

WELCOME 1994!

Dignity

HOUSTON

January 1994

We Are Many Parts; We Are All One Body

Taking Responsibility

In the December 6, 1993 issue of *Time* magazine there appeared a profile of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. In fourteen short paragraphs Rome correspondent Richard Ostling outlines the breadth and scope of this man's influence and power.

Here is clearly a man to be taken seriously. And, here is a man, who appears to be driven by fear and loathing for any interpretation or theory which does not agree with his. Here is a man so shocked and traumatized by the student revolts in Germany that he withdrew from the University at Tübingen to seek intellectual refuge.

And as it stands today this one man has almost total power over the enforcement of doctrine and morals for the entire church.

In my view it is important to appreciate and understand how he is influencing the future course of the Church. Always fearful of new ideas and approaches to problems which have vexed the human condition since history began, he continues to retreat to the "safe" position "as we have always taught" and rest his case.

No room here for expanded responsibilities of women in doctrine, in priesthood or in dialogue with the largest patriarchy on earth. No room for expanding the role of the suppressed in theological discussion, practice or insight. No room for expanding the understanding of human sexual behaviors in the light of 20th Century insight, knowledge and practice. No room for the voices of lesbians and gay men to enter the dialogue of morality while their exclusion cries out for attention. No room for the use of condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS. No room for the use of birth control to promote responsible family and population growth.

Only time will tell if such leadership truly serves this institution. Only time will tell if the majority will go along with the fear and terror of the new winds

of change blowing now at all levels of our global village. Only time will tell if selective, conservative and increasingly dysfunctional positions on priesthood, the full range of human sexualities, responsible childbearing and black and white solutions to problems will prevail. Catholics will answer from their hearts to follow the fear, envy and hatred of the past or to evolve into a more loving, accepting and compassionate view of the human condition and its incarnate realities. Pray for those who canonize the past at the expense of the future!

What is a human being to do in the face of such dysfunctional behavior when it comes to topics like women, the full range of human sexual expression and hatred and envy directed toward those who harbor differing values, ideas and behaviors? My suggestion would be to take concrete steps in 1994 to help those institutions and organizations which are telling the truth. Look for those who offer alternative solutions and suggestions and, finally, go *with what works*, in your own life and in that of those you know, love and trust. Dysfunctional, hate-filled and closed-minded humans should be left to their own selves. They have created the mess they find themselves in, and they must show evidence of taking responsibility before they will return to recovery.

Pray in 1994 for the narrow and closed-minded and those who preach prejudice, hatred and envy for others they neither understand nor are willing to engage in dialogue.

Peace and Joy and Abundance in 1994.

— George M. Wetzel

Stewardship

Who are we?
What are we?
Where are we going?
How do we get there?

What do we do when we do get there?
Of these the most important question is, who is going to do it after we get there?

Let us start with the first question: who are we? We are a private membership organization. Our chosen name is "Dignity." Our primary purpose is to provide a place so that we can come together as a group in fellowship and participate in a holy mass, to give praise and worship to our God as a group, and to give each other support through our friendships.

What are we? We are a family—a family of lesbian and gay Catholics and friends. We are a part of the many parts that make up the body of Christ.

Where are we going? We are going to go in the direction that our membership directs us. If that membership has no direction, then we will accomplish nothing. Year after year we will continue to be the same. We will be like a child that never grows up to maturity.

How do we get there? We get there through the strength of our membership. With everyone working together, with everyone pulling in the same direction, with everyone doing their fair share, with everyone giving of themselves as much as possible. To pull out the best in everyone we must all agree on common goals first.

What do we do after we get there? We make decisions as a group. We share the projects and work load. We volunteer for the projects. We work together as a team. We offer our talents, and we give in monetary support.

The answer to our last question: who is going to do it after we get there? This is again the most important of all the questions. The answer is YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU and this goes on repeatedly until we touch each and every member in our organization. This concept is not complicated but it provides our organization with strength to accomplish much.

Let us take the budget which was presented and approved by you the members at the November membership meeting. The budget did not have any magic number or fancy ways to bring in money. It was based on the stewardship of our members, ALL OF OUR MEMBERS. The total amount that each member should contribute so that Dignity Houston can grow out of its stagnated mode is \$1.00 per day (\$7.00 per week). This amount is based on the idea that each and every member meet his or her obligation whether they attend the weekly mass service or not.

To further expand on the example of the budget let's say that 33 members attend one of the weekly masses. Out of that number 30 provide stewardship support. Because we have a little over 100 members, this means that 72 members failed in supporting their stewardship and the planned monthly budget falls short by 66% for that week.

In reality the above paragraph is more fact than fiction. Due to the generosity of a few of our members, we have been able to pay our bills and keep our doors open. There are also a few members who repeatedly

give of their time and service. This has enabled Dignity to continue to provide YOU (as a group) with a mass on Saturday evening. We all owe these people a very special thank you.

In our effort to assist our members in meeting their commitment to stewardship we will be providing you with envelopes and a pre-printed donation card. This will make it easy for our members to mail in their donations on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. Starting in 1994 we will have to keep track of all donations by individual members. At the end of 1994 Dignity will be required to send each member a summary of their donations for the year. Using a check and using the envelopes with your name on the donation card will greatly assist us in keeping the records as will be required by the I.R.S. We are thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Might I suggest that we take some time this week to think about ourselves and our relation with Dignity. After meditating on God's grace let us all make a promise to ourselves to support the organization that we belong to. Let us all promise to work together as a team and accomplish the goals that we set forth for ourselves. Let us make 1994, the year of our 20th anniversary, the most productive year ever for Dignity Houston.

I want to thank every member who gives so generously of themselves with the real spirit of giving. Your talents and material gifts mean so much to Dignity and its members. It is your giving that keeps Dignity Houston alive. It has kept it alive for the past 20 years. I hope and pray that we, the members who have been in the organization less than 20 years, can continue to provide the strength and direction needed for the continued growth of Dignity.

What do we get for all this effort? We gain spiritual growth, personal satisfaction, personal growth, a deeper feeling of love and compassion through the grace of God.

—Phil De Marco, Dignity Houston treasurer

New Years Resolutions?

In my opinion most people are perfectly happy and satisfied with the quality of their lives or, they are taking practical, concrete and reasonable steps to improve it. If you are so satisfied, there is no reason to resolve to improve, change or modify your life at all. The choice and the responsibility is entirely yours. Enjoy an abundant, successful and joy filled 1994.

—G. M. W.

Spiritual Providence: Less can't be more, or can it?

A person would think that anyone tithing would have less to live on than someone who does not tithe. After all, if I give one-tenth off the top of my income

SUNDAY

MONDAY

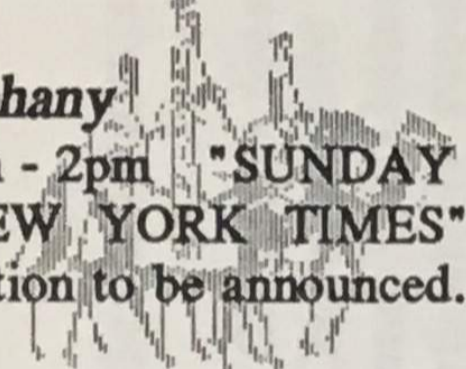










TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						<p>1 New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holyday of Obligation) 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
<p>2 <i>Epiphany</i> 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center</p> 	<p>6  <i>Epiphany (Classic)</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8  7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
<p>9 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15  7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. General Membership Meeting after Mass. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
<p>16 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced. DEADLINE for Articles in the February newsletter.</p>	<p>17  <i>Martin Luther King, Jr.</i></p>	<p>18  7:00pm BOARD MEETING at Dignity Center</p>	<p>19 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22  7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. 4th Sat "Loose Change Collection" for Retreat Fund Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
<p>23 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced. DEADLINE for Calendar Entries in Feb. newsletter (call Ed G. at 862-8065).</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29  7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
<p>30 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ----- 8 - Carol C. 11 - Ed G. 15 - Aeren 17 - Marlon B. 23 - Kevin K. 24 - Rhonda S. 27 - Jeff B.</p>				

back to God then I have only nine-tenths to live on. Less cannot be more. Or so it seems.

The mystery, however, is different than the worldly expectation. Somehow people who tithe end up with more to spend than they did before starting to tithe. No, it is not miraculous, like money growing on trees or something. Maybe it motivates us to budget better, not to waste money. Maybe some expenses really are not necessary; and when we are thinking God's way, we are not impressed with every advertised "need." Whatever the explanation, those who practice tithing insist that it works: they have more money at the end of the month than they did before starting to tithe.

Why does God work this way? As best I can figure, God uses the tangible measure of material wealth to teach us about spiritual things. When people learn through the proper handling of material things how to put God first, then they can carry that lesson into more important things. Tithing and material blessing from the Lord are, therefore, elementary lessons in spiritual providence. People start tithing, usually, at an early stage of spiritual development. Once they can trust God completely for material things, then heaven is the limit of things God can show and give them.

Archbishop Weakland Speaks

[reprinted from "Bishop discusses gulf between laity, hierarchy," *National Catholic Reporter*, Dec. 17, 1993]

Neither conservative nor progressive Catholics have much respect for U.S. bishops, wrote Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland in a column for his archdiocesan newspaper, and the gulf between Catholic laity and hierarchy "might be greater than I imagined."

Of conservative Catholics, Weakland wrote: "For the most part they would like to have a church with only a pope, one to their liking, and would prefer to ignore the bishops or accept and reject them as they see fit." Of progressive Catholics: "[Many] see us bishops as closed-minded people who are more concerned about safeguarding our own power than about helping others carry their burdens."

Lay Catholics, he wrote, "do not want to be treated as children but as adults, not as idiots but as responsible and conscientious followers of Christ. . . . They want a hierarchy that listens more, is a part of their common struggle and does not give the pretension of having the answer before the question is even formulated."

Thanks to José and John

Once again thanks to José and John for the two wonderful parties they gave during this holiday season, their Halloween party and their Christmas party. Again we had a wonderful time basking in their hospitality and each other's company. A particular highlight was the exchanging of gag gifts during the Christmas party. Many of those who were there are

already planning their revenge with even more "wonderful" gifts of their own for next year's give away.

Gay Men's Chorus Triumphs Again

This Christmas season's concert by the Houston Gay Men's Chorus assisted by HeartSong and choruses from Austin and New Orleans was a stupendous success. We are particularly proud that several of our Dignity members are also active members of the chorus. Although the music of the evening was moving and exhilarating, the trill was all the greater seeing our family's faces among the choristers. Thanks to all of you; we are enriched by the music of your lives.

*How much is your Dignity worth to
you?
A dollar a day?*

The \$1 Bill

A bag of U.S. currency was being sent to Washington for replacement. This gab of money, which would be incinerated, contained a \$20 bill and a \$1 bill.

The \$20 bill said, "I don't mind going to the incinerator for I have led a full life. I was spent in the best places and was used at hot clubs and for fancy tips. What about you?" she asked the \$1 bill. The \$1 bill replied, "I led a very dull life; all I did was go to church, go to church, go to church, etc."

Claiming Your Self-Esteem

[*Claiming Your Self-Esteem* by Carolyn Ball, 1990, Celestial Arts Publishing, 196 pp.]

If you or someone you know and love has any difficulty with self-esteem, this is the book to begin with. Subtitled *A Guide Out of Copendency, Addiction, and Other Useless Habits*, Ball uses examples and experiences from her own spiritual journey to illuminate and enliven this work.

It was my privilege to attend a workshop with her here in Houston last October. By careful examination of the processes which build, mold or ossify our notions about ourselves, she points the way for any individual to take a good long serious look at what makes them tick (both historically and here and now) and how to go about changing that behavior if it is not delivering the quality of life that you want to live.

By exploring feelings and experiences she helps the active participant to become more aware of the voices (mind chatter) which help or hinder our dreams and ambitions. Only with the awareness of how this process works (or does not work) for us can we begin to

relearn how to live and respect ourselves, our lives, our relationships and our creativity.

Honestly facing the patterns of addictive responses that many of us carry around as part of our view of ourselves opens us up to the possibilities and the opportunities for change and improvement.

When we do not love and approve of ourselves, we often participate in addictive behaviors to help us to "feel good." Those addictive responses actually perpetuate the pattern of low self esteem and lock us in its grip.

If you truly want to do something practical and effective to make 1994 a better year for you, I suggest you get this book, read it carefully and slowly and *do all the exercises*.

Carolyn Ball will be the guest speaker at Michael Wilson's Wednesday night gathering (4100 Westheimer, 8:00 pm) on Jan 5, 1994.

—G. M. W.

Stewardship Envelopes

Soon the I.R.S. will be requiring 501c-3 organizations such as we are to provide its membership with an accounting of each persons individual donations during the year. Because that requirement goes into effect in a year's time, Dignity Houston has thought it prudent to establish its accounting system this year in order to have a year to work out any problems we may discover.

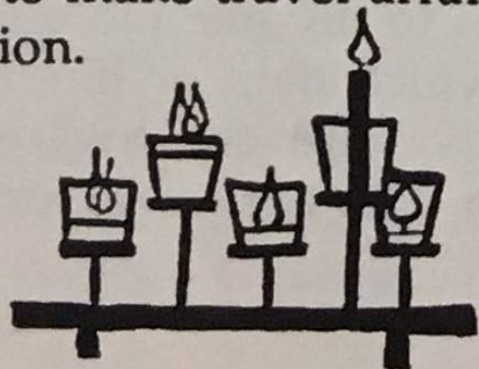
Starting this January, members will be provided with envelopes for their donations. The envelopes will have a donation card on which to specify the donor's name, the amount and the period for which the donation is made (weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly). This information will be entered into our accounting program and a yearly report will be generated for each member.

We ask that all donations, check or cash, be put into envelopes so that we can properly credit the donor. Loose cash in the basket is not creditable.

Members are urged to take additional envelopes so that if they are not able to attend mass, they can mail in their contribution. Although attendance at mass varies, the re-occurring expenses of Dignity Houston do not.

Regional Conference in Santa Fe

The regional conference of Dignity Mountains and Plains Region will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 19-20. As of this printing the meeting will take place in a retreat center with room and meals included in the registration costs. More information will follow. But now is the time to block out that weekend and to make travel arrangements. Watch for more information.



What Will Our World Look Like When We Have Learned Our Lessons From AIDS?

A world with more honesty and compassion and feeling.

A world with more joy and celebration and happiness.

A world with more diversity and creativity and growth.

A world with more peace and laughter and live.

A world with more tolerance and acceptance and honor.

A world with more togetherness and less separateness and more unity.

A world with more touching and tenderness and hope for all human beings.

A world with less fear and envy and hatred.

—G. M. W.

On the Air With NPR

A reminder that National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* profiled Dignity /Washington DC in an October 22 feature. For a transcript (\$10) or tape (\$12.50) of the program write to: NPR Tapes and Transcripts; 2025 "M" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20036.

Next Membership Meeting and Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the membership of Dignity Houston will be after mass, Jan. 15. This is an opportunity for members to hear about plans from their officers and for the officers to hear ideas and comments from the membership.

The next board meeting will be the following Tuesday, Jan 18, at 7:00 pm. at the Dignity Center. Any Dignity member is welcome to attend board meetings.

God Bless Us One And All!

Bob Dieker reports that as a result of Dignity members singing Christmas carols outside of the Montrose Krogers on Friday, December 17, sixty boxes of food were collected for Stone Soup. This twice annual event has been most successful in the last couple of years. The next collection will probably be in July, a Christmas in July, at the same Krogers.

Stone Soup

Offerings of groceries may be placed in front of the altar at each Saturday Mass. Feminine hygiene items are very much in need as are toiletries of various kinds. Don't forget to save and keep bringing your old paper grocery bags. They are most desperately needed. Thank you!

Dignity Pool Team

Dignity Houston's pool team, *The Flying Nones*, is lead by Mike K. The team has been doing very well lately.

Their future January engagements are Jan. 4, vs. Soft Balls at the VentureN; Jan. 11 is the Position Round; Jan. 18, vs. EJ's Mess at Cousins; Jan 25, vs. Briar Patch at Lazy J's. Their first February engagement is on Feb. 1, vs. Miner 69ers at Past Time.

Loose Change Collections

During the liturgy of the fourth Saturday of every month, we will be taking up a second collection, a "loose change" collection, earmarked for a Dignity/Houston retreat fund. Charge persons will try to remind the assembled of that collection before the start of the liturgy on the fourth Saturday.

Appreciation Dinner

Dignity Houston is tentatively planning an Appreciation Dinner for its members to honor and thank its clergy for their selfless dedication on Friday, April 22. Watch for more information.

Gay Pride Week

This year Houston's Gay Pride Week will occur between Friday, June 3 and Sunday, June 12. This year the Houston celebration is being held earlier than usual because the national celebrations of the Stonewall uprising in New York City will take place during the traditional week. In addition the Gay Olympics will also be taking place in New York City, Sunday June 26, during the traditional week. The national organizers are hoping that as many as possible of the national gay/lesbian community will be in attendance in New York City for those celebrations.

In Houston the Gay Men's Chorus will present their concert on the nights of June 4 & 5. The double date is required because of the smaller venue for the concert this year, Rice's Hammond Hall.

Dignity Houston is tentatively considering June 3 or June 10 for its own 20th anniversary celebrations with a dinner and guest speaker.

Scuba Anyone?

A new scuba club for gays and lesbians exists in Houston. The group, called Texas Aquatic Triangle, is currently planning a dive trip to Cozumel. Courses are taught for those who have not dived before.

The group meets currently at Charlies Restaurant. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Sunday, January 16. For more information contact Steve Mullings at 550-7512.

Baking our Thanks

A recipe for Eucharistic bread that can be made by anyone. Bake up a batch now. It can be frozen, stored in our center refrigerator, and used as needed.

3 cups whole wheat flower
1 cup white flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup honey
1 1/2 cup buttermilk
1/3 cup vegetable oil

Blend ingredients. Separate into four portions. Pat into 8 inch cake pans. Score the dough into bite size pieces. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

New York Sunday Times

The New York Sunday Times is an opportunity for Dignity members and their friends to get together on a Sunday morning (11 am to 2 pm) to talk, have coffee and munchies, read the Sunday papers, discuss what is up in the world, the goals of our community, chit-chat, or what-you-please. Please ask at the Saturday liturgy who is hosting this month.

New, current and prospective members are heartily welcome. Do yourself a favor, check it out.

Welcome, New Dignity Members!

Every month from the many visitors we welcome at our liturgies we receive new members into Dignity. Official membership in the national organization is only \$40.00. There are no dues for the Houston chapter, but we expect that members will support the chapter in an ongoing way through regular offerings in the liturgical collections. We extend a hearty welcome to the several new members who have recently joined Dignity/Houston, our community! We are most happy to welcome the many women who have joined. In addition to our Saturday night liturgies, you are invited to join us also at a Sunday Times to get to know other of our members in a non-liturgical setting. Dignity members also informally go to dinner in groups to a variety of local restaurants after the Saturday liturgies. The conversation and fellowship is always delightful. Plan to join us at more than just the liturgies.



Our Wish List

Ask and ye shall receive. Dignity/Houston is need of the following items in order of need:

1. two slide projectors
2. ice maker for our freezer
3. a TV (no less than 25"), VCR and cart
4. a chair caddy (or caddies) for storing our folding chairs
5. a full size microwave with cart
6. a copier
7. kitchen cabinets

Liturgical Readings for January

(The initials before the numbers name the book of the Bible. The number immediately before the colon is the chapter number; the numbers after the colon are the verse numbers. The first reading is from the Old Testament, the second is from the letters or acts of the apostles, the third is from one of the four gospels.)

- Jan 1—Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Mt 2:1-12
- Jan 8—Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4,6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Mk 1:7-11
- Jan 15—Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Sam 3:3-10,19
1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42
- Jan 22—Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Jon 3:1-5, 10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20
- Jan 29—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Duet 18:15-20
1 Cor 7:32-35
Mk 1:21-28
- Feb 5—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4,6-7
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23
Mk 1:29-39

DIGNITY/HOUSTON OFFICERS (terms on board)

Michael Parr (92-94)	President
Helen Kreller (93-95)	Vice President
George Wetzel (93-95)	Secretary
Phil DeMarco (93-95)	Treasurer
Mike Sheahan (92-94)	Board Member
Bob Singleton (92-94)	Board Member
Jack Tweelings (93-94*)	Board Member
* filling a vacated term	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS & LIAISONS	
Jack Tweelings	Membership
Helen Kreller	Liturgy
Jack Tweelings	St. Stephens
Phil DeMarco, liaison	Social
George Wetzel	Communications
Debbie M. Comm. for Women's Concerns	
Bob Singleton, editor	Newsletter
Phil DeMarco	Buildings & Grounds
Michael Parr, liaison	Fund Raising
Bob Heer	Historian

Dignity Houston BBS

(713) 988-8217

300-1200-2400 Baud. 640 MB of files. Messages. CD-ROM (17 disks). 176 Registered Doors. 479 Total Doors. Founded August 15, 1991.

This newsletter is an organ through which Dignity members can share their news items, thoughts, ideas, experiences, and feelings with each other. Opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and are not to be construed necessarily as those of the editor, Dignity/Houston, Dignity/USA, or of the Catholic Church. Submissions should be kept to less than a column and a half per month per person submitting. Depending on space availability, some articles may be edited.

Dignity/Houston

meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm at
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Newsletter Address: 1651 Northwood, Houston, TX 77009

Dignity/Houston is dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the board of Dignity/Houston or the editor. Publication of names and/or organizations in this newsletter should not be construed as indication of sexual orientation. Newsletter items may be mailed to the editor at the address above. Deadline for receiving articles is the 16th of the previous month. Membership: \$40.00 a year.



Dignity

HOUSTON

February 1994

We Are Many Parts; We Are All One Body

Taking Responsibility

A handful of us will be travelling to the Dignity Mountain/Plains Regional Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico the weekend of Feb 19-20. In addition to workshops and consensus building as a tool for leadership, community building, images of God and a liturgical workshop, Michael Kaney and I will be presenting the good news about our very own computer bulletin board and how Dignity chapters and Dignity/USA could adapt and adopt its uses for their own practical needs. If you have ideas you would like to share, be sure and talk with the delegates *before* they leave. Our larger Dignity organization is in a transition period where there are new regional boundaries and affiliations to accommodate and grow together.

Closer to home we are now looking at a more "in-reach" focus for our 20th anniversary celebration and are open to suggestions, recommendations and proposals to celebrate our twenty years of serving gay, lesbian and bisexual Catholics and their friends here in Houston. We are in fact the oldest continuing lesbian, gay and bisexual organization in the city of Houston.

Please give this some thought and earnest consideration. We truly are open to a wide range of doable celebrations to remember our birthday.

—George M. Wetzel

Stewardship of Giving Time, Talent, and Treasure

First they gave themselves to the Lord.

—2 Cor 8:5

As stewards of God's gifts, we are responsible to use our Time, talent and Treasure wisely. Stewardship begins with the recognition that all we have ... Our Time, Talent and Treasure ... is God's. Only then can we enter into a relationship which freely gives our

abilities to serve and give life to others and to open the world to the promise of God's Reign.

Stewardship of our resources means to:

Give Personally:

First, we must give more than our Time, Talent and Treasure—we must give ourselves to God. All we have and are is our God's.

First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then by God's will they gave themselves to us as well.

—2 Cor 8:5

Give Generously:

God's blessings to us are bountiful and unconditional. The return of our time, talent and money should express our trust in a God who will provide for us.

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will reap a large crop.

—2 Cor 9:6

Give Thoughtfully:

Giving requires planning and thought. This decision should be integrated with our other financial and time commitment decisions. We give thoughtfully when we plan our giving and use our contribution envelopes.

Where your treasure lies, there your heart will be also.

—Luke 12:34

Give Proportionately:

Give a gift of equal sacrifice, not equal value. Our gift should be generous and in proportion to the Time, Talent and Treasure God has given us. Some use the biblical concept of tithe, a tenth (10%), as a guide.

One tenth of all the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord.

—Lev 27:30

Give Cheerfully:

Give cheerfully from the heart. Our decision to give our Time, Talent and Treasure is a personal commitment from our heart between us and God.

Everyone must give according to what they have inwardly decided ... for God loves a cheerful giver.
—2 Cor 9:7

Give Thankfully:

Give thanks for the many blessings God has given us, a grateful response to the infinite love God has bestowed upon us.

Give and it will be given to you.
—Luke 6:38

It is more blessed to give than to receive
—Acts 20:35

Requiescant in Pace

We are sorrowed at the deaths of two of our brothers this last month, Tom Jarzabek who died on the fourth day of the new year and Lee Ruffino who returned to his Creator on the fifteenth.

Tom was a long time member of Dignity/Houston. Before his active membership in Houston he had been an active member of Dignity/Seattle. He will be missed by many of us who had known him a long time.

Lee Ruffino was an active Dignity/Houston member for the last three years. He was dedicated to the organization right from the start and served on our board of directors 1991-92.

They have joined the near fifty other Dignity/Houston members who have gone on before us to welcome us home when our time comes.

Lent 1994

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 16 (a day of fasting and abstinence). Dignity Houston will not have a Wednesday distribution of ashes but members are encouraged to receive ashes at their preferred parish church that day.

Holy Thursday falls on March 31. Dignity Houston will offer exposition of the sacrament that evening from 7-9:00 pm. The following day, Good Friday, April 1 (also a day of fasting and abstinence), there will be a Reconciliation service at the center at 7:00 pm. with the opportunity for individual reconciliations. Saturday, April 2, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil with the blessing of fire, water, the Easter Candle, culminating in the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Presiding over this communal celebration will be several of our favorite priest.

During the Saturdays of Lent the liturgy committee has planned a series of educational Lenten homilies. Their purpose is to help those participating in the eucharistic celebrations to deepen their understanding

of the rites and rituals of the mass and to foster an increase in spirituality and prayerfulness.

In addition to these Lenten liturgical rites, Dignity Houston plans on regularly offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation before mass on the first Saturday of each month (at 7:00 pm in our newly appointed reconciliation room) and to offer the Sacrament of Healing/Anointing during the mass on the second Saturday of each month.

Overview of our Lenten schedule:

- Feb 16 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
(no service at Dignity Center)
- Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26
(educational Lenten homilies)
- Mar 31 Holy Thursday
(Exposition of the Sacrament, 7-9 pm)
- Apr 1 Good Friday
(Reconciliation Service, 7 pm)
- Apr 2 Easter Vigil
(Easter Vigil Celebration, 7:30 pm)

Valentine's Day

The Dignity Houston family will celebrate a Liturgy of Commitment/Relationship on Feb 12 as its observance of St. Valentine's Day.

We have couples in our community who have lived lives of commitment to each other for many decades; we have others whose commitments are much more recent. Be before you think that the liturgy will be meaningful only for those who have that significant other, the liturgy will also celebrate the relationships that all of us, singles and couples alike, have with each other as members of our Dignity community, as members of the Lesbian/Gay community, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, and as divine images of our God.

*How much is your Dignity worth to
you?
A dollar a day?*

By-Laws

Over the years the Dignity Houston membership has voted various changes to its by-laws. Although the changes were printed, distributed and discussed at the time of the votes, fully reconciled publishings of the entire set of by-laws have seldom been done.

During the Feb 5 membership meeting a newly reconciled and current printing of the by-laws will be made available to the members present. Those not present can get a set of by-laws by calling the Dignity Houston number (880-2872) and requesting that one be sent to you. Remember to give us your current address.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY										
		1	2 Ground Hog Day Candlemas 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center	3	4	5 7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation. 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. General Membership Meeting after Mass. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.										
6 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.	7	8	9 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Sacrament of Healing and Anointing during Mass. Special Liturgy for Friendships and Relationships. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.										
13 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.	14 St. Valentine's Day	15 Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras 7:00pm BOARD MEETING at Dignity Center	16 Ash Wednesday (Fast and Abstinence) 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center DEADLINE for Articles in the March newsletter.	17	18 (Abstinence)	19 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup. Dignity Regional Conference in Sante Fe, NM										
20 1st Sunday of Lent 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced. Dignity Regional Conference in Sante Fe, NM	21 President's Day	22 Washington- 's Birthday	23 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center DEADLINE for Calendar Entries in Mar. newsletter (call Jack T. at 780-4767).	24	25 (Abstinence)	26 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. 4th Sat "Loose Change Collection" for Retreat Fund Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.										
27 2nd Sunday of Lent 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" Location to be announced.	28	FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">5 - Thomas K.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">18 - Mike K.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 - John H.</td> <td> - John T.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 - David D.</td> <td>25 - Phil D.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 - Manuel L.</td> <td>26 - Bob S.</td> </tr> <tr> <td> - Gene R.</td> <td>27 - Jon B.</td> </tr> </table>					5 - Thomas K.	18 - Mike K.	8 - John H.	- John T.	10 - David D.	25 - Phil D.	17 - Manuel L.	26 - Bob S.	- Gene R.	27 - Jon B.
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17 - Manuel L.	26 - Bob S.															
- Gene R.	27 - Jon B.															

Stewardship Envelopes

Clarification! Some members have mistakenly thought that we have instituted the envelop system because Dignity Houston will be required to report to the I.R.S. by name who has given what amount. Wrong! We will not be betraying confidentiality.

Instead, the new law will require that persons who claim charitable contributions above a certain amount to a charitable organization will need to provide a statement from the organization of the amount the organization received from that individual. This be like getting a receipt from Dignity for your contributions. This is the information that we will be tracking by using contribution envelopes.

Regional Conference in Santa Fe

The first regional meeting of the new Mountain/Plains Region of Dignity/USA will be held on the President's Day weekend, Friday, Feb 18 through the following Monday at the Plaza Resolana in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Although the organizers requested that registration be made by January 6, they may still be able to take more if you send in your \$25.00 registration right away to P. O. Box 27294, Albuquerque, NM 87125. Room costs are \$49.00 per night based on double occupancy. The charge includes breakfast and lunch. The hosts are willing to do an airport to and from pick-up from Albuquerque to Santa Fe for an additional \$5.00.

Dignity Houston the oldest continuing lesbian, gay and bisexual organization in the city of Houston.

Next Membership Meeting and Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the membership of Dignity Houston will be after mass, Feb 5. This is an opportunity for members to hear about plans from their officers and for the officers to hear ideas and comments from the membership. New printings of the by-laws will be distributed.

The next board meeting will be the following Tuesday, Feb 15, at 7:00 pm. at the Dignity Center. Any Dignity member is welcome to attend board meetings.

Stone Soup

Offerings of groceries may be placed in front of the altar at each Saturday Mass. Feminine hygiene items are very much in need as are toiletries of various kinds. Don't forget to save and keep bringing your old paper grocery bags. They are most desperately needed. Thank you!

Dignity Pool Team

Dignity Houston's pool team, *The Flying Nones*, is lead by Mike K. The team has been doing very well lately.

Their future January engagements are Feb. 1, vs. Miner 69ers at Past Time; Feb 8 vs. Coalition at Briar Patch; Feb 15 vs. Scandals at EJ's.

Loose Change Collections

During the liturgy of the fourth Saturday of every month, we will be taking up a second collection, a "loose change" collection, earmarked for a Dignity/Houston retreat fund. Charge persons will try to remind the assembled of that collection before the start of the liturgy on the fourth Saturday.

Appreciation Dinner

Dignity Houston is tentatively planning an Appreciation Dinner for its members to honor and thank its clergy for their selfless dedication on Friday, April 22. Watch for more information.

Offertory

In order to meet our minimum needs our 1994 budget requires a weekly offertory average of \$350.

In the offertories of Jan 1, 8, and 15 we exceeded the budget. On Jan 22 we did not meet the budget. Thank you to those with stewardship offerings!

New York Sunday Times

The New York Sunday Times is an opportunity for Dignity members and their friends to get together on a Sunday morning (11 am to 2 pm) to talk, have coffee and munchies, read the Sunday papers, discuss what is up in the world, the goals of our community, chit-chat, or what-you-please. Please ask at the Saturday liturgy who is hosting this month.

New, current and prospective members are heartily welcome. Do yourself a favor, check it out.

Welcome, New Dignity Members!

Every month from the many visitors we welcome at our liturgies we receive new members into Dignity. Our most recent new members are Mike G., Thomas K., and Thomas S. which makes our community number 104. Please give them a hearty welcome. We are most happy to welcome the many women who have recently joined.

Official dues in Dignity are only \$40.00 which makes the individual a member of Dignity/USA and the local chapter. There are no extra dues for the

Houston chapter, but we expect that members will support the chapter in an ongoing way through regular offerings in the liturgical collections.

In addition to our regular Saturday night liturgies, new members are invited to join us also at a Sunday Times to get to know other of our members in a non-liturgical setting. Dignity members also informally go to dinner in groups to a variety of local restaurants after the Saturday liturgies. The conversation and fellowship is always delightful. Plan to join us at more than just the liturgies.

Our Wish List

Ask and ye shall receive. Dignity/Houston is need of the following items in order of need:

1. two slide projectors
2. ice maker for our freezer
3. a TV (no less than 25"), VCR and cart
4. a chair caddy (or caddies) for storing our folding chairs
5. a full size microwave with cart
6. a copier
7. kitchen cabinets

DIGNITY/HOUSTON OFFICERS (terms on board)

Michael Parr (92-94)	President
Helen Kreller (93-95)	Vice President
George Wetzel (93-95)	Secretary
Phil DeMarco (93-95)	Treasurer
Mike Sheahan (92-94)	Board Member
Bob Singleton (92-94)	Board Member
Jack Tweelings (93-94*)	Board Member

* filling a vacated term

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & LIAISONS

Jack Tweelings	Membership
Helen Kreller	Liturgy
Jack Tweelings	St. Stephens
Phil DeMarco, liaison	Social
George Wetzel	Communications
Debbie M. Comm. for Women's Concerns	
Bob Singleton, editor	Newsletter
Phil DeMarco	Buildings & Grounds
Michael Parr, liaison	Fund Raising
Bob Heer	Historian

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This newsletter is a publication through which Dignity members can share their news items, thoughts, ideas, experiences, and feelings with each other. Opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and are not to be construed necessarily as those of the editor, Dignity/Houston, Dignity/USA, or of the Catholic Church. Submissions should be kept to less than a column and a half per month per person submitting. Depending on space availability, some articles may be edited.

Dignity/Houston

meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm at
1307 Yale, Suite H
Houston, Texas 77008.
(713) 880-2872


Mailing Address: Box 66821, Houston, TX 77266
Newsletter Address: 1651 Northwood, Houston, TX 77009

Dignity/Houston is dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the board of Dignity/Houston or the editor. Publication of names and/or organizations in this newsletter should not be construed as indication of sexual orientation. Newsletter items may be mailed to the editor at the address above. Deadline for receiving articles is the 16th of the previous month. Membership: \$40.00 a year.

Liturgical Readings for February

(The initials before the numbers name the book of the Bible. The number immediately before the colon is the chapter number; the numbers after the colon are the verse numbers. The first reading is generally from the Old Testament, the second is from the letters of the apostles, the third is from one of the four gospels. Currently all readings are from Cycle B)

Jan 29—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Cycle B		
Deut 18:15-20	1 Cor 7:32-35	Mk 1: 21-28
Feb 5—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Cycle B		
Job 7:1-4,6-7	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23	Mk 1:29-39
Feb 12—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Cycle B		
Lev 13:1-2, 44-46	1 Cor 10:31-11:1	Mk 1:40-45
Feb 19—First Sunday of Lent: Cycle B		
Gen 9:8-15	1 Pet 3:18-22	Mk 1:12-15
Feb 26—Second Sunday of Lent: Cycle B		
Gen 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18	Rom 8:31-34	Mk 9:2-10



Dignity

HOUSTON

April 1994

We Are Many Parts; We Are All One Body

Taking Responsibility

Jeffrey is a wildly amusing and varied comedy revolving, sometimes at a heady rate, around AIDS, giving up sex, being a gay man in contemporary New York, and looking for humor, satire, irony and various other distractions to keep on living and loving now.

A delightful romp with few characters, institutions or organizations left unskewered or milked for a smile, a laugh or a hearty guffaw.

From comedy to tragedy to farce and romance this comedy and musical interlude made me laugh out loud more times than I could count. And on one of two occasions I was knee-slapping and into high-pitched hilarity with the point of their humorous barbs.

If you think there is nothing to laugh at or even smile about AIDS, memorial services, hospital visits, eulogies, gay pride parades and high class fundraising, you have a thing or two to learn from this delightful entertainment.

Drop-dead lines literally drip from the lips of Sterling, an interior decorator who has lived a lucky life. He wastes few words, and fewer gestures.

"Hoedown at the Waldorf" somehow fits here and is a delicious peek at the silly things that people do to raise lots of money for AIDS research, rehabilitation and living. I could almost imagine artificial cowchips to give that special aroma to the starlight ballroom that gilded mirrors and carpeted floors somehow cannot create.

After the play someone asked me if I didn't think the play was a bit rough on the Catholic Church. My response was, "Not at all, considering the circumstances of New York City, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Cardinal openly aligning himself with those who hate, fear and despise all that gay men and lesbians stand for!" By invoking and provoking an angry, vengeful and hate-filled God, I am not surprised that those filled with hatred, fear and ignorance are attracted to that segment of Roman Catholic thought and practice.

That is not the God I now believe in nor the one I care to cultivate or promote with others. Fear, hatred and guilt, in my views, are the tools used by manipulating, controlling and frightened leaders. May their tribe decrease!

If you missed *Jeffrey*, it will be back at Stages in early May. Don't miss it then.

—George M. Wetzel

The Celestine Prophecy, Fact or Fiction

Like the work of Carlos Castaneda, James Redfield's popular story of a manuscript found in a remote area of Peru poses lots of questions. It is possible to read this book on several (some would say nine) different levels but with its status climbing on the *New York Times* best-seller list, it will provoke a lot of thinking and questioning.

This is a book about how we all experience life. Yet it is told as an adventure story (not unlike Indiana Jones stories) concerning an ancient Peruvian manuscript found at an Aztec/Mayan temple site and written in Aramaic! And what is so adventurous about this manuscript? It contains clues, insights, indications, pathways, avenues by which 21st Century human beings will make a breakthrough in human consciousness (ways of perceiving and relating and communicating with other human beings, the earth creatures, our environment and the source of light, energy and the universe).

The manuscript is evolutionary in that each of the insights requires that it be personally experienced (as opposed to being read about) in one's life for it to be fully grasped and evaluated.

This might be a fascinating glimpse into what the future of so much obvious, surface and oftentimes jumbled spiritual shifts seem to be even now indicating. Or, it might just be an adventure story written by a man who is creatively searching and researching for some substantial meaning to what he views as occurring in our world today. You, the reader will have to decide.

Not a long book, at 246 pages it is difficult to put down, and if you are like me, you will want to reread it to get more clarity of the insights and the messages this manuscript brings to us today.

It seems to me that each reader will uniquely bring their own experience to this book and its lessons. You owe it to yourself to share that experience and to decide who and how you wish to share this book with.

More than likely it will help you to clarify and crystalize your own personal vision about your life and why you are on this planet.

This book would make an excellent theme for a retreat — either on one's own or with like-minded fellow pilgrims.

—G. M. W.

Embraced By The Light

By Betty J. Eadie. Near-death experiences and how they impact peoples lives are opening a lot of questions and answers for those of us who will be facing death in ourselves and in the lives of those we love.

Perhaps Easter is as good a time as any to look at the reflections and insights of near-death experience. At only 147 pages this book is an inspiring glimpse at something most of us could only haltingly visualize or have to rely on romantic, syrupy hymns and flowery prayers often found at funeral services.

What Betty Eadie actually felt and saw (even if it does not quite square with you own images) is powerful, moving and inspiring.

While many New Age devotees are inspired by light, love and acceptance, it is toward light that Eadie moves inevitably and fearlessly. And surrounded by this light she is overwhelmed with the feeling and thought of unconditional love.

The God she sees is a God of unconditional love. Accepting, loving, understanding, forgiving, and full of answers to questions that Eadie is all too eager to raise.

Living in harmony with other religions, nations, people is the why of our being here. "We are here to help each other, to care for each other, to understand, forgive and serve one another." "I saw that we all volunteered for our positions and stations in the world, and that each of us is receiving more help than we know."

Positive and negative thinking and behavior act as magnets to attract and promote more positive or negative ideas, thoughts and acts. We select, in unique ways, the illnesses we suffer and even those which will end our lives.

At this point you either know and appreciate what Eadie is saying or you don't. Give it a read, meditate on its images, suggestions and notions if you will, and see how it stacks up with much of the over-rationalized and over-thought writings in this area. It is a fountain of images and impressions about death and dying as well as life that will challenge and puzzle you.

A generous Dignity member has given this book to the Dignity Houston library. Enjoy!

—G. M. W.

Special Liturgy in May

On Saturday, May 7, we will have a special liturgy featuring prayer movement and a guest homilist, Sister Paula Enderely, O. P., Prioress of the Houston Dominican Sisters. Many of us are familiar with Sister Paula as leader of a Dignity retreat a while back.

At Mass on the seventh, we will also have a special collection to benefit the Educational Fund of the Dominican Sisters. Your monetary donations will be used for continuing education for members of the order. Sister Paula has identified this as a special need at this time.

Recognizing the value of the donations of time and talent, our chapter will organize an outing for the retired Dominican Sisters. There are 18 to 20 of these women who reside at the Mother House and are also infirm, but ambulatory. The trip could be to Galveston or to the countryside to see the wild flowers, or to someplace else not too far away. We could provide bag lunches for the Sisters and Dignity member would accompanying them. We could go to some place of interest, spend a couple of hours there, and then return to Houston.

We need volunteers to drive and accompany the nuns as well as to make bag lunches. If Dignity Houston can sponsor an outing twice a year, it would be very appreciated and it would fill an unmet need. If you are interested, please telephone Cathy Lenahan at 523-4505.

Why Do We Do What We Do?

Week after week we dutifully attend Mass and watch events happen often without understanding just why we do what we do. Perhaps we learned it once from our religion teachers in grade school and have since forgotten; perhaps we never were told.

There is a rich inspiring history behind all the symbols, words and actions of the Mass. Knowing the story of our liturgical worship will enrich our participation and raise the experience from a I-gotta-do-it-or-stand-in-pain-of-mortal-sin experience to a I-want-to-participate-because-it-enriches-my-life one.

On Saturdays April 9 and 16 Fathers Don, Adam, and Alcuin will offer us the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Mass. Those that are interested in the educational series will meet around 5:00 pm at the Center to discuss the Mass. Following, we will have dinner together, and then start the liturgy at the usual 7:30 pm.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY









SATURDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 6 - Mike Sm. | 13 - Jeff J. | 20 - Mark M. |
| 8 - J.G. M. | 15 - Lisa G. | 22 - Paul M. |
| 9 - Fr. Don K. | 17 - Bill R. | - John W. |
| 10 - Clark S. | 18 - Stan F. | |

<p>1 April Fools Day Good Friday (Fast and Abstinence) 7:30pm Reconciliation Service at Dignity Center</p>	<p>2 Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil 7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation. 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup. DEADLINE for Reservations for Dinner on 4/22.</p>
--	--

HOLY WEEK

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
 <p>Daylight Savings—set ahead 1 hour Easter Sunday 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" at Dignity Center.</p>			 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center			<p>5:00pm History of Mass. 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Sacrament of Healing and Anointing during Mass. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>2nd Sunday of Easter 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" at Dignity Center.</p>			 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center		 <p>IRS Deadline</p>	<p>5:00pm History of Mass. 7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup. DEADLINE for Articles in the May newsletter.</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>3rd Sunday of Easter 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" at Dignity Center.</p>		 7:00pm BOARD MEETING at Dignity Center	 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center	<p>San Jacinto Day</p>	 7:00pm APPRECIATION DINNER at the Travelodge Hotel 2828 Southwest Freeway at Kirby Cost: \$20 per person	<p>7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. 4th Sat "Loose Change Collection" for Retreat Fund General Membership Meeting after Mass with Budget Presentation. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup. DEADLINE for Calendar Entries in May newsletter (call Jack T. at 780-4767).</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>4th Sunday of Easter 11am - 2pm "SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES" at Dignity Center.</p>			 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE at Dignity Center			<p>7:30pm MASS at Dignity Center. Please bring canned goods for Stone Soup.</p>

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Stewardship Envelopes

Please continue to use stewardship envelopes so that we can provide you at year's end an accounting of your contributions for tax purposes.

Requiescat In Oblivio!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The nagging lawsuit stemming from our leaving our Fannin location years ago has been finally settled out of court on the terms that the Dignity board has been offering since the inception of the suit. *Patientia vincit.*

Dignity Houston is the oldest continuing lesbian, gay and bisexual organization in the city of Houston.

Next Membership Meeting and Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the membership of Dignity Houston will be after mass, April 23. This is an opportunity for members to hear about plans from their officers and for the officers to hear ideas and comments from the membership. The next board meeting will be the following Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 pm. at the Dignity Center. Any Dignity member is welcome to attend board meetings.

Stone Soup

Offerings of groceries may be placed in front of the altar at each Saturday Mass. Feminine hygiene items are very much in need as are toiletries of various kinds. Don't forget to save and keep bringing your old paper grocery bags. They are most desperately needed. Thank you!

Loose Change Collections

During the liturgy of the fourth Saturday of every month, we will be taking up a second "loose change" collection, earmarked for a Dignity/Houston retreat fund.

Spiritual Offerings To Come

A retreat is being planned for Dignity Houston later this season. Watch for more details.

Around the end of May Helen Kreller is organizing a series on prayer. These meetings will take place an hour before liturgies on Saturdays. Watch for more information.

In July a series on church history is also being planned.

In late July, early August, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic church is organizing a trip to Poland to visit locations important in the life of St. Max. Bob Singleton and Joe Boyd are going. Contact Father Adam for more information.

Appreciation Dinner

Dignity Houston has organized an Appreciation Dinner on Friday, April 22 for its members to honor and thank the clergy that ministers to Dignity for their selfless dedication. Although the deadline for buying tickets (\$20.00 per person) was April 2, you may still buy tickets. However, if you are thinking of attending and have not yet bought your ticket, please do so right away from Phil DeMarco since he must call in the numbers to the hotel very shortly.

Pride Week

Pride Week will be celebrated in Houston June 3-12, earlier than usual this year because so as not to conflict with the national Stonewall celebrations in New York City during the traditional dates.

On Saturday, June 5, 5-7 pm, there will be a cash bar reception at the Museum Restaurant (across from the Menil Collection). During the reception there will be a sale of Museum Restaurant Gift Certificates good for meal purchases at the restaurant. What monies are raised by the sale will be given back to Dignity Houston by the restaurant. In effect, by buying a certificate you benefit our Dignity chapter monetarily and get yourself a discounted meal at an engaging restaurant.

On Saturday, June 11, Dignity will host a bar-be-que dinner as a celebration of our family's 20th Anniversary, with a liturgy to follow. The events will be timed to accommodate those who will be attending the Gay Men's Chorus concert that night.

On Sunday morning the 12th, circa 11 am, we will offer a special Sunday Pride Liturgy, inviting the Lesbian and Gay community at large as we did last year.

On Sunday afternoon, we will march in the Houston Pride Parade. We ask that as many members as will make the commitment to be out, gay-lesbian and proud, to march with us in celebration of our 20th year and our status as the oldest lesbian-gay organization in Houston! Make this the event where you cast off your shackles of fear and claim the freedom of pride which is rightly yours.

New York Sunday Times

The New York Sunday Times is an opportunity for Dignity members and their friends to get together on a Sunday morning (11 am to 2 pm) to talk, have coffee and munchies, read the Sunday papers, discuss what is up in the world, the goals of our community, chit-chat, or what-you-please. John W. will host the Times during April, meeting at Dignity Center. Please bring breakfast goodies.

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Ask And Ye Shall Receive

Dignity/Houston is need of the following items in order of need:

1. two slide projectors
2. a full size microwave with cart
3. a copier
4. kitchen cabinets

An Another Wish List Donor

Please note that our wish list has diminished again this month by another important item. Through a generous gift we now can retire the folding chair caddy from our list.

Regional News

If you will be traveling in our Dignity Mountains/Plains Region, try visiting a sister chapter.

Austin, (512) 467-7908, Box 2666, Austin TX 78768.
Dallas, (no number), Box 190133, Dallas TX 75219-0133
Denver, (303) 322-8485, Box 3072, Denver CO 80204-3072
Ft. Worth, (817) 283-8588, 4503 Bridge St., Ft. Worth TX 76103
New Mexico, (505) 880-9031, Box 27294, Albuquerque NM 87125
Oklahoma City, (405) 636-4388, Box 25473, Oklahoma City OK 73125
Phoenix, (602) 258-2556, Box 21091, Phoenix AZ 85036-0191
San Antonio, (210) 738-3287, Box 12484, San Antonio TX 78212
S. Colorado, (719) 635-5773, Box 1172, Colorado Springs CO 80901
Tulsa, (918) 234-0315, Box 1271, Tulsa OK 74101-1271



Christ our Light

DIGNITY/HOUSTON OFFICERS (terms on board)

Michael Parr (92-94)	President
Helen Kreller (93-95)	Vice President
George Wetzel (93-95)	Secretary
Phil DeMarco (93-95)	Treasurer
Mike Sheahan (92-94)	Board Member
Bob Singleton (92-94)	Board Member
Jack Tweelings (93-94*)	Board Member

* filling a vacated term

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & LIAISONS

Jack Tweelings	Membership
Helen Kreller	Liturgy
Jack Tweelings	St. Stephen's
Phil DeMarco, liaison	Social
George Wetzel	Communications
Helen Kreller	Comm. for Women's Concerns
Bob Singleton, editor	Newsletter
Phil DeMarco	Buildings & Grounds
Michael Parr, liaison	Fund Raising
Bob Heer	Historian

Dignity Houston BBS

(713) 988-8217

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This newsletter is a publication through which Dignity members can share their news items, thoughts, ideas, experiences, and feelings with each other. Opinions expressed are those of the individual writer and are not to be construed necessarily as those of the editor, Dignity/Houston, Dignity/USA, or of the Catholic Church. Submissions should be kept to less than a column and a half per month per person submitting. Depending on space availability, some articles may be edited.

Dignity/Houston

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Dignity/Houston is dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of the board of Dignity/Houston or the editor. Publication of names and/or organizations in this newsletter should not be construed as indication of sexual orientation. Newsletter items may be mailed to the editor at the address above. Deadline for receiving articles is the 16th of the previous month. Membership: \$40.00 a year.

DIGNITY/HOUSTON
P. O. BOX 66821
HOUSTON, TX 77266

RE: CHAPTER REPORT
SPRING 1994 CONFERENCE

SINCE THE 1993 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS, DIGNITY/HOUSTON HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH THE ELECTION OF FOUR (4) NEW AND TALENTED BOARD MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER, 1993. TOGETHER, WITH THE INCUMBENT MEMBERS, WE HAVE HAD AN EXCITING AND EVENTFUL SIX MONTHS SINCE THE CONVENTION. I HAVE SUMMARIZED THE HIGH POINTS BELOW:

1. COMPUTERIZATION OF ALL DIGNITY BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS. THIS WAS DONE WITH THE HELP OF AN IBM PS/1 PC THAT WAS DONATED TO DIGNITY/HOUSTON. CURRENTLY WE USE DB3+ FOR MEMBERSHIP RECORD KEEPING AND QUICKEN FOR ALL FINANCIAL RECORDS.
2. A SERIES OF SPECIAL ADVENT LITURGIES USHERED IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WE CELEBRATED THE END OF ADVENT WITH A MIDNIGHT MASS AND RECEPTION, FOLLOWED BY OUR REGULAR SATURDAY NIGHT LITURGY ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
3. JANUARY SAW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM USING THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO ENCOURAGE REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO ENABLE THE TREASURER TO KEEP TRACK OF THE DONATIONS BY EACH MEMBER FOR TAX RECORD KEEPING PURPOSES. THIS IS PROVING TO BE EFFECTIVE AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT OUR WEEKLY BUDGET HAS BEEN EXCEEDED EVERY WEEK BUT ONE SINCE JANUARY 1, 1994.
4. WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN SEASON, WE ARE INSTITUTING A 6 WEEK SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL LESSONS DISCUSSING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND SYMBOLISM OF EACH PART OF THE MASS.
5. ALSO UNDERWAY ARE PLANS FOR AN APPRECIATION DINNER FOR ALL OF THE PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED US, TO BE HELD IN APRIL. AND PLANS ARE BEING DRAWN UP FOR DIGNITY/HOUSTON'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE. WE ARE THE OLDEST GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL ORGANIZATION IN HOUSTON.

WE PRESENTLY HAVE APPROXIMATELY 104 MEMBERS, 10% OF WHOM ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPRING 1994 CONFERENCE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN 1994 AND BEYOND.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JACK TWEELINGS
MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DELEGATE, SPRING 1994 CONFERENCE