DIGNITY
BOSTON

BULLETIN – February 15, 2026

Our Liturgies

Lent Begins

Please join us on Wednesday, 2/18 for our Remote Liturgy of the Word, Zoom Only Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday, of course, marks the start of the Lenten season. Our service will be at 7:00 p.m. EST. We hope you can join us!

Liturgies During Lent

As part of our Sunday liturgies during Lent, there are a few things we would have you note: there will be suggested text to recite the Confiteor each week, the Kyrie will be sung, and there will be a period of extended silence following the homily/shared reflection. In addition, when we are in person at church, we request no applause after the Song of Sending Forth, and that people leave the church quietly at the end to enable others to remain and pray. During Lent, there will be two opportunities for healing/anointing, at the two in-person liturgies during the season: 3/1 and 3/15. Within the 3/15 liturgy, we will have a blessing of oils ritual (in which the oil/balm to be used in the coming year will be blessed by the community). Please note that whenever anointing is offered, we will have an abbreviated Prayers of the Community as well.

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 2/15
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
Healing Service
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EST

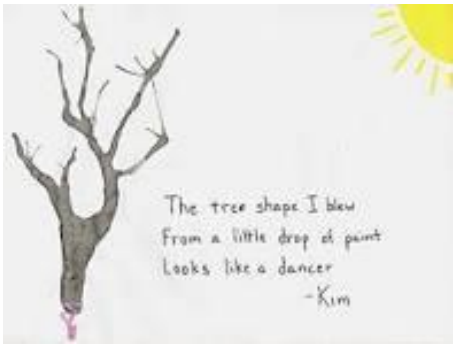
Sunday, 2/22
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
First Sunday of Lent
5:00 p.m. EST

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

First, See you at the social hour! Kathy Ann and Alice are coordinating refreshments for our socials after the In-Person Eucharistic liturgies at St. Stephen's. If you can volunteer to bring snacks and beverages on a Sunday, please sign up with Kathy Ann and Alice. We have openings on March 1 and March 29. Also, please wear your name tags with pronouns during the liturgy and social so we can all get to know each other better, and watch for the re-birth of our information table in the social hall!

Second, I'm looking forward to our Zoom social on Thursday night, 2/26 at 7:00 p.m. EST on Zoom. Watch for an email with the Zoom link. Jon and I will host a Haiku poetry night like we did during the pandemic. Haiku is a simple but powerful form of poetry that originated in Japan. Traditional haiku consist of three phrases with 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. I remember writing haiku in elementary school as the first poetry I ever tried to write. Please join us.



Here's my haiku from 4/23/20:
Politics? Science!
¿Dónde está mi muerte?
WEmerge from darkness.
One by Philip White:
An all staff meeting
At home, attending through zoom
Don’t forget your pants

One by Robin Eriksen:
Max and Ben are imps.
Finding ways to vex each other,
Oh when will they stop?

One by Peggy Burns:
Day by day by day
TV, Netflix, Books and more
Day by day by day

Please note 2026 Zoom socials will be coordinated by Robin, Peggy B, and me. If you have an idea for a social, please let us know!

Thirdly, Stay warm and safe everyone! It’s been a cold winter this year. It seems to be a common New England pastime to remember our worst winters. Remember 2015 with a total of 110.6 inches of snow. February alone had 64.8 inches falling! My favorite Chicago winter story was from December 1981. I went to Hawaii to run the Honolulu marathon, among other things. To avoid the heat, the run started in the dark at 5:00 a.m. On my return trip to Chicago, it was 80 degrees in Hawaii when I left and minus 80 degrees with windchill when I landed at O’Hare! But my marathon time of 3:18:06 kept my heart warm that season (still my personal best marathon time). What’s your favorite winter tale?

Our Parent DignityUSA

Final Day to Complete DignityUSA Survey

Today (Sunday, 2/15) is the final day to complete the DignityUSA Survey. If you've completed it already, DignityUSA thanks you. If you haven't, you can find the link here. Thanks to all, in advance, for taking the time to fill this out.

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 3/8
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 3/12
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes are also available per request via the above email.
All are welcome!

Our Community

Save the Date

Just a reminder that there will be another No Kings rally coming up on Saturday, 3/28. More details will be available about this event as time gets closer.

Early Christian Art: Women in Church Leadership

Dignity Boston encourages you to attend and participate in a special event entitled “Early Christian Art Portraying Women in Church Leadership”. This is a hybrid lecture with a question and answer session to follow. The event features Ally Kateusz, PhD, Senior Research Assistant at the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research (pictured left). Their groundbreaking scholarship uncovered women’s leadership in early Christianity as revealed through early Christian art, hidden in plain sight. Dr. Kateusz work challenges long-held assumptions about who led, taught, and presided in the earliest Christian communities, including the role of Mary Magdalene as “Apostle to the Apostles”. You can attend in-person at St. James Episcopal Church at 1991 Mass Ave. in Cambridge. The event will be in the lounge. Alternatively, you can attend via Zoom by cliking the link here. The meeting ID is 859 3977 2769 and the passcode is Mary.

Our History

Did You Know?

That two of our Dignity Boston members were missioners in Africa?

Mark Huntington

Mark was a Maryknoll brother who served in Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania. As part of his preparation for his work in these countries, Mark learned Portuguese and Swahili. He started his work in Africa in the Maryknoll Lay Mission Program in 1992. After six years, he decided to become a Maryknoll brother and return to Africa. Mark has a Masters in Public Health so his work in Africa, besides parish pastoral work, was in community health, assisting in the running of health clinics. In Tanzania he

was appointed the Health Secretary for one of the archdioceses, responsible for two hospitals, two nursing programs, and parish health programs. In total, Mark worked as a missioner in Africa for 18 years. “The reason I was called to work with Maryknoll was my faith and my desire to serve the poor.” Mark says that his years with Maryknoll were “truly a blessing filled with experiences I treasure.” During his years with Dignity Boston, Mark has served on the Board and on the Liturgy Committee. He serves as a reader, a Eucharistic minister, and a lay presider. Mark lives in Haverhill with his husband Brian. He is happy to talk about his missioner work to anyone who asks.

Bill Gilligan

Bill Gilligan, who was born in 1941, was a Maryknoll priest who served in Africa, mostly Tanzania from 1968 to 1983. For his work in Tanzania, Bill learned Swahili and often told stories about meeting people who were surprised that they could speak with him in their own language, even upon his return to Boston. Making connection was always an important part of Bill’s missioner work, and beyond. Bill enjoyed telling stories about the delights and the challenges of work in Africa. A favorite tale is about his motorcycle rides into remote villages to say Mass, carrying all his liturgical supplies. One day he forgot the bread and wine, but the villagers and Bill decided to do Eucharist in the context of their shared meal. About his work in Africa, Bill often said, ‘I felt at home. The work I did was worthwhile.” He kept in touch with his Maryknoll brothers throughout his life. Bill left the priesthood in the early 90s when the Catholic Church officially defined homosexuals as “intrinsically disordered.” When Bill came to Boston, he became a licensed social worker and worked for the MA Department of Social Services and as an instructor at UMass Boston. As a long-time member of Dignity Boston, Bill has served on the Board, as a reader and Eucharistic minister, lay presider, and a founding member of the Men’s Spirituality Group. He also served on national conference committees. Bill is currently a resident in a skilled nursing facility due to advance Parkinson’s disease. Let’s keep him in our prayers.

Two ordinary guys, answering the call to be salt and light for others.

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

Our Collections

February Collection

Our February Collection continues to benefit the Dignity Twin Cities chapter of DignityUSA. If you haven't had a chance to donate already, 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 Lawyers Guild (defending immigrants)

Last Month's Collection

Last Month's Collection for Trans Community of New England (TCNE) brought in $346 for the organization. Thanks for your generosity!

Our Ongoing Announcements

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. The latest issue has a special "In Memoria" piece for Paul Diederich, one of the original founders of Dignity Boston back in 1972, who we recently found out had passed away in 2023. Please click here to subscribe to Dateline and learn more about Paul.

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.

Second Collections

The collection basket is normally passed around for our Second Collections during the first Sunday that we meet in-person each month.

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

Inclement Weather

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.

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 (2/28/26) by Noon on Thursday, 2/26.