**November 28, 2018**

Congratulations to our new board which will assume office on January 1, 2019.  Many thanks to the current board for their service.  A special thanks to **Beth** for her many years of faithful service as vice president of D/NoVA, and to **Karen** for her many years of faithful service to D/NoVA as board member and Chair of the Social Committee.  Their dedication to D/NoVA since its founding has set an example for all of us.  WE welcome new board members **Elizabeth, Jean, and Mark**to the D/NoVA Board of Directors and **Eileen** as the new vice president.

This coming Saturday, 12/1, D/NoVA will have its **First Saturday collection** for the OLQP Food Bank.  Items needed include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

**World AIDS Day December 1, 2018**is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died.  Attached is the prayer we will be using.

Please remember **Mary** in your prayers as she prepares for her surgery in a week or so.

**On December 8, DW**will sponsor a retreat at the **Dignity Center** beginning at 9:00am.  Following the retreat, DW will have a mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception starting at 3:00pm.

**On 12/8**, D/NoVA willl have a **penance service** in connection with mass starting at 6:30pm at ICOH.

**On 12/15**, D/NoVA will have an **anointing service** in connection with mass starting at 6:30pm at ICOH.

**On 12/15**, D/NoVA will start collecting for **SOME** as we have done in the past.  The board will match up to $500.

There will be a mass at ICOH starting at 6:30pm on **Christmas Eve, 12/24**, followed by a party at Monika and Mary's.  Details to follow.  DW has a mass at 6:00pm on **Christmas Day at St. Margaret's.**

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**WWH Walk to End HIV:  Saturday, December 1, 2018**

DW and D/NoVA are once again joining forces to sponsor a team in this event.  The team name is The Dignity Washington and Dignity Northern Virginia Team in Memory of Jimmy DePersis, who was our representative to this event for many years before his passing in October 2009.

Held for the past 32 years, the Walk & 5K to End HIV is Whitman-Walker Health’s signature fundraiser that calls on thousands of Washington, DC area residents to strap up their shoes and walk or run to support WWH’s mission of providing dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

To register, go to:

<https://walktoendhiv.org/get-involved/register/>

Then choose the “Join a Team” during their registration and search for the Dignity team.

All should enter DIG18 in the promo code field and click “Apply” so they aren’t charged for the registration.

Please sign-up to join our team.  Since registration is free for the first 20 folks who join our team, please consider making an individual donation to WWH.

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**September 18, 2018**

We return to ICOH this coming Saturday with an anointing service as part of the mass starting at 6:30pm.

Thanks to all those who were able to find us at the Seminary church last Saturday evening and so graciously dealt with the cramped quarters.

It is election season.  The Board is planning for our annual meeting to be held on 11/17 at ICOH with a pizza party following.   All Officer and Director positions are up for election.  Please consider serving the community as a board member.  Please respond to this email or let one of the board members know of you interested in standing for election.

Coming in October:

10/6   Rosary at 6:00pm followed by mass at 6:30pm with blessing of pets and special collection for the Arlington and Alexandria Animal Welfare Leagues.  D/NoVA's Belle Fund will match up to $250 to each organization.  Please make checks payable to Dignity NoVA and note that it is for the Animal Welfare Leagues.

10/27 Walk to End HIV.  DW and D/NoVA are once again joining forces to sponsor a team in this event.  The team name is The Dignity Washington and Dignity Northern Virginia Team in Memory of Jimmy DePersis, who was our representative to this event for many years before his passing in October 2009.

Held for the past 32 years, the Walk & 5K to End HIV is Whitman-Walker Health’s signature fundraiser that calls on thousands of Washington, DC area residents to strap up their shoes and walk or run to support WWH’s mission of providing dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

To register, go to:

<https://walktoendhiv.org/get-involved/register/>

Then choose the “Join a Team” during their registration and search for the Dignity team.

All should enter DIG18 in the promo code field and click “Apply” so they aren’t charged for the registration.

Please sign-up to join our team.  Since registration is free for the first 20 folks who join our team, please consider making an individual donation to WWH.

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**September 6, 2018**

On 9/15, we will not have access to ICOH.  We will have our regular mass across the street at the small chapel in the rear of the Seminary church.

It is election season.  The Board is planning for our annual meeting as required.   All Officer and Director positions are up for election.  Please consider severing the community as a board member.  Please respond to this email or let one of the board members know of you interested in standing for election.

This coming Saturday, 9/8, D/NoVA will have its First Saturday collection for the OLQP Food Bank.  Items needed include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

On Saturday, September 15, we will have mass in the back chapel at the Seminary church at 6:30pm.  There will be no D/NoVA mass at ICOH on 9/15.

WWH Walk to End HIV:  Saturday, October 27, 2018

DW and D/NoVA are once again joining forces to sponsor a team in this event.  The team name is The Dignity Washington and Dignity Northern Virginia Team in Memory of Jimmy DePersis, who was our representative to this event for many years before his passing in October 2009.

Held for the past 32 years, the Walk & 5K to End HIV is Whitman-Walker Health’s signature fundraiser that calls on thousands of Washington, DC area residents to strap up their shoes and walk or run to support WWH’s mission of providing dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

To register, go to:

<https://walktoendhiv.org/get-involved/register/>

Then choose the “Join a Team” during their registration and search for the Dignity team.

All should enter DIG18 in the promo code field and click “Apply” so they aren’t charged for the registration.

Please sign-up to join our team.  Since registration is free for the first 20 folks who join our team, please consider making an individual donation to WWH.

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**June 6, 2018**

No Mass at ICOH on June 9th.  D/NoVA will be celebrating its 26th Anniversary at SGCC at a SOLD-OUT event.

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**May 2, 2018**

Many thanks to all those who made our celebration of the mass at the Virginia Theological Seminary last Saturday evening a great success.  And special thanks to Ted for bringing the chapel alive and making it an even more prayerful celebration with his skills at their marvelous organ.

We continue to ask for your prayers for Mark and Tom and Tom's dad who is now in hospice care in Florida.  Also, your continued prayers for James' mother who recently had surgery.

We return to ICOH this coming Saturday, May 5th.   It will be our First Saturday collection of items for the OLQP Food Bank.    Items needed include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil.  Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.  Thank you for your continued support of this outreach effort.

We have our regular mass again at ICOH the following Saturday.  Then, on **Sunday, May 13**, we will have our second session to discuss issues related to the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Dignity USA.  At our first session, we discussed issues about our history and where we have been as an organization.  At the May 13 session, we will discuss where we are and plans for our future.   Plans are to meet at Eileen's home at 4:00pm.  Your thoughts and ideas are crucial for a successful session.  Please contact a board member for additional details or respond to this email.

Our anniversary dinner will be on **Saturday, June 9th**, at the Springfield Golf and Country Club (SGCC), the same folks who hosted our 25th Anniversary dinner last year.  We are planning on a mass at the club at 6:30pm followed by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner (order off a limited menu) at 8:00pm, and then a short program.  This will be a much more informal affair than for our 25th.

Cost will be $30 per person with full and partial scholarships available.  The cost of a ticket will not be a barrier to attend.  This is not a fund-raiser.  We just hope to come somewhere close to breaking even. The main focus is celebration of our community and thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed on our community.

Tickets are now on sale at church.  RSVPs and payment no later than **May 26** as we need to give the SGCC a final number of attendees.

Many thanks to Susan K for arranging our ability to use the very nice SGCC again this year.

Sr. Gertrude ​will be visiting us on **Saturday, June 30**.  To celebrate, we will have a special mass with Sr. Jeannie Gramick as our guest homilist.

​There will be a ​COSTCO party or similar event after mass in the social hall.  We hope to convince Sr. Gertrude to give a talk on her adventures since she was last here.

We will be having a baptism during mass this Saturday evening, 4/21, starting at 6:30pm.  Immediately following, we will have a reception to honor Monika's newly baptized nephew as well as the proud parents, Mary Beth and Joseph.

On Saturday, 4/28, we will be celebrating mass across the street at the new seminary chapel.  It might be best to arrive a few minutes before our regular 6:30pm starting time to make sure there are no parking problems.  If you have any questions about the location, please let us know.

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**April 9, 2018**

This coming Saturday evening, 4/14/2018, we will have our regular mass at ICOH starting at 6:30pm.  The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) of ICOH will be hosting a BBQ that evening from 5:30 to 8:00pm.  They have generously and sincerely invited the Dignity NoVA community to attend.  The EYC will be providing home-cooked BBQ, hot dogs, vegetarian options, various side dishes, and an array of kid-friendly beverages. Coolers with ice will be available for any additional beverages you wish to bring.

All donations received during dinner will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds will go towards helping the outreach and the ministries of the EYC. Additional BBQ will be available for purchase $ 12 for one or 2 for $ 20 - Cash and checks accepted.

Please see the link for additional details.  It sounds like a fun way for us to support our friends at ICOH.

<https://tockify.com/immanuel.on.the.hill/detail/48/1523741400000>

On 4/21, there will be a Baptism at mass followed by a reception in the Social Hall.  All are welcomed.

Many thanks to all those who responded to our survey on the best date for our 26th Anniversary dinner.  The most popular date (with19 of the 26 responders) was June 9th. So, our anniversary dinner will be on Saturday, June 9th, at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, the same folks who hosted our 25th Anniversary dinner last year.  We are planning on a mass at the club at 6:30pm followed by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner (order off a menu) at 8:00pm, and then a short program.  This will be a simpler and more informal affair than for our 25th.

More details to follow.  RSVPs no later than May 26 as we need to give the SGCC a final number of attendees.

Cost will be $30 per person with full and partial scholarships available.  The cost of a ticket will not be a barrier to attend.  This is not a fund-raiser.  We just hope to come somewhere close to breaking even. The main focus is celebration of our community and thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed on our community.

Many thanks to Susan K for arranging our ability to use the very nice SGCC again this year.

**LENT and Holy Week 2018**

There will be a Penance Service on Saturday, March 17, in connection with our regular mass at 6:30pm at ICOH.

For Holy Week, here is our schedule:

Saturday, March 24 @ ICOH @ 6:30pm Plam Sunday Service

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Liturgy** | **Time** | **Location** | **More Information** |
| Mar 25 | Palm Sunday | 6:00 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Blessing of Palms and Mass with Passion Reading |
| Mar 29 | Holy Thursday | 7:30 PM | Dignity/NoVA at Immanuel Church on the Hill | Mass celebrated with Dignity/NoVA. |
| Mar 30 | Good Friday | 7:30 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Adoration of the cross and Eucharistic service |
| Mar 31 | Easter Vigil | 7:30 PM | Dignity/NoVA at Immanuel Church on the Hill | Blessing of the new fire and Baptismal water; Dessert potluck following mass. |
| Apr 1 | Easter Sunday | 6:00 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Easter Sunday Mass |

​Please see Harry if you are able to assist with the readings or other ministries.

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**December 2017**

**All D/NoVA masses at ICOH at 6:30pm as usual.**

Saturday, 12/2, Advent begins.  D/NoVA Regular mass.  No collection for OLQP.  World AIDS Day

Saturday, 12/2, DW 45th Anniversary

Friday, 12/8, Mass at the Dignity Center @7:30pm

Saturday, 12/9, D/NoVA Mass, food collection, and Penance Service.

Saturday, 12/9, Day of Reflections at the Dignity Center 10:00am to 4:00pm (see below)

Saturday, 12/16, D/NoVA Mass and Anointing service

Saturday, 12/23, D/NoVA Mass as usual @6:30pm at ICOH

Saturday, 12/23, Mass at DW at 6:00pm

Sunday, 12/24, D/NoVA Christmas Eve at ICOH @6:30pm with potluck social to follow

Sunday, 12/24, No Mass at DW

Monday, 12/25, DW Christmas Day mass at DW (St Margaret's) at 6:00pm

Saturday, 12/30, D/NoVA Mass at ICOH as usual

Reclaiming Advent: A Story of Holy Desire the Season of Advent often becomes lost on us as Christians in the flurry of the holidays and all that demands our attention each December.  Join us at the Dignity Center for a day of retreat and reflection on **December 9th from 10 am to 4 pm**, an opportunity to reclaim Advent as the gift for which it is intended.

Through prayer, meditation and writing, participants will explore the connection between desire as holy and the unique ways in which the Advent experience can nourish and deepen our celebration of Christmas. Dialogue and other spiritual exercises will creatively enhance the themes considered during the program. Please bring a journal for use throughout the day.

Gordon Creamer earned his MA in Spiritual & Pastoral Care from Loyola University. He has been involved in programming and operations in healthcare since 2001 at various Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Hospice communities. Gordon has facilitated numerous retreats and  
workshops that focus on creating opportunities for participants to explore and enhance their spirituality and well-being through various media.

Enhancing the journey of adults, individuals with memory impairment and members of the LGBTQ community is a passion for him. In the last several years, he has fostered support groups and programs for caregivers and those who are grieving losses. Gordon is also a certified spiritual director, who welcomes all in discovering the spiritual life as a means of healing, growing and thriving.

Learn more at [www.TheMissionBridge.com](http://www.themissionbridge.com/)

If you plan to attend the Advent Day of Reflection, please RSVP to Denis Pringle via email at [dppringle@juno.com](mailto:dppringle@juno.com).

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**November 12, 2017**

Dignity Washington is sponsoring a mass for All Saints Day on Wednesday, 11/1, at the Dignity Center at 7:30pm.

D/NoVA's monthly collection of food for the OLQP Food Pantry will be this coming Saturday, 11/4.  Items needed include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

Thanks to all those who were able to attend our Annual Meeting this past Saturday.  In addition to the president's encouraging message and the treasurer's report, the community also decided to take steps to return to the language we used in the mass prior to the changes made a few years ago.  Also, the community decide to have mass at 6:30pm on 12/23 and 12/24.

There will be a potluck social after mass on Sunday, Christmas Eve, 12/24, **IF** we have access to the social hall.  Further detail on that later.  We did not have time to discuss whether to have a mass on 12/2 due to the conflict with the DW 45th Anniversary dinner.  Further info on that will be forthcoming.

Our Book of Remembrance will be available starting this coming Saturday.  Please be sure to inscribe the names of those you wish to be remembered.

Thanks to our president, Joe Hennessy, for representing D/NoVA at the "Walk to End HIV" this past Saturday.

Congratulations to the newly elected D/NoVA Board.  Their term in office will begin in January, and we will have a blessing of the new board after the first of the year.

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**October 23, 2017**

We will say the Rosary as a community next Saturday, 10/28, at ICOH starting at 6:00pm.  We will have our regular mass starting at 6:30pm, followed by our Annual Meeting, followed by a pizza dinner party.  Please try to join us for all of the events next Saturday.

Next Saturday starts with the Walk to End HIV.  DW and D/NoVA are once again joining forces to sponsor a team in this event.  The team name is The Dignity Washington and Dignity Northern Virginia Team in Memory of Jimmy DePersis, who was our representative to this event for many years before his passing in October 2009.

Held for the past 31 years, the Walk & 5K to End HIV is Whitman-Walker Health’s signature fundraiser that calls on thousands of Washington, DC area residents to strap up their shoes and walk or run to support WWH’s mission of providing dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

To register, go to:

<https://walktoendhiv.org/get-involved/register/>

Then choose the “Join a Team” during their registration and search for the Dignity team.

All should enter DIG17 in the promo code field and click “Apply” so they aren’t charged for the registration.

It’s a brand-new website and platform this year so new user id’s and passwords will be established during each individual’s registration.

**Event Location**

The Walk & 5K to End HIV will begin and end at Freedom Plaza (Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street, NW). The closest Metro stations are Federal Triangle (Blue / Orange lines) and Metro Center (Blue/Orange/Red lines).

**Event Schedule**

The Walk & 5K to End HIV will take place the morning of Saturday, October 28.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Same-day registration and other activities begin. | 7:00 am |
| An uplifting program of music, speakers and warm-up exercises begins. | 8:15 am |
| 5K timed run begins promptly. | 9:15 am |
| Walk to End HIV steps off. | 9:20 am |
| Stick around for our post-Walk celebration | 10:00am |

Please sign-up to join our team.  Since registration is free for the first 20 folks who join our team, please consider making an individual donation to WWH.

The D/NoVA Board has authorized payments from the Belle Fund to the Red Cross in the amount of $100 for Hurricane ​Marie and $100 for Hurricane Irma, $300 each to the Arlington and Alexandria Animal Welfare Leagues, and $250 to New Ways Ministry.  Thank you for your continued generous support of our community which allows us to support other very worthy efforts in our community and country.

All Saints Day will be celebrated with a mass at the Dignity Center at 7:30pm om Wednesday, 11/1/17.

Dignity Washington will hold its 45th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, 12/2, at the Marriott Georgetown on 22nd St in DC.  Because many D/NoVA members started at DW, D/NoVA is considering purchasing a table for the event.  If you are interested in attending and sitting at the D/NoVA table, please let me know asap!

Our calendar for the balance of the year looks like this:

November - Book of Remembrance in November

Wednesday, 11/1.......All Saints Day...Mass at Dignity Center at 7:30pm

Saturday, 11/4.......Food Collection

Saturday, 11/11......Veterans' Day Mass

Saturday, 11/18......Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20)

Thursday, 11/23......Thanksgiving

Saturday, 12/2......Advent Begins; World AIDS Day (12/1) Remembrance Mass & Food Collection - **NOTE:  this mass may be cancelled.  Check for updates.**

Saturday, 12/9…...Penance Service

Saturday, 12/16.......Anointing

Saturday 12/23......Mass

Sunday 12/24......Christmas Eve Mass & Potluck Dessert Social TIME TO BE DETERMINED

Monday, 12/25.......Christmas Day 2017 mass at DW

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**Sept 14, 2017**

D/NoVA will continue to collect funds for the folks in Houston on Saturday.  Upon the advice of the folks in Dignity Houston, the D/NoVA Board has decided that money collected for the victims of Hurricane Harvey will go to The Montrose Center in Houston, TX.  Here is a link to their mission statement:  [http://www](http://www/).montrosecenter.org/hub/about/mission/

The Montrose Center has established an LGBTQ Disaster Relief Fund will be used to help individuals and families begin to rebuild their lives through counseling, case management, direct assistance with shelf stable food, furniture, housing and more. The Center’s dedicated case management team will be on call to help homeless youth, seniors, people living with HIV, hate crime survivors, and those devastated by the storm.

Further info is available at:  <https://my.reason2race.com/>DNicol/HurricaneHarveyLGBTQDisasterReliefFund2017

The D/NoVA Board has authorized up to $500 from the Belle Fund to match contributions from our members.  We will collect donations for the next two weeks at mass.  If you donate by check, please make the check payable to Dignity NoVA and note that it is for Houston.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

It is election season at D/NoVA.  All officer and director positions are up for election.  If you wish to serve our community in this crucial function, please respond to this email indicating your intention to serve on the board or speak to one of the current board members.  Self-nominations are due by 9/30.

There will be an anointing service at mass at D/NoVA on 9/23.

SAVE THE DATE:  We will hold our Election and Annual Meeting at ICOH after mass on 10/28.

Dignity Washington will hold its 45th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, 12/2, at the Marriott Georgetown on 22nd St in DC.  Because many D/NoVA members started at DW, D/NoVA is considering purchasing a table for the event.  If you are interested in attending and sitting at the D/NoVA table, please let me know asap!

Please find below a schedule of event at D/NoVA for the fall.  All dates and activities are subject to change due to changing circumstances.

Dignity NoVA Calendar Fall 2017

September is D/NoVA Election Month

Saturday, 9/23........Anointing

Saturday, 10/7.......Blessing of Pets (Pics) and Food Collection (special collection for Alex and Arl Animal Shelter – Belle Fund to match up to $250 to each) (Eileen H to give talk on St. Francis)

Saturday, 10/14......Solidarity Sunday (10/8?) & Coming Out Day (10/11)

Saturday, 10/28.... Rosary before mass at 6:00pm and Annual Meeting, Election, & Reception (pizza)

November - Book of Remembrance in November

Tuesday, 11/1.........All Saints Day

Saturday, 11/4.........Food Collection

Saturday, 11/11......Veterans' Day Mass

Saturday, 11/18......Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20)

Thursday, 11/23......Thanksgiving

Saturday, 12/2......Advent Begins; World AIDS Day (12/1) Remembrance Mass & Food Collection

Saturday, 12/9…...Penance Service

Saturday, 12/16.......Anointing

Saturday 12/23......Mass

Sunday 12/24......Christmas Eve Mass & Potluck Dessert Social

Monday, 12/25......Christmas Day 2017 mass at DW

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**Sept. 7, 2017**

Upon the advice of the folks in Dignity Houston, the D/NoVA Board has decided that money collected for the victims of Hurricane Harvey will go to The Montrose Center in Houston, TX.  Here is a link to their mission statement:

http://www.montrosecenter.org/hub/about/mission/

The Montrose Center has established an LGBTQ Disaster Relief Fund will be used to help individuals and families begin to rebuild their lives through counseling, case management, direct assistance with shelf stable food, furniture, housing and more. The Center’s dedicated case management team will be on call to help homeless youth, seniors, people living with HIV, hate crime survivors, and those devastated by the storm.

Further info is available at:

https://my.reason2race.com/DNicol/HurricaneHarveyLGBTQDisasterReliefFund2017

The D/NoVA Board has authorized up to $500 from the Belle Fund to match contributions from our members.  We will collect donations for the next two weeks at mass.  If you donate by check, please make the check payable to Dignity NoVA and note that it is for Houston.

Thank you for your generous support.

It is election season at D/NoVA.  All officer and director positions are up for election.  If you wish to serve our community in this crucial function, please speak to one of the current board members.  Self-nominations are due by 9/30.

SAVE THE DATE:  We will hold our Election and Annual Meeting at ICOH after mass on 10/28.  We will also be praying the Rosary before mass that evening.

There will be a meeting of the board this Saturday, 5/13, at ICOH at 5:30pm.  We will be planning some of the details for our 25th Anniversary dinner party.  Please see the attached flyer for event details.  If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so as soon as you can to help us better plan the event.

Dave Pichette will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination on Sat. May 27 at Immanuel Church on the Hill (3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304) with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 am followed by a pot luck luncheon.  All are invited to attend.  Dave has requested that there be no gifts, but that everyone come, bring a dish to pass and share and celebrate God's goodness to us all.  No RSVP is required.

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DW and D/NoVA will hold joint Triduum serevices this year.

Palm Sunday (D/NoVA) will be celebrated at ICOH at 6:30pm on Saturday, April 9.

Holy Thursday (DW and D/NoVA) will be celebrated at ICOH at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 13.  A pizza super will be provided following the service.

Good Friday (DW and D/NoVA) will be at St Margaret's at 7:30pm on April 14.

The Easter Vigil (DW and D/NoVA) will be at ICOH at 7:30pm on April 15.  A potluck dessert social will follow the service.

Easter Sunday (DW) will be at St, Margaret's at 6:00pm on April 16.

Cash contributions on Holy Thursday and at the Easter Vigil will go to D/NoVA to cover the cost of the presider, church, etc.  Cash contributions on Good Friday will go to DW to pay for the church, presider, etc.

Checks will go to either DW or D/NoVA, as appropriate, depending on which organization the checks are made payable to.

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Posted:  February 20, 2017

**Dignity NoVA Board Meeting**

**NOTES**

**February 11 @ 5:15 pm @ICOH**

Opening Prayer...**AB**

Roll Call....**JH, AB, HB, EW, EH, DL**

Minutes from the last meeting (Secretary).. **Deferred**

Officers Reports

President:

Treasurer/Others: 1. Annual Report to Virginia **filed**

* 1. IRS return for 2016 **filed**
  2. Budget **approved vote: 5 to 0**
  3. Current Financial Report **bank balance: $41, 618.84 we need to look for investment which pays better interest**

Liturgy Committee Report:

1. Lenten Books. **To be distributed**
2. Lenten Reflections**by Harry during Lent, Harry will give brief talk at the beginning of mass on the readings for the day used at the mass for RCIA folks**
3. Anointing **3/18**
4. Penance **3/25**
5. Holy Week **Triduum Doing with DW, Holy Thur and Easter Vigil at ICOH and Good Friday all at 7:30pm Order pizza for Holy Thursday....pot luck desert social for Vigil... volunteer readers, etc from D/NoVA needed. Sunday at ST. M at 6:00pm**

Old Business

New Business

A. 25th Anniversary **DL to do Survey Monkey to get best date in May or June. Maybe room at restaurant for mass and party, or mass and party on boat**

**Adjournment—Next Meeting Date TBD**

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February 8, 2017

There will be a board meeting this coming Saturday, 2/11, at 5:15pm at ICOH immediately preceding our regular mass at 6:30pm.  All are invited and encouraged to attend as we plan for Holy Week and our 25th Anniversary in May.  Your ideas on how we should celebrate this occasion are crucial.  If you cannot attend the meeting, please send you thoughts to the board by responding to this email.

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**Announcement from New Ways Ministry**

**Justice and Mercy Shall Kiss:**

**LGBT Catholics in the Age of Pope Francis**

**A symposium sponsored by New Ways Ministry**

**April 28-30, 2017, Chicago, Illinois**

**Plenary Speakers**

*Rev. Bryan Massingale*, Fordham University, on Social Ethics

*Leslie Griffin*, Univ. of Nevada Law School, on Employment

*Lisa Fullam*, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, on Same-Sex Marriage

*Frank Mugisha*, Sexual Minorities Uganda, on Criminalization Laws in Uganda

**Prayers Leaders**

*Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.*, Lexington, KY

*Bishop Thomas Gumbleton*, Detroit, MI

*Sister Simone Campbell, SSS*, Nuns on the Bus

**Focus Sessions**

Challenges of LGBT Church Workers - *Colleen Simon, Margie Winters & Andrea Vettori*

Gay Men in Priesthood and Religious Life - *Rev. Warren Hall*

Hispanic Catholic Culture and LGBT Issues - *Elsie Miranda*

Lesbian Nuns: Gift to the Church - *Diana Rawlings, ASC*

LGBT Parish Ministry - *Cristina Traina and Barbara Marian*

Transgender & Intersex Identities and the Family - *Nicole Santamaria, Deacon Ray Dever & Lexi Dever*

Youth, Young Adult Ministry, and LGBT Questions - *Michael Maher*

**More information:**

[**www.Symposium2017.org**](http://www.symposium2017.org/)**,**  [**info@NewWaysMinistry.org**](mailto:info@NewWaysMinistry.org)**,**or[**(301) 277-5674**](tel:(301)%20277-5674)

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January 18, 2017

Our food collection for the OLQP Food Pantry will be  1/7 at ICOH with mass starting at 6:30pm.  Items needed include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

Thank you for your continued generous support of this effort.

Many thanks to Monika and Mary for hosting a wonderful New Year's Eve celebration after mass last Saturday night. It was a great way to start 2017!

Please see the Financial report page on this site for our 2016 Financial Report.

Thanks to you financial support of our community, we raised $438 for SOME during our Christmas and New Year's special collections. With the Board's authorized match from the Belle Fund, we were able to donate $876 to SOME for them provide food, clothing, medical care, job training, affordable housing and more to the homeless and poor in our community.

In addition, thanks to a very, very generous donation to D/NoVA, the Board authorized a $1,000 gift to OLQP in support of their efforts on behalf of the local LGBTQ community and to the needy of the area.

Also, the Board authorized a $1,000 gift to ICOH in support of their annual Pumpkin Patch efforts which supports the poor people of Haiti and others in need. Thanks to all for your amazing support!

As you are probably aware, Pope Francis recently appointed a new bishop for the Arlington diocese. Bishop Michael Burbidge was installed as the fourth Bishop of Arlington in ceremonies last month. On behalf of our community, our president, Joe Hennessy, sent a welcome letter to Bishop Burbidge. Please find the letter below for your information.

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December 28,2016

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914

Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Bishop Burbidge,

The members of the Catholic community of Dignity Northern Virginia praise Pope Francis for his appointment of you as the fourth Bishop of Arlington. We welcome you to Arlington and congratulate you on your recent installation.

Our prayers are with you as you begin your stewardship of the Arlington Diocese. We are very encouraged by your commitment to uphold the dignity of each and every human person, and inspired by your commitment to reach out in love to the poor and the needy and most vulnerable in our community.

May God grant you good health, much success, and a long tenure as you witness the teaching of Christ in Arlington and face the challenges ahead. .

Sincerely,

Joseph Hennessy

President

Dignity Northern Virginia

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**Christmas Mass at D/NoVA will be celebrated at ICOH beginning at 7:30pm.  A potluck dessert social will folow mass.  All are welcome!**

**Merry Christmas**

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Posted:  Sept 4, 2016

**Dignity NoVA Calendar Fall 2016**

September is D/NoVA Election Month

Saturday, 9/3.......... Board Meeting @ 5:30pm

Monday, 9/5.............Labor Day

Saturday, 9/10.........Food Collection

Saturday, 9/17........Anointing

Saturday, 9/24........Wedding

Saturday, 10/1.......Blessing of Pets (Pics) and Food Collection (special collection for Alex and Arl Animal Shelter w/$250 to each) (Eileen H to give talk on St. Francis)

Saturday, 10/8......Board Meeeting @6:00pm, Soladarity Sunday (10/9) & Coming Out Day (10/11)

Monday, 10/10......Columbus Day

Saturday, 10/15.... Annual Meeting, Election, & Reception (pizza)

November - Book of Remembrance in November

Tuesday, 11/1.........All Saints Day

Saturday, 11/5.........Food Collection

Saturday, 11/12......Veterans' Day Mass

Saturday, 11/19......Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20) (Harry B presentation on Year of Mercy)

Thursday, 11/24......Thanksgiving

Saturday, 11/26.......Advent Begins

Saturday, 12/3.....World AIDS Day Remembrance Mass & Food Collection

Saturday, 12/10 …..Penance Service

Saturday, 12/17.......Anointing

Satuday, 12/24 …....Christmas Eve Mass & Potluck Dessert Social

Sunday, 12/25..........Christmas Day 2016

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Posted August 30, 2016

There will be a D/NoVA Board Meeting this Saturday, 9/3, at ICOH at 5:30pm.  The board will discuss the election for a new board, the annual meeting, donations to other organizations, finances, and the schedule for Fall 2016.  All are welcome to attend and help plan the chapter's activities for the next few months.  Please consider serving your chapter as a board member for 2017.

The First Satuday Food Collection will be held on 9/10.

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**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**  (posted July 30, 2016)

**Due to a special event next Saturday, August  6, 2016, there will not be a mass at ICOH on Saturday, 8/6.**

Dignity Washington has mass at 6:00pm on Sunday at St. Margaret's.

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MAY 14, 2016

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Due to a special event next Saturday, May 21, 2016, there will not be a mass at ICOH on Saturday.**

Dignity Washington has mass at 6:00pm on Sunday at St. Margaret's.

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**March 16, 2016**

Greetings,

Please join us for Holy Week 2016 which begins this Saturday for us at ICOH at 6:30 pm with our Palm Sunday mass.

See below for our complete Holy Week service along with info on DW services.

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Roy Bourgeois and the Women’s Ordination Conference are inviting Dignity to join him and two women priests for a VIGIL, CEREMONY, and ACTION in support of women’s ordination and LGBT Equality, on Holy Thurs March 24 at 10:00 am, in front of the Vatican Embassy.   B**ring our own signs and banners**.

See below to read the statement that Roy Bourgeois and two women priest will be handing to the Vatican Embassy to forward to Pope Francis.

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D/NoVA 24th Anniversary:  If you have not yet done so, please vote in our survey to determine the date that we will hold this event.  So far, May 14th is the preferred date.  see below.  The survey will close next week on March 23, 2016.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Answer Choices–** | **Responses–** |
| –  May 7 | 76.47%  13 |
| –  May 14 | 94.12%  16 |
| –  June 11 | 70.59%  12 |
| –  June 18 | 64.71%  11 |
| Total Respondents: 17 |  |

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**DIGNITY NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Celebration of Holy Week and the Triduum

Immanuel-on-the-Hill Church, Alexandria, Virginia

**Saturday, March 19 Palm Sunday**

**6:30 p.m**. Blessing Palms

Proclamation of the Gospel

Mass with the reading of the Passion according to Saint Luke

**Requested: one reader to tale a part in the reading of the Passion**

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**Thursday, March 24** **Holy Thursday**

**7:30 p.m.** Mass of Holy Thursday

Washing of hands

Presentation of the Oils

Procession to the altar of repose

**Requested: 2 readers**

**Acolyte**

Altar of repose in the social hall at Immanuel-on-the-Hill Church

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**Friday, March 25** **Good Friday**

**7:00 p.m.** Liturgy at Saint Margaret Church in Washington, D.C.

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**Saturday, March 26** **The Great Vigil of Easter**

**7:30 p.m.** The Liturgy of the Vigil

The lighting of the new fire (outside if weather is suitable)

The blessing of the paschal candle

The procession into the church

The Easter Proclamation – the singing of the *Exultet*

The readings from the Scriptures (3 readings)

The Litany of the Saints

The Blessing of the Water and the sprinkling

The Mass

**Requested: 1 reader**

**Acolyte**

**Thurifer (for incense)**

Dessert social after the Liturgy

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**DW Easter Vigil @ St Margaret's at 10:00 pm on 3/26.**

**DW Easter Sunday Mass @ St Margaret's at 6:00 on 3/27.**

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TO POPE FRANCIS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Where there is injustice, silence is complicity. We have come to the Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C., to speak out against the grave injustice being done to women and gay people

by the Catholic Church.

1. WOMEN IN THE CHURCH: God created women and men equal: “There is neither male nor female. In Christ you are one.” (Galatians 3:28) God calls both men and women to the priesthood, but Catholic women who are called are rejected because of their gender. Who are men to say that their call from God is authentic, but God’s call to women is not?  The ordination of women is not a problem with God, but with an all-male clerical culture that views women as inferior to men. The problem is sexism and sexism, like racism, is a sin.
2. GAYS IN THE CHURCH: The official teaching of the Catholic Church states that homosexuals are “objectively disordered.” For millions of gay people, this teaching instills shame and self-hatred. It has contributed to gay people being rejected by their families, fired from their jobs, bullied and even killed. This teaching has also contributed to suicides, especially among teenagers.  God does not make mistakes in creation. Our all-loving God created everyone of equal worth and dignity: gay and straight. Our Church’s teaching on homosexuality is cruel and is based on a theology inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus.

We are here today to call upon Pope Francis and the Catholic Church to ordain women and start treating LGBT people as equals.

In Solidarity,

**Jane Via, Ph.D., J.D.** is a former professor of theology, a retired county prosecutor and an ordained Roman Catholic Woman Priest.  In 2005, she founded an independent Catholic parish in the Roman Catholic tradition which thrives in San Diego, CA.  She is married and has two adult, feminist sons."

**Janice Sevre-Duszynska**, a retired teacher and journalist, is a priest in the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests and an international leader for women's equality in the Roman Catholic Church. Her journey is explored in the award-winning documentary, "Pink Smoke Over the Vatican."

**Roy Bourgeois** served as a Catholic priest for 40 years. He is a Purple Heart recipient and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. In 2012, he was expelled from the priesthood and the Maryknoll Fathers because of his public support for the ordination of women.

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**March 10, 2016**

There will be a penance service at mass this Saturday, 3/12, at ICOH at 6:30pm.

**Holy Week 2016 Schedule:**

Our Palm Sunday mass will be on Saturday, 3/20, at ICOH starting at 6:30pm.

There will be a mass on Holy Thursday, 3/24, at ICOH starting at 7:30pm.

Good Friday lay-led service is sponsored by Dignity Washington at 7:00pm at St. Margaret's.

Easter Vigil Mass at ICOH on Saturday, 3/26, starting at 7:30pm with a pot luck dessert social following mass.

Easter Sunday Mass at DW at 6:00pm.

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March 2, 2016

There will be a meeting of the D/NoVA board this Saturday, 3/5, starting at 5:30pm at ICOH.  The board will discuss the budget, Holy Week services, and begin planning for the 24th Anniversary party in May.  All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we plan future events of our community.

We will have our monthly collection of food and other items for the OLQP Food Pantry this Saturday.   The OLQP Food Drive does not provide for the current demand -- an average of 170 bags of food are distributed to area residents each week to help supplement their grocery needs; nearly 9,000 bags a year -- making food donations necessary throughout the month. Contents of the food bags include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

We will welcome a new presider, Fr Ragan, at mass this Saturday. Please welcome him to our community on Saturday.

There will be a penance service during mass on Saturday, 3/12.

We are pleased to report that Vic was released from the hospital and is now in recovery and rehabilitation at home.  He has regained some use of his right arm and leg, speech and cognitive functions, and is able to walk some with the use of a walker.  His progress has been very encouraging.  Thanks, from Joe and Vic for your thoughts and prayers.  Keep up the good work!

​We sent a mass card for the repose of the soul of Bill Crambo to his sister.

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January 21, 2016

**Because of the predicted heavy snow event this weekend, mass at ICOH on Saturday, 1/23, is canceled.**

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Many thanks to all who contributed to our special Christmas collection for SOME, So Others Might Eat.  We collected $525.  With the Board's grant of $500 from the Belle Fund, D/NoVA sent a check for $1025 to SOME to help with their mission to serve the poor and homeless of the District of Columbia.

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News from Karen P:  Beth's sister, Mary, has successfully undergone surgery and is recovering at home in Vermont.  Thanks for your prayers for Mary. Beth is with Mary to assist with the recovery.  Please keep them in your prayers.

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Dec. 21, 2015

Celebrate Christmas Eve with D/NoVA!  Mass on Thursday,12/24, starts at 7:30pm at ICOH with a potluck dessert social to follow in the church hall.  Please bring a poinsettia to decorate the church and remember to take it with you after mass.

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November 28, 2015

Please join us tonight, 11/28/2015, at ICOH at 6:30 pm as we remember our love ones who died from or suffer from AIDS and their caregivers on World AIDS Day 2015.

​Our World AIDS Day Prayer:

**On this Advent Sunday we anticipate the bright festival of hope's rebirth.**

**On World AIDS Day we remember all whose lives**

**​were cut short​**

**by**

**​ ​**

**AIDS, and hold them lovingly in our thoughts, members with us and with Jesus in the human family.**

**O God, healer and comforter, be with all who suffer**

**​with HIV and AIDS**

**.**

**​ ​**

**May your Advent hope be made real to those who struggle with sickness and despair.**

**e remember too those who tend the sick and the dying, those who search for new treatments and a cure.**

**And God, when the world's griefs make us weary, help us still to care.**

**We ask this in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.**https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif

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November 16, 2015

Many thanks to all those who attended our Annual Meeting on Saturday, 11/14.  The Secretary called the meeting to order immediately following mass noting that a quorum was present.  Our President reported that our chapter was strong.  Our Treasurer reported that our finances also were very solid.  (see the financial report section)  The Secretary conducted the elections for the new board which will take office on Jan. 1, 2016.  By acclamation, the chapter re-elected the entire board, i.e., Joe H as President; Beth W as VP; John W as Secretary; David L as Treasurer; and Karen P, Eileen H, and Anje B as members at Large.  The community assembled expressed its gratitude to the board members for their service.  The meeting was adjourned and all retired to the social hall for a wonderful meal.  Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make the event a success.

Next Saturday at ICOH at the 6:30 pm mass, we will say special prayers as part of our Transgender Day of Remembrance.

​The following Saturday, 11/28, we will honor World AIDS Day.​

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 Nov. 11, 2015

Many thanks to all those who filled my car to overflowing with food for the OLQP Food Bank this past Saturday.  Thanks to all who have contributed over the years to our First Saturday collection of food for the hungry.  We are pleased to report that the OLQP Food Bank program was an awardee of the Arlington 2015 James B. Hunter Human Rights Award for distinguished community service.

There will be an anointing during mass this Saturday, 11/14, at ICOH starting at 6:30pm.  Don't forget to enter the names of loved ones who passed away in our Book of Remembrance.

Immediately following mass, we will have our Annual Meeting as required by our Bylaws.  At the meeting, the President will report on the state of our community, and the Treasurer will report on the state of our finances. There will be time for any questions or concerns to be discussed.  If there are any specific issues which you wish to place on the agenda, please respond to this email with details.

The meeting will conclude with election of officers for next year.  Per our Bylaws, nominations are closed and no nominations from the floor will be in order.

Food and drinks will be provided.  Please make every effort to attend and participate in this important meeting.

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Nov. 4, 2015

This Saturday, 11/7, we will have our monthly our collection of food and other items for the OLQP Food Bank.   The OLQP Food Drive does not provide for the current demand -- an average of 170 bags of food are distributed to area residents each week to help supplement their grocery needs; nearly 9,000 bags a year -- making food donations necessary throughout the month. Contents of our food bags include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

There will be a board meeting before mass this Saturday starting at 5:30 pm.  We will be discussing plans for the Annual Meeting.

On Saturday, 11/14, we will have an anointing service as part of the liturgy.

Following mass, we will have our Annual Meeting as required by our Bylaws.  At the meeting, the President will report on the state of our community, and the Treasurer will report on the state of our finances. There will be time for any questions or concerns to be discussed.  If there are any specific issues which you wish to place on the agenda, please respond to this email with details.

The meeting will include election of officers for next year.

Food and drinks will be provided.

Please make every effort to attend and participate in this important meeting.

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At the Board meeting held on Sept 19, the Dignity NoVA Board set the schedule for the fall.

We continue to solicit candidates for the Board.  If you wish to run for the Board, please respond to this email, or let the Secretary, John W, or one of the other Board members know by September 30 when the nomination period closes.  The current Board will run again for election, but new members are needed to bring some fresh ideas to the Board.  Of course, all Board meetings are open and members are encouraged to attend and participate.

There will be a Blessing of Animals during mass next Saturday, Oct. 3.  As in the past, please bring pictures only.  There will also be a special collection that day to collect money to be split evenly between the Arlington and Alexandria Animal Shelters.  The Board authorized up to $250 to match any special donations received that day.

Oct 3 will also be our First Saturday collection for the Food Bank at OLQP.   Donations of canned goods and non-perishable items are collected during Mass and delivered to the OLQP Food Pantry which provides close to 500 bags of food each month to our neighbors in need. Our donations are also shared with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).  Contents of the food bags include canned vegetables, soup, canned fruit, cereal, meat or fish, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, beans (bulk bags of both stretch our resources), and, occasionally, dessert.  In addition, clients can choose to receive instant corn flour (i.e. Maseca) and/or vegetable oil.  Thank you for your continued support of this most important D/NoVA initiative.

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On Thursday, October 8 from 7:30 - 8:30 pm, the [2nd Annual NOVA Pride Multifaith Worship Service](https://www.facebook.com/events/1426320417688461/?ref=1&action_history=%5B%7B%22surface%22%3A%22permalink%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22surface%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%5B%5D%7D%5D) will be sponsored by the [Northern Virginia Network of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia](https://www.facebook.com/POFEVNOVA). Held during the week following the [2015 Northern Virginia Pride Festival](http://www.novapride.org/2015-festival), the theme of the service is *The Faithful Road; A Shared Journey of Gratitude and Commitment*. The service will be held at Host Congregation: [Unity of Fairfax](https://www.facebook.com/UnityOfFairfax);  2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA.  Join with people of faith to gather in gratitude for gains in LGBT civil rights, the opening of doors of a growing number of faith communities, and to celebrate the 2nd Annual Northern Virginia Pride Festival. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Network of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia. Founded in 2006, POFEV is an interfaith network of clergy and lay people working together for greater welcome and affirmation in faith communities and civil equality for LGBT Virginians.

[www.facebook.com/POFEVNOVA](http://www.facebook.com/POFEVNOVA)

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On October 10, we will join with other Dignity Chapters to celebrate Solidarity Sunday.

On October 17, we will have a bring your friends to church event.  Please reach out to old and new members as well, and invite then to join you at mass and at the pizza party we will be sponsoring after mass.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, we will have a movie and meal afterwards.  Details to follow.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the Walk to End HIV.  (See below for registration information.)

During November, we will have our Book of Remembrance.

​On Saturday, 11/7​, ​we will have a special mass ​in honor of Veterans Day ​with​ patriotic music​. ​

​On ​11/14​, we will have our Annual Meeting ​following mass at ICOH ​with a ​dinner to follow​. ​

​On 11/21​, we will honor Transgender Day of Remembrance​. ​

​On11/29​, we will celebrate World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) and First Sunday of Advent​. ​

​On 12/20, ​ we will have a Penance Service​. ​

​On ​12/24 (Thur)​, we will have our Christmas Eve mass and social starting ​probably at 7:30 pm​.

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D/NoVA has joined with DW again this year to sponsor a team in memory of Jimmy DePersis in the Whitman-Walker Clinic's Walk to End HIV on Saturday, October 24, 2015.  Our joint Copper sponsorship includes 20 free registrations on a first come, first served basis. To register for the Walk and/or to just donate money to our team, follow these instructions:

<http://www.aidswalkwashington.org/?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1003&eventID=504>

Then, click on Register,  Walker,  Join a Team,  Search under "Find a Team to join",  Scroll thru the list and click on Dignity Washington and Dignity NoVA,  click "continue to next step",  enter an amount such as $25.00,  click on appropriate "shirt size",  review and agree to terms and conditions,  click continue to next step,  log in or enter ID info,  click continue to next step,  registration is free for the first 20 people who sign up.    You can enter an amount you want to contribute (or not) and then enter promo code DIG15 and click "apply"   The $25 registration fee should be removed.  Then you can enter your credit card number if you want to add a donation if you got the free registration.  Click continue to next step, read the letter; then review the info you entered and click "complete registration".  Please respond to this email if you encounter any problems registering and we will try to help.

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At the Board meeting held on Sept 19, the Dignity NoVA Board also voted unanimously to adopt the statement on Sacramental Equality which was passed at the recent DignityUSA convention in Seattle.  The statement reads as follows:

**“DignityUSA and its members call on the leaders and members of our Roman Catholic Church to ensure that all of the sacraments of our Church be administered regardless of the gender identity, sexual orientation, or relational status of the person(s) seeking the sacrament.”**

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Dignity/Houston has shared with us ***Family 2.0: We Are All Called to Be Family***, an essay (see attached) by Kathleen Fallon, a Dignity/Houston member in honor of the World Meeting of Families. Kathleen is a professional Social Worker in the Houston area, as well as a member of Fortunate Families and PFLAG in addition to being the mother of a proud gay man. As this work is licensed under a Creative Commons license, you are free to duplicate it as long as you give attribution and do not alter it.

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**This Saturday, 9/5, we will have our monthly our collection of food and other items for the OLQP Food Bank.**  The OLQP Food Drive does not provide for the current demand -- an average of 170 bags of food are distributed to area residents each week to help supplement their grocery needs; nearly 9,000 bags a year -- making food donations necessary throughout the month. Contents of our food bags include cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, meat or tuna, pasta, pasta sauce or tomato products, macaroni and cheese, rice, and beans. Participants are also offered a choice of finely ground corn flour for making tortillas or vegetable oil. Many weeks there are also produce items and bread.

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**It is election season once again at D/NoVA**.  All officers and board member positions are up for election for a term of one year starting January 1, 2016.  According to our bylaws, nominations for the board are due to the Secretary by September 30, 2015.  All individuals who have been a member of D/NoVA since March 31, 2015 are eligible to hold a position on our board.

No third-party nominations may be made without the consent of the potential candidate. All candidates for office must submit a written statement to any incumbent member of the BoD or to the Secretary.  The written statement must include the candidate's name and address, an indication of the office sought, and a brief statement of qualifications and reasons for seeking office.

Such statements can also be submitted by mail to the Dignity NoVA at P. O. Box 100566, Arlington, Virginia 22210-3566. These mailed statements must be received by September 30. In the event that there is not at least one candidate for each Officer and/or Director position, the Secretary may extend the deadline for nominations up to and through the date of the election.

After all nominations are received, the Secretary will determine and announce the form of election which will be dependent on whether there are any contested board positions.  If there is a contested election, the Secretary will announce the details.  If there is no contested election, the date of the election which will coincide with our Annual Meeting in October or November.

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**We have received some positive response to our proposed group to attend the Signature Theater production of "La Cage Aux Follies".** At present, it appears that there is some agreement to attend the performance on June 3, 2016 at 8:00 pm, but we have less than 10 people interested so far.  Tickets will probably be about $100 each.

Since the survey was anonymous, please let the Treasurer know if you are interested in joining the group.  Once we know who is interested in buying tickets this far in advance, the group can decide if it is worthwhile or not.  There is a discount for groups of 10 or more people.  Ticket exchanges may be possible if it turns out that you are not able to attend the June 3, 2016 performance. However, if the exchange drops the group number below 10, then everyone would have to pay an upcharge and loose the discount.

Believe it or not, the theater says that some evenings are already sold out for this show and that tickets are "a little tight" for June 3.  So, we must act on this soon or just forget about trying to do the group event.

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There will not be a D/NoVA mass this Saturday, July 4, 2015, at ICOH.

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It's a busy time of year, but the U.S. Supreme Court schedule calls us together!  As we approach the U.S. Supreme Court hearing of the four marriage equality cases on April 28th, you, your friends, and your faith community are invited to be part of the Interfaith Prayer Service sponsored by the Northern Virginia Network of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia. The service is:

Sunday, April 26, 2015, 4:00pm

Congregation Etz Hayim, [2920 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington](http://www.mapquest.com/#c1151f6d8bd921ff8c330cd1)

(Parking on South Garfield Street)

There are a number of ways you can support this important effort:

1. Commit to attend the service. Invite friends and neighbors to join you. Clergy need to know that Virginians want them to speak out for LGBT lives.
2. Invite your clergy to participate.  Attending clergy will be asked to sit together and join voices together for a reading. Ask clergy to contact [elizabethf@pofev-nova.com](mailto:elizabethf@pofev-nova.com) for more information.
3. Invite your faith community to be included on the list of congregations who support the service. This list will be included on the event Facebook page, on flyers to be posted to the general public, and on the program distributed at the event. To be listed, email [elizabethf@pofev-nova.com](mailto:elizabethf@pofev-nova.com) with the exact listing, including website address and Facebook page address.
4. Promote the service.  
   **a**.  Share on your Facebook page. Service event can be found at[www.facebook.com/POFEVNOVA](http://www.facebook.com/POFEVNOVA). Invite friends and contacts to like the page and come to the service.  
   **b**. Post full-page flyer (attached) in your faith community, in coffee shops, community centers, libraries....any place with a bulleting board!  
   **c**. Organize a group to car pool together to the service.
5. Volunteer to help at the service.  Greeters and ushers are needed! Contact [elizabethf@pofev-nova.com](mailto:elizabethf@pofev-nova.com).

As part of the service, we will create a banner of names to be carried to the steps of the Supreme Court. Join in to lift up LGBT loved ones and their families, our children, our grandchildren, and all who seek to live in a world where all individuals and families are honored.  On Tuesday morning, April 28, we will meet at the corner of Maryland Avenue NE and First Street NE with the banner.

Hope to see you on April 26 and April 28!

Elizabeth and Kim

Elizabeth Fogarty and Kim Moeller  
Organizing Team Members  
Northern Virginia Network  
People of Faith for Equality in Virginia  
Elizabeth: [ElizabethF@pofev-nova.com](mailto:ElizabethF@pofev-nova.com)  
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[www.pofev.org](http://www.pofev.org/)    
<http://www.facebook.com/POFEV>

**Keeping Faith: Interfaith Prayer Service to Embrace the LGBT Communities before the Supreme Court Marriage Equality Cases**

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**Sunday, April 26, 2015, 4:00pm**

Congregation Etz Hayim, [2920 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington](http://www.mapquest.com/#c1151f6d8bd921ff8c330cd1)

(Parking on South Garfield Street)

On April 28, the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments whether same-sex couples should have the freedom to marry and if state anti-marriage laws should be struck down as unconstitutional.

Join with Northern Virginia faith communities to embrace the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities at this hopeful and vulnerable time.

Supporting faith communities include:

·         Congregation Etz Hayim, Arlington

·         Little River United Church of Christ, Annandale

·         Clarendon Presbyterian Church, Arlington

·         Commonwealth Baptist Church, Alexandria

·         John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Annandale

·         MCC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax

·         Bethel United Church of Christ, Arlington

·         Emmaus United Church of Christ, Vienna

·         Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria

·         Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ, Arlington

·         St. Anne’s Episcopal Church, Reston

·         St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington

·         Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church

·         Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

·         Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton

·         Unity of Fairfax, Oakton

Additional faith communities are expected to add their support.

Please note: Those who identify as male are asked to cover their heads with kipot. Congregation Etz Hayim will provide an ample supply for all to use. Those who identify as female are invited (though not required) to do the same.

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Network of People of Faith for Equality in Virginia. Founded in 2006, POFEV is an interfaith network of clergy and lay people working together for greater welcome and affirmation in faith communities and civil equality for LGBT Virginians.

More information:    [www.facebook.com/events/890094774375718/](http://www.facebook.com/events/890094774375718/)

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**HAPPY EASTER 2015!**

Thanks to all those who were able to attend our Easter Vigil mass and who brought wonderful goodies to share after mass.  A special thanks to Harry and Kevin for all their efforts to make it work.  Another special thanks to Father Joe for arranging for the venue and presiding at mass.  And thanks to all those who pitched in to do what was necessary to make our Easter Vigil a great success.

From Father Joe's homily:

Robert Browning (1812-1889)

*from* **Pippa Passes**

    The year's at the spring  
    And day's at the morn;  
    Morning's at seven;  
    The hillside's dew-pearled;  
    The lark's on the wing;  
    The snail's on the thorn:  
    God's in His heaven—  
    All's right with the world!

This Saturday, 4/11/15, at ICOH, will be our First Saturday collection for items for the Food Pantry at OLQP.    Donations of canned goods and non-perishable items are collected during Mass and delivered to the OLQP Food Pantry which provides close to 500 bags of food each month to our neighbors in need. Our donations are also shared with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Contents of the food bags include canned vegetables, soup, canned fruit, cereal, meat or fish, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, beans (bulk bags of both stretch our resources), and, occasionally, dessert. In addition, clients can choose to receive instant corn flour (i.e. Maseca) and/or vegetable oil.

We need to start mass as near as possible to 6:30 pm on Saturday so please make every effort to be a few minutes early.

After mass, Father Joe will present the first of our 6 sessions on the seven sacraments.  Each session will last about 15 or 20 minutes.  You can brush up on the seven sacraments of the Church here:

[The Seven Sacraments - Loyola Press](http://www.loyolapress.com/the-seven-sacraments_article2.htm)

The Dignity USA 2015 Convention in Seattle, WA.

**Early Registration Period for Convention Extended!**

Good news for procrastinators! There is more time to get the best available rate for the DignityUSA Convention July 2-5, 2015 in Seattle! The Early Registration deadline is now **April 15, 2015**. Visit the [Convention website](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4174&qid=309767) for the schedule, information about our incredible speakers, and great ways to experience all that Seattle has to offer. And, of course, you can [register](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4175&qid=309767) there and [book your hotel room](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4176&qid=309767), as well. You can also [contribute to the scholarship fund, sponsor an event, or send a message](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4177&qid=309767) of support to your favorite conventioneer(s).

The hotel is filling up for the busy July 4th weekend, so book now for the guaranteed convention rate. See you in Seattle!

NEXT YEAR IN ICOH!

HAPPY SPRING

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D/NoVA will have a penance service this Saturday, March 21, during our mass at ICOH starting at 6:30 pm.

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Eileen H is organizing a movie viewing followed by dinner and discussion of the movie. Details to follow shortly.

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Sunday, March 22, 2015

The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire (Ret'd), will lead **“A Conversation about Sexuality and Spirituality”** at 7:15 PM on Sunday, March 22 at St. Margaret’s Church. Bishop Robinson was the first openly Gay bishop consecrated in the Episcopal Church. Dignity/Washington is pleased to welcome him as part of the community’s Lecture Series.

This event is free and open to the public. Invite your friends to Dignity/Washington’s 6:00 PM Eucharist at St. Margaret’s church and stay for refreshments at the social hour and to hear Bishop Gene Robinson.

Dignity/USA Memberships

The number of D/NoVA members who are also D/USA members has fallen to an all time low!  It is crucial that we support D/USA with our memberships which cost $50 per year or pay what you can.  You can sign up to become a member of D/USA at the following web site.  Please be sure to indicate that you are a member of D/NoVA.

[Join - Renew DignityUSA | DignityUSA](https://www.dignityusa.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3)

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HOLY WEEK 2015

D/NoVA will sponsor a service on Holy Thursday evening, April 2, at 7:30 pm at Father Joe Hennessy's condo party room.  A light supper will be provided following the service.

The Easter Vigil mass will also be at Joe's at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 4, at 7:30 pm.  A potluck dessert social will follow the Vigil mass.

Directions are attached.

D/NoVA will not have a Good Friday service, but our members are encouraged to attend the DW service listed below.

The DW Holy Week schedule is listed below.  All are welcome.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Liturgy** | **Time** | **Location** | **More Information** |
| Mar 28 | Stations of the Cross | 11:00 AM | Franciscan Monastery | 1500 Quincy St, NE Washington DC |
| Mar 29 | Palm Sunday | 6:00 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Eucharist with blessing of the palms |
| Apr 1 | Tenebrae | 7:30 PM | St. Matthew’s Cathedral | “Shadows” Liturgy on Wednesday of Holy Week |
| Apr 2 | Holy Thursday Agape Meal & Liturgy | 6:30 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Ecumenical Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the side chapel |
| Apr 3 | Good Friday | 7:30 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Liturgy of the Lord’s passion with veneration of the cross |
| Apr 4 | Easter Vigil | 8:00 PM | Universalist Memorial Church 1810 16th St NW Washington DC | The Great Vigil of Easter |
| Apr  5 | Easter Sunday | 6:00 PM | St. Margaret’s Church | Easter Sunday Mass |

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DIGNITY USA 2015 CONVENTION IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Join several D/NoVA members at the Dignity USA convention in Seattle from July 1 through July 5, 2015.

Visit the [Convention website](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4165&qid=304445) for information about the program, exciting speakers, the hotel, commemorative logo items, and more.  Read about the activities that will be offered before and after the convention.

Be sure to reserve your spot at the [Convention 2015 All in One Registration Form](https://www.dignityusa.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=4166&qid=304445).

Save by taking advantage of the Early Bird registration.  Early Bird Registration's last day is March 31st, 2015.

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Dignity USA Webinar April 7th​

Please spread the good word of our April 7, 9PM Eastern QCF webinar. **We're dedicating this QCF to an important discussion on how to inspire true diversity in our chapters and communities.** We all desire greater diversity, we just don't always know how to go about making it happen. Gender, age, race, orientation diversity enriches us beyond measure. How can we realize it?

Hosting this QCF will be **Martin Witchger**, co-chair of our Young Adult Caucus. Presenters will be **Ellen Euclide** of Call to Action and the Young Adult Caucus, and

​ ​

**Derrick Dawson**, an organizer in the Chicago area. See their photos below. Please spread the news, will you?

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**QCF: Unity in *Diversity***

**Tuesday, April 7, 9PM Eastern, 6PM Pacific**

**Learn more and register here:**

[**https://www.dignityusa.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=75**](https://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dignityusa.org%2Fcivicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo%3Freset%3D1%26id%3D75&h=eAQFdKdX0&enc=AZODTUdsNlssDJXcPFENpHz4nuHxhOTh6Z0VxUFp-iBkuPr2k9P5guIyfNI8R-u_oh8IUgYILwJSySC746kFlMua5EBAa_oU3xxjajRS_RsU8EDmV5bse9E0Q4R-dzc7M4lhPQxB5TVwsuSnEfNuDZyj-POG12LmMC42K7JtNdA9HA&s=1)

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Mass this Sunday (Feb 22nd) is cancelled due to the weather.

The DW Financial Report for 2014 has been completed and will be distributed by email.  You can also see it on the Financial Reports page on this site.

Ash Wednesday services will be held by DW and St. Mrgaret's at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, 2/18.

D/NoVA will distribute ashes after mass on Saturday, 2/21.

D/NoVA will have Holy Week service starting at 7:30 pm on May 2 and May 4.  DW will have a Good Friday service at St. Margaret's.  Additional information will be provided later.

Father Joe H will present classes on the seven sacrements after mass each Saturday after Easter.

We will attempt to have our first Matinee Movie Sunday in March at Shirlington.  Plans are for a movie and dinner at a nearby restaurant to discuss the picture.

We plan on having our Anniversary Dinner on Satirday, May 16.  Details to follow.