DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – May 15, 2026

Our Liturgies

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 5/17	Sunday, 5/24
Remote	In-Person
Liturgy of the Word	Eucharistic Liturgy
Zoom Only	@St. Stephen's
Healing Service	Live Streaming via Zoom
Seventh Sunday of Easter	**Pentecost Sunday**
5:00 p.m. EDT	5:00 p.m. EDT

*Note: For Pentecost Sunday, we remind you to please wear **red** to our in-person service. For those doing the live stream, we also encourage you to wear **red**.*

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

- Yes, it's legitimate. We're doing a spring cleanup of our Dignity Boston E-Mail list, so please respond to the request sent out on 5/6.

- Pride season is around the corner: Please join us for the many Pride events detailed in this bulletin. In particular, if you are free on Wednesday, 6/10, please join us at the Pride Celebration at Boston City Hall (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) or at the Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party (3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Please email dignityboston@gmail.com.

- A limited supply of Dignity Boston Pride T-Shirts is still available.

- Some might question if we still need Pride events. There are numerous examples, mostly but not exclusively in "conservative" states, of attempts to render us invisible, or even illegal, by limiting LGBTQ+ rights, access to gender affirming care, and our freedom to exist and express our true selves. The Watertown (Wisconsin) School Board this week just voted 7-1 to remove an instrumental piece by an LGBTQ+ composer, from the spring concert of the Watertown Wind Symphony, saying the work violated the district's controversial issues policy and claiming the song signaled "indoctrination and radical curriculum." "A Mother of a Revolution!" was composed in 2019 by Omar Thomas for contemporary wind ensembles and does not have lyrics. Thomas dedicated the work to transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson, a key figure in the 1969 Stonewall Uprising against police raids in New York City, a milestone in the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement, and its site is recognized as a national monument. One School Board member said that political violence should not be celebrated through music or song. The band director had followed the district's "controversial issues policy," sending a note home to parents in October letting them know the class would be studying and preparing the piece. The School Board did not object at the time. The students worked on the piece for months only for it to be pulled off the program six days before the spring concert. So, yes, we need Pride events, and our work must continue.

Our Pride: Dignity Events, Collaborations, and Community

Dyke March

Dignity Boston encourages you to support our community by attending Boston Dyke March 2026. The March believes in anti-capitalist, intersectional gender liberation and welcomes all who feel the same. It is a grassroots Pride event that is mask required, ASL interpreted as well as wheelchair, stroller, and scooter accessible. An accessibility vehicle is available for those who need a ride for some or all of the March. It is Friday, 6/5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common. For even more information, click here.

All Are Welcome Mass

The Paulist Center will host a mass at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, 6/5 as part of Pride weekend in Boston. It is through the Greater Boston LGBTQIA Catholic Collective of which Dignity Boston is a part. Please come and enjoy the social following the service.

Dignity Participates in the Boston Pride for the People Festival/Parade

The purpose of the Boston Pride for the People Parade is to commemorate the brave LGBTQ+ people who risked their lives and humanity for the lives of our queer community as well as to continue to advocate for equity and inclusion for LGBTQ+ people, especially those who face intersecting forms of oppression. Dignity will be participating in the march/parade with more details in our 5/30 Bulletin. We will also be staffing a table at the festival. This is Saturday, 6/6, one week earlier than usual to accommodate scheduled World Cup activities in Boston the following weekend.

Dignity Boston Pride Liturgy and Celebratory Meal

Please join us on Sunday, 6/7 for the Dignity Boston Pride Liturgy. Following our liturgy will be celebrating with our Dignity community with a catered meal. Of course, there will be a celebratory cake as well! Consider wearing one of your favorite Dignity Boston t-shirts to the liturgy.

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

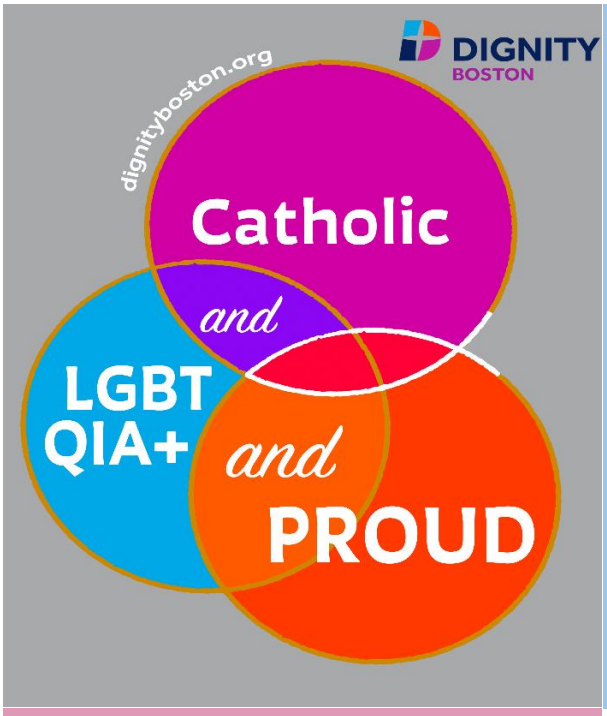
Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party

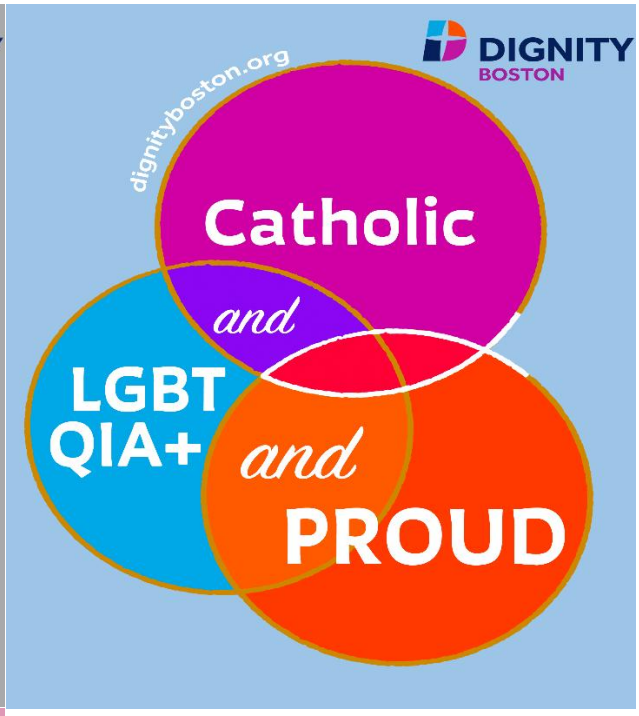
Colleges of the Fenway™

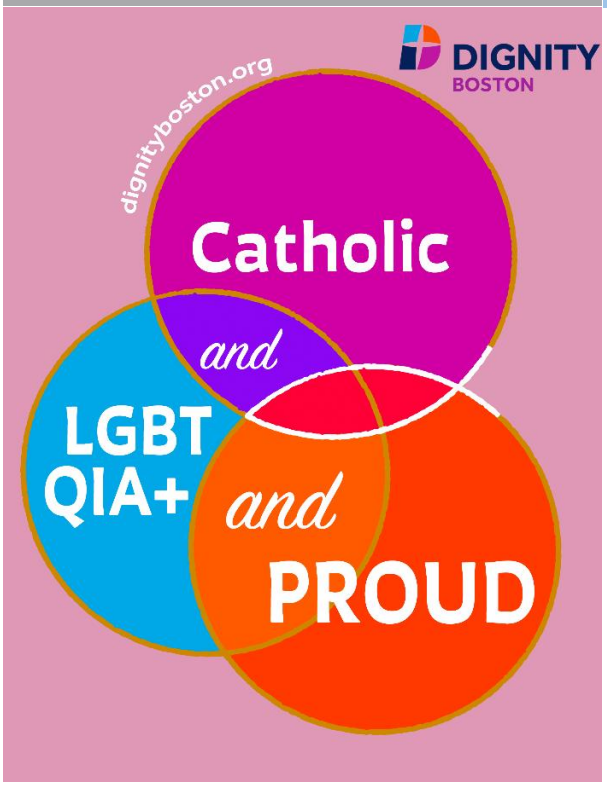
Dignity Boston will be staffing a table for the Colleges of the Fenway Pride Block Party on Wednesday, 6/10 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will include fun activities, free food, a drag show, and tables staffed by community partners. We will get you an exact location as time gets closer. Come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

--and if you're very ambitious there's also the Boston Gay Men's Chorus' concert. Details here.

Your 2026 Dignity Boston Pride T-Shirts Are Coming!







YOUR 2026 DIGNITY BOSTON PRIDE T-SHIRT

Dignity Boston is excited to announce that our new 2026 Pride T-Shirts are now available for order. The T-Shirt was designed by illustrator, designer,

and former DignityUSA intern, Libby Kercher. The front design is shown on p. 5 in the three colors that we are offering. DIGNITY BOSTON will be printed across the back in navy blue (same blue and font as in our logo). You can attend all of the different Pride events listed on p. 3 and p. 4 and look absolutely fabulous in your new t-shirt. As shown, the colors are gray/silver, light blue, and pink. **The amazing news is that as a benefit for Dignity membership, you are eligible to get your t-shirt at no charge.** We will, however, accept donations with a suggested donation of $10 to $20 per shirt. For non-members, shirts are available on a sliding scale of $15 to $20 per shirt to cover the cost of the shirt and printing. If you go now to www.dignityusa.org, you can become a member and specify Dignity Boston as your chapter of choice. Then you can qualify for the member rate. To order, please email dignityboston@gmail.com with your specified number of shirts, colors, and small to 6XL sizes (a supply is still available but not all colors or sizes maybe available). If you're a paying customer, payment is due when you get the shirt. Shirts can be mailed if you live at a distance. If you have any questions, we invite you to email dignityboston@gmail.com. Enjoy your new t-shirt(s)!

Our Socials

"My Favorite Vacation" Zoom Social

Our "My Favorite Vacation" Zoom Social has been re-scheduled with a new date: Thursday, 5/28. Please join us on Thursday, 5/28 at 7:00 p.m. EDT for "My Favorite Vacation" (zoom social). 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 Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 5/17
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 6/11
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes and treasury reports are available per request.
All are Welcome!

Our Social Justice Work

Thank You for Your Walk for Hunger Support

Thank you for supporting our Friday Night Supper Program Walk for Hunger team of which Dignity Boston was a strong part. The Walk has raised more than 1.2 million dollars to help those who are food insecure. The Friday Night Supper Program raised $5,425 and Dignity Boston walkers (Dave, Ron, and Jon) raised $3,011 dollars at the time of this writing. Above is a picture of our team including community members Kathy H., Dave H., Ron L, and Jon S. Thank you again for your generous support!

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's still plenty of time to enter the walk/run and/or donate to a Dignity Boston participant. To sign up to walk, please click here. Here are the links for the individual team members and the team donation link:

Ron Lacro

Matt McNeff

Jane Powers

David Russo

Jon Schum

Team Link

Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Our Remembrance

Two-Part Celebration of Life and Remembrance for Bill Gilligan

On the weekend of Saturday, 6/13 and Sunday, 6/14 there will two remembrance events for longtime Dignity Boston member, Bill Gilligan. On Saturday, 6/13 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Edward Sullivan Funeral Home in Burlington, there will be a sharing of memories of Bill's life. On Sunday, 6/14 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Saint Stephen's Church in Boston, there will be a liturgy (our normal 5:00 in-person Eucharistic service with live streaming via Zoom) as well as a reception and refreshment hour (starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon as liturgy ends). Please join us and share your remembrances of Bill.

Here is a link to Bill's obituary which includes not only the obituary, under the "Obituary & Events" tab but pictures of Bill with family and friends under the "Tribute Wall" tab. By this coming Monday or Tuesday (5/18 or 5/19) there will be a video as well.

https://sullivanfuneralhome.net/tribute/details/4465/William-Gilligan/obituary.html#tribute-start

Our Parent DignityUSA

Synod Study Group Report "Profoundly Disappointing"

DIGNITYUSA

Dignity USA has expressed "profound disappointment" in the final report from the Synod study group on the role of women in the church. For more on this, please click here.

Conversion Therapy: Understanding and Confronting Harm

Join DignityUSA and Dr. Lucus Wilson (editor of *Shame-Sex Attraction: Survivors' Stories of Conversion Therapy*) on Wednesday, 5/20 at 8:00 p.m. EDT for 'Conversion Therapy: Understanding and Confronting Harm". Conversion practices—commonly referred to as conversion therapy—constitute the damaging efforts to change queer individuals' sexual orientations and/or gender identities and expressions. Despite the common misapprehension—in North America, at least—that conversion practices are a thing of the past, such anti-LGBTQ+ efforts persist and continue to wreak havoc on countless queer and trans individuals, particularly those in high-control religious contexts. As a survivor of conversion therapy himself, Wilson will present a broadened definition of conversion practices before discussing the prevalence of conversion practices in North America. Wilson will flesh out the ways by which conversion practitioners seek the eradication of LGBTQ+ communities in North America and beyond.

Our Community

Join Dignity Boston Community Members Robin and Mike in Concert

Polymnia Choral Society will have its final performance of the season by saluting Broadway. Join Dignity members, Robin and Mike, for "Polymnia Goes to Broadway". Sing along to your favorite and familiar Broadway tunes from Broadway's hit shows. It's Saturday, 6/6 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It's at Melrose's Memorial Hall at 590 Main St. in Melrose. For more information, click here. For tickets, click here. It promises to be a "Wicked" good time (see what I did there).

Our History

Did You Know?

… how Dignity Boston came to co-found the Friday Night Supper Program? We owe it to the late Dignity Boston President, Michael Scally. Michael was President of Dignity Boston in 1983. He was a gentle and kind man with a passion to do for others and a strong faith. In that spirit he proposed to his Board that we form a core of volunteers to serve meals at The Pine Street Inn. He believed that our call as Catholics should include service. He had explored the possibilities, had spoken to the Inn's leadership, and wanted Dignity members to sign up to volunteer. The Board was generally in agreement, but as they discussed the idea, the question came up: "Why the Pine Street Inn. They only serve meals to men?". The Board proposed that we look for other alternatives to see if we could find another site that served men, women and families. Michael accepted the challenge and went back to work talking to the few places in the Boston area who fed all who needed to be fed. It was in a conversation with a priest at the Paulist Center that the idea changed completely. Michael used to tell the story that the priest said: "You know, we do not have anyone in the Boston area who is serving hot meals for those who need them on Fridays. That is the only day of the week not covered in any program in Boston. I think Dignity should start its own feeding program on Fridays." That was definitely a tall order and one that the Board of Dignity Boston, led by Michael, was willing to take on. We were then renting space for liturgy in the basement of Arlington Street Church. They had a full, spacious kitchen and a very large congregation. Michael led the discussions with the leadership of the church, they brought it to their congregation, as did Michael with Dignity Boston. The Friday Night Supper Club (as it was named then) came to be founded. The two congregations put forth financial resources, volunteers, contacts with other organizations, and a lot of faith to make this important ministry become a reality.

For over 40 years now, Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) has been providing nutritious hot meals to anyone in need in “a safe and dignified environment every Friday night at the Arlington Street Church in Boston.” The program has grown through the years, becoming more efficiently organized, more professional, and known through all of Boston. Thousands of men, women, children, non-binary folks, and families have come through its doors seeking to be fed, to be clothed, and finding, in addition, fellowship, warmth, hope. Through these forty years dozens of Dignity Boston members have offered financial support, hours of volunteerism, donations, leadership skills serving on the Board, and energy doing walks for hunger to raise money for the Program. Unfortunately, Michael did not live long enough to see his idea grow to what it is today. AIDS took him in 1992, way too soon. Dignity Boston will always be thankful for Mike’s dream and leadership. You never know what can grow from just a simple idea, contributing to make the world we live in just a little bit better. There is still time to support and donate to the Walk for Hunger and the team of the Friday Night Supper Program which includes walkers from Dignity Boston. This will help the Friday Night Supper Program reach its yearly goal for this year’s campaign.

Go to https://give.projectbread.org/team/805536

If you are interested in volunteering or helping in any way at Friday Night Supper. Please email contact@fridaynightsupper.org.

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

Our Collections

April Second Collection

Dignity Boston received $262 in donations for our April Second Collection for the Lazarus Ministry at Arch St. Church. Thanks for your generosity!

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 where you'll find printed copies of our latest Bulletin as well as other materials. Check it out when you visit Dignity Boston in person next time around.

Subscribe to the DignityUSA Monthly Newsletter

We hope 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.

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.

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.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (5/30/26) by Noon on Thursday, 5/28.