BULLETIN – January 30, 2026

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

In this issue, the Dignity Boston Executive Board presents our Vision for our community for 2026: Dignity Boston Renaissance: Finding Clarity in Complex Times. We find ourselves in complex times. We continue to navigate the post-COVID era. The pandemic brought many changes, positive and negative. We've learned new things, connected with people remotely, and modified our ways of worshipping and building community. We continue to work to find the right balance of in-person and online activities. The political environment has been very challenging, particularly around immigration, race, and economic issues, and the LGBTQIA+ community has faced aggressive rhetoric, discrimination, damaging legislation, and violence, especially targeting the trans community. At the same time, the relationship of LGBTQIA+ Catholics to the institutional church is evolving at the global level.

With this complex background, we hope to focus this year on rebuilding and redefining relationships in community and imagining our future through social engagement, exploring our past, storytelling, meaning-making theological reflection, outreach, community service, and social justice work. In terms of specific projects, we are considering more social events such as membership meetings, listening nights, and small group discussions. Some events will be in-person and some will be online. We want to emphasize clear communication within the community, as well as outreach to allies and collaborators.

We hope this to be the Vision for the whole community, not just the Executive Board, and we want your input as to how we make this work. We want to build on the work of the last Executive Board, which brought back the dinner after the Pride Liturgy. We also saw the return of the Thanksgiving potluck, a cherished community tradition. We have begun to sketch a rough timeline for possible events for the year, which includes online socials, in-person gatherings (with food), and as well as more formal membership meetings and group discussions. We hope to start doing online socials perhaps 4-5 over the course of the year, or more often if there is interest. Our hope is to start with a Haiku poetry night as a way of reflecting on our recent past. We did Haiku a few times during the COVID pandemic, and it was a creative and rich way to get to know one another. We hope to follow that up with a storytelling session in the spring.

We have formed a committee to work on this Vision, and we are looking for community members to join that committee. Most importantly, we want to hear from each of you about what your priorities are, what kinds of events you would like to see, and how often. So, talk amongst yourselves, and let's see what we can put together. We want to hear what resonates most for you. Please speak to a Board member or send an email to dignityboston@gmail.com. Join us for our first Zoom Social which is detailed later in the Bulletin. See our projected timeline below:

DRAFT PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR DIGNITY BOSTON 2026

VISION: Dignity Boston Renaissance: Finding Clarity in Complex Times
Rebuilding/redefining relationships in community and imagining our future through social engagement, exploring our past, storytelling, meaning-making theological reflection, outreach, community service, and social justice work.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS:
More Social Events including Food;
Membership Meetings;
Listening Nights;
Small group discussions;
Communication with the Community;
Outreach

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
ONLINE SOCIALS (4-5/year)		HAIKU/REFLECT ON PANDEMIC										
Other topics for Socials: Variety Show Revue, LGBTQ history and heroes, Affinity Group Nights: Young Adult, Aging with Dignity, Trans Community, Allies												
IN-PERSON GATHERING WITH FOOD						PRIDE MEAL			OUTDOOR GATHERING /POTLUCK		THANKSGIVING POTLUCK	ANNIVERSARY CAKE
MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS/GROUP DISCUSSIONS	ELECTION/BRIEF INTRO TO THEMES			STORYTELLING			*JUN-SEP, ADDITIONAL SESSION			ANNUAL MEETING/NOMINATIONS		

Our Executive Board

Welcome Kate!

In a special election at last Sunday's liturgy, Kate McLoud was elected to our 2026 Dignity Boston Executive Board. Congratulations Kate! Our Executive Board members for this year now include:

Dave Houle (Member-at-Large)
Ron Lacro (President)
Chris Lawrence (Non-Voting Member and Treasurer)
Kate McLoud (Member-at-Large, pictured left)
Tyler Mills (Vice-President)
Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues (Member-at-Large)
David Russo (Secretary)
Steven Young (Treasurer)

Our Liturgies

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 2/1
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EST

Sunday, 2/8
Online
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 2/15
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
Healing Service
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EST

Wednesday, 2/18
Online
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Ash Wednesday
7:00 p.m. EST

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 2/8
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 2/12
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
All are welcome!

Our Activism

First Event

Thanks to our volunteers at the Trans Community of New England (TCNE) First Event conference. We were able to have some great conversions and share some Dignity materials (pamphlets, fliers) at our Dignity table. Many thanks to Peggy (left in the picture), Robin (center in the picture), Ron (right in the picture), Jon, Tyler, and Dave for helping out.

A Call to Action

The following was presented at last Sunday's Online Liturgy of the Word Zoom Only service by our Presider, Abdel.

- **Look for the Light:** Do not succumb to the "gloom" of the news cycle. Look for the "abundant joy" found in those standing up for the vulnerable.
- **Drop the Nets:** This week, I challenge us to drop one "net" of security. Perhaps that is a net of silence. Speak up for the safety of our immigrant neighbors. Reach out to a neighbor in Whittier.
- **Follow Immediately:** When we see a need for healing in our workplace or our block, may we not wait for a more convenient time. The kin-dom is at hand—it is happening now in how we treat the stranger.

A Litany for Peace in the Streets

The following was also shared at our liturgy:

In the shadows of our cities, where fear has taken root, be our light and our salvation.

For our neighbors in Whittier and across Minneapolis, mourning those lost to violence and enforcement, be their fortress and our hope.

For the families separated by borders and the siblings living in the "land of gloom", break the yoke that burdens them.

For the people of Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine, and the people in our nation where the "battle rages" and the "battle-boots" stomp, smash the rod of the oppressor.

From the temptation to choose sides in order to make financial gains rather than choosing humanity, deliver us O God.

From the silence that allows the "shadow of death" to grow, deliver us, O God.

That we may become fishers of people, pulling one another from the waters of despair, give us courage to follow you.

Our History

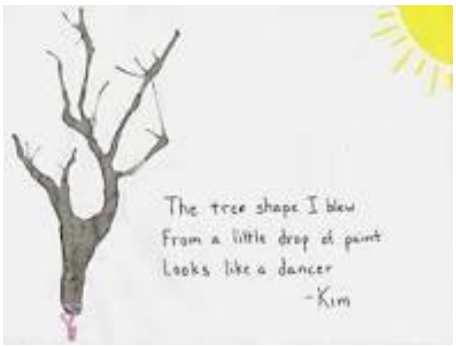
Did You Know?

Did You Know…that Dignity Boston did meet at a Catholic Church at one point? Dignity Boston met at St. Clement Church (also known as St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine) at 1105 Boylston Street. How Dignity ended up in the basement of the Shrine for their weekly Mass is not definitively known. Rumor has attributed it to the leadership of Cardinal Cushing, but history tells us that the Cardinal was no longer in charge after 1970. Others think that the Paulist Center might have helped to secure the space, or that Father Tom Oddo had something to do with it. We do know that those first lesbian and gay faithful found a home in the basement of a very beloved shrine. We also know that Cardinal Medeiros was the Boston archbishop after Cushing but no one seems to give him credit for us being in Catholic space, since it was during his authority that Dignity/Boston was ordered out of St Clement in 1977. Our next home was Hunneman chapel of the Arlington Street church, a rather small space that soon became too small for the size of our congregation. That is how we ended up in the basement of Arlington Street Church, setting up our own chairs every Sunday and an altar on wheels made by one community member. Oral history sometimes changes, adapts, and becomes, or not, reality. Three of our current members Rene, George, and Diane can probably tell you more and corroborate (or not) this story.

“Did You Know” is frequent feature of the Dignity Boston Bulletin.

Our Socials

Zoom Social



Please join us for our first Zoom social of 2026. We will be a having a "Haiku Poetry Night". A haiku is a short, unrhymed poem. The structure of a haiku in English typically follows a three-line, 5-7-5 syllable pattern. We hope to see you on Thursday, 2/26 at 7:00 p.m. EST for an evening of fun! More details and the link to the event as it gets closer.

Our Blessings

A Blessing Offering

From time to time, Dignity Boston has blessed members of the community who are embarking on a particular mission, journey, or life transition. Some examples of this have included blessing a Dignity Boston team before a fundraising event, those making a geographical move, and those attending a Dignity conference or making an important trip on behalf of Dignity. We want the community to be aware that this type of blessing is available. If you have an upcoming significant transition, you may wish to send an email to dignityboston@gmail.com to request such a blessing at an upcoming virtual or in-person liturgy.

Our Parent DignityUSA

Dignity Twin Cities Work During Difficult Times

During DignityUSA's January Board meeting, Board member Louis Lenzmeier, who is a member of Dignity Twin Cities, provided an update on how that community is doing and how they are supporting neighbors facing threats. Some members are part of peaceful witnesses in neighborhoods and at federal buildings, some are working with interfaith religious coalitions providing a range of responses, some are bringing food and other necessities to people who cannot leave their homes or providing gift cards so people can easily order and pay for necessities. Some are making purchases at small businesses feeling economic threats due to the unrest, and some have helped people find sanctuary. Members of the community have welcomed Archbishop Hebda's initial statement after Renee Good's killing, and have called on him to do more.

Chapter Life

DignityUSA recently sent out a survey regarding chapter life. If you haven't had a chance yet to fill it out. The survey is here for your convenience.

Our Collections

January Collection

Our January Collection benefits the Trans Community of New England (TCNE), which is a Boston area transgender support organization for the trans community. To donate, please click here.

February Collection

Our February Collection benefits the Dignity Twin Cities chapter of DignityUSA. As you can see from the article above under "Our Parent Dignity USA", Dignity Twin Cities is doing lots of great work helping the people of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. To donate, please click here.

Other Ways to Help the People in the Twin Cities Area

Here are some other ways to assist those in the Twin Cities Area:

Immigrants Emergency Fund/Church of the Ascension

Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee

Unidos

COPAL

Monarca

South High School Community: Rent Help

National Layers Guild (defending immigrants)

Our Ongoing Announcements

New Mailing Address

Our new Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For any questions you may have, please reach us at dignityboston@gmail.com

Subscribe to Dateline

If you are enjoying the "Our Parent DignityUSA" section of the Bulletin, you can get even more DignityUSA information by subscribing to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Please click here to subscribe to this.

Contact Information

Please note that DignityUSA's new address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686. Contact us anytime!

Donate In-Person or Via Mail

Consider supporting Dignity Boston by contributing at our in-person liturgies or by sending donations to Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. Make your checks payable to "Dignity Boston". If it is for one of our Second Collections, write "Second Collection" in the memo field.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (2/15/26) by Noon on Friday, 2/13. Dignity Boston may move in-person services to online due to inclement weather or an emergency. Please be sure sign up for our listserv at dignityboston@gmail.com so you can be notified.