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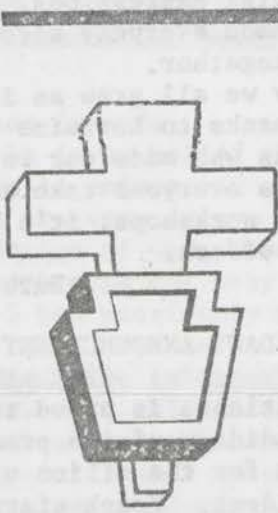
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Keystone

The Stone Rejected by the Builders Has Become the KEYSTONE. (Acts 4:11)

The newsletter of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania

**FROM
YOUR** PRESIDENT

Don't do this to me!

He withdrew from them about a stone's throw away, then went down on his knees and prayed in these words: "Father, if it your will take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done."

(The Passion according to St. Luke)

Jesus very well could have screamed with much anguish, "Don't do this to me!" In effect I suppose he did in fact say this only to agree that it was not his will but his Father's will be done. So often I have found myself saying the same thing, "Don't do this to me!" Don't make me suffer, take this or that away from me, don't make me anything more than I want to be. But the reaction "Don't do this to me!" takes away the challenge. What is left but a life leading nowhere, no goals, no nothing. Sometimes we need to be stopped in our tracks and surely we might scream, "Don't do this to me!" but we must be able to accept the fact that it is not our will but God's be done. So often in working with gay people I find a negative attitude about life. I find them feeling low about their lives and themselves and resentful to the fact of their gayness. We live in times when many gay people are taking up the challenge and believing that their lives have depth and meaning. In Dignity it is my hope that we will not reject this challenge. In Dignity it is my hope that we will find hope so that others may see that God has made us good and that we will believe we are offspring of God taking our place in the kingdom. We should be prepared to answer the call and accept our mission to bring the Good news that the Lord loves us all. He knows we are gay. After all he made us and chose us for his purposes. My gay sisters and brothers, he has sent us into this world to build his Kingdom, the Kingdom of Love, the Kingdom of God. I hope and pray that we

will not be caught like the disciples: When he returned he found them asleep...You could not stay awake for even an hour? Be on guard and pray that you may not be put to the test. The spirit is willing but nature is weak.

(Passion according to St. Mark)

Let us take up the challenge. Let us not waste our energies on negativism. You may say "Don't do this to me!" but be prepared to accept the will of the Lord.

Peace and love, for this is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Happy Easter.

In Dignity,
Jerry B.

REFLECTIONS--WORKSHOP ON ASSERTIVENESS

On March 12, Dignity/Central Pennsylvania was privileged to hold an assertiveness training workshop under the able leadership of Lorraine K., who has done such workshops in this area for other organizations. Everyone played an active part in the program, learning through the experience to be assertive, not aggressive. The key to being assertive is truly feeling good about oneself: feeling that one is intelligent and capable; feeling that one has the right to speak one's mind and to ask for whatever to satisfy needs or wants; feeling equal to everyone; feeling that no one is going to put you down. Being assertive is different from being aggressive in that you don't hurt anyone's feelings intentionally or deprive them of their rights. Self-knowledge is the first step.

We discussed why we aren't assertive. We all came closer to knowing ourselves by making a list of words describing ourselves and then marking the words as positive or negative traits we see in ourselves when we are alone or with others. Each of us gave a short talk telling the positives, the good qualities in ourselves--something we all have difficulty doing. We talked about counteracting our reasons for not being assertive, about taking an active part in discussion groups, about resisting others who are inter-

rupting. We discovered the intonations in 'simply' saying "yes" or "no" and the effectiveness of various speaking voices and facial expressions. Role playing in common everyday situations tied the day together.

Certainly we all grew as individuals. Many thanks to Lorraine and to all the persons who made our workshop a success. Let's everyone take an active part in future workshops; it's worth your time and effort.

Barb

CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dignity Atlanta is proud to announce the candidacy of its president Frank Scheuren for the office of International President. Frank starts his second term as president of the Atlanta chapter on March 1. During his term of office, the Atlanta chapter has made tremendous inroads within the local Archdiocese, setting an example for sister chapters nationwide. The membership has more than doubled, and the chapter has become one of the most respected gay organizations in the southeast. Frank also serves on the board of the newly-formed Integrity chapter, the Christian Council for the Advancement of Gays (a group he helped found), and the Atlanta Gay Center. He is also active with the Gay Pride Alliance.

Frank is thirty-three years old and works as an administrative assistant for a large wholesale florist and give corporation. He is completely out of the closets with his large family and also his employer, and he is much respected for his frankness but discreet attitude. He is a native of Philadelphia and has lived in Atlanta for the last three years.

During the next couple of months Frank hopes to travel and meet with other chapter members and also interview candidates for the other national offices. You can reach Frank directly by writing 136 Peachtree Memorial Drive, Atlanta, GA 30309, or call the Dignity Atlanta phone which is also his home phone. That phone number is 404-355-1416.

PERSPECTIVE

My dear friends,

It is my belief that each and every person is unique and special. You and I—we are very unique and special. In the design of God, we complete each other through our very uniqueness.

I had previously mentioned to you that I had come to know my God by seeing Him alive in others. I find Christ in you. But this finding presupposes contact and some kind of communication with you. I want to grow in my knowledge, love, and service of God; I need you to help me. When you (or I) do not participate in our chapter workshops, meetings, worship services, sounds, etc., I lose out on opportunities for meeting Christ and experiencing personal growth. When you are there, Christ is very much alive to me in and through you. I would like to think that you also need the other members of our struggling but grace-filled chapter for your personal growth. Please let us all make more and greater efforts in helping one another to be more alive to Christ and each other. You are special and unique! You are needed! I hope to see and Be with you at the next meeting.

With much love,
Sister Kathleen

Dates to Remember

April 16 (Saturday)

A Consciousness-Raising afternoon. "Coming out"—to be held at Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg. CR from 1 to 5. Potluck supper at 5. Mass at 7 pm. For further details, see article in last newsletter.

April 29 (Friday)

Mass/Meeting. Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg, 8 pm.

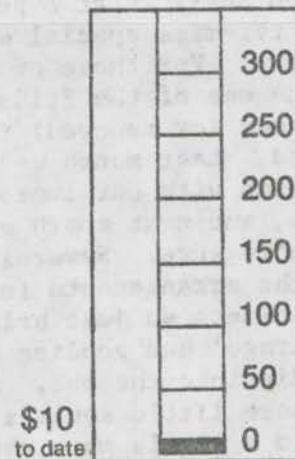
May 14 (Saturday)

Day of Recollection to be held at Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg. Sister Miriam's subject is tentatively scheduled as "Sacramental Life" with the emphasis on reconciliation. The retreat will be held from 1 to 4:30. A covered dish supper will begin at 5. Mass will be served at 7 pm.

May 27 (Friday)

Mass/Meeting. Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg, 8 pm.

Lenten Appeal



Help us reach our goal!

The Lenten Appeal will help to support and extend the word of Dignity/Central Pennsylvania. We ask you to respond as generously as you can.

NEWS NOTES

"When it's blossom time in Harrisburg, there's beauty everywhere." (Sigmund Romberg, forgive me!) Out once again come the darling buds and with them your truly with a colorful array of fresh goodies for our Dignity community. And while we are on the subject of 'coming out,' that just happens to be the topic for our next Saturday meeting. As it was so nicely put in the last edition of this respected newsletter, the day will provide us with the opportunity to '...intensify our understanding by opening intellectually, emotionally, honestly...' to that most difficult and deeply personal step that every gay man or woman must face at

some time in his/her life. To many it has been traumatic in its effects; to others a feeling of relief; to most it is something that is shrouded in fear. Find some friends and come to the Meeting House at 1 pm on Saturday, April 16, to spend some time sharing, growing, increasing our understanding of ourselves and our gay brothers and sisters. If you've never done a consciousness-raising session before, try it. You can believe us--it is a wonderful experience.

And while we're on the subject of wonderful experiences, we will have another Friday evening Liturgy at the Friends' on April 29 at 8 pm. This month's after-mass special will be a fondue party. For those of you who have not been to one of the Friday liturgies, this is a new (or renewed) idea that is being tried. Last month we had a delightful time with our impromptu wine and cheese, and next month will be even better, we're sure. Several people have taken on the arrangements for the essential ingredients so just bring along some 'beverage' and goodies to nibble while we dip into the pot. After all, even if these little socials don't help us to learn a little more about one another and grow into deeper friendships, at least they'll fill the time between the end of mass and when we hit the bars! So get a bottle and a bag of munchies and get over here!

Oh, 'munchies' reminds me of the next Saturday event on May 14 which will be food for the soul. (Oh my, these lead-ins are too much!) Anyway, Sr. Miriam will be at the Friends' House at 1 pm to lead us in another Day of Reflection. For those of us who missed the last one in December, circle the date on your calendars! Sister and this writer are acquainted from some years back, and she is one of the most dynamic persons we have encountered. To be frank, we owe a great deal to her and her community for the loving guidance they gave a growing adolescent. You can bet your beads that we'll be there on the 14th and you all should be as well.

The final date before the advent of summer and picnic season is another Friday Mass and social on May 27th at 8 pm in the Friends'. You know, these Friday

Liturgies haven't been our hottest item going recently, and that is odd because they were put in at your request! Get your acts together and get over here for one--How can we say we are a community if we can't spare an hour or two to come together for praising God, rejoicing in one another and our oneness in Him? Above all else, we are a religious body, proclaiming our belief in God, our redemption in Christ, and our fullness of life in the Spirit. If that is so, and we have all at one point or another made that profession of Faith, then we have the duty to live that profession for ourselves and, equally as important, for one another. You will never know the good that can be done unless you are there to do it. Come, share the Christ of the bread and wine and yourself. Until then--

Pax,
Paul

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