DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – July 15, 2026

Above is a photo from our Sunday, July 12th Pizza in the Park gathering at Blackstone Square Park, across from St. Stephen's in the South End.

Our Liturgies

Surprise!

Much to our surprise, when the Dignity Boston community walked in to St. Stephen's for liturgy this past Sunday, we felt a cool breeze greeting us. The air conditioning, which many of us thought would take a while to install and become functional, was already installed and working. Because of this, we will not meet in the social hall for Dignity Boston liturgies during the summer months but, rather, in our newly air-conditioned church. We are all very happy!!!

Feast of Mary of Magdala

Please join us on Sunday, 7/26 for our in-person Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Stephen's with live streaming. We celebrate the Feast of Mary of Magdala! Mary of Magdala was one of Jesus' most influential apostles. Mary kept vigil at the cross throughout Jesus' crucifixion, discovered the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection, and was then commissioned to "go and tell" the good news. There will be a brief homily followed by a "share the word" homily from our congregation. The liturgy will be at our normal 5:00 p.m. EDT time.

Our July Remote Liturgy

Please join us on Sunday, 7/19 for our remote Liturgy of the Word (zoom only). This 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time liturgy will include a healing service. It's at our normal 5:00 p.m. EDT time.

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron

- Do you have an interest in Dignity Boston and LGBTQ Archives? The Board is arranging a meeting this summer with Nicole Collins, a research assistant with the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network. Nicole is the founder and project lead for Queer Religion Boston, a map-based project chronicling the LGBTQ+ religious past and present of the greater Boston area. You can view the Dignity Boston entry here. If you would like to participate in this meeting or have any questions, please email dignityboston@gmail.com.

- Time flies: It's been 39 years since I moved from San Diego to Boston in 1987. My intention was to finish my training with a fellowship in cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), then move back West to be closer to family, but I never left Boston. In 1991, I took a faculty position at BCH, my one-and-only real job, from which I retired about 3 years ago.

- On the road: As I write this, Jon and I are in Nashville, TN for an in-person meeting of the DignityUSA Board. I took part in their Sunday morning liturgy and shared some Dignity Boston virtual choir recordings for the liturgy but otherwise didn't have to attend the meeting. Instead, I watched the Wimbledon women's and men's singles finals and enjoyed live music in honky-tonk bars on Broadway and on Printers Alley. I recommend a visit to the National Museum of African American Music; it's well worth the time if you like any kind of American music. So far, I've been to 45 of the 50 states. What's left? Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

- 2026 Travel Log: By year's end, my 2026 travel log will include the following destinations: Nā'ālehu, HI; New Orleans, LA; Atlanta, GA; Vancouver, BC, Canada; Nashville, TN; Radford, VA; New York, NY; Nā'ālehu, HI; Buffalo, NY; and various stops between Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. I should have a travel blog… Let's talk; I would I love to share travel stories with you.

Our Socials

Show and Tell for Justice

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 Meetings

Upcoming Board and Liturgy Committee Meetings

Dignity Boston Liturgy Committee Meeting
Sunday, 8/2
following our Remote Liturgy of the Word service
All are welcome!

Dignity Boston Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 8/6
7:00 p.m. EDT
To attend a board meeting as a guest, email dignityboston@gmail.com
Meeting minutes are available per request.
All are Welcome!

Our Bulletin

Bulletin Vacation

There will be no 8/15 Bulletin. We will continue to keep you informed through emails from our listserv. If you’re not on our listserv, please email dignityboston@gmail.com to get added. Our Dignity Boston is normally published semi-monthly on the 15th and 30th of each month (the exception being February when our end-of-month Bulletin is either on the 28th or 29th).

Our Donations

A New Way to Donate

You can donate to Dignity Boston right here. That link can also be found on our Dignity Boston web site at http://www.dignityboston.org/donate. Alternatively, 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.

Our Reports

Quarterly Financial Report

Here are a few things to note regarding our Dignity Boston finances: (1) our member donations are at $2,500 or 11% under the budget forecasted for the year with member donations being $3,200 lower than last year, (2) our storage unit expenses have increased 6% since last year, and (3) our second collections have increased 14% since last year. For your information, our treasurer, Chris Lawrence, has put together a summary of our quarterly treasury report from April to June. Treasury reports are always available by emailing dignityboston@gmail.com. You'll find the report as an addendum to this Bulletin on page 10.

Our Community

Queer History Boston Seeks New Members

Queer History Boston (QHB) is looking for new members for their Board of Directors. QHB is an organization dedicated to preserving the vibrant, centuries-long timeline of LGBTQ+ culture in Massachusetts. If you're interested, please complete this volunteer intake form and this board application prior to Friday, 7/17/26.

Our Parent DignityUSA

Women of Dignity Retreat

During this late May retreat at the beautiful and welcoming Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI, some of the Women of Dignity focused on the flow of their lives and spiritual journeys. It was a wonderful community-building experience. Thanks to all who planned, participated, and prayed for our retreat participants! Above is a photo from the retreat.

Our History

Did You Know?

…that Dignity Boston assisted in the passing of the Boston Human Rights Ordinance in 1984? There is a story about that, of course. The Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (later known as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Political Alliance of MA) was founded in Boston in 1982. It was started to increase community involvement in local politics, to fight violence, secure civil rights, and secure municipal protections. Its first Chairperson, the late Eric Rofes (RIP 2006) believed that all the gay and lesbian organizations in Boston at that time needed to work together if any progress was possible. He convened a monthly community breakfast and invited representatives from all the different organizations, Dignity Boston included. We accepted and were present at all these breakfasts for at least

two years. In the archives of the Political Alliance, you can find the following statement: “It also collaborates with related social justice organizations, including Dignity Boston, GLAD, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, MA Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.” One of the Alliance’s focuses was to secure municipal protections, that is to have the city of Boston pass an ordinance with a comprehensive civil rights protection law for gay and lesbian residents of Boston. They were working with the City Council, the mayor, and other politicians. Their greatest stumbling block was the Archdiocese of Boston. Eric and the Alliance wanted Dignity Boston’s help. And we did, raising our voice cemented in our faith and the words of the Gospel to stand against discrimination. We gave witness in front of the City Council and a big rally in Faneuil Hall. At a time when many in our LGBT community did not recognize communities of faith or gay and lesbian individuals who spoke out about their religious beliefs or affiliations, the Alliance, in its wisdom thought that our voice was valuable and needed to be heard. We were proud to be counted among those who showed up for the fight. The Ordinance passed in 1984, followed by a state level anti-discrimination law in 1990. In 1984 at an LGBT community wide dinner sponsored by the Alliance, Dignity Boston received the Maximilian Kolbe Community Service Award, for its spiritual, political, and humanitarian service to Boston’s LGBT community. It was an honor that recognized the importance of our chapter in the history of our rights and liberation. We are proud of that! For those who might not know the history of the man after which our award was named, Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan friar (1894 - 1941) who volunteered to die in place of another prisoner. The other prisoner had a wife and child and was in the death camp of Auschwitz. Maximilian Kolbe was canonized by the Catholic Church in 1982. The man he saved survived the death camp and was present at the canonization of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. There is still so much work ahead of us to get to live in a world where everyone is respected, included, and valued, no exceptions. No one knows when they are going to be called to stand in witness to defend our rights or somebody else’s rights. Let us remember then who we are and who we are called to be. And let us be proud of the community of Dignity Boston then and now.

Our Collections

June Collection

Our June Second Collection (Strides for Action) raised $268. In total, our walkers and our 2nd collection raised $3,829 for Strides for Action. Thanks!!

July Collection

Our July Collection benefits the Mass Coalition for Suicide Prevention (MCSP). MCSP is a broad-based inclusive alliance to prevent suicide. 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 Second Collection link will be put into the chat at the start of service.

Our Ongoing Announcements

Tropical Storm Season

With tropical storms upon us, there is always a chance that an in-person Eucharistic liturgy may be switched to a remote Liturgy of the Word (Zoom only) service with short notice. We invite you to please watch your email for an official announcement on Sunday morning. If you have any questions or concerns, please email dignityboston@gmail.com.

Monthly Social: Ideas and Hosting Needed

Monthly socials bring our community together online. Have an idea for a topic or a social? Perhaps you'd like to lead an event. If so, contact Ron, Peggy B., or Robin at dignityboston@gmail.com.

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.

Community Blessings

Dignity Boston has blessed members of the community who are embarking on a particular mission, journey, or life transition. Some examples 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 request such a blessing at an upcoming remote or in-person liturgy by emailing dignityboston@gmail.com.

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.

Check Out Our Information Table

We 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.

Please contact dignityboston@gmail.com if you have any items that you would like to suggest for our next Bulletin (7/30/26) by Noon on Tuesday, 7/28/26.

Quarterly Treasury Report from April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026

	Actual		Budget	
REVENUE		%		%
Member Donations (1)	9,093.86	66%	23,200.00	82%
Membership Dues	350.00	3%	500.00	2%
Second Collections	2,237.00	16%	3,500.00	12%
Other/Miscellaneous	2,047.83	15%	950.00	3%
TOTAL REVENUE	$13,728.69	100%	$28,150.00	100%
EXPENSES				
OFFICE/ORGANIZATION				
Church & Storage Unit Rent (2	6,744.00	53%	11,872.00	42%
Other Office Expenses	982.63	8%	1,875.00	7%
GROUPS & COMMITTEES	784.89	6%	1,800.00	6%
SECOND COLLECTIONS (3)	2,237.00	18%	3,500.00	12%
PRIDE EVENTS	1,283.81	10%	1,150.00	4%
DONATIONS TO FNSP & DUSA	-	0%	5,800.00	21%
2026 VISION EVENTS	121.24	1%	1,000.00	4%
SOCIAL MINISTRY	494.11	4%	850.00	3%
OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS	-	0%	303.00	1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	$12,647.68	100%	$28,150.00	100%
INCOME	$ 1,081.01		-	