The week of April 15 was surreal. New York and Washington, DC know all too well what terror is like. Boston has just suffered tremendously. In Boston, Patriot’s Day is usually a wonderful day off for many. It is also the day that the Red Sox play in Fenway Park and the Boston Marathon occurs. This marathon is the world’s oldest annual marathon, where amateur and professional runners have to qualify in order to participate. Families and friends cheer as their loved ones run the hilly terrain of eight Massachusetts cities and towns.

As we now know, 2:50 pm is when the terror struck. Lives were changed in so many ways. Telecommunications were overburdened as friends and family tried to determine whether their loved ones were okay. Daily routines were altered while we waited for more leads and the capture of those who committed violence.

Immediately after the blasts, people sprang into action to care and comfort. Citizens, medical professionals, and law enforcement worked together to begin healing the physical and emotional scars that were left behind. Throughout the week, there have been numerous stories of neighbor helping neighbor, and citizens working with law enforcement to solve the case. As a nation, we watched everything unfold.

A recent gospel passage comes to mind in which Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him. After answering positively, Jesus commands Peter to feed his lambs, and tend and feed his sheep. We are called to be Christ to one another. We are called to build our community up, not tear it down. We are All Bostonians.

**We Are All Bostonians**

By Lewis Speaks-Tanner, DignityUSA Vice President

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**Broaden the Circle of the Dignity Family: Ways to Support the 2013 Convention**

By Marty Grochala, Peggy Hayes, and Ramon Rodriguez

There are many ways to support the Convention and broaden the circle of our Dignity family. Many Dignity members make additional contributions to help underwrite the costs of the Convention or to help make it possible for others to attend and experience the strength of our Dignity community. Here are some stories about the many ways you or your chapter can support Minneapolis 2013!
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God’s creative diversity, one of the most powerful expressions is the diversity of Dignity chapters: no two are alike. Each reflects the community it serves, the faith lives of its members, its city and region, local traditions, and creativity. You’ll see this in the proud celebration of the parade of banners at the DignityUSA Convention, and you can offer a lasting invitation to the Dignity family with an ad in the DignityUSA Convention program book.

Dignity chapters and groups express their unique character in their ads. Tell us about your chapter and how you fulfill your mission. Celebrate a chapter anniversary or accomplishment with your Dignity brothers and sisters from across the family, remember a beloved member, or remind visitors of your worship location and time.

Dignity Convention-goers read and save the program book as a commemoration of a powerful, faith-filled, and fun experience. One member reports that she has saved every convention program dating back to 1981; what a chronicle of the Dignity story!

For more information on placing an ad in the program book, please visit the Greetings and Ads page on the Convention website, DignityUSA Convention 2013. We look forward to seeing your chapter or group in the pages of the DignityUSA 2013 Convention program book.

Memorials

When you come to the DignityUSA Convention in Minneapolis, who are you bringing along in your heart? In whose name will you support the DignityUSA Convention? There are many stories of memorial gifts:

❖ One chapter sponsors flowers at each convention in memory of a beloved presider.
❖ A long friendship with a pioneering chapter leader is remembered at each convention by a memorial gift supporting the joyful music in our liturgies.
❖ One member celebrates with a memorial gift the first person who greeted her at a Dignity liturgy, the person who welcomed her into an embracing community that she thought she would never find.

Continued on page 3
Broaden the Circle of the Dignity Family..., continued from page 2

You are invited to honor your beloved with a memorial gift that can be expressed in scholarship funds, flowers for the chapel, music for the choir and accompanists, or sponsorship of speakers, sessions, and events. Your memorial gift will support essential functions of the Convention, and celebrate the national gathering of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender Catholics and our allies.

Please consider making a memorial gift. Memorial gifts will be recognized in the official DignityUSA Convention 2013 program book. For more information on memorial gifts, please visit the Sponsor/Donate page on the Convention website, DignityUSA 2013.

Sponsorships

Each week, writer Jamie Manson takes to the margins to see another example of God’s grace. In weaving her story, Manson continues to remind us of what is written all throughout Scripture: God is more often found in those who live not in the center of things, but on the margins of life.

At the Convention, Jamie will lead a discussion with professor Thalathia (Nikki) Young in Plenary II to ask how those of us who are LGBT and who have experienced marginalization begin to speak and act from a place of empowerment and compassion. How do we have a compelling voice to offer others who fight their own marginalization and oppression? Dignity/Twin Cities and Dignity/New York have sponsored Jamie’s participation in Convention 2013, both in her plenary session and workshop. When a chapter or an individual makes a gift of sponsorship, they help to make it possible to bring these questions and conversations to our greater Dignity community. Many thanks to these chapters and others who have generously contributed:

✦ Dignity/Chicago: James Cappleman/Richard Thale Workshop
✦ John Nangle: Maureen Fiedler, SL
✦ Bill Baird and John Kennedy: Opening Ceremonies

✦ Dignity/Washington D.C.

Thanks to these donors and to many others who have made general contributions to the Convention. We are grateful for your support.

To make a sponsorship gift for Convention 2013, go to the Sponsor/Donate tab on the Convention website.

Scholarships

The energy of a DignityUSA convention resides within its people, a diverse yet unique mix of God’s children sharing their gifts, passions, and life experiences. At the Convention, we stand witness to the world that we all deserve a place at the table. Maybe you can’t preside over liturgy, sing in the choir, or lead a plenary session. Maybe you are not the best dancer, the most eloquent speaker, or the most charismatic leader, but by being a sponsor, you make it possible for others to shine. In a way, it’s almost as if you are doing all those things yourself, but you are also helping make the DignityUSA community more expansive, more inclusive, and ultimately, more Christ-like. Here is a testimonial to the impact of a scholarship:

“As LGBT Catholics, we have all experienced rejection in the Church, and therein lies the power of the DignityUSA Convention: Catholics from all walks of life, with all sexual orientations, genders, and gender identities coming together as role models for what church should be. Sometimes practical concerns such as personal finances can prevent us from attending the DignityUSA Convention. That is why being sponsored through a scholarship is so important! We don’t want DignityUSA’s model of inclusive church to be limited to only those who can afford to travel to the Convention. Because I attended the DignityUSA Convention, I now feel more educated and more energized. The Convention reminds me that we are all part of a larger progressive church movement, and it inspires me to learn more about what is going on at other chapters and in other progressive church organizations. And to think that I wouldn’t have experienced any of this if someone hadn’t said ‘Yes!’ to sponsoring me!”
Thirty. That's the number of states that put before voters a marriage amendment that would define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. All 30 states passed the amendment, until November 7, 2012! That day, the citizens of Minnesota voted "No" to enshrining this limit in their constitution. It was a breathtaking moment in the wee hours of November 8 when the final votes were tallied. Joy ensued, lasting days, weeks, even months. This victory was no miracle. It was the result of months of work by thousands of allies committed to justice.

For over a year prior to the election, the main Minnesota campaign to defeat the amendment engaged people of faith at all levels in its strategy. Dignity/Twin Cities, DignityUSA, and Catholics for Marriage Equality Minnesota were constant partners in efforts to inspire and mobilize Catholics across the state. But nearly every denomination and faith were represented in the push, and collaborated with each other in many ways. The most popular mantra that religious folk proclaimed loud and clear was, “It is not despite our faith that we oppose this amendment, but because of our faith! ”

If you attend the joyful opening ceremonies of Dignity's 2013 Convention in Minneapolis, you'll see some of those people of faith processing in the Parade of Banners. People of all faith stripes are being invited to accept our gratitude and honor for the work of love and justice in which they participated. At the ceremony and throughout the Convention, we'll also be inspired to continue moving forward. These words of Martin Luther King, Jr. give us hope: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." And to prove that this is true, there must always be those who are committed to the bending. See you in Minneapolis!

As the 2013 Convention quickly approaches, there are several important things to consider:

Volunteer

This summer’s Convention is more dependent on individual volunteers than in the past. We need many more participants to donate their time to support the Convention. The volunteer opportunities are numerous, but most are not time consuming. Some volunteer tasks will require 30 minutes, while staffing the registration desk or assisting with the dinner dance may involve 2 hours. As a volunteer, you will still be able to attend all plenary and workshop sessions and can participate fully in the special activities of the Convention:

When you register for the Convention, please go the Volunteer page at the Convention website to review the volunteer opportunities. At the volunteer site, you will see a list of the opportunities for liturgical involvement and for supporting program activities.

If you have already registered, you can reenter the website and click the Volunteer page to enter your information.

Please contact Donna Miller at madcity@ameritech.net for questions about the volunteer opportunities or to indicate a preference
for a specific time slot. You will be contacted one month before the Convention with your volunteer assignment.

**The Parade of Banners**

An important tradition at DignityUSA conventions is the Parade of Banners. Chapters from across the country are applauded as their members process in front of the assembly with their banners unfurled.

When we gather in Minneapolis, the Parade will be front and center. The Opening Ceremony will begin with a procession of our chapters, our affiliates, and our allies carrying their banners as we recognize the many hands necessary to do our justice work. In addition to the banners, images of each group will be projected in the ballroom to add another connection between Convention attendees and the communities that are the DignityUSA family.

To have a photo of your chapter or affiliate group included in the Parade of Banner montage, please send it to: Tom Yates at tyates02@verizon.net no later than May 30, 2013.

**Hotel Stay**

Don't delay in making your reservations at the Minneapolis Hilton. The hotel's special rate of $99/night is guaranteed only through June 4. Reserve now at: DUSA Convention 2013 Reservations.

**Chapter/Caucus News**

**Dignity/San Antonio News**

By Chris Kohn, Dignity/San Antonio President

The first few months of 2013 have been very exciting for Dignity/San Antonio. We have continued to seek ways that we can share who we are with like-minded people of faith, and with the wider community.

In January, twelve of us drove together to Houston to join Dignity/Houston for a screening of the film, *Pink Smoke Over the Vatican*. The welcome we received and the bonds we built (among ourselves and with the Houston group) made the long trip well worth it.

In March, we hosted our annual Palm Sunday Picnic, and were joined by many guests, including several members of Dignity/Houston who made the long trip to San Antonio. The picnic is an annual tradition for us, and as usual, it was a great day featuring lots of good food, fellowship, and liturgy.

On Saturday, April 6, we held our 3rd Biennial Art Show and Fundraiser. The art show represents both an opportunity to share something of ourselves with the San Antonio community, and to raise funds to provide scholarships for those going to the DignityUSA Convention. Artwork consisted of photography, woodwork, yard art, textiles, candles, mosaics, and other works. Refreshments were also donated which made for a very successful sale.

On Sunday, April 14, we hosted members of the Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians and Friends (GLEF) and Reconciling Works group (a Lutheran LGBT group) for a joint liturgy and potluck. We have gathered with GLEF before, but this was the first time we had gathered with Reconciling Works. It was wonderful to have a chance to gather with the larger

*Continued on page 6*
Body of Christ.

We are excited about what is happening in our community and we look forward to bringing that enthusiasm to the Convention this summer.

Updates from Dignity/San Antonio, continued from page 5

On March 26, the Court was slated to hear arguments in the California Proposition 8 case. The day began with an Interfaith Service held at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, located just a few blocks from the Supreme Court building. Called “A Prayer for Love & Justice,” members of all faiths attended in the spirit of love, hope, and equality. Several Dignity/Washington members participated, including Allen Rose, Dan Barutta, Eddie Weingart, Sr. Jeannine Gramick, Fr. Joseph Palacios, and Fr. Tim MacGeorge.

Several members of Dignity/Washington had the honor of being present at the very large demonstrations in support of same sex marriage rights at the U.S. Supreme Court on March 26 and 27. Notable aspects of the events were the broad age range, from students and interns in their early twenties to individuals in their sixties and seventies, and the very positive vibe among the attendees. That it was a pleasant, crisp spring day did not hurt the mood. Security was heavy, but friendly, and there were no physical clashes among different groups.

The service concluded with a march to the Supreme Court building where worshipers joined approximately 2,000 very positive LGBT individuals and allies with many creative, hand-made signs. At 10:00 there was a parade along the street in front of the Supreme Court building of approximately 1,000 opponents of marriage equality, most of whom had been bused down from New York City carrying printed signs. The two groups largely ignored each other. Once the parade was over, the LGBT presence continued until noon.

Continued on page 7
On March 27, the Justices heard arguments to determine whether the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is constitutional. There was a somewhat smaller, but equally enthusiastic, LGBT crowd of approximately 1,000, and very few individuals in support of the restrictive law. The crowd remained for a few hours until after the case was heard, and the attorneys/proponents for each side addressed the press and crowd.

Decisions on the cases are anticipated to be published in June.

Farewell Mass for Joseph Palacios, Dignity/Washington Presider and Member
By Henry Huot, Dignity/Washington Board member

Sunday, April 14, 2013, Father Joseph Palacios was presider and homilist at a Farewell Mass with Dignity/Washington, held at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church. Many of his friends and associates in his multi-faceted ministry to the DC area LGBT community participated and extended their well wishes, including those from Georgetown University, and Catholics for Equality, which he helped to found. Joe will assume a new ministry with the Spiritual Care Department of Clinical Services at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, California (just outside of Palm Springs) later this spring, primarily running groups, doing individual assessments, giving lectures, and undertaking strategic planning regarding US Latinos and Latin Americans. “The job integrates much of my past,” writes Joe, “and provides some great opportunities for research and innovative thinking regarding addiction and recovery.” The Mass was followed by a special social in the parish hall. Godspeed, Joe, and best wishes. You will be sorely missed.

Country Western Spring Fling Has Dignity/Washington Stomping
By Henry Huot, Dignity/Washington Board member

The Dignity/Washington community was treated to a superb evening through the generous efforts and hospitality of member Mike Malik at his home near Logan Circle on Saturday, April 20. The neighborhood resounded with the music of Country Western instructor and DJ Mary Anne who led the diverse crowd of young and old, beginning and advanced, in the Texas Two-Step and Country Western line dances. Everyone kicked up their heels, had fun, and enjoyed meeting new friends well into the night. Drinks and refreshments were also provided by Mike to the grateful partiers. The lessons of DJ Mary Anne were given in a spirit of fun, with ample but gentle humorous persuasion, much appreciated by even the most timid to get onto the dance floor.

In conjunction with the 2013 Convention, DignityUSA will be presenting Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit with the first “Risk-Taker and Justice-Maker” award!

See the award presentation and Bishop Gumbleton’s acceptance speech at the Convention.
SAFE TRAVELS!

During May, Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke will be traveling to Zug, Switzerland to present at the annual conference of the European Forum of LGBT Christian Organizations. Watch for her Facebook posts from this event at www.facebook.com/DignityUSA and for a report on the event in the June Dateline!

Vote for President, Vice President and three at-large Board members for a 2-year term that begins October 1, 2013.

Electronic ballots will be sent by May 15, and will be due in June.

Affirmation

In July 2013, we will gather in Minneapolis as Dignity to affirm who we are as LGBT people; as allies committed to justice; as Catholics committed to renewal of our faith and our Church; and as a people committed to justice and equality.

Let Justice Roll Like A River

Registration opens January 2013
Register early and save

Early rate: $295
First-timers: $265
Young Adults: $150

www.dignityusa.org

Transitions

In Memoriam:

Christopher McManus
Dignity/Washington member
February 13, 2013
Washington, D.C.

Joseph DeRoche
Dignity/Boston member
April 2, 2013

San Fernando Valley: 17
Northern Virginia: 21
Dignity/Integrity
Madison: 36
Dayton: 38
Detroit: 39
Philadelphia: 40
Chicago: 41
San Diego: 41