

Houston marks 25th anniversary

by George M. Wetzel, Houston

On June 6, 1974, Dignity/Houston had its first meeting and officially became a "chapter-in-formation." Denny Powers was president and Rev. Mark Barron, O.P., served as our spiritual chaplain. In November of that year, a newcomer to Houston, Rev. Alcuin Greenburg, edited our first newsletter,

On Sunday, June 27, 1999, we gathered to celebrate our 25th anniversary Mass at the Dignity Center, 1307 Yale Street. Don Kuder was the principal celebrant, and Alcuin Greenburg, Frank Jones, Paul O'Connor and Bill Tarter concelebrated.

In between these two events were twenty-five years of worshipping, organizing, socializing, meeting, greeting and grieving within and among our community. We met in more than six different locations, and we had a number of officers and active members who worked with our regional and national officers in meetings, conferences, outreach and inreach in our organization.



Mountain/Plains Regional Administrator Jack Tweelings, right, and his partner, Buck Diaz, were on hand on June 27 to help members of Dignity/Houston celebrate their 25th anniversary.

As an organization, and now as a national movement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Catholics and their friends, we have again and again taken a stand against those who would deny us full status as human

beings. We have chosen to give testimony to the normality of our lives and loves against those who would label us "intrinsically disordered." We have taken a stand against those who denigrate not only our humanness, but also our interest in and capacity for forming personal relationships with others.

Following the Mass, we repaired to the nearby Java Java Café for a sit-down dinner. Then we returned to our Dignity Center for some well-chosen words from our guest speakers, Bob Miailovich, president of Dignity/USA, and Jim LeBlanc, president of Dignity/Houston. Afterwards we had a social mixer with dancing.

In this way we capped off our twenty-five years of witness to the Catholic community with the last scheduled event of our week of Gay Pride, power and pizzazz! ▼



Members and friends of the Houston chapter enjoy delicious food and conversation at the 25th anniversary dinner at the Java Java Cafe.