

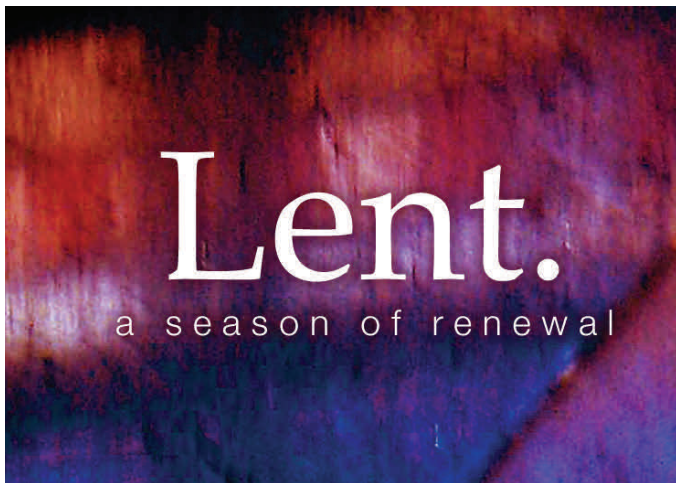
DignityUSA works for respect and justice for people of all sexual orientations, genders, and gender identities—especially gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons—in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy, and support.

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Lent: Prepare for the Resurrection

By Marianne Duddy-Burke, DignityUSA Executive Director



We are now well into our observance of the season of Lent. In recent weeks, I have given a great deal of thought to what this season means for us, at this point in our Church's history, and as we anticipate the Supreme Court's final ruling on nationwide marriage equality for same-sex couples.

It was my great honor to be asked to deliver some reflections for Dignity/Boston's Ash Wednesday liturgy. The core of these reflections was that it takes tremendous faith to believe in resurrection, as it is the most immense and incomprehensible mystery we ever face. For those of us living 21 centuries after the events of our

Gospels, Lent is about how we prepare for the deaths and resurrections in our own lives and communities. The Lenten practices of giving up some worldly temptation, fasting, alms-giving, and so forth are really ways of detaching from our current reality, priorities, and the illusion of control we so often carry, and creating the space and humility to be open to what is next. These 40 days are an opportunity to enter into the spiritual attitude that will allow us to truly prepare for the death and resurrection ahead. Because we do not know either what will come, or what it is we are called to become, we must trust in Divine love and mercy in the face of great risk. The work of Lent is to remind us that we are creatures, that we are not entirely directors of our own fate, and that every change in our lives is an opportunity to step closer to our ultimate purpose. We need God not because we are horrid sinners, but because we continually stand before the intertwined mysteries of life, death, and resurrection. It is by adopting humility, trust, and openness, the hallmarks of this spiritual season, that we make ourselves ready to embrace these great mysteries.

I offer these reflections in hope that they might help us navigate this period of hope and conflict. As a Church, we are about to mark the second anniversary of Francis' papacy. Through these last 24 months, he has received a great amount of attention from individuals, institutions, and the media across the globe, and has sparked numerous conversations about what our Church is and is becoming. At times, he seems on the very brink of courageously leading the Church to a new and Promised Land, and at others, he echoes stale, old teachings in more current language. It is unsettling, confusing, and exhausting. What does this mean for us as the community of Dignity? How are we to continue in faith and in truth in the midst of shifting

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sands? Is there a clear path forward? I believe that the intense focus on Catholicism and LGBT people is providing an unprecedented opportunity for us to get our message to an ever broader and more diverse audience, to help people in many countries understand our stories, and to see new possibilities for what a more just and inclusive Catholic Church looks like.

Socially, it is quite likely that within a matter of months, the U.S. Supreme Court could make marriage equality the law of the land. That would mark a legal shift and a change in the social status of same-sex couples that was unimaginable just a dozen years ago. It would be the most significant victory of the LGBT justice movement ever. For those of us whose advocacy is rooted in our faith, this new moment will call for new efforts, a new vision, and renewed focus. Will our new priority be transgender equality, women's equality, achieving sacramental recognition in the broader church? Will we retain the passion for full inclusion and equality? Will others be inspired to join our mission?

Radically transformative moments are ahead for us, individually and as a community. How will we respond? May we use the remainder of this sacred season of Lent to open ourselves for inspiration and guidance.

Gathering of Catholic Women



DignityUSA and the Women of Dignity welcome you to an afternoon of deep connection, ritual, and a spirited conversation with Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary

Yu. Justice Yu, the first lesbian and first Asian-American to serve on the Supreme Court, has a rich history as Director of the Office of Peace and Social Justice for the Archdiocese of Chicago, a trial judge, and a prosecutor. She will talk with us about her life, and her commitment to justice for all people.

Whether you are planning to attend the full DignityUSA Convention or can only come for this afternoon, please join us on Thursday, July 2, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm for this time of reflection, celebration, and prayer! Refreshments will be served.

Board Nominations Now Open

By Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues, DignityUSA President



Nominations for DignityUSA's National Board of Directors are now open. This is the time to decide if you want to take the opportunity to become a candidate to serve on the national Board.

If you have ever wondered if you wanted to become more involved in the governance of the organization, your time is now. Working at the national level will feed your passion for justice, will challenge your ability to think strategically about the work of a national organization and movement, and will reward you with a deep sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that the mission of DignityUSA is being carried out effectively and purposefully. We will use your time, talent, treasure, and expertise well.

This election cycle, the membership of DignityUSA will elect a President and Vice-President, running together as a gender-parity slate, and 3 Directors at large. Officers and Directors serve a two year term starting on October 1, 2015. Nominations may be submitted by the nominee or a third party, using the nomination form found at <https://www.dignityusa.org/webform/dignityusa-nomination-form>.

Nominations must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. For more information about serving on the Board of Directors, email nominations@dignityusa.org.

Please consider this call to serve DignityUSA.

DignityUSA Seeks Editor



DignityUSA is seeking an individual to serve as editor for Dignity's two publications: *Dateline* and *Quarterly Voice*. As editor, you will work closely with the Publications Committee Chair Leo Egashira, our proofreaders, and Marianne Duddy-Burke

to develop, format, and finalize the *Dateline* each month. This consists of receiving and reviewing all submissions, coordinating with the proofreaders to edit the submissions, developing the layout of the publication itself (to include finding appropriate stock photos for submissions when necessary), coordinating review and editing of the publication, making final changes, and sending the final draft to our Technology Services Manager. The *Quarterly Voice* is published (usually) on a quarterly basis, and the same job duties apply to the *QV*.

The time commitment for this volunteer position is between 6 and 8 hours a month, during the last two weeks of every month. For the months when both a *Dateline* and *QV* are published, the time commitment is around 12 hours.

This is a very rewarding position, and working with the team that puts the publications together is a joy. If you have a heart for writing/editing, are proficient in Microsoft Word and Publisher (or a similar publications software), and want to serve DignityUSA in a more direct role, this could be the opportunity for you. Previous experience developing and editing publications is helpful, but not required.

We are looking for someone to fill this position starting in May. Interested individuals should contact Leo Egashira at Legashira@yahoo.com

Convention 2015 Registration Open

General Registration for DignityUSA's 22nd Biennial Convention is now open! Have you registered yet? Register early to get the best rates.

Visit <http://conv2015.dignityusa.org/> for information about the program, exciting speakers, the hotel, commemorative logo items, and more. Read about the activities that will be offered before and after the convention. Be sure to reserve your spot at: [Convention 2015 All in One Registration Form](#).

If you pre-registered and paid the \$100 deposit in Minneapolis, look for the special Pre-Registration rate. Others can get our special **Early Registration** rate—but only through March, so act now! The All in One Registration Form will allow you to also register for the fundraising boat tour of Lake Union and Lake Washington (limited space - act now), and for the exciting trip to Tillicum Village on Sunday afternoon.

Our logo items can be found on a separate tab. Don't forget to go back after using the registration form to order your shirts and mugs. This year we will be giving out water bottles as an environmentally conscience move. But we know some of you will want a mug to add to your convention collection, so you can order one [here](#).

You will also find a link to the Renaissance Hotel on the convention website. Here you can make your reservations with a great convention rate. Make your reservations soon - especially if planning on extending your stay before or after the convention.

Can't wait to see you in Seattle.



Chapter/Caucus News

Dignity/ Washington News

Dignity/Washington Young Adults Host Mardi Gras Celebration



Dignity/Washington's young adult group hosted the third annual community celebration of Shrove Tuesday, February 17. Chapter members and friends of all ages were welcomed to the Dignity Center to enjoy pancakes, drinks, beads, and a 50-50 raffle to send some young adults to the DignityUSA Convention in Seattle this summer. The tradition of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday is an old English tradition in order to use up all fatty ingredients before fasting for Lent.

Roy Bourgeois Presented Public Lecture



Roy Bourgeois

On Saturday, February 28, Dignity/Washington's Guest Speaker Series was proud to host Roy Bourgeois who presented on his Peace, Justice, and Equality Journeys, at the Dignity Center.

Roy spent four years in the military and received a Purple Heart in Vietnam. In 2010 he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. A Catholic priest for forty years, he was expelled from the priesthood in 2012 because of his public support for the ordination of women.

With little more than the moral backing of his increasing number of supporters, Roy has waged, and continues to lead, battles for peace, for social justice against military oppression of the poor, and for the

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Roy Bourgeois Presented Public Lecture, continued from page 4

inclusion of women in full participation in the Catholic Church.

For more information, you might wish to visit www.soaw.org and www.roybourgeoisjourney.org, or read: 1) *Disturbing the Peace: The Story of Father Roy Bourgeois and the Movement to Close the School of the Americas*, by James Hodge and Linda Cooper with a Foreword by Martin Sheen; and 2) *My Journey From Silence to Solidarity; Why a Catholic Priest for 40 Years Was Expelled from the Priesthood*, by Roy Bourgeois.

Spring Retreat for Transgender People of Faith

Be one of ten Christian and/or Jewish transgender adults for a weekend of sharing and learning, solitude and community

Hear Bible stories through a "Queer" telling...learn methods for making decisions and sensing God's dream for you...affirm your name as a New Creation!

When: 5:00 pm Friday, April 17 - 11:30 am Sunday, April 19

Where: Windhover: 5635 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402

Given by: Dr. Laura Thor and "C.S."

Cost: \$150 including room & board

Contact Laura Thor, laurathor@me.com / 720-283-3933

Deadline to register: March 17th, 2015

Hosted by www.transenderspiritcounseling.com

The
Season
of
Lent



Transitions

Bernice Tanner

January 30, 2015

Mother of
Lewis Speaks-Tanner
and
Member of Dignity/New York

You will be missed