DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

# BULLETIN – April 30, 2026

## Our Liturgies

### Sunday Liturgies

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| Sunday, 5/3<br>Remote<br>Liturgy of the Word<br>Zoom Only<br>Fifth Sunday of Easter<br>5:00 p.m. EDT | Sunday, 5/10<br>In-Person<br>Eucharistic Liturgy<br>@St. Stephen's<br>Live Streaming via Zoom<br>Sixth Sunday of Easter<br>5:00 p.m. EDT |

Note: Dignity will not have a liturgy on 5/14 for the Feast of the Assumption.

## Our President's Message

### From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Growing up in Hawaii, the arrival of spring was never quite so dramatic and gratifying as it is here in Boston. Here are some sure signs of spring…

- On Sunday, 4/26 the 19th annual Shamrock Shootout, a street hockey tournament, once again took over West Roxbury's Temple St. on which we live, as hundreds of youngsters and spectators spent the day on our barricaded street. Celebrity attendees included Mayor Michelle Wu. Fortunately, Jon and I made it out to liturgy, dinner, and storytelling at St. Stephen's. Thanks to all who came to share stories of rebirth in line with our Vision theme for the year: Dignity Boston Renaissance: Finding Clarity in Complex Times. If you have an idea for an event, social, or justice project, we want to hear from you. Speak to any board member. Please consider joining the Vision Committee.

- The daffodils and crocuses sometimes jump the gun, but when the forsythia bush in the corner of our lot is blooming in bright yellow, I know it's really spring.

- The charity walks—the Walk for Hunger and Strides for Action, occur in the spring. This year, both walks happen in May, and Dignity Boston has walkers for both walks. For the Walk for Hunger, we join the Friday Night Supper Program team. Thank you to our walkers and our generous sponsors. It's not too late to register to walk or to donate to our walkers and teams. May the journeys be safe and comfortable as we walk to help our neighbors.

- We appreciate Tyler Mills and Chris Lawrence who are coordinating our Pride events which are one week earlier than usual this year. There are multiple events planned, and we hope you can be part of the movement. We are especially looking for people to join us on Wednesday, 6/10 at Boston City Hall and the Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party.

- We have commissioned Libby Kercher, an illustrator, designer, and former DignityUSA intern, to design our 2026 Dignity Boston Pride T-shirts! Stay tuned for details on how you can get your special-edition shirt to wear to Pride events and beyond.

- I love the coming of spring, but spring also brings my worst allergy season — it's the trees. Hope it's not too bad this year!

## Our Socials

### We Are God's People: Here, Now, and Always

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". We will reflect on the 2025 DignityUSA Conference Theme (We Are God's People: Here, Now, and Always) and the Conference Song written for the conference by Dan Schutte (Here, Now, and Always). Please join us whether you attended the conference or not, as we compose new verses to the song based on the conference theme.

### 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. Share your favorite vacation. Where did you go and why? Did you have a favorite vacation as a child, perhaps different from your favorite vacation as an adult? We can't wait to hear your stories.

## Our Meetings

### Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 5/14
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!

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 5/17
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

## Our Collaborations

### Dignity Co-Hosts Boston City Hall Pride

Dignity Boston has signed on to co-host the annual Pride Celebration at Boston City Hall on Wednesday, 6/10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at City Hall Plaza.. We have representation from our Dignity Boston Executive Board. Last year 300 community members joined the event. If you'd like to attend, please email dignityboston@gmail.com

### Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party

Dignity Boston will be staffing a table for the Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party on Wednesday, 6/10 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will include fun activities, free food, a drag show, and tables staffed by community partners. We will get you an exact location as time gets closer. Come on by! If you'd like to help staff our table, please email dignityboston@gmail.com

## Our Social Justice Work

### Dignity Signs On to Amicus Brief

Dignity Boston and DignityUSA have signed on to an amicus brief regarding a legal case against the City of Quincy involving freedom of religious expression. Specifically, the City has commissioned two large statues of St. Michael and St. Florian to adorn a new government building. The brief will focus on the importance of maintaining government neutrality in religious matters, especially when it comes to action that appears to officially endorse a particular religious sect or faith tradition. The Dignity Boston Board unanimously approved signing on to the brief.

## Dignity Signs On to Support Rights of the LGBTQ+ Incarcerated

The Dignity Boston Board has decided to sign on Dignity Boston as an organization to a letter sponsored by the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition to support a bill that would protect the rights of incarcerated LGBTQI+ individuals. If anyone would like to sign on as an individual they can email dignityboston@gmail.com We will always support our trans siblings!

## 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. Consider joining the FNSP team at https://give.projectbread.org/team/805536 or by making a donation to support the walk of Dave, Ron, and/or Jon. Thank you, in advance for your support. Here are the links for the team members.

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 Dignity Boston and Arlington Street Church 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

## Strides for Action

Strides for Action is an annual event in Boston which this year is on Sunday, 5/31. It builds on the legacy of AIDS Walk Boston. Participants can walk, run, and/or donate. By doing so, you'll contribute to expanded access to LGBTQIA+ health services including gender-affirming care and HIV treatment/prevention as well as supporting groundbreaking research and advocacy efforts. Our Dignity Boston Strides for Action team has been registered but there is still plenty of time to enter the walk/run and/or donate to a Dignity Boston participant. If you'd like to sign up to walk, please click here. To donate, please click here for the team. The following are the links for the individual team members: Ron Lacro Matt McNeff David Russo Jon Schum. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

# Our Parent DignityUSA

## Women of Dignity and WATER Quarterly Meeting

Join the Women of Dignity and WATER for their quarterly meeting. It's Sunday, 5/3 at 11:30 a.m. EDT. The topic is catholic lesbians and queer women looking at women's ordination through roles, contributions, and expansive options. Marsie Silvestro, a non-profit organizational development consultant, minister, and spiritual director in Santa Fe, NM and Victoria Rue, a Roman Catholic Woman Priest, theatre writer/director, and retired lecturer in Comparative Religious Studies at San Jose State University will lead off a conversation. They will join Dignity's Marianne Duddy Burke and WATER's Diann Neu and Mary E. Hunt reflecting on lesbian/queer women in the movement for Catholic women's ordination. The event is open to all lesbian/bisexual/transgender/queer Women as well as those identifying as nonbinary/gender expansive and all our women friends. You can register by email at Dignitywomen@gmail.com

## Our History

### Did You Know?

…the two newest dues paying members of Dignity Boston? We invite you to meet them and get to know them better.

*Carl T*

Carl T. was born in Singapore and raised in Indonesia and came to the U.S. for college. He goes to Tufts University, majoring in Sociology, and to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts specializing in Studio Art. Carl has two older brothers and two younger brothers, most of them are in the U.S. for their studies. His mother is in Boston also, studying in a master's program. He feels lucky to have family nearby. Carl was raised Catholic and went to Catholic school. When he realized he was gay, his mother moved him to an international school. In spite of his Catholic education and being raised Catholic, at some point Carl developed a lot of anger towards the Church for all it was doing against LGBT people. "I called myself an atheist for a while." While in college he decided to try church again, he says, but "I would go to Mass and leave in the middle of it. As soon as I heard 'Lord, I am not worthy…' I had a visceral reaction and could not tolerate being there." At Tufts, he decided to talk to the Catholic chaplain. "One day I just asked her: can you help me pray?" His conversations with the chaplain have really helped him recover and continue to develop his faith. At the dyke march last June, Carl picked up information about Dignity. He decided to give Dignity a try and has found encouragement from his friends at Tufts, some of whom have come with him to check out Dignity. Carl used the word "amazing" to describe his experience at Dignity. He feels connected and part of the community now. He really was happy to volunteer and help during the Triduum, felt very special when asked to contribute. He particularly feels like the intergenerational aspect of Dignity makes the experience so much richer, "to be able to learn from queer elders!" Welcome, Carl!

Christopher S.

Christopher S. started coming to Dignity in October 2025 when he moved to Boston. He had had the opportunity of visiting Dignity/Denver on a few visits to the city, so knew a bit about the community. He also did some research in gaychurch.org. Christopher is the oldest of three siblings and has two sisters. His mother passed away due to COVID in 2023. His father is a retired Air Force service man, having been a fighter pilot in Vietnam. His father's career made it so the family moved around and Christopher was exposed to different cultures, and so continues to love to travel. He was an exchange student in high school and spent a year in Poland. He majored in Russian Studies in college and has traveled in Russia and Siberia. Christopher speaks Russian, Polish, German, Spanish, and English. From 1999-2002, Christopher worked for American Airlines and was based in Boston. In 2006 found himself wanting to help people more directly and also to have the opportunity to work in different parts of the world. This led him to a career in nursing, and he has a lot of experience working for the VA system. He did endure a hard time during government shutdowns and now works as a nurse practitioner for DOD (Department of Defense) here in Boston in a program that conducts physical and mental evaluations for military service. "So far so good," he says. Christopher was raised Catholic, "I was an altar boy!" He is happy to have found Dignity Boston. He feels comfortable with everyone, and feels like he is connected and he belongs. He is "used to the rituals, and I like the music very much." By the way, he confirmed that he prefers to be called Christopher. Welcome, Christopher!

*All Are Welcome*

Whether you have been here 50 years, 30, 10, or just days, Dignity Boston welcomes you to our progressive and inclusive community. Come with all you have to contribute, take whatever you need to feel more whole, open yourself to the presence of God where two or more are gathered. We are all blessed every time we welcome someone new to our community.

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

## Our Reports

### Audit Reports and 2026 Budget

Audit Reports and 2026 Budget have been emailed to dues-paid members. Copies will be placed on the Information Table for the next several in-person liturgies. Treasury reports are always available upon requests by emailing dignityboston@gmail.com

## Our Community

### Coro Allegro and Luminous Rescue

Coro Allegro presents *Luminous Rescue: Psalms of Protest and Reconciliation* on Sunday, 5/17 at the Church of the Covenant, Boston at 3:00 p.m. It features Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Charles Ives's *Psalm 90*, and *Psalms of Luminous Rescue* by Patricia Van Ness, with guest artists from the Back Bay Ringers and the presentation of the Pinkham Award to Boston Gay Men's Chorus Artistic Director Reuben Reynolds. There is five dollars off with the code 6726. For tickets, please click here. After the concert, pop on over to Dignity Boston for our 5:00 liturgy!

## 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.

## May Collection

Our May collection supports SpeakOUT Boston, an LGBTQIA+ speakers bureau that focuses on the personal stories of the queer community with a heavy focus on the stories of our trans siblings. 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 labeled and available at the back of the church during church and moved to the Information Table in the social hour after liturgy for Second Collection donations. 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.

# Our Ongoing Announcements

## Check Out Our Information Table

Dignity Boston and DignityUSA have lots of information vehicles including but not limited to Dateline (the DignityUSA 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.

## Early Pride

The Boston Pride for the People, the Dyke March, the Catholic Collective All Are Welcome Mass (6/5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Paulist Center), 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. All of these will be featured in much more detail in our 5/15 and 5/30 Dignity Boston bulletins!

## Blessing

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, 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 email dignityboston@gmail.com to request such a blessing at an upcoming virtual or in-person liturgy.

## 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.

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*Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (5/15/26) by Noon on Wednesday, 5/13.*