as a primary purpose procreation, but it also has as a purpose the expression of love. Sex in general may be for procreation, but for a specific individual that way may be impossible because of a complete inability