DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – June 15, 2026

Our Pride

Thank You

Many thanks to all who led or participated in any way at all of the various Pride events that Dignity Boston was part of. We couldn't do it without you! From left to right, Chris L., Ned G., Jon S., and Ron L. march with our banner at Boston Pride for the People. Philip W., Leo E., Dave H., and Erik S. (left to right) can be found in the background.

Pride Celebration at Boston City Hall

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL

Official Resolution

presented by

Councilor At-Large Henry Santana

in recognition of

Dignity Boston

Be It Resolved that the Boston City Council
extends its congratulations and best wishes for continued success; and
Be It Further Resolved that

Councilor Santana proudly reaffirms our deepest respect and appreciation for your enduring and transformative work in creating vital, safe community spaces that profoundly uplift Boston's LGBTQIA2S+ community;

Your ongoing efforts consistently foster environments of profound inclusion, deep-rooted security, and affirmation that are essential for the well-being of so many individuals across our city; *and*

Councilor Santana encourages you to continue to hold him and the Boston City Council accountable to stand alongside you in this work, and to take real, impactful action for our LGBTQIA2S+ community; *and*

Be It Further Resolved that this Resolution
be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to,
and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: Elizabeth Breadon
President of the City Council

Attest: Alex Dantas
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: Henry a. Santana

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

2076-00

Representatives of many different and diverse LGBTQIA+ community organizations were invited to Boston City Hall on Wednesday, 6/10 for a special celebration and recognition ceremony. It started with a networking

event followed by a Pride reception. Community organization reps were then invited into Boston City Hall chambers to be recognized. Dignity Boston was presented with an Official Resolution, pictured on page two. The day concluded with a community Pride lunch. Marianne D.-B., Barbara G., and Dave H. represented Dignity Boston.

Colleges of the Fenway

This event was a block party celebrating pride on Wednesday afternoon, 6/10 in the Fenway. It included fun activities, free food, a drag show, and other performances. There were tables representing campus and community partners with Dignity Boston hosting one of the tables. Representing Dignity Boston and pictured above, left to right, are Carl T., Marianne D.-B., and Rachel E. Ron L. was also in attendance for this three-hour event (probably taking the picture). The colleges included Emmanuel, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services, Simmons University, and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Our Liturgies

Sunday Liturgies

Sunday, 6/21
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Healing Service
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 6/28
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

Happy Pride! I want to thank everyone who participated in any or all of our Pride events. I particularly want to recognize Tyler Mills and Chris Lawrence for coordinating Pride events this year.

Save the Date for Listening Night: Please join us for a Listening Night, Thursday, 6/25 at 7:00 EDT on Zoom (to be recorded for viewing later). I will give a "State of the Chapter" summary, and we will focus on the financial health of our organization. We need your input even if you're not able to join the Zoom. Please email dignityboston@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Music: My mother started me in piano lessons with Mrs. Sarvis at age 5! As a "middle-aged" child, I studied with Mrs. Fletcher who taught me tons of music theory, forming the infrastructure for much of what I do in music to this day. I stopped taking piano lessons in high school because of other priorities, took some lessons in college, and continue to play. Many years ago, when Dignity Boston needed a new music

director, I said, “Why not me?” with a little trepidation but the understanding that this community would have my back. Through COVID we figured out how to do online liturgies and recorded our own music. I would create a backup track, then individual singers and instrumentalists would record their part and send them to me for assembly. The learning curve was steep, and the results were gratifying. We continue to use these recordings in our liturgies. In addition to piano, I sing and play ‘ukulele, viola da gamba (treble and bass), and recently started playing recorder. Choral singing, particularly early music of the renaissance, has been my passion for many years. Did you know that choral singing provides profound, scientifically proven benefits across all stages of life? It acts as a powerful natural stress reliever by lowering cortisol and releasing “feel-good” endorphins. Additionally, it promotes cardiovascular health, strengthens the immune system, combats loneliness, and improves cognitive functions such as memory and focus. Choral singers credit singing in a chorus with making them more optimistic, mindful, resilient, and open to differences. Singers are also more likely to feel a sense of purpose in their lives and to find their lives meaningful. Check out Chorus America! It all started with piano. Thanks, Mom!

Our Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 6/21
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 7/9
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 Socials

My Favorite Vacation Follow-up

Many thanks to all who attended our online social last month, “My Favorite Vacation”. Some of those treasured memory spots were Alaska, a Boston to Bermuda cruise, Cooperstown, a European Viking Cruise, Hampton Beach, Hawaii, London, and Saratoga. Many thanks to Robin, Ron, and Peggy B. for their coordination of these events of our socials.

Pizza in the Park

Please join us for a special outdoor in-person social, Pizza in the Park, on Sunday, 7/12 following our in-person Eucharistic liturgy. We’ll have access to Blackstone Square Park, across the street from St. Stephen’s. There are benches but you’re also welcome to bring a blanket for eating on the lawn. There will be pizza, beverage, and a light dessert with lots of time and space for socializing! If our “God of Good Weather” doesn’t happen to be with us that day, we have a rain date set (Sunday, 8/23). We hope you enjoy!

Show and Tell for Justice

Please join us on Thursday, 7/16 at 7:00 p.m. EDT for “Show and Tell for Justice”. Share something that sustains you in your work for justice. As an example, it might be a physical keepsake from a demonstration you’ve attended or something related to a saint, person, or community that inspires you. Join our leaders Carl T. and Rachel E. for this very meaningful online social!

Our Location

Dignity Boston is on the Move!

No worries, we are not going far. During July and August our in-person eucharistic liturgies will move to our much cooler social hall within St. Stephen’s. Liturgies in comfort are always a blessing!

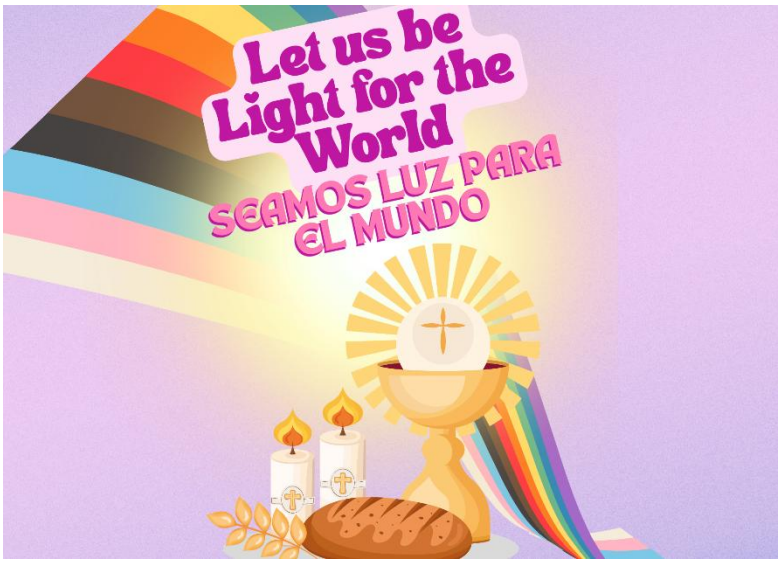
Our Social Justice Work

Strides for Action

Many thanks to our Dignity Boston Strides for Action team for walking and raising $3,561, at the time of this Bulletin release, to help with AIDS and AIDS related causes. Pictured to the left, from left to right, is our Dignity Boston Strides for Action walkers: Jhon J.M., Abdel S., Ron L., Jon S., Jane P. and Matt M. Not pictured but part of the team was David R. Kudos to our team!

Our Parent DignityUSA

Conference Theme Chosen



DignityUSA's Board of Directors has officially approved the theme for our 2027 Conference: *Let us be light for the world / Seamos luz para el mundo.* "At a time when there is so much darkness," said DignityUSA President Meli Barber, "the inclusive, prophetic community that Dignity offers is greatly needed. We look forward to bringing together people whose joy and truth shine forth and helping to bring even more brightness to the world." The conference will be 7/2-7/4/2027 at the Columbus/Dublin Embassy Suites in Ohio. There's been a lot of hard work going on to keep the gathering as affordable and accessible as possible, including securing the same hotel room rate from 2025: $149/night, plus tax, for up to four people per room. The rate also includes a full breakfast and evening reception each day. In celebration of Pride Month, preregistration is now open once again! A $100 deposit reserves your spot and guarantees the lowest available registration rate. Click here for the pre-registration rate. Full registration will open in early 2027, and pre-registration remains fully refundable through 4/1/2027. Mark your calendars now and come help us bring even more light into the world together!

Our History

Did You Know?

Boston Pride from 2003

…that the first organized Pride March in Boston was in 1971, with 300 reported attendees. In 1993 the number of attendees, as reported, was 100,000. In 2019, records name Boston as the third largest Pride March in the United States. Although June has always been considered our Pride month here in Boston, we know that Pride is more than just one day, one event, one month. Our community of Dignity Boston has been present at the March, one way or another, since its founding in 1972. Since then, we have had courageous and enthusiastic participants, claiming our place in the larger LGBTQ+ community as people of faith, embracing our faith and our sexual orientation, and proclaiming that in a very public way. It was not always easy, especially for the pioneers in the 1970's. Our very own

George M. and Diane S. who marched in the ‘70s have something to say about those days. They both very especially remember one of our first banners. It was huge and quoted a church song from the St Louis Jesuits: “Be not afraid, I go before you always.” Very appropriate for those years in our local and national history. “That banner saved my life,” Diane S. states.” Many of those early marchers also remember the protesters against us that appeared here and there and that intimidated so many. “Marching with Dignity calmed my fears some because I was marching with my faith community,” says Diane S. Another very courageous marcher was Kathy Ann G., who says “I watched from the sidewalk, buried in the crowds on Boylston St., but when Dignity went by, I was called to participate.” The following year, 1980, she decided to march along with Dignity. “I took a large paper bag, cut out holes for my eyes and nose and wore it over my head.” Kathy Ann G. worked as a teacher and was also not out to her family. She was not the only one during that first decade who disguised her identity, it was still not safe for many. Marianne D.-B. remembers the Pride March during her college years at Wellesley College, but her first year marching with Dignity was in 1983, “it was still risky for many back then.” She also recalls seeing people on the sides denouncing us and the March, but she was reassured by the number of people who received us well and the many who showed up and be visible as a queer Catholic. “It was meaningful to be witnessing in the streets our faith and our sexual orientation.” Ted, whose first march with Dignity was in 1982, remarks that “it was a bit different then, when it was a march, a protest, not a party.” Ned, who was also there with Dignity in the mid 80’s concurs, and although he also remembers those who condemned us from the sidelines, he felt that it was important to make Dignity visible, “Dignity Boston made it possible for me to get back to my faith roots as a Catholic.” Yes, we remember all those who joined us in the streets, those who waived and clapped from the sidewalk, and we celebrate the important witness that Dignity Boston stood for and still stands for today. We remember, we celebrate, and we believe. And we are not afraid!

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

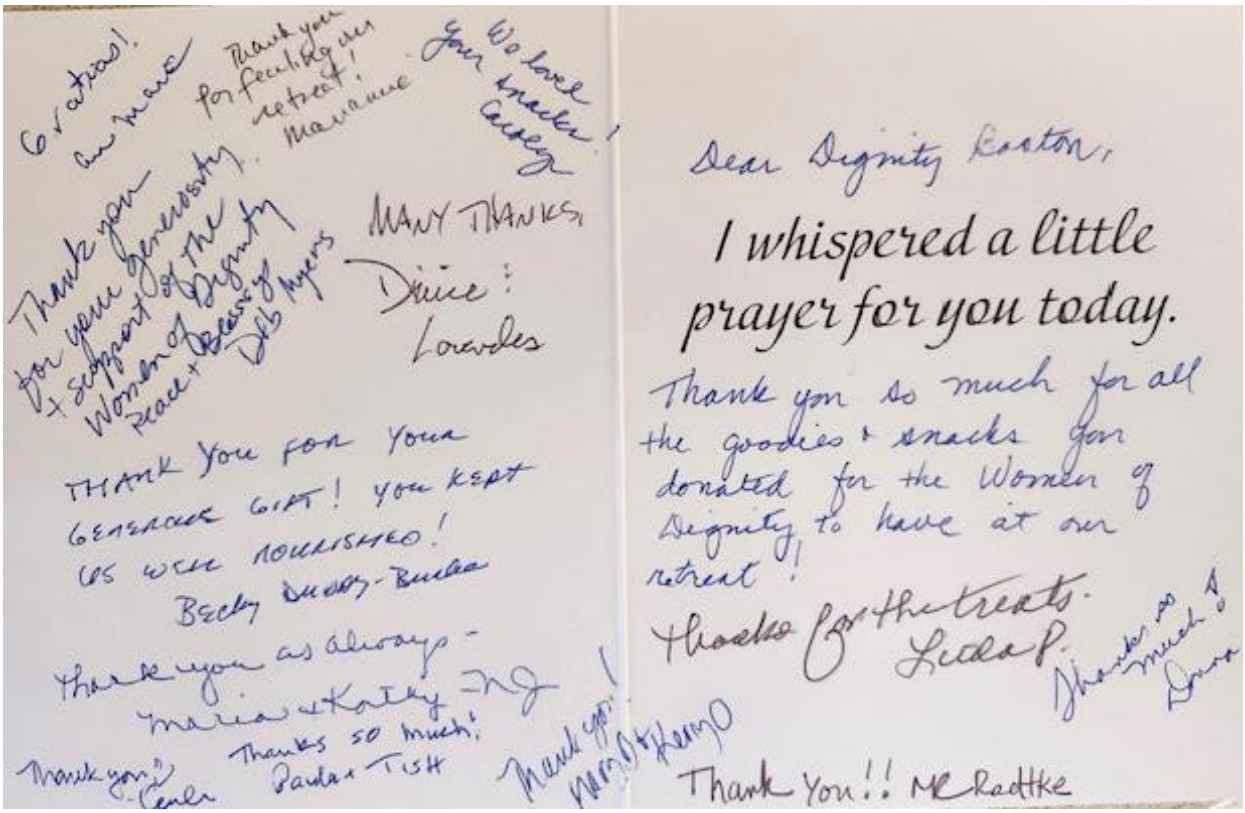
Our Community

"Communion" Coming to St. Mary's of the Harbor and St. Cecilia's

Communion tells the true story of Matthew LaBanca, a gay Catholic music teacher who, after marrying his partner, was fired from his job. Rather than walking away quietly, Matthew turned to storytelling to share his emotional journey publicly. What began as a search for meaning became an Off-Broadway solo performance that was later adapted into a feature film that invites audiences into meaningful conversation about faith, belonging, and healing. Provincetown Theater is proud to co-sponsor this event with the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor who are hosting a free screening of *Communion* and a talkback featuring Matthew LaBanca. There will also be a reception that follows. The location is St. Mary of the Harbor (517 Commercial St. in Provincetown). The date and time are Saturday, 6/27 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Also, the Rainbow Ministry at St. Cecilia's in Boston is proud to sponsor this event. At St. Cecilia's the date and time is Sunday, 6/28 at 4:00 p.m. with a talkback and reception to follow. For the Provincetown event, registration, although free, is recommended through this link. For more information, click here for the Provincetown event or here for the St. Cecilia event.

Our Appreciations

A Thank You from the Women of Dignity



The Dignity Boston Executive Board received a nice “thank you” note from the Women of Dignity for underwriting refreshments at their retreat. Their kindness is greatly appreciated. The Women of Dignity is a DignityUSA affinity group for those seeking a supportive LGBTQIA+ environment. You can reach them at dignitywomen@gmail.com

A Thank You from the Friday Night Supper Program

We received a nice “thank you” note for our community’s contribution to the Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) through our Holy Thursday collection. Aaidaliz Perez, the director of FNSP, says “We are truly grateful for your support, which helps sustain our mission of providing nutritious meals in a dignified environment for those in our community.” You can find the official “thank you” note as an addendum to this Bulletin.

Our Pride Photos: 2015 (top) and Now (bottom)

Our Visitors

Dignity Boston Hosts Dignity USA Members

Dignity Boston was proud to host former DignityUSA President Sam Sinnett who has been a member in St. Louis and Florida as well as DignityUSA board member Leo Egashira of Dignity Seattle. Many thanks for the wonderful brunch celebrating them at the home of Jon and Ron. Sam is pictured to the left and Leo is pictured to the right. It was great to have them here in Boston.

Our Collections

June Collection

Our June collection benefits Strides for Action. This is Fenway Health's annual peer-to-peer fundraising event, bringing together community members to raise critical funds for health equity, advocacy, and essential care. Building on the legacy of the AIDS Walk Boston, which for decades mobilized thousands in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Strides for Action continues this tradition of activism while expanding its focus to address broader public health challenges, including LGBTQIA+ health, racial justice, and access to affirming care. 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 during the post-liturgy social hour for Second Collection donations. At our remote Liturgy of the Word the 2nd Collection link will be put into the chat at the start of service.

Second Collection Amount for May's SpeakOUT Boston

We raised $300 in our May collection for SpeakOUT Boston. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Subscribe to the DignityUSA Monthly Newsletter

Hope you are enjoying the "Our Parent DignityUSA" section of the Dignity Boston Bulletin. For even more DignityUSA information, subscribe to the DignityUSA newsletter, Dateline. Click here to subscribe to Dateline.

Monthly Social: Ideas and Hosting Needed

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.

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. 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 (6/30/26) by Noon on Sunday, 6//28.

Friday Night Supper Program
351 Boylston Street
Boston, MA
www.fridaynightsupper.org

Dignity/Boston
PO Box 170428
Boston, MA 02117-0408

Dear Dignity Boston,
On behalf of the Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP), our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and hundreds of guests we serve every month, I want to extend a heart-felt thank you for your generous donation of $335. Your donation ensures that some of the most vulnerable members of our community continue to receive the nutritious meals they depend on today and for as long as needed in the future. At FNSP, we strive to provide hot, nutritious, and delicious meals, along with quality clothing and footwear, toiletries, and a strong sense of community, all within a dignified and welcoming environment. Our volunteers and staff are an essential part of this community, and thanks to their dedication and flexibility, we have never missed a Friday meal service. As demand for our meals and support services continues to grow, your generosity plays a critical role in helping us meet the needs of those who rely on us each week. One of the most important things we have learned is the lasting importance of providing a consistent space for community and connection, and that is exactly what we aim to offer at our Friday night meals. Visit our website at www.fridaynightsupper.org and follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FridayNightSP/ to learn about how we are serving our guests. I also invite you to reach out to me at any time at contact@fridaynightsupper.org or 617-221-6402 to learn more about the program. We are truly grateful for your support- you make what we do possible!

With Gratitude,

Aaidaliz Perez
Executive Director