



BULLETIN – August 30, 2022

Upcoming Liturgies

Sunday, 9/4 Online Share the Word 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, 9/11 Online Share the Word 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Note 1: Services are at 5:00 EDT.

Upcoming Socials

Thursday, September 8

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

Host: Bob

Dignity Responds to Worcester Bishop McManus' Decree



Dignity/Boston
PO Box 170428, Boston, MA 02117
Tel: 617-421-1915
[Email: dignityboston@gmail.com](mailto:dignityboston@gmail.com)
www.dignityboston.org

August 9, 2022

Bishop Robert J. McManus
Diocese of Worcester
49 Elm Street
Worcester, MA 01609

Dear Bishop McManus,

We write on behalf of the members of Dignity/Boston, a progressive, inclusive community of Catholics committed to justice, equality and full inclusion of LGBTQI+ people in our church and society. We are extremely disappointed by the recent report in *Catholic Free Press* of your decree that the Nativity School of Worcester must no longer identify itself as a Catholic school because it flies the Black Lives Matter and Rainbow flags.

The school has stated these flags show its support for marginalized people. Their presence, at the request of the students, tells their community and all passers-by who see them that each person is respected and accepted, irrespective of who they are. We welcome the positive message the flags embrace. You, however, through your decree have co-opted the school's message of tolerance and inclusion with one of exclusion and intolerance. This we believe to be inconsistent with Christ's message of acceptance of others.

At a time of heightened divisions that seem to permeate all aspects of life in our country, we believe your decree sends the worst possible message and adds to divisions. We view your decree as an affront to all who comprise the Nativity School of Worcester and the wider community. It sends a message that it is acceptable to shun and exclude others, and that it is acceptable to judge others as being less worthy of God's grace.

As members of Dignity/Boston, we are no strangers to hierarchical attempts to ostracize individuals from the church. For fifty years, we have witnessed firsthand the failed attempts to reject and deny the LGBTQI+ faithful, our families, friends, and those who love and support us. Despite these transgressions, we proclaim through the Catholic faith tradition our existence as a people of God.

This decree is an abhorrent attempt to bully and intimidate a school community simply because its message is one of acceptance and love for others. It is an un-Christian, unwarranted, and mean-spirited attempt to sow division and cause harm to an entire school population and its outstanding education record in the city of Worcester.

We repudiate this decree and stand with the Nativity School of Worcester. We implore you to turn away from the rhetoric of division, to listen to and embrace the school's simple yet powerful message that all are welcome.

We call on you to reverse this decree without further delay and to restore the Nativity School of Worcester to its rightful standing as a Catholic school.

In faith and dignity,

Our Dignity/Boston community donated \$350 to the chapter for the Nativity School of Worcester in the July 2022 collection.

Congratulations!



All of us at DignityUSA and Dignity/Boston would like to congratulate Dignity/Boston members April and Miles Cummings on the adoption of their children, James and Liam. We are so very grateful to have your family as part of our community! If you see the Cummings Family at church on online, please take time out to congratulate them!

Next Board Meeting

The next Dignity/Boston Executive Board Meeting is Monday, 9/12 at 7:30 p.m. Please email DignityBoston@gmail.com if you would like to attend the meeting. All board meetings are open to the public and all are welcome!

Save the Dates

50th Anniversary Events



Save the date and plan on joining your Dignity/Boston community as we celebrate our 50th year. We'll have exhibits and storytelling events focusing on our rich history as a faith-based community. We plan to meet in St. Stephen's Church hall on the afternoons of Sunday, 11/13 and Sunday, 12/4.

The 12/4 events will be followed by our Anniversary Liturgy in St. Stephen's Church. Watch this space for more information on these events!

Night of Trivia

Please join us for a “Night of Trivia”, sponsored by the Friday Night Supper Program, on Saturday, 11/5 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be more details and registration information in a future Dignity/Boston Bulletin.

Cardinal Sins Ride On!



We are once again staffing our Pit Stop in Barnstable for the return of Harbor to the Bay in person event on Saturday, 9/17. We run the pit stop from about the 9:00 a.m. setup to 3:00 p.m. Come and help for part or all of the time. Please register on the [H2B website](#). Search for our Cardinal Sins team page with donations accepted also (see Second Collection writeup later in this Bulletin). Please take time to remember our other pandemic and the fight to end HIV/AIDS. Feel free to reach out to Matt (mjmceff@gmail.com) for more details or questions. Ride On!!

Dignity/Boston Timeline: 2001-2002

2001

Paris elects openly gay Bertrand Delanoë as mayor.

Dignity/Boston holds first Blessing of the Animals event.

Dr. Laura Schlessinger announces the end of her controversial TV show, “Dr. Laura”.

Hundreds of gay men and lesbians are among the victims and the rescue workers affected by the terrorist attacks on New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Rev. Jerry Falwell blames gay people in part for the terrorist tragedy.

The 20th anniversary of the CDC report on five cases of what would come to be known as AIDS.

2002

The Boston Archdiocese is rocked with scandal as Cardinal Law is accused of covering up the fact that priests had been molesting minors by moving them to other parishes. The world is outraged.

Dignity/Boston takes an active role in the Church sex scandal by protesting at the Cathedral.

Can You Spot the Dignity/Boston member at Pride?



Answer: It's Dignity/Boston's Maddie M. (circled and slightly right of center, three people in)

Our Collections

Donate Via PayPal



Please support Dignity/Boston by sending your donations via [Pay Pal!](#) Once logged in and on site, please select “send” then search for “DignityBoston@gmail.com”.

Donate Via Mail

Also support Dignity and its second collections by sending donations to: Dignity/Boston, PO Box 170428, Boston, MA 02117-0408. Make checks payable to “Dignity/Boston”. If it’s for the Second Collection of the month, write “Second Collection” on the memo line.

August Collection:

Our August collection benefits [Harbor to the Bay](#), a 125 mile AIDS charity bike ride from Boston to P-Town. Please click [here to donate](#).

September Collection:

Our September collection benefits [Boston Health Care for the Homeless](#). Please click here to [donate](#).

Let Us Know About Your Donation:

When you donate each month, let us know by filling out the google form! Our recipients are grateful!

Please dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (9/15/22) by Tuesday, 9/13/22 at 12 Noon.