

Distinguished Author John McNeill To Speak At Dignity Center Saturday, June 12

During Capital Pride Week Dignity-Washington is pleased to announce and welcome John McNeill, distinguished lecturer, theologian and psychotherapist, who will give a free lecture on his most recent book, *Sex As God Intended: A Reflection On Human Sexuality As Play*, Saturday, June 12 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Dignity Center, 721 8th Street, SE, Washington, DC, 20003. He will also be available to sign copies of his book.

Published in 2008 by Lethe Press, in *Sex As God Intended* McNeill presents a simple and straightforward answer to the question: What did God invent sex for? The answer, derived from an incisive investigation of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, is that God intended sex as a source of pleasure, joy and love. This book represents a concise summary of the wisdom culled over a lifetime. McNeill's ideas have enriched the faith of thousands, including fellow teachers, religious scholars, ministers and lay folk.

In 1974, John McNeill was co-founder of the New York City chapter of Dignity, a group for Catholic gays and lesbians. For over thirty-five years, he has been active in a ministry to gay Christians through retreats, workshops, lectures, publications, etc. His major works on the subject of gay and lesbian liberation, self-acceptance and spiritual maturity include *The Church and the Homosexual* (1976, 4th edition 1993), *Taking a Chance On God: Liberating Theology for Gays and Lesbians, Their Lovers, Friends and Families* (1988), *Freedom, Glorious Freedom: The Spiritual Journey to the Fullness of Life for Gays, Lesbians and Everybody Else* (1995), and *Both Feet Firmly Planted in Midair: My Spiritual Journey* (1998).

John McNeill is the recipient of numerous awards, most recently the 2007 Human Rights Campaign Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2007 National Gay & Lesbian TASK FORCE Lifetime Achievement Award; and the 2009 Building Bridges Award presented by New Ways Ministry. A documentary on his life, produced by Brendan Fay, who co-produced the award-winning film, *Saint of 9/11: The Life of Father Mychal Judge, Chaplain, FDNY*, is in final production.

For more information call the Dignity Center at 202-546-2235. The Dignity Center is conveniently located near the Eastern Market Metro.