

Dignity/Seattle



35th Anniversary

1973—2008

History of the Chapter

DignityUSA Vision Statement

DignityUSA envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and society.

Dignity/Seattle Vision Statement

We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

DignityUSA Statement of Position & Purpose

We believe that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics in our diversity are members of Christ's mystical body, numbered among the People of God. We have an inherent dignity because God created us, Christ died for us, and the Holy Spirit sanctified us in Baptism, making us temples of the Spirit, and channels through which God's love becomes visible. Because of this, it is our right, our privilege, and our duty to live the sacramental life of the Church, so that we might become more powerful instruments of God's love working among all people.

We believe that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons can express their sexuality in a manner that is consonant with Christ's teaching. We believe that we can express our sexuality physically, in a unitive manner that is loving, life-giving, and life-affirming. We believe that all sexuality should be exercised in an ethically responsible and unselfish way.

Dignity is organized to unite gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics, as well as our families, friends and loved ones in order to develop leadership, and be an instrument through which we may be **heard by and promote reform in the Church.**

To be such an organization, we accept our responsibilities to the Church, to our Catholic heritage, to society, and to individual gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics.

1. **TO THE CHURCH:** We work for the development of sexual theology leading to the reform of its teachings and practices regarding human sexuality, and for the acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender peoples as full and equal members of the one Christ.
2. **TO SOCIETY:** We work for justice and equality through education and by supporting social and legal reforms.
3. **TO INDIVIDUAL GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CATHOLICS:** We reinforce their sense of self-acceptance and dignity and encourage full participation in the life of the Church and society.

(continued on inside back cover)



October 18, 2008

Dignity/Seattle
P.O. Box 20325
Seattle, WA 98102

Dear Members of Dignity/Seattle,

On behalf of the DignityUSA Board of Directors, I want to express our tremendous pride as you celebrate your 35th anniversary of ministry to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholic community in the Seattle area. Congratulations on this very important milestone!

Throughout your history, you have served as a beacon of hope and transformation for thousands of people seeking spiritual solace, reconciliation, and a way to integrate their spirituality and sexual identity. You have provided community and challenge, hospitality and home, faith and forgiveness for a few weeks, a few years, or the significant part of a lifetime. You have demonstrated courage and a commitment to truth and freedom when offered a compromise that would have required you to deny the fullness of your lives and love. You have been faithful stewards of the Gospel.

DignityUSA also celebrates the many, many contributions you have made to our national movement. The 1983 national Convention you hosted remains a spiritual high point for our members who were graced to participate, and, I believe, provided a sense of public affirmation that inspired us to rise to the challenges that came not too long afterwards. You have given us some of our finest national officers: President Pat Roche, who taught us how to run a national organization according to professional business standards while retaining our spiritual values, and Secretary Paula Lavalley, who stretched herself far beyond the typical duties of her office to ensure that our Austin convention was an experience of joy and rebirth for all who attended. We are also grateful to those who have served as national directors, including P.J. Devino, Pat Roche, John Rochford, John Peterson, and Leo Egashira, who, in his current role as Director of Publications, makes certain that our members and general public are kept up to date on all that we do, and who has set a very high standard for us to meet month after month.

On this fantastic occasion, we celebrate all you have achieved, and wish you 35 more years of proactive, affirming ministry.
In Christ,

Marianne Duddy-Burke

Marianne Duddy-Burke
Executive Director

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Historical Highlights 1973—2008

1969

Dignity Inc. is founded by an Augustinian priest, Father Pat Nidorf, in San Diego.

1971-1972

Six individuals from the Seattle-Tacoma area (five men and a woman named Frances) join Dignity by mail on their own.

1973

Dignity Inc. contacts the six members to ask them if they would be willing to meet one another to discuss the possibility of forming an official chapter-in-formation in Seattle.

In December, Dignity/Seattle officially becomes a chapter-in-formation after the six members gather together at Donal "Dan" Harrington's home in the University District. Dan was the first person to join Dignity from this area and is considered our chapter's founder.

1974

Chapter members meet in individual homes for potlucks with from two to eight in attendance. Don Greyner acts as General Chairman of the group.

1975

Chapter meetings move to the Seattle Gay Center on Capitol Hill. Father Kirby Brown becomes the first official chaplain of Dignity/Seattle. Ron Weekes becomes the first elected President, and a Dialogue and Development Committee is formed to oversee chapter affairs.

On February 25, Raymond Hunthausen is appointed Archbishop of Seattle.

Six chapter members attend Easter Vigil Services at St. James Cathedral and, as an official Dignity group, greet Archbishop Hunthausen after the Mass.

On November 23, a group of members attends a regular parish Mass at Sacred Heart Church near the Seattle Center. It is the Feast of Christ the King, which later becomes the chapter's official Feast Day.

1976

In the spring, several members meet with Archbishop Hunthausen in his office to discuss issues affecting gays and lesbians in the Archdiocese.

In July, Dignity/Seattle begins to sponsor monthly masses on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church at the foot of Queen Anne Hill – first in the social room and later, as the group grows in size, in the church itself.

1977-1978

Dignity continues to meet monthly at Sacred Heart Church. Other activities include monthly rap sessions, home liturgies and potlucks.

In November, 1977, P.J. DeVino hosts the chapter at his home for the first annual Thanksgiving Day potluck. This begins a chapter tradition which lasts over twenty years. (After P.J. died, Robby Robinson/Andy Johnson continued this wonderful holiday tradition.)

1979

On April 18, the chapter holds an Open House for Paul Weidig, National President of Dignity/USA.

On October 20-21, Dignity/Seattle participates in two workshops at the Washington State Religious Conference in Yakima: "Growing up Gay and Catholic" and "What Do You Say after I Say I'm Gay?"

On December 31, George Lucas hosts the chapter at his home for his first annual New Year's Eve Potluck – a tradition which continued for 25 years!

1980

In November, Dignity/Seattle sponsored masses relocate to St. Joseph Church on Capitol Hill and are held weekly at 4:00 p.m., first in the convent, and then in the vestibule, and finally in the church itself.

1981

On March 14, Dignity/Seattle sponsors an all-day spiritual workshop at St. Mary's Church entitled: "Growth of the Gay Spiritual Person." Participants include members of Dignity/Portland and Dignity/Vancouver, B.C.

On July 25, Dignity/Seattle helps St. Mary's Parish put on its "Steeple People Arts Fest" as part of an effort by the chapter to become more involved in the Seattle Archdiocese.

The August issue of the Dignity/Seattle newsletter reports that in a little less than a year, membership in the chapter has grown from 30 to 80.

On August 22-23, chapter members sail to Victoria, B.C. on the Princess Marguerite.

In September, at the Fifth Biennial convention of Dignity/USA in Philadelphia, Region X and Dignity/Seattle propose to host the 1983 Dignity/USA convention in Seattle. Their proposal is unanimously approved by the House of Delegates.

In October, results of a contest to design a Dignity/Seattle logo and to pick a Feast Day for the chapter are announced. Christ the King becomes the Feast Day, and the new logo begins to appear on the masthead of the chapter newsletter.

On October 2, a liturgy and potluck are held in Tacoma in an attempt to start a local chapter there.

On November 22, the chapter holds its first Feast Day celebration at St. Joseph's Social Hall.

1982

On February 12-14, the chapter sponsors a retreat at Camp Brotherhood in Arlington.

In March, Kirby Brown resigns as chaplain to Dignity/Seattle after six years to go to Peru as a Maryknoll missionary.

On May 28-31, Dignity hosts a camping trip to Kalaloch on the Olympic Peninsula.

On June 19, Dignity participates in the Pride Parade.

On November 21, the annual Feast Day celebration is held at St. Patrick Church.

1983

On February 20, the chapter hosts a local doctor in the vestibule of the church after Mass to talk about Hepatitis B and AIDS. The following paragraph about

he disease appears in the February issue of the chapter newsletter:

"The reported number of cases has exploded five fold to over 600 nationally in 1982. AIDS seems to strike at gay males with alarming frequency. Its cause is still under research and is subject to debate, but current opinions point to something like a virus which MAY be transmitted sexually."

On April 28, the Washington State Catholic Conference Theological Commission publishes "The Prejudice Against Homosexuals and the Ministry of the Church." This document is viewed by many as being one of the most progressive and enlightened discussions of homosexuality ever published by the Catholic Church in America.

Over Labor Day weekend, Dignity/Seattle and Region X host the Sixth Biennial Dignity/USA convention at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel on Fifth and Pike. The theme of the convention is "Let us Build a City of God." Muggs Regan and Bill Treloar are convention co-chairs. Archbishop Hunthausen welcomes the convention delegates by video at the Opening Ceremony. Delegates are also welcomed by Seattle Mayor, Charles Royer; King County Executive, Randy Revelle; Father John McNeill; and Charles Brydon, local gay activist. Pat Roche is the convention emcee.

On September 3 (Saturday evening), over 1200 gays and lesbians from all over the United States and abroad attend Mass at St. James Cathedral. The presider is Dignity/Seattle chaplain, Father C.V. "Pete" Peterson. The convention theme song "City of God" is sung as a joyous conclusion to the Mass and becomes, from then on, the official anthem of Dignity/USA. The Seattle Men's Chorus also sings at the Mass. A small group of protestors appears outside the Cathedral during the Mass and a full page ad appears in the Saturday edition of the Seattle Times condemning Archbishop Hunthausen for sending a welcome to the convention and for his decision to let the conventioners use St. James Cathedral.

In October, Archbishop Hunthausen announces that Archbishop James Hickey of Washington DC will make an "apostolic visitation" to the Archdiocese of Seattle at the request of the Vatican in response to criticisms of his ministry. The Archbishop says he welcomes the visit because he is "convinced that our efforts here .. are in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Second Vatican Council."

In November, Archbishop Hickey pays a six day visit to Seattle.

On November 20, Dignity celebrates its annual Christ the King Feast Day at St. Anne's Church on Queen Anne Hill.

1984

On April 14, a Day of Recollection for the chapter is held at Lake Burien.

On June 22, Dignity and MCC co-sponsor an interfaith seminar on "Our Awakening Spirituality" as part of Gay Pride Week.

In August Jerry Roling hosts his first "Dignity Appreciation Dinner," an event which occurs annually for the next decade.

In November, Dignity/Seattle begins providing a meal on the first Thursday of each month at the Orion Center, a multi-service center for street kids, at 1920 Terry.

On the weekend of November 17-18, a Feast Day celebration is held at St. Joseph Church. At a gala dinner-dance, Dan Harrington is honored as the founder of Dignity/Seattle.

1985

In August, the Catholic AIDS Spiritual Ministry (CASM) - later renamed "Journey" - is begun by Dignity to respond to the great need for spiritual support for persons with AIDS. Over the next five years, some 35 men and women receive training from CASM/Journey coordinator, Judy Vitzthum, and begin to provide one-on-one spiritual support and companionship to PWAs.

On September 30, Cardinal Ratzinger of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome raises a number of "issues of concern" in a letter to the Archdiocese of Seattle. Among the issues identified in the letter is that of "ministry to homosexuals."

On November 25, Archbishop Hunthausen announces he has been told that the "apostolic visitation" begun in 1983 has been concluded and is considered closed, noting that while his pastoral ministry has been affirmed, there are also areas of concern.

In December, Donald Wuerl, a priest of the diocese of Pittsburgh, is appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle by the Vatican.

1986

In May, conflict between Archbishop Hunthausen and Auxiliary Bishop Wuerl comes to a head when Archbishop Hunthausen wants the Archdiocese to support a proposed county ordinance that would protect the job rights of minorities, including gays and lesbians, and Bishop Wuerl dissents. Bishop Wuerl states

that he has been given “special faculties” by the Vatican. Archbishop Hunthausen seeks clarification from Rome.

In June, the chapter participates in Pride Week by sponsoring an Interfaith Prayer Service, a booth at the Pride Festival and by marching in the parade.

In August, the chapter hosts the first annual Interfaith Potluck-Picnic at Seward Park.

In September, Archbishop Hunthausen announces that the Vatican has given final authority to Bishop Wuerl in five key areas of ministry including ministry to homosexuals. A statement signed by 140 priests and nuns denounces the Vatican’s “unwarranted intervention” in the affairs of the local church. A petition is also signed by 13,500 Catholics demanding Archbishop Hunthausen’s complete and full authority be reinstated.

In October, new by-laws go into effect which creates a seven member Board of Directors for Dignity/Seattle. Under the new structure, Directors are elected by the membership and elect officers from among themselves.

On October 10-12, Dignity/Seattle hosts a retreat at the Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal.

On October 31, Cardinal Ratzinger publishes a “Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons.”

1987

In February, the Vatican appoints an “apostolic commission” comprised of Cardinal Joseph Bernadin of Chicago, Cardinal John O’Connor of New York and Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco, to assess “the Seattle situation.”

On February 15, Father Peter Byrne, Pastor of St. Joseph’s, writes in the parish bulletin, that he and Bishop Wuerl “had a beginning conversation about the 7:30 (Dignity) Sunday Mass, a conversation that will continue with many other people in the near future.”

On April 21, Bishop Wuerl meets with seven members of the Dignity/Seattle Board and seven priests who say Mass for Dignity to discuss the future of the Sunday Mass at St. Joseph.

On April 23, a front page article in the Seattle P-I is erroneously headlined: “Mass by Gays is Cancelled: Wuerl Orders Halt to Sponsored Services.” The afternoon edition of the Seattle Times has a headline: “Archdiocese Denies Bishop Cancelled Mass for Gays.”

In May, acting on the Apostolic Commission's recommendation, the Vatican restores Archbishop Hunthausen full authority, transfers Bishop Wuerl to Pittsburgh, and appoints Bishop Thomas J. Murphy of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, as Coadjutor Archbishop of Seattle with right of succession. The Apostolic Commission will continue its assessment of the archdiocese for one year.

In July, at its convention in Miami, Dignity/USA incorporates into its Statement of Position and Purpose a sentence which officially honors same-sex relationships. The sentence says: "We believe that we can practice our sexuality physically in a unitive manner that is loving, life giving and life affirming."

On November 6-8, the Women of Dignity hold a retreat at Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic Worker Retreat Center, in Chehalis.

1988

Throughout the spring, Dignity/Seattle leaders meet with Archbishops Hunthausen and Murphy to discuss the future of the Dignity-sponsored Mass at St. Joseph. Many Dignity chapters have been evicted from Church property across the country as a result of the 1986 Vatican Letter from Cardinal Ratzinger and the CDF, and things are coming to a head in Seattle.

In the June issue of the National Catholic Reporter, Jim Jorgenson, associate pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Renton and a minister to Dignity/Seattle, publicly discloses his sexual orientation. Much local publicity follows and Jim takes an indefinite leave of absence from the priesthood to work with PWAs.

On June 21, Dignity/Seattle founder, Dan Harrington, dies.

On July 1, the Archdiocese of Seattle announces that Father Jerry Stanley, pastor of St. Edward's Church, is being appointed coordinator of a new Archdiocesan Catholic Gay/Lesbian Ministry (ACGLM) which will take over sponsorship of the Sunday evening Mass at St. Joseph on July 17. The Dignity/Seattle Board, after a series of meetings with the membership, votes to reaffirm Dignity/USA's Statement of Position and Purpose and to neither endorse nor officially cooperate with the ACGLM Mass. The Board also decides not to sponsor a regular weekly Mass and to leave it up to each individual member as to whether he or she will attend the ACGLM Mass.

On July 10, Dignity/Seattle sponsors an Exodus Mass at St. Joseph. Three hundred people attend and the Seattle Men's Chorus sings. The Mass concludes with a final singing of "City of God," Dignity/USA's anthem, which was the theme song of the 1983 Seattle convention. After Mass, there is a quiet procession to carry the chapter banner and other materials to our new temporary meeting site – Prospect Congregational Church on 20th and Prospect.

On July 17th, the first ACGLM Mass is concelebrated at St. Joseph by Archbish-

ops Hunthausen and Murphy.

On July 21, The Catholic Northwest Progress outlines the role of a new Archdiocesan AIDS Ministry Team composed of Father Ward Oakshott and Judy Vitzthum, both longtime active members of Dignity/Seattle. The October chapter newsletter reports a 26% drop in Dignity membership, from 115 to 85 as a result of the turmoil of the past year.

On October 22, Dignity celebrates its annual Feast Day at Lakeside School.

In October, the last of five meetings is held between the Apostolic Commission and Archbishops Hunthausen and Murphy, in which they identified issues of Vatican concern, formalized a response and developed means to implement the response.

On December 18, the chapter holds its first annual Christmas Dessert and Hors d'oeuvres Potluck.

On December 31, George Lucas hosts the 10th Annual New Year's Eve Potluck at his home.

1989

On January 28, P.J. DeVino hosts a Dignity Tupperware Party.

In February, Mary Praught and Diego Cabrera host the first of a series of Lenten Faith Sharing Group meetings which continue every Wednesday during Lent.

On April 11, the Vatican's U.S. representative, Archbishop Pio Laghi, issues a two-paragraph statement officially terminating the Apostolic Commission's review of the Seattle Archdiocese.

On May 13, a Spring Dinner/Dance is held at the Mountaineers Club.

On June 24, the first Pride Week breakfast is held at Central Lutheran Church. Nearly 200 attend with proceeds donated to charities and AIDS social service agencies.

On August 31, Pat Roche is elected national President of Dignity/USA at the Ninth Biennial Convention in San Francisco. Pat is the first Dignity/USA President from the Pacific Northwest.

On September 30, Dignity/Seattle sponsors a lecture at the Broadway Performance Hall by Father John McNeill, author of The Church and the Homosexual (1976) and co-founder of Dignity/New York.

On October 31, Maureen McVicker and Debbie Calder host their first annual Dignity Halloween Party.

On November 9, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issue a statement entitled "Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis." The Archdiocesan AIDS Ministry Team subsequently resigns to protest the official church's lack of support for people living with AIDS.

On December 17, Archbishop Hunthausen holds a two-hour listening session after the ACGLM Sunday liturgy at St. Joseph to hear people share their concerns about the bishops' AIDS statement and the Archdiocese of Seattle's response to the document.

1990

On January 24, Dignity/Seattle members Father Bill Heric and Pat Roche testify in Olympia in favor of the statewide Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Bill.

In April, the chapter starts a series of "Fourth Friday" gatherings at Central Lutheran Church to discuss issues of special interest to gays and lesbians.

On May 19, the annual Spring Dinner/Dance is held at Central Lutheran.

In June, Dignity has a booth at the Pride Festival, sponsors the 2nd Annual Pride Week Breakfast with \$850 in proceeds to the Multifaith AIDS Project of Seattle, and marches in the Pride Parade.

On July 8, Father Peter Byrne, Pastor of St. Joseph's from 1984-90 is given a rousing farewell at the Sunday liturgy in thanksgiving for his strong support of Dignity and ACGLM during his tenure at St. Joseph's.

Saying that values should guide how Catholics vote on Initiative 35 (a proposal to repeal the City of Seattle's domestic partnership ordinance), the Archdiocese of Seattle refuses to take a public stand pro or con. Father Jerry Stanley, ACGLM and Dignity/Seattle all publicly oppose the initiative. On September 8, Dignity holds a Benefit Dance and Rummage Sale with dance proceeds going to the "No on 35" campaign.

On October 20, Dignity/Seattle celebrates its annual Feast Day (St. Luke is now our patron saint according to the newsletter) with a Mass and potluck at Central Lutheran Church. Pat Roche, Dignity/USA President, is the guest speaker.

1991

In February, a new chapter brochure is approved by the Board and published. It

is to be used as a handout to new and prospective members to explain Dignity/Seattle's history, mission and goals.

On April 20, Dignity/Seattle's Spring Dinner Dance/Potluck is held at Central Lutheran Church.

On April 22, former Dignity/Seattle President, Ed Elliott, who prayerfully guided the chapter during the turmoil of the transition from the Dignity sponsored Mass at St. Joseph to ACGLM, dies.

In June, the chapter participates in Pride Week by sponsoring an Interfaith Celebration; having a booth at the Pride Festival; marching in the Pride Parade and hosting the 3rd Annual Pride Week Breakfast. Proceeds of \$1600 from the breakfast are donated to the Multifaith AIDS Project of Seattle.

On August 18, Archbishop Murphy celebrates the ACGLM Sunday Mass and assures the community he will continue the sensitive and compassionate ministry to gays and lesbians in Seattle undertaken by Archbishop Hunthausen.

On August 21, his 70th birthday, Archbishop Hunthausen retires.

In September, Dignity/Seattle newsletter editors (Leo Egashira, Janice Van Cleve and Ken Van Dyke) receive an award for the "best chapter newsletter in the country" at the Tenth Biennial convention of Dignity/USA in Washington, DC.

In September, the Dignity Team raises \$3986 in the Northwest AIDS Foundation's "All Walks of Life" event.

On October 5, ACGLM starts a twice monthly liturgy in Tacoma at St. Leo Church with 41 people in attendance.

On October 19, the Annual Feast Day celebration and dance is held at Central Lutheran.

In December, chapter members volunteer to help Providence Regina House prepare holiday baskets for those in need.

1992

On January 2, the Catholic Northwest Progress runs an article on "Women with AIDS" which profiles longtime Dignity member and former chapter newsletter editor, Kass Anderton.

On January 18, the Interfaith Council holds a "Celebration of Light" at Central Lutheran Church which is attended by many Dignity members.

In February, the chapter inaugurates a new "couples membership" fee.

On March 1, the chapter celebrates International Women's Day with University Christian Church minister, Dale Kelly, as guest homilist.

On April 25, the annual Spring Dinner Dance is held at Central Lutheran.

On May 7, Mark Richards (ACGLM) and Pat Roche (Dignity) hold a forum at St. Patrick Church to update the community on New Ways Ministry's Third National Symposium on Gays and Lesbians and Catholicism which was held in Chicago in March. (Pat and Mark appeared on a panel at the Symposium.)

On June 25, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops forwards a Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith document entitled "Some Considerations Concerning the Catholic Response to Legislative Proposals on the Non-Discrimination of Homosexual Persons" to the U.S. Bishops. The statement urges bishops to oppose gay/lesbian civil rights laws.

In June, the chapter participates in Pride Week by sponsoring an Interfaith Service; having a booth at the Pride Festival; marching in the Pride Parade with ACGLM; and hosting the 4th Annual Pride Week breakfast. Proceeds of \$1800 from the breakfast are donated to the Multifaith AIDS Project of Seattle.

On July 26, Dignity/Seattle and ACGLM organize one of the first and most vigorous protests in the country against the Vatican Document on the steps of St. James Cathedral. The chapter also undertakes a letter writing campaign to Archbishop Murphy and gathers 200 signatures for a New Ways Ministry petition which is later presented to the bishops at their November meeting in Washington, D.C.

On October 17, the chapter Feast Day Celebration is held at John Reeder's Greenwood Hall with Dignity/USA President, Kevin Calegari, as the guest speaker.

On October 22, P.J. DeVino, first President of Region X and longtime regional and chapter activist, dies.

On November 8, Archbishop Murphy celebrates the ACGLM Mass.

1993

On March 2, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), the lobbying arm of the Seattle, Spokane and Yakima dioceses, testifies in Olympia against the passage of House Bill 1443, which would grant civil rights protections on the basis of sexual orientation. Many consider the WSCC statement blatantly homophobic and a fundamental attack against the principles of the Archdiocesan Ministry to Gays and Lesbians (ACGLM).

On March 3, Archbishop Murphy supports the WSCC position in a Press Release.

On March 6, the ACGLM Steering Committee meets with Archbishop Murphy.

On March 14, the ACGLM Steering Committee issues a public statement urging passage of HB 1443. On March 21, the Dignity/Seattle Board issues a Press Release supporting HB 1443.

On March 26, the Seattle Deanery, an official division of the Archdiocese, calls on Archbishop Murphy to “reject publicly and explicitly” the offensive parts of the March 2 WSCC statement.

On March 26, in Olympia, 67 nuns from various orders voice their support for passage of HB 1443 at State Senate hearings.

On April 18, a joint statement is issued by ACGLM and Dignity/Seattle. The statement asserts that the WSCC testimony has so undermined the basic rationale of ACGLM that it can no longer effectively sponsor the weekly 7:30 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph. ACGLM will, however, reassess its own goals and programs and remain an official ministry of the Archdiocese.

On April 25, Dignity/Seattle resumes sponsorship of the Sunday evening Mass at St. Joseph with an agreement to begin a study of the question of sponsorship along with the help of ACGLM and all interested parties, to come to an understanding of this question which is faithful to all of the needs and aims of the Catholic gay/lesbian community, including Dignity, and which will at the same time be able to be accepted by the Archdiocese.

In June, the chapter participates in Pride Week by hosting the 5th Annual Pride Week Breakfast which nets \$1900 for the Multi-Faith AIDS Project of Seattle. Dignity and ACGLM again march together in the Pride Parade with 44 people participating.

On July 19, “Dignity Forums” are launched to replace “Fourth Fridays.”

In July, Dignity/Seattle Newsletter Editors (Leo Egashira and Janice Van Cleve) receive a second consecutive award for “best chapter newsletter in the country” at the 11th Biennial Dignity/USA Convention in New Orleans.

On August 7, Jerry Roling hosts his Tenth Annual Dignity Appreciation Party.

On October 1, Dignity Region X merges with Region IX to become the “Pacific Region.” Patty Ferris is the new Area Coordinator from Dignity/Seattle.

On October 15, approximately 100 members and guests celebrate Dignity/Seattle’s 10th Anniversary at a gala Dinner/Dance at Salty’s Restaurant on Alki. Dignity/USA Past President, Kevin Calegari, is the guest speaker. Attendees

include current and past chapter chaplains and present and former regional leaders from Portland and Vancouver, B.C.

Throughout 1993, the chapter's commitment to inclusivity is evidenced by having American Sign Language interpreters for the hearing-impaired at chapter services. Alternative liturgies for women in our community are also offered on a regular basis. The chapter also continues its outreach program through an ongoing sacrificial giving program which provides monetary support to a wide variety of community service organizations.

1994

In January, the Archdiocese informally assures the Catholic Gay/Lesbian community that it will remain neutral in its stance toward the statewide Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The bill passes the House of Representatives and goes to the Senate.

On February 17, the Washington State Catholic Conference, representing the three Washington State Bishops, distributes a letter to Senators opposing the Civil Rights Bill.

In late February, leaders from Dignity/Seattle spearhead the formation of Catholics for Civil Rights, a broad based coalition of Catholic groups and individuals who support civil rights for gays and lesbians. CCR holds meetings and directs a letter-writing and lobbying campaign for passage of the bill.

On March 4, the bill fails to make it out of the Senate Rules Committee although an informal headcount indicates the bill has 24 of the 25 votes needed for passage.

On March 13, CCR holds a large protest rally on the steps of St. James Cathedral to officially protest the role the Washington State Catholic Conference played in defeating the bill. Speakers include Sister Eileen DeLong, a 20-year veteran in the fight for lesbian and gay rights; Ed Murray, President of the Privacy Fund; Sister Andrea Nenzel, former provincial of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace; Marilyn Cass, an active member of PFLAG; Jerry Deas, director of the Pacific Region, Fernando Macias, President of Dignity/Seattle and Pat Roche, Past President of Dignity/USA.

On April 16-17, Dignity/Seattle hosts a meeting attended by 22 members of the Pacific Region House of Delegates at Plymouth Congregational Church. On Saturday evening, the delegates (including 19 from out of state) join Dignity/Seattle members at the annual Spring Dinner/Dance.

In June, the 6th Annual Pride Breakfast raises \$1450 for the Multifaith AIDS Project of Seattle

On July 17, the chapter sponsors a Family Picnic at Seward Park.
The July issue of the newsletter indicates that the chapter has 92 members.

On December 1, Dignity/Seattle sponsors a World AIDS Day liturgy at St. Joseph's attended by over 50 people as part of a larger commemoration by churches throughout Western Washington to commemorate the 14th year of the AIDS crisis.

1995

On February 21, Dignity/Seattle and Metropolitan Community Church co-sponsor a talk by noted author-psychotherapist, John McNeill, at Central Lutheran Church. The talk is attended by an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 100 people.

On April 8, Mary Praught, a long-time member of Dignity/Seattle dies.

On April 21, a Farewell Social/Dinner is held at St. Joseph's to honor Father Jerry Stanley for his seven years of service to the gay/lesbian faith community as director of the Archdiocesan Gay/Lesbian Ministry.

On May 30, Sister Eileen DeLong, a member of Dignity/Seattle since 1984 and known across the country for her presence among and outspoken support for gays and lesbians, dies. Approximately 300 people, including many Dignity members, attend a celebration of her life and ministry at Christ the King Church in Seattle.

In June, the chapter celebrates Pride Week by participating in both the Seattle and Portland Parades; staffing a booth at the Pride Festival; and sponsoring the 7th Annual Pride Week Breakfast to benefit AIDS and breast cancer service organizations.

In August, Cal Anderson, Washington's first openly gay State Senator, dies. Father Michael Ryan, pastor of St. James and a vocal supporter of justice for gays and lesbians, presides at a funeral Mass for Cal at the Cathedral which is attended by an overflowing crowd of mourners.

1996

In the spring, a series of articles in the newsletter address Dignity/Seattle's mission and vision particularly as it relates to sponsorship of the Sunday evening Mass at St. Joseph's. During the month of May, the chapter surveys the faith community at St. Joseph to determine future direction.

In June, the chapter participates in Pride Week by marching the Parade, staffing a booth at the Gay/Lesbian Pride Rally and hosting the 8th Annual Pride

Week Breakfast benefiting the Multifaith AIDS Project and the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project.

On July 9, a Town Meeting on "Building our Faith Community" is held at Central Lutheran to address the many issues raised in the survey conducted to determine future direction of the chapter.

On September 13, members of the chapter "Do the Puyallup" by attending the Western Washington State Fair.

On September 22, a team of marchers from the chapter participate in the annual Northwest AIDS Walk and raises over \$1000 for AIDS-related social service agencies.

On October 12 and October 20, emergency meetings are held as nobody volunteers to be on the chapter Board for the 1996-97 term. As a result of these meetings, seven people expressed willingness to help the chapter and take responsibility for its stewardship and serve as Board Members for the upcoming year.

In December, the chapter conducts a Food Drive to benefit the Chicken Soup Brigade and a Christmas Craft Sale to support the chapter. The chapter also sponsors a series of Gospel Study Meetings during Advent before the Sunday evening Masses and sends Christmas Cards from the Board to all Dignity/Seattle members.

1997

On January 18, the chapter hosts a free, catered Dinner/Dance for all members/guests at Central Lutheran Church. Caterers are Tom & Cherie Schwartz and Paula Lavalley & Tish Charette.

On February 27, Kass Anderton, former Dignity/Seattle Newsletter Editor and founder of BABES, a support group for women with HIV/AIDS, dies.

In June, Dignity raises \$2000 at the 9th annual Pride Week Breakfast to benefit the Multifaith AIDS Project of Seattle and the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project.

On June 26, Archbishop Thomas Murphy dies. Funeral services are held at St. James Cathedral on July 3.

On September 28, a joint team from Dignity/Seattle and St. Joseph's Parish raise \$2500 marching in the annual Northwest AIDS Walk.

In October, Marilyn Cass, long active with PFLAG and a strong chapter supporter, forms a Catholic Parents Support Group, which holds monthly meetings at St. Benedict's in Seattle.

On October 25, the chapter sponsors a Women's Appreciation Dinner to honor the women of Dignity for their contributions to the chapter.

In the November election, the Washington State Catholic Conference of Bishops join with mainline Protestant leaders and speak out strongly in support of I-677 which would ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Social Events in 1997 include an April Pool/Potluck Party, a May Roller Skating Night at Skate King in Bellevue, an August Garage Sale, an October Tupperware Party and the annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and New Years Eve Party.

In December, the chapter sponsors an Advent Reflection Group prior to Sunday evening Masses.

On December 4, Maureen McVicker, former Dignity/Seattle President (1989-90) and member of the 1983 Dignity/USA Convention Committee, dies.

Throughout the year, Dignity/Seattle continues its Sacrificial Giving program to worthy community organizations and causes. Recipients include The Dignity/USA Eileen DeLong Memorial Fund; Providence Hospitality House; AIDS Housing of Washington; Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities; Positive Solutions (Disability Counseling); St. Joseph's Baby Corner; and Catholic AIDS Ministry.

1998

In January, the chapter begins a series of small faith-sharing groups before Sunday evening Masses to provide an additional means for spiritual growth of its members.

On February 7, many Dignity/Seattle members attend a reception for Sister Bea LaFramboise, recipient of the Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen Humanitarian Award for her work with homeless women and children and persons with AIDS.

On April 3-5, over 20 out-of-town delegates gather in Seattle for a meeting of the Pacific Region House of Delegates hosted by Dignity/Seattle.

On April 4, over 100 people attend Dignity/Seattle's 25th Silver Anniversary celebration at Latitude 47 on Lake Union. Dignity/USA President, Bob Mialovich, is in attendance and accepts a chapter gift to the national organization of \$1000. Dignity/Seattle President, Jim Weston, sums up this chapter milestone in the chapter newsletter by writing: "Twenty five years is a milestone. In these times where change happens so fast; things come and go, and are in 'fashion' one minute and gone the next, this longevity is a testament to Dignity/Seattle's ability to meet the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in a caring, responsible, responsive way. We have been here over the

years for literally thousands of persons who were and are willing to explore who they are within a Christian context. Whether just coming out, returning to the Church after many years away or investigating the Catholic Church among other faiths, we've offered a place for people to feel accepted and comfortable."

In June, the chapter marches in the Pride Parade and raises \$2025 at the 10th Annual Pride Week Breakfast to benefit the Multifaith AIDS Project and the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project.

On September 27, Scott Feest organizes a joint team from Dignity/Seattle and St. Joseph's Parish called "The Roamin' Catholics" to march in the annual AIDS Walk. Over \$7900 is raised by the team for the Northwest AIDS Foundation.

On the last Sunday of September, outgoing Music Director, Patrick O'Hogan, is recognized with a gift and a cake for his seven years of faithful service to our worshipping committee.

In November, Richard Lannon, Director of Music Ministry, wins \$100 in a contest to design a new logo for the chapter.

In December, a series of Faith Sharing Group meetings are held before Sunday Masses in Advent.

On December 30, ACGLM does a mass mailing to all priests, deacons and ministers of the Archdiocese of Seattle. The mailing includes a copy of the ACGLM mission statement; a new brochure approved by Archbishop Brunett explaining the ministry; a flier for an upcoming educational series for Gay and Lesbian Catholics, their family and friends; and a request to all parishes to announce the educational series and the monthly meetings of the Catholic Parents Support Group at St. Benedict's in their weekly bulletins.

On December 31, George Lucas Hosts the 20th Annual New Years Eve Potluck at his home.

Social Activities for 1998 include a series of Women's Potlucks; a Spaghetti Dinner and Dance in January attended by over 70 people; a cross country ski trip in February; a Summer Pool Party and Potluck in August; a "Joy to the World" Christmas Party in December.

Sacrificial Giving in 1998 by the chapter reaches up to 50% of monthly collections after expenses. Worthy community organizations who receive gifts from Dignity/Seattle throughout the year include: the Orion Center; Pilgrim Congregational Church Referral and Resource Center; Rosehedge (AIDS housing and health care); Friends for Life Society (Provides empowerment tools for people with life-threatening illnesses, their families, friends and caregivers); Lambert House; Gay City Health Project; PFLAG Seattle; Regina House; St. Martin de Porres Shelter; St. Joseph Parish for a new sound system; and Positive Solutions.

1999

In January, the new chapter logo celebrating God, Church and Community appears on the chapter newsletter.

On March 9, Muggs Regan, longtime chapter member and Co-Chair of the 1983 Seattle Convention of Dignity/USA dies.

On April 10, the Dignity/Seattle by-laws are updated and amended.

In May, newly designed Dignity/Seattle membership brochures are printed and distributed.

On May 23, the chapter honors Roger Berger for over seven years off service as our piano accompanist.

In June, a record \$2218 is raised at the 11th Annual Pride Week Breakfast and divided between Multifaith Works and the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project.

In August, the chapter newsletter has a special four page insert on "The Silencing of Sister Jeannine Grammick and Father Bob Nugent."

In September, ACGLM begins sponsoring in-service sessions for all pastoral ministers in the Archdiocese covering the Church's teaching and pastoral practice regarding gay and lesbian persons, stories of gay and lesbian Catholics' desire to practice their faith and an opportunity for interaction and questions and answers. The sessions take place over the following months in each of the Archdiocese's ten geographic deaneries.

On September 2, Archbishop Brunett outlines the scope of the Archdiocesan Ministry to Gays and Lesbians in an article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. (The Archbishop is writing in response to a P-I editorial on August 26 alleging that the Catholic Church is among religions which, by their doctrinal tenets, fuel anti-gay sentiment in our society.)

On September 18, Paula Lavalée and Tish Charette host the annual membership meeting and potluck at their Kirkland home.

On September 26, Scott Feest and the "Roamin' Catholics" (a joint team of walkers from Dignity/Seattle and St. Joseph Parish) raise \$8300 in the annual Northwest AIDS Walk.

The October newsletter notes the adoption of a new Dignity/USA Vision statement: "Dignity envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and as beloved persons of God participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and Society."

On December 11, ACGLM sponsors a Mexican-themed party to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the St. Joseph Social Hall.

Organizations receiving Sacrificial Giving gifts from the chapter in 1999 include: Bailey-Boushay House; STEP (Seattle Treatment Education Program); the Center for Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence; Rise n' Shine (Support/Counseling to Children with AIDS); Youth Care and New Ways Ministry; St. Joseph's AIDS Ministry and the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Chorus.

Social events in 1999 include "Dignity Goes to the Symphony" in January; Cross Country Skiing in February; Spring Potluck and Dinner/Dance in April; Robby Parkhurst's Pool Party/Potluck in July; a Barbecue/Potluck on Vashon Island in August; Christmas Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange in December and George Lucas Annual New Year's Eve Party.

2000

On April 1, over 150 people attend an Italian Dinner and presentation on "The Spirituality of Gays and Lesbians" sponsored by Father David Jaegar and the ACGLM at St. Joseph Parish Hall.

On April 30, several chapter members fly to Washington, D.C. to join the DignityUSA contingent in the Millennium March on Washington and rally on the National Mall.

In June, Dignity/Seattle participates in Pride Week by having a booth at the Pride Rally and marching in the annual Parade. The chapter also raises \$1500 for the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project and Multifaith Works at the 12th Annual Pride Week Breakfast. (Free tickets to the breakfast are given to Rosehedge and Bailey-Boushay to enable residents who may wish to attend the breakfast to do so free of charge.)

On September 16, the Committee for Women's Concerns organizes a work crew from Dignity/Seattle to help spruce up the gardens at the Bailey-Boushay House.

On September 24, the "Roamin' Catholics" from Dignity/Seattle and St. Joseph Parish raise \$7300 in the annual Northwest AIDS Walk.

On September 26, the chapter's annual membership meeting and potluck is held in West Seattle.

On October 21, Sister Jeannine Grammick speaks at First United Methodist Church on "Conscience and Development of Doctrine: Whose Responsibility?" The night before her presentation, the chapter hosts a potluck reception for Sister Jeannine at the home of Pat Roche/Wayne Kirtley in Kirkland.

On November 21, Archbishop Alex Brunett distributes a document to all parishes in the Archdiocese entitled: "Our Homosexual Brothers and Sisters – A Manual for Pastoral Ministers."

In December, the chapter begins a series of Sunday brunches at the Olympic Broiler as a way of thanking Lucky, the owner, for donating all of the food for the chapter's annual Pride Week Breakfasts for the past several years.

Organizations receiving Sacrificial Giving gifts from the chapter in 2000 include: Bailey-Boushay House; Multifaith Works; Lambert House; Seattle PFLAG; Providence Hospitality House; Seattle Police Department's Mentor Program; Rise n' Shine; Youth Care; St. Martin dePorres; St. Joe's Baby Corner.

Social events in 2000 include the annual Spring Fling Dinner/Dance at Central Lutheran Church in May; an August Barbecue on Vashon Island; a Fourth of July Potluck; an ACGLM-sponsored "Home for the Holidays Party; a Holiday Craft Sale; a Christmas Dinner Party/ Dance; and the annual New Year's Eve Party at George Lucas'.

2001

On January 5, Souforce/Seattle and some members of Dignity/Seattle hold a protest at St. James Cathedral in support of a joint Souforce-Dignity/USA vigil taking place in St. Peter's Square in Rome. (Three people from Seattle: Judy Osborne, Mike Perez and Pat Roche, are in Rome as part of a group of 20 Souforce and Dignity/USA activists from across the country who have gone to the Vatican to seek an end to anti-gay teachings and actions by the Roman Catholic Church.)

In February, a weekly series of "Early Night Catechism" classes is sponsored at St. Joseph Church by ACGLM to look at reasons why gay and lesbian Catholics can be welcomed and respected as members of the Catholic Church.

In February, Sister Andrea Nenzel is a featured speaker at an event sponsored by Multifaith Works Religious AIDS Group. The event is entitled: "Out of the Closet, Into the Pulpit – Lesbian Religious Leaders Tell Their Stories."

In June, the chapter celebrates Pride Week by marching in the Parade and sponsoring the 13th Annual Pride Week Breakfast. The chapter also extends a special invitation to all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics to come to the regular Sunday evening Dignity-Sponsored Pride Day Mass at St. Joseph's the evening of June 24. (Notices about the Mass appear in a brief article in the Seattle Gay News and in the Events sections of the Seattle Times and Seattle P-I.)

In July, in response to the Pride Day Mass event, both the Archdiocese and St. Joseph Parish raise the issue of who “sponsors” the Sunday evening Mass. (The August letter of the chapter newsletter explains the history of sponsorship and explains how ACGLM transferred responsibility for sponsorship of the Mass to Dignity in April of 1993.)

On July 9, the pastor of St. Joseph sends a letter to the chapter stating that the Mass is organized by Gay and Lesbian Catholics, their families and friends, and hosted by St. Joseph parish. It further states that those planning the Liturgy are accountable to the parish through the pastor’s delegate and that any publication of the ministry in the media as well as any presiders need approval from the pastor’s delegate. The letter also bans any announcements or printed materials at the Mass which dissent from Church teachings, including display of the Dignity/Seattle banner.

On September 22, a General Membership Meeting is held at Central Lutheran Church to discuss the issues raised regarding Dignity’s sponsorship of the Mass. After much prayerful discussion, the membership of Dignity/Seattle votes overwhelmingly to leave St. Joseph Parish after 21 years of worship there. The decision is prompted by the Archdiocese’s opposition to Dignity/Seattle sponsorship of the Mass and the Archdiocese’s opposition to the chapter’s increasingly gender-inclusive and same-sex relationship affirming ministry. The chapter and the Archdiocese also remain at odds over a statewide GLBT civil rights bill which the chapter supports and the Washington State Catholic Conference, of which the Archdiocese of Seattle is a part, has consistently opposed. The chapter makes clear that it has nothing but respect for St. Joseph Parish and gratitude for the many years of hospitality we have been provided there.

On September 30, Dignity/Seattle sponsors its last Mass at St. Joseph.

On October 7, the chapter holds its first Sunday evening service at 6:00 p.m. at its new home, Ravenna United Methodist Church, 5751 33rd Avenue NE, Seattle.

On October 12-14, Dignity/Seattle hosts delegates from the Pacific Region for their Regional Meeting.

On October 21, the chapter holds a “Time, Talent and Treasure Sunday” at the Sunday evening service.

On November 4, KCPQ TV broadcasts a segment on Dignity’s relocation to Ravenna United Methodist Church which contains interviews with Dignity/Seattle President Paula Lavallee, and chapter spokesperson, Leo Egashira.

Organizations receiving Sacrificial Giving gifts from the chapter in 2001 include: People of Color Against AIDS Network; Church of St. Mary Magdalene (Homeless Women); Multifaith Works; and the Seattle Gay Culture Center.

Social events in 2001 include a Cajun Mardi Gras Dinner in February; ongoing Sunday Brunches at the Olympia Broiler; a Fourth of July Party; an August Barbecue on Vashon Island; an October Barbecue at Tom and Cherie Schwartz in Bellevue; a joint Dignity and Ravenna UMC Church Christmas Party in December and George Lucas' Annual New Year's Eve Party.

2002

In April, chapter newsletter editor, Leo Egashira, sums up the state of the chapter six months after the move from St. Joseph's to Ravenna United Methodist Church. He notes that the new liturgies are attended by a small but dedicated core group; that the Dignity/Seattle banner makes a proud statement of who we are next to the altar at all chapter liturgies; that all services are GLBT-affirming and use gender-inclusive language; and that the women and men leading the services among the most prayerful and powerful homilists in the Archdiocese.

In June, the chapter marches in the Pride Parade behind the Multifaith Alliance of Reconciling Communities banners; sponsors a Pride Day liturgy; and raises \$1400 for the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project and Multifaith Works at the 14th Annual Pride Week Breakfast at Central Lutheran Church. Chapter brochures are also updated and printed for distribution during Pride Week

On June 22, members of the Board help staff the Open House at Seattle's new LGBT Community Center.

On August 24, the chapter holds a Rummage Sale/Fund Raiser at Ravenna UMC.

On September 28, the annual membership meeting and potluck is held at Ravenna UMC.

On October 27, the chapter's 29th Anniversary and the one year anniversary of the move to Ravenna UMC are celebrated at a dinner provided by the Board.

Social events in 2002 include a January Potluck in Renton; Sunday Brunches at the Olympic Broiler; a Mardi Gras Potluck in February; a St. Patrick's Day Party; a May Potluck on Queen Anne; a Summer Family Picnic at Gene Coulon Park in Renton; a Christmas Potluck and George Lucas Annual New Year's Eve Party.

2003

In January, the monthly AIDS Healing Services co-sponsored for the past twelve years by Catholics AIDS Ministry and St. Joseph AIDS Ministry are suspended due to lack of available ministers.

On February 9, the chapter puts on a pre-Valentine's Potluck and Couples Blessing at Ravenna UMC.

In March, the chapter newsletter focuses on the leadership role Dignity/USA has played in being among the first national gay organizations to explicitly include the transgender community in its outreach and advocacy. The article also profiles Karen Loran, a chapter member, who has testified on behalf of transgender rights before the Washington State Legislature.

In June, the chapter sponsors the 15th Annual Pride Week Breakfast at Central Lutheran Church which raises \$2000 to support Multifaith Works, Verbena (formerly the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project) and Dignity/Seattle.

In August, the chapter is well-represented in Las Vegas at Dignity/USA's 16th Biennial Convention. Paula Lavalée is co-chair of the convention and is also the newly elected National Secretary of Dignity. The chapter is honored at the convention with a Certificate of Appreciation from Dignity/USA "in recognition of fifteen years of service as sponsor of the Seattle Pride Week Breakfast which benefits Multifaith Works and the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project."

On October 18, Dignity/Seattle celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a gala Dinner/Dance at Anthony's Homeport on Shilshole Bay in Seattle.

On November 22, the chapter commences a monthly discussion group on Daniel Helminiak's "What the Bible Says about Homosexuality," facilitated by Tony Delaganes. The group meets several times through Spring 2004.

Social events in 2003 include many potlucks, a Seattle Storm Game, Dignity Doing the Puyallup (Western Washington State Fair), and holiday parties hosted by Jim Weston and George Lucas.

2004

A letter signed by dozens of Dignity/Seattle members to Archbishop Brunett on May 1, questions and challenges the Bishop's public opposition to GLBT civil rights legislation in Washington State. The Archbishop defends and reiterates his stand in his reply letter of June 30.

Dignity/Seattle members Patty Dolan and Paula Hills and their twins are featured in a nationwide DignityUSA print ad celebrating same-gender couples and their families during National Gay Pride Month, June 2004.

The 16th Annual Pride Week Breakfast on June 26 at Central Lutheran Church grosses \$1800, which is to be divided among Multifaith Works, Verbena and Dignity/Seattle

In October, a directive from DignityUSA forbade presiders with a past history of

sexual improprieties with minors from serving chapters. The directive caused deep divisions within the chapter, since the blanket directive took no account of local conditions and individual circumstances. Dignity/Seattle lost the services of a long-time presider whose 30-year-old case was disposed of years ago, as well as the services of a presider/board member who disagreed with the directive. Another board member also resigned over the controversy. Dignity/Seattle lost two presiders and two board members. Jim Weston assumed the Presidency of Dignity/Seattle.

The loss of presiders and members led to the decision to reduce weekly Masses to one liturgy per month.

On November 28, former board member and musician Lyndsey Davis passed away from a two year battle with cancer. She is survived by long-time partner, Ryn McKay.

Social events in 2004 included a Valentines Day potluck at Ravenna, a spring birthday celebration at Zoopa's Restaurant at Northgate, a Seattle Storm women's basketball game outing, Dignity Does the Puyallup in September and holiday parties.

2005

President Jim Weston participates in the Equal Rights Rally in Olympia on February 14 and delivers letters to state legislators on behalf of Dignity/Seattle. Jim also attends a Rally for Same-Sex Marriage on March 6.

Dignity/Seattle issues a joint press release with DignityUSA on March 1, urging the Washington State Senate to pass a GLBT Civil Rights Bill.

Dignity/Seattle Newsletter Editor Leo Egashira is appointed to the National Board of Directors in March.

On May 8, married Jesuit priest, Father Philip Knowles of the American Catholic Church, presides at his first of many Masses for Dignity/Seattle.

The 17th Annual Pride Week Breakfast on June 25 at Central Lutheran Church grossed over \$2100, which is to be divided among Multifaith Works, Verbena and Dignity/Seattle.

On Pride Sunday, June 26, the Archdiocese orders the cessation of the "Gay Mass" at St. Joseph Church after nearly a 25-year presence. This was the 3rd "Exodus Mass" at St. Joe's. The first one occurred in 1988 when the Archdiocesan Catholic Gay & Lesbian Ministry took over sponsorship from Dignity/Seattle. Dignity/Seattle resumed sponsorship in 1993, but was forced to leave again in 2001 for the 2nd Exodus Mass. The following account of the 3rd Exodus Mass is excerpted from the July 2005 Dignity/Seattle Newsletter:

“In a gracious move that acknowledged our common roots and goals, the 7:30 Mass Community (as it was called) invited Dignity/Seattle to take an active role in its final mass. And so, Dignity/Seattle’s liturgical banner was prominently displayed next to the altar for the last time, in an explicit show of defiance. Many Dignity members, past and present, broke bread with their brethren at St. Joseph’s in a final show of unity and shared loss.

The final Exodus Mass was presided by the Rev. Chris Weekly, S.J., who conveyed heartfelt, emotional gratitude for the grace bestowed by the GLBT Catholic community to the larger church community. He pointedly mentioned the transformational and healing power of Dignity liturgies in the 1990s when he was in residence at the parish.

After closing words by Father Weekly and leaders of Dignity and the 7:30 Mass Community, the congregation belted out “City of God,” which was also the final song in the two previous Exodus Masses. It is worthy to note that “City of God” is DignityUSA’s unofficial anthem, as well as the theme song for the groundbreaking 1983 DignityUSA Convention in Seattle.”

In August, the membership of Dignity/Seattle approves to change the by-laws and change the number of Board Members from seven to five.

Dignity/Seattle membership is at 36, as reported in the President’s Annual Report of September 24.

On November 1, several members attend a screening of “In Good Conscience,” and a question & answer presentation by Sr. Jeannine Gramick at Seattle First Baptist Church.

The number of social events dropped off in 2005, but included a Memorial Day Weekend Dinner at the Spaghetti Factory in Lynnwood and George Lucas’ New Years Eve party.

2006

After decades of unsuccessful attempts, the “Gay Civil Rights Bill” was signed into law on January 31. Dignity/Seattle had labored hard during all this time to counteract the statements of the Church hierarchy.

The 18th Annual Pride Week Breakfast on June 24 at Central Lutheran Church grossed over \$2300, which is to be divided among Multifaith Works, Verbena and Dignity/Seattle.

On July 26, the Washington State Supreme Court upholds the state’s “Defense of Marriage Act.” Dignity/Seattle and DignityUSA issue a joint press release on July 28 expressing disappointment and laying the groundwork to continue to work for Marriage Equality.

Dignity/Seattle membership is unchanged at 36, as reported in the President's Annual Report of September 10.

The Board provides dinner and hosts the 33rd Anniversary dinner at Ravenna United Methodist Church on November 4. A silent auction to benefit Dignity-USA is also held.

Several Dignity/Seattle members attend Catholic woman Bishop Patricia Frensen's lecture and liturgy on November 11 & 12.

Social events remained at a low level, but outings included a meal at Olympic Pizza & Pasta and potlucks at Ravenna UMC.

2007

Fr. Philip Knowles, Dignity/Seattle's primary presider, starts St. Ignatius Catholic Community, which meets Sunday mornings at Ravenna United Methodist Church. He invites Dignity members to attend Mass when Dignity offers no liturgies.

On January 20, former long-time member Bill Sullivan passes away at 80.

Ecumenical (Dignity/Seattle, St. Ignatius Catholic Community and Ravenna United Methodist Church) Holy Week (April 5-8) observances are held.

The 19th Annual Pride Week Breakfast on June 23 at Central Lutheran Church grossed \$2300, which is to be divided among Multifaith Works, Verbena and Dignity/Seattle.

Dignity/Seattle membership is 35, as reported in the President's Annual Report of September 22.

September 30: Paula Lavalée steps down as DignityUSA's National Secretary after four years of service on DignityUSA's Board of Directors.

Social events include a lunch at Coastal Kitchen on Capitol Hill and potlucks at Ravenna UMC. On November 12, Dignity/Seattle started quarterly celebrations of anniversaries and birthdays, patronizing businesses that have supported our Pride Week Breakfast and inviting current and former Dignity members. The first venue, Mae's Café, attracted 16 people and was deemed an inaugural success.

2008

Fr. Paul Dalton, a long-time presider and supporter of Dignity/Seattle passed

away suddenly on February 29 at age 57. An overflow crowd, including many gay & lesbian friends to whom he ministered, celebrated his life at his long-time parish, Mary Queen of Peace in Issaquah on March 6.

The quarterly celebration meal was a great success, attracting 24 folks to Julia's on Queen Anne on March 1.

On March 29, Womanpriest Toni Tortorilla presides at a Mass at Ravenna UMC, attracting many in the progressive Catholic community, including Dignity members.

Rich Lannon, former Music Director and designer of our logo, visited Seattle from Juneau on May 9, and ten people had a dinner in his honor at China Super Buffet in Shoreline.

On May 31, the quarterly celebration was held at Rosebud; 11 people attended.

On June 7, Dignity members were among 300 who heard Bishop Geoffrey Robinson of Australia speak about the Church's obsession with "Power" and "Sex" as obstacles to reform.

Mark Matson, President of DignityUSA, visits Seattle on vacation and makes time to have lunch on June 21 with a dozen Dignity/Seattle members at Viengthong Laotian Restaurant in Rainier Valley. All who attended were grateful to engage in conversation with Mark and to hear Mark's positive assessment of DignityUSA's future.

The 20th Annual Pride Week Breakfast on June 28 at Central Lutheran Church grossed nearly \$3000 and netted \$2500 in the most successful breakfast ever. Proceeds are to be divided among Multifaith Works, Dignity/Seattle and a yet-to-be-determined charity (Verbena, one of our long-time recipients, went defunct just prior to the Breakfast).

On a return visit to Mae's on August 16, a dozen people gather for the quarterly celebration.

Dignity/Seattle's "active membership" stands at 28, as reported in the President's Annual Report of September 27. The treasurer reports a strong cash position for the fiscal year.

On October 18, Dignity/Seattle celebrates 35 years of service to the GLBT Catholic community with a dinner & dance at Rock Salt on Lake Union.

Dignity/Seattle Presidents (1973—2008)

1973-1975	Don Greyner (General Chairman)
1975-1979	Ron Weekes (First Elected President)
	Norm DeNeal Fred Rowe
	Bert Bokern David Witzke
	Mike Cawdrey
1980-1981	Abe Van Diest
1982-1983	Mike Darr
1984-1985	Ken Van Dyke
1986	Bob Moritz
1986-1987	Bob Neddo
1987-1989	Ed Elliott
1989-1990	Maureen McVicker
1990-1992	Michael Kennedy
1992-1993	Patty Ferris
1993-1995	Fernando Macias, Jr.
1995-1996	Robert Anderson & Kelley Clevenger (Co-Presidents)
1996-1998	Jim Weston
1998-1999	Carl Johnston
1999-2000	Carl Johnston & Paula Lavallee (Co-Presidents)
2000-2001	Alex Soto
2001-2003	Paula Lavallee
2003-2004	Ed Shields
2004-2005	Jim Weston
2005-2007	Jim Rankin
2007-current	Paula Lavallee

Dignity/Seattle Board Members (1973—2008)

Jerry Adams	Jeff Hennes	Andy Phillips
Joyce Allen	Ray Hoekstra	Ed Piekarczyk
Robert Anderson	Lin Holley	Len Pollard
Denise Arceneaux	Nevin Jefferson	Mary Praught
Vern Bennett	Kermit Johnson	Jim Rankin
Karen Berry	Carl Johnston	Muggs Regan
Bert Bokern	Jim Jorgenson	David Reyes
Claudette Boudreaux	Steve Kearney	Robby Robinson
Jim Bourgeois	Celeste Keaton	Pat Roche
Bill Bowen	Michael Kennedy	John Rochford
Neil Burmester	Michelle Kirwin	German Rodriguez
Bill Caldwell	Steve Kramer	Gene Rollins
Ralph Carney	Jim Kurshuk	Fred Rowe
Mike Cawdrey	Teri Lapetino	Mike Ruiz
Tish Charette	Connie Lapp	Bob Saunders
Kelley Clevenger	Paula Lavallee	Alan Scott
Dale Colby	Bill Lewis	Tom Schwartz
Gwen Cole	Mike Linden	Alex Sellars
Cathy Cruikshank	Fernando Macias, Jr.	Ed Shields
Mike Darr	Jim MacKellar	Rick Shinnick
Lyndsey Davis	Walt Marcolli	Bill Smallwood
Norm DeNeal	Gene Martinez	Alex Soto
Vasco DePinna	Don McDermott	Michel-Jean
Tony Delegates	David McDonald	Szcepaniak
Cal DeVere	Maureen McVicker	Patti Titcombe
P.J. Devino	Bruce Menapace	Bill Treloar
Gino DiDonato	Victor Mocek	Brad Trenary
Richard Downs	Rudy Monta	Abe Van Diest
Leo Egashira	Cathy Moran	Ken Van Dyke
Ed Elliott	Mario Morfa	Delia Vita
Scott Feest	Bob Moritz	Michael Wautier
Patty Ferris	Mark Morse	Ron Weekes
Ian Grant	Konrad Murray	Jim Weston
Don Greyner	Jeannie Natta	David Witzke
Gary Gwin	Bob Neddo	Tom Wojtowick
Dan Harrington	Maureen McVicker	
Laure Hauge	John Peterson	

Dignity/Seattle Newsletter Editors (1973—2008)

Kass Anderton
Mike Darr
Leo Egashira
Don Greyner
George Head
Ed Piekarczyk
Janice Van Cleve
Ken Van Dyke
Denise Ziegler

DignityUSA 6th Biennial Convention Committee

Region X and Dignity/Seattle hosted DignityUSA's Sixth Biennial Convention in Seattle over Labor Day weekend 1983, at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel on Sixth and Pike.

Convention Co-Chairs

Muggs Regan

Bill Treloar

Convention Committee

Ken Bruya

Ray Hoekstra

Vic Mocek

Ed Piekarczyk

Pat Roche

Jim Toevs

Ken Van Dyke

Gary Duncan

Maureen McVicker

Ernest Neumann

Anthon Rash

Paul Siebenrock

Brad Trenary

Denise Ziegler

Chaplains, Presiders and Ministers (1973—2008)

Many bishops, priests, brothers, sisters, lay presiders and other ministers have served Dignity/Seattle and the Archdiocesan Gay/Lesbian Ministry over the past thirty years. In many instances, this has required a great deal of personal courage and sacrifice. A partial list of those who have given spiritual nourishment and support to our faith community appears below.

Conrad Antonson	Philip Knowles	Ed Shields
Craig Boly	Lyle Konen	Dick Smith
Kirby Brown (*)	Terry Koreski	Jerry Stanley (*)
Peter Byrne	Bea LaFramboise	Crystal Sygeel
Ralph Carney	Paula Lavallee	Ed Vernon
Pat Carroll	Pat Leary	Paul Waldie (*)
Mike Cawdrey (*)	Jim Lee	Jack Walmensly
Peggy Chambers	Reginald Martin	Paul Warren
Jim Cornelius	Richard "Woody"	Jim Weston
C. Slade Crawford	McCallister	Tom Wojotowick
Bill Crisman	Vince Mesi	Kurt Wuellner
Paul Dalton	Steven Moore	
Rhea Daugherty	Gary Morelli	
Eileen Delong	Jim Moran	
Jerry Dooley	Cathy Moran	
Peter Ely	Merillee Murphy	
Bob Engelbert	Thomas Murphy	
Mike Evernden	Matthew Naumes	
Teresa Gregory	Andrea Nenzel	
Linda Hapenstall	Ward Oakshott (*)	
Jim Harbaugh	Sean O'Reilly	
Dick Hayatsu	Michael Ortega	
Bill Heric (*)	Thomas Parks	
Tim Hillerman	C.V. "Pete" Peterson (*)	
Michael Holland	Angela Picardo	
Raymond Hunthausen	Herb Pins	
David Jaegar (*)	Carlos Rustia	
Judy Johnson	Michael Ryan	
Jim Jorgenson	Ron Ryan	
Tim Kaufman	Steve Sallis	
Dale Kelly	Dan Schutte	
	Chuck Schmitz	

(*) These priests have served as official chaplains, Archdiocesan Liaisons or Pastoral Resources to Dignity/Seattle or ACGLM.

Region X • Pacific Region Directors (1977—2002)

For many years, Dignity/USA was divided into Regions comprised of all chapters in various geographic areas of the country. Dignity/Seattle was a part of Region X from 1977-93. Region X included all chapters in Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho and Oregon. Region X merged with Region IX (California and Nevada) to become the Pacific Region in 1993. Each Region had a Regional Director who coordinated activities in the Region and also served on the national board of Dignity/USA. Region X •Pacific Region Directors were:

1977-1978	P.J. DeVino, Seattle
1978-1980	Joe Maher, Portland
1980-1986	Ernest Neumann, Vancouver, BC
1986-1988	Pat Roche, Seattle
1988-1990	John Rochford, Seattle
1990-1991	John Peterson, Seattle
1991-1993	Francis Duran, Honolulu
1993-1997	Jerry Deas, Portland
1997-1999	Tom Kaun, San Francisco
1999-2001	John Nangle, Los Angeles
2001-2002	Linda Rieder, San Diego

DignityUSA Board Members from Dignity/Seattle

(in addition to the Regional Directors of 1977—2002, above)

1989-1991	Pat Roche, President of DignityUSA
2003-2007	Paula Lavallee, Secretary of DignityUSA (2003 Las Vegas Convention Co-chair and 2007 Austin Convention Co-chair)
2005-current	Leo Egashira, Publications Director of DignityUSA

Dignity/Seattle Worship Sites (1973—2008)

1973-1975

Home liturgies are held with members occasionally attending a local parish Mass together.

1976-1980

In addition to home liturgies, Dignity begins to sponsor monthly Masses on the second Saturdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church at the foot of Queen Anne Hill – first in the social room and later, as the group grows, in the Church itself.

1980-1988

In November, 1980, Dignity begins sponsoring a weekly Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church, 18th and Aloha, Seattle.

Masses are first held at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays and later at 7:30 p.m. The first Masses are held in the Convent at St. Joseph's, but, as the group grows, Masses are held in the vestibule and then in the body of the Church itself.

1988-1993

On July 10, 1988, Dignity/Seattle is evicted from St. Joseph's and sponsorship of the 7:30 Mass is assumed by a newly formed Archdiocesan Gay/Lesbian Ministry (ACGLM).

Dignity does not sponsor regular Masses during this period but holds meetings, liturgies and other events at Prospect Congregational Church, 20th and Prospect, and Central Lutheran Church, 1107 11th Avenue. Many Dignity members continue to attend the weekly Mass at St. Joseph's sponsored by ACGLM.

1993-2001

Dignity resumes sponsorship of the weekly Mass at St. Joseph's on April 25, 1993 after the Washington State Catholic Conference publicly opposes the statewide Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Bill and ACGLM decides it can no longer effectively minister to the Gay/Lesbian community in light of official Church actions.

2001-current

On September 22, 2001, a General Membership Meeting is held at Central Lutheran Church to discuss the issues raised regarding Dignity's sponsorship of the Mass at St. Joseph. After much prayerful discussion, the membership of Dignity/Seattle votes overwhelmingly to leave St. Joseph Parish after 21 years of worship there. The decision is prompted by the Archdiocese's opposition to Dignity/Seattle sponsorship of the Mass and to the chapter's increasingly gender-inclusive and same-sex relationship affirming ministry. The chapter and the Archdiocese also remain at odds over a statewide GLBT civil rights bill which the chapter supports and the Washington State Catholic Conference, of which the Archdiocese of Seattle is a part, has consistently opposed. The chapter makes clear that it has nothing but respect for St. Joseph Parish and gratitude for the many years of hospitality we have been provided there.

On October 7, 2001, the chapter holds its first Sunday evening service at 6:00 p.m. at its new home, Ravenna United Methodist Church, 5751 33rd Avenue NE, Seattle.

(After Dignity left St. Joseph Parish, GLBT Catholics who chose to stay at St. Joseph continued to support the "Gay Mass" until the Archdiocese ordered its cessation in June 2005.)

Since October 2001 and continuing to the present day, Dignity/Seattle hosts liturgies, meetings and potlucks at Ravenna UMC. Dignity/Seattle is extraordinarily grateful for Ravenna UMC's hospitality and support of Dignity/Seattle's ministry.

Dignity/Seattle History Booklet Acknowledgments

*Originally written and compiled in 2003 by: **Pat Roche**, Dignity/Seattle member and past President, DignityUSA*

*Originally edited and formatted by **Jim Weston**, past President, Dignity/Seattle*

*2003—2008 update and reformatting by **Leo Egashira**, Dignity/Seattle Newsletter Editor and current DignityUSA Board Member*

Thank you for your dedication, effort and talents!

Source material for this compilation is mostly from archived Dignity/Seattle Newsletters.

Pat Roche collected chapter newsletters and other memorabilia for many years. In 2006, he decided to donate his collection to the University of Washington library, where it is now permanently housed in the Pacific Northwest GLBT Special Collection.

Pat said, "Having these items safely and permanently housed at the UW enables former and current chapter members to conveniently visit the collection. It also gives scholars access to the fascinating history of Dignity and the GLBT Catholic movement in Seattle."

People who may have Dignity/Seattle materials of historical interest are encouraged to add to the collection by contacting:

Cass Hartnett
University of Washington Library – Suzzallo Reference Division
P.O. Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195-2900.

cass@u.washington.edu or 206/685-9302.

More recent Newsletters from 2005 to current issues are archived on-line on the Dignity/Seattle website: <http://www.dignityseattle.org>.

DignityUSA Statement of Position & Purpose
(continued from inside front cover)

As members of Dignity, we promote causes of interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics. We have five primary areas of concern and commitment:

1. **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** We strive to achieve Christian maturity through the sacraments, Scripture, prayer, an active love of neighbor as ourselves, and liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass.
2. **EDUCATION:** We inform ourselves in all matters of faith and of interest to our communities, so that we may grow in maturity and may nurture fulfilling lives in which our sexuality and spirituality are integrated.
3. **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** As Catholics and members of society, we involve ourselves in those actions that bring the love of Christ to others and provide the basis of social reform in the Church and society. We are actively involved with:
 - Individuals: We lead a life of service to ourselves and others, rendering visible the love of Christ and assisting in the creation of love centered communities.
 - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Groups: We work with a variety of other groups to seek justice for all persons and to promote a sense of solidarity within the communities.
 - Religious and Secular Groups: We work with many groups and organizations so that their members might better understand gay, lesbian, bisexuals and transgender persons and thus recognize and eliminate present injustices.
 - Health Care: We work to promote equal access and justice in all areas of health care and healing.
 - Women's Justice Issues: We strive to eradicate sexism and patriarchy in all areas of Church and secular life so that women are wholly included, accepted and welcome.
4. **EQUALITY ISSUES:** We dedicate ourselves to develop the potential of all persons to become more fully human. To do this, we work toward the eradication of all constraints on our personhood based on the ascribed social roles of women and men and to promote inclusivity in all areas of liturgical and community life.
5. **SOCIAL EVENTS:** We provide activities of a social and recreational nature in an atmosphere where friendships can develop and mature, and where our sense of self acceptance and dignity is affirmed.



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