DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – April 15, 2026

Our Liturgies

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 4/19	Sunday, 4/26
Remote	In-Person
Liturgy of the Word	Eucharistic Liturgy
Zoom Only	@St. Stephen's
Healing Service	Live Streaming via Zoom
Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter
5:00 p.m. EDT	5:00 p.m. EDT

Thank You to Our Liturgy Committee!

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks and praise to the Liturgy Committee and EVERYONE who helped to make our in-person Triduum such a meaningful celebration of our history and our faith. It's hard to believe that we had six consecutive online celebrations of the Triduum from 2020 (shortly after the shutdown) and *every* year through 2025. The return of the in-person Triduum after seven years fits well into this year's community vision of a Dignity Boston Renaissance!

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Our first 100 days: the 2026 Board has served our first 100 days. One of our foremost goals for the year is to communicate effectively with you, the community, to keep you informed and connected. We also want to hear from you. How are we doing? What are we doing well? What needs improvement? What else could we be doing? Please reach out to me or any Board member, or email with any comment, question, concern, or compliment at dignityboston@gmail.com

I was in New Orleans for Palm Sunday weekend, attending the annual scientific meeting of the American College of Cardiology. I am a mostly retired pediatric cardiologist and clinical geneticist. Although I stopped seeing patients about three years ago, I still maintain connections at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and I continue to do bits of writing, teaching, mentoring, clinical research, and advocacy. In New Orleans our research team presented some exciting new results on medical treatment of aneurysms in children (my specialty), and I chaired an educational session on management of aneurysms in children and young adults. It was a gratifying opportunity to see many of my former colleagues from Boston and around the country and to reflect on my career. As you might imagine, medicine was not just my profession; medicine was my vocation, in the biblical sense (derived from the Latin vocatio, "a calling"), referring to a divine summons from God. Rather than just a career, it was a call to a life of service and work for justice. Medicine was, and still is, my ministry. I have always been concerned about access to care, for uninsured and underinsured people, for LGBTQI+ people, for people of color, for immigrants, for rural communities, and for all vulnerable populations. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said in 1966: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman, because it often results in physical death."; While in New Orleans, I was heartened to read Pope Leo XIV's views on health care: "Health cannot be a luxury for the few. Universal Health Coverage is not merely a technical goal to be achieved; it is primarily a moral imperative for societies that wish to call themselves just. Healthcare must be accessible to the most vulnerable, then, not only because their dignity requires it but also to prevent injustice from becoming a cause of conflict."

Our Socials

Dignity Boston Renaissance: Finding Clarity in Complex Times

The Board and Vision Committee are hosting a storytelling session following our 4/26 in-person Eucharistic liturgy, led by Jon Schum. The focus is this year's Vision theme: Dignity Boston Renaissance. Join us for an evening of sharing and listening. A light dinner of turkey chili, vegetarian chili, bread, beverages, and desert will be provided. Storytelling seems to be a theme. There's another storytelling opportunity on p. 9!

Save the Date

Our next Zoom Social is Thursday, 5/7 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. It's "We Are God's People: Here, Now, and Always". More details in the 4/30 Bulletin.

Re-scheduled Zoom Social

Our "My Favorite Vacation" Zoom Social has been re-scheduled with a new date: Thursday, 5/28. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. EDT. More details soon!

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 4/16
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.

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 4/19
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome are both meetings!

Our Social Justice Work

Support the Friday Night Supper Program and the Walk for Hunger

Currently, Dave Houle, Ron Lacro, and Jon Schum have signed up to join the Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) team for the Walk for Hunger on the Boston Common on Sunday, 5/3. This is to raise money for Project Bread! Dignity Boston members will support the FNSP team. Please consider joining the FNSP team at https://give.projectbread.org/team/805536 or by making a donation to support the walk of Dave, Ron, Jon, or other team members walk:

Dave H: https://give.projectbread.org/fundraiser/7070540
Ron: https://give.projectbread.org/fundraiser/7070088.
Jon: https://give.projectbread.org/fundraiser/7103954

Other ways to support the Friday Night Supper Program include purchasing something at one of these links: Amazon 2026 Clothing Wishlist, Amazon Grocery Wishlist, or support Chris Connors in her campaign to support the CASAN (Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network): https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/chris-connors

And thanks to all who came to our "No Kings Rally" on Boston Common last Saturday with our Dignity group and those who attended elsewhere. Also, thanks for Chris Lawrence's leadership on this.

Strides for Action

The Dignity Boston Strides for Action team, former the AIDS Walk, has been registered. If you'd like to sign up to walk, please click here. If you'd like to donate to our team, please click here. Our team captain is in place. Once again, Matt McNeff heads it up. If you'd like to donate to him for the cause, please click here. There will be more details in the Bulletin as time gets closer. Go team!!

Our Parent DignityUSA

DignityUSA's Transgender Caucus Returns!

As stated on the resources page of the DignityUSA website, DignityUSA affirms with unwavering conviction that our trans and nonbinary siblings are beloved by God. Their lives and journeys reveal the richness of God's creative diversity and the power of divine love. DignityUSA is therefore excite to announce the re-launch of the Transgender Caucus. If you'd like to stay connected and participate in future conversations, you are invited to sign up for the mailing list by emailing trans@dignityusa.org. While DignityUSA doesn't want to duplicate the important reporting already being done by trans journalists like Erin Reed and outlets such as Assigned Media, DignityUSA does hope to raise awareness and show visible support as pro-trans Catholics. The next meeting will be 4/23 at 8:30 p.m. EDT/5:30p.m. PDT. There will be a discussion of the latest religious liberty report from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which devotes significant attention to what the bishops call "gender ideology" and suggests a connection between trans identity and violence without providing evidence. Please join in on the conversation.

Our News and Information

Check Out Our Information Table

Dignity Boston and DignityUSA have lots of information vehicles including but not limited to Dateline (the Dignity USA newsletter), emails through our listserv, the semi-monthly Bulletin, and our Information Table in our social hall at St. Stephen's. Board member, David Russo, frequently puts copies of the National Catholic Reporter (NCR) on the table. You'll also find printed copies of our latest Bulletin. There's lot more information on the table too. Check it out when you visit Dignity Boston in person next time around.

Our History

Did You Know?

..that two members, around at Dignity Boston's start, are still with us today.

René.
… who is affectionately known as "Auntie" by many, remembers coming to Dignity in the early days of 1973 when Dignity Boston met at St. Clement's. "On my first Sunday I think there were 20+ of us there." René has been with Dignity since, being a Board member in 1976 and 1977 and a Eucharistic minister. When René talks about Dignity during that first decade, he describes it as "we breathed, ate, drank, lived Dignity. That was our life. We attended Sunday mass, organized monthly home liturgies, socialized together, supported each other." He recalls, with fondness, a home liturgy he hosted at his Leominster home. "I was not sure who was going to be there since I lived far away. 20 people drove all the way to Leominster for that liturgy. That is what we did, we showed up for one another." Having made lasting friendships there, René remembers especially all those that we lost, mostly by AIDS. Born and raised catholic in Central Mass., his family was very supportive of him. He was in the seminary for six years in the '60s. A friend from the seminary who also had left and moved to California told René about Dignity/Boston as it was beginning to form. René quickly found the group at St. Clement's. René calls it "Divine Providence." He says that he was always very attracted to the Orthodox Catholic liturgy and music, for years attending church both at Dignity and an Orthodox parish. René has a sizable collection of icons he has shared with the Dignity community through the years. Although now living 30 miles from Boston he says that the "Dignity community is very important to him, even if he cannot join us in person as often as he would like."

George M.
… was born in Massachusetts and currently lives in Worcester. He was raised Catholic, even attending a Jesuit high school. A number of his family members on both sides were priests and women religious, although

not all stayed. “At some point I wanted to be a Trappist monk.” After he went through an admission process he was invited to spend a week in Spencer, MA at the Trappist monastery. He chuckles and says “I got to be a Trappist monk for five whole days.” After which everyone agreed, including himself, that he did not belong there. George started to come to Dignity Boston while the group was still meeting at Randolph Country Club in late 1972 and early 1973. “We owe our beginnings to Father Tom Oddo” and he remembers fondly his friend Joe D. who first introduced him to Dignity Boston. George agrees that although things in our country are rough right now, he believes LGBT people are more accepted now, especially in New England. He knows Dignity should continue to exist, although perhaps, he realizes, people do not need this community in the same way as before. He said, “COVID changed everything.” One favorite, amusing story that George tells is attending anniversary in religious life of a family member in Quebec. “I was dressed up in a nice blue suit, with a Dignity pin on my lapel. As all the priests, bishops, deacons were processing down the aisle I met the eyes of one of the bishops. He looked at me and gave me a nod with a sly grin on his face. I know he saw the Dignity pin.” (George’s word wasn’t actually “sly”). George worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 32 years, mostly in South Station. Now retired, he volunteers at the Worcester Public Library. He likes to read, both fiction and non-fiction, so he enjoys being at the Library. He continues to come to Dignity Boston, often with his partner Conrad, whenever he can do it.

Both René and George remember with fondness another member of our community of 50+ years, Joe Gatto - our kind, gentle, and beloved friend whom we lost in 2025.

Dignity Boston owes a lot to the pioneers who were here at the beginning. We honor their efforts and their presence. We are always grateful for all who have come through our doors in these 53 years. Their presence has made Dignity Boston the community what it is today. We welcome those who continue to join us in the present. Dignity Boston becomes what each of us contributes in our own unique **way.**

“Did You Know” is a frequent feature of the Dignity Boston Bulletin and is written by Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues.

Our Reports

Treasury Report Higlights

Our Dignity Boston Treasurer, Chris Lawrence, tells us that through 3/31/2026 our chapter has a surplus of $1,297.55. The following is our revenue and our expenses:

Revenue:

- Donations were higher due to three in-person liturgies in March.
- $353 was collected for GLAD Law ($75 came in after the 1st in-person collection from the basket at the back of the church).
- $353 for Membership dues.
- $87.96 for gift in kind donation for office supplies.
-

Expenses:

- The storage unit rent went up to $380 starting in March.
- Regarding Member Services, there were four D/USA membership scholarships.
- Second Collection - $353
- Pride Events - Registration for parade and festival (cost for small non-profits under $1M seemed to have gone down).

For a more detailed report, please see the addendum at the conclusion of this Bulletin. Detailed treasury reports are always available upon request by emailing dignityboston@gmail.com

Our Community

The Art of Our Neighbors

Dignity member, Carl, tells us that The Art of Our Neighbors is a one-day pop-up exhibition featuring artists from the Somerville Homeless Coalition. This is sponsored by Arts Collaborative Medford. Art of Our Neighbors is a Tisch Scholar Senior Capstone Project. Check it out! It's Sunday, 4/26 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 162 Mystic Ave. #1. RSVP here!

EVERYONE HAS A STORY!

Join SpeakOUT and Become a Voice for Change for the LGBTQ+ Community

Saturday, April 18, 2026
9:00am-5:00pm

SpeakOUT's all-day training at Suffolk University is an empowering experience within a queer-supportive atmosphere to prepare you to share your personal story with others. We seek individuals interested in sharing their personal LGBTQ+ story and engaging in dialogue with various audiences such as schools, colleges, businesses, faith communities and more. We particularly invite BIPOC, people of faith, intersex, transgender and nonbinary people, and others who represent communities not always heard from. The training is also open to those who just want to improve their public speaking skills.

Novice and veteran speakers alike will learn and practice valuable skills, including:

- setting the right tone
- overcoming fear
- crafting and telling your personal story
- handling questions effectively
- working with your co-speaker

Registration Fee: General: $75; Student & Senior Rate: $35. The fee includes a training manual, breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Group Rates, sliding scale & scholarships are available, so don't let the cost prevent you from participating. Email info@speakoutboston.org to inquire.

Advance Registration is REQUIRED.
Visit www.speakoutboston.org/speaker-trainings or use the QR code to register for the training.

Our Committees

Join the Vision Committee

Consider joining Dignity Boston's Vision Committee. You can help shape the future direction of your spiritual home. The next meeting is Tuesday, 4/21 at 5:30 p.m. Please email dignityboston@gmail.com to join the group.

Our Collections

April Collection

Our April Collection benefits the Lazarus Ministry at St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston. This ministry provides dignified funerals and burials for the city's most vulnerable populations, particularly those who die without known family or means. To donate, please click here. The collection basket is passed around for our Second Collections during the first Sunday that we meet in-person each month. Additional in-person liturgies will have a basket available at a specific location in the church for donations. The location of the basket will be announced at the liturgy. At our remote Liturgy of the Word, Zoom only services, the Second Collection link will be put into the chat at the beginning of the service.

Holy Thursday Collection

Our collection on Holy Thursday for the Friday Night Supper Program was $335.00. Thank you for your generosity!

March Collection

Our Second Collection in March for GLAD Law raised $353.00 for the organization.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Early Pride

The Boston Pride for the People, the Dyke March, the Catholic Collective All Are Welcome Mass, and the Dignity Boston Pride Liturgy will all be one week earlier this year to accommodate World Cup activities in Boston. The events run from Friday, 6/5 to Sunday, 6/7. More details soon!

Subscribe to the DignityUSA Monthly Newsletter

If you are enjoying the “Our Parent DignityUSA” section of the Dignity Boston Bulletin, you can get even more DignityUSA information by subscribing to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Click here to subscribe to Dateline.

Contact Us!

Our Dignity Boston mailing address is: Dignity Boston, P.O. Box 262, Belmont, MA 02478. For questions, contact dignityboston@gmail.com . Please note that DignityUSA's address is: DignityUSA, 51 Pleasant St. #1107, Malden, MA 02148. The phone number is 781-309-7686.

Community Members Needed to Help

We have monthly socials that bring our community together online. If you have an idea for a topic for a social, please contact Ron, Peggy B., or Robin at dignityboston@gmail.com If you'd like to lead an event, let Ron, Peggy B., or Robin know. In addition, Dignity Boston is in need for community members to sign up to provide beverages and treats following our in-person Sunday liturgies. To find out how you can help, see Alice or contact her at dignityboston@gmail.com

Donate In-Person or Via Mail

Please 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. Please make your checks payable to "Dignity Boston". If it is for one of our Second Collections, please 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 (4/30/26) by Noon on Tuesday, 4/28.

(The Addendum with the treasury report is on the next page)

Addendum (Treasury Report)

Dignity/Boston
Treaurer's Report
Through March 31, 2026

	Actual		Budget	
REVENUE		%		%
Member Donations	4,048.16	62%	23,200.00	82%
Membership Dues	350.00	5%	500.00	2%
Second Collections	1,072.00	16%	3,500.00	12%
Other/Miscellaneous	1,112.06	17%	950.00	3%
TOTAL REVENUE	$ 6,582.22	100%	$ 28,150.00	100%
EXPENSES				
OFFICE/ORGANIZATION				
Church & Storage Unit Rent	3,354.00	63%	11,872.00	42%
Other Office Expenses	119.86	2%	1,875.00	7%
GROUPS & COMMITTEES	415.00	8%	1,800.00	6%
SECOND COLLECTIONS	1,072.00	20%	3,500.00	12%
PRIDE EVENTS	323.81	6%	1,150.00	4%
DONATIONS TO FNSP & DUSA	-	0%	5,800.00	21%
2026 VISION EVENTS	-	0%	1,000.00	4%
SOCIAL MINISTRY	-	0%	850.00	3%
OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS	-	0%	303.00	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 5,284.67	100%	$ 28,150.00	100%
INCOME	$ 1,297.55		-	