DIGNITY
BOSTON

www.dignityboston.org dignityboston@gmail.com

BULLETIN – July 30, 2026

This is a recent photo of several members of Dignity Boston's Men's Spirituality group on an outing to Newport, R.I. Front row: Tony A. and Ron L. Back row: Phil S., Paul (a friend of Phil's), Jon S., and Christopher S.

Our Liturgies

Upcoming Liturgies

Please join us for our in-person and remote liturgies. Our in-person liturgies are always live streamed as well.

Sunday, 8/2
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 8/9
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@ St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 8/16
Remote
Liturgy of the Word
Zoom Only
Healing Service
Feast of the Assumption
5:00 p.m. EDT

Sunday, 8/23
In-Person
Eucharistic Liturgy
@ St. Stephen's
Live Streaming via Zoom
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 p.m. EDT

Our President's Message

From the Desk of Ron, Dignity Boston President

I am away this week at the annual "Conclave" of the Viola da Gamba Society of America (VdGSA), on the campus of Radford University in Radford, VA. No, we're not electing a new pope. This is the 64th edition of an annual gathering of viola da gamba (or viol, in English) players; there are over 200 of us taking classes all day and making music into the wee hours of the morning. The viol is a fretted, six string, bowed instrument that

comes in three main sizes—treble, tenor, and bass. I took up the viol in 2019 and learning to play was one of my musical “projects” during the COVID19 shutdown.

At the opening ceremonies on Sunday night, the President of the VdGSA gave a land acknowledgment which is a formal statement recognizing the indigenous peoples who originally cared for and lived on a specific piece of land. It honors their historic and ongoing connection to the area. These land acknowledgments have become increasingly common at the start of public events, meetings, and school gatherings. When I spoke at an international medical conference in Vancouver in British Columbia in May, we were invited to talk about the indigenous peoples from where we lived and worked. Unfortunately, they hadn’t given me advance notice to do some research about the indigenous peoples that inhabited the land upon which Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School now sit. Instead, I spoke about the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy on 1/17/1893, by a coup d’état led by “the Committee of Safety” (composed of foreign and local businessmen), backed by the U.S. government and U.S. Marines, who coerced Queen Lili’uokalani to yield under protest to avoid bloodshed. Queen Lili’uokalani was the last sovereign monarch of the Hawaiian kingdom. This historic event continues to affect the lives of the descendants of the indigenous Hawaiian people who lost their kingdom. How do you feel about land acknowledgements? Should we as a Dignity Boston community recognize indigenous people that once inhabited Boston proper? Let me know what you think. The music I am studying this week includes sacred and secular music of the renaissance. On my first day here, we learned Quis vestrum, a piece by Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599) which includes the text of the Lord’s Prayer, preceded by text from Matthew 7:7-8: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” As I pray for our dear friends in the community currently living with medical challenges, this music gives me hope. There are sure to be ways for us to help to open some doors…

Our Socials

Calling All Angels

Greetings! We are looking for Coffee Angels for the following Sundays after liturgy: 8/9, 8/23, 9/13, 9/20. If you can help with treats and drink, please contact Alice at alicemknowles@gmail.com. Thank you, in advance, for the consideration.

Long-Time Friend

Please consider joining us for our next online social, Long-Time Friend, as hosted by Jon S. Choose a long-time friendship in your life and "introduce" us to that friend. It should be someone you are still in touch with and you get to decide how long "long time" is. How/where did you first meet each other? Is it a long-distance friendship? How did the friendship evolve? Describe a memorable moment or event in the friendship that stands out. This online social is on Thursday evening, 8/13 at 7:00 p.m. The link will be shared through our listserv.

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 and treasury reports are available per request.
All are Welcome!

Our Featured Article

This Edition's "Did You Know"?

This edition of "Did You Know"? features the stories of several couples who actually met at Dignity Boston: Diane and Lourdes, Jon and Ron, Becky and Marianne, Chris and Philip, and David and Matthew. Check out the feature story on pages 8, 9, and 10.

Our Bulletin

Bulletin Vacation

There will be no 8/15 Bulletin. We will continue to keep you informed through emails from our listserv. Our Dignity Boston Bulletin 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 next Bulletin will be on Monday, 8/30.

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. You can also donate via the QR code image to the left of this article. As an alternative, 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. We thank you for the consideration of any donation to our chapter!

Our Collaborations

Call to Action Conference

DignityUSA members are invited to join our friends at Call To Action for their 50th Anniversary Conference, *Forged in the Fire: We're Still Here*, taking place 11/6 to 11/8 in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. The conference will feature keynote speakers Sr. Simone Campbell and Dr. Craig Ford, along with inspiring workshops, prayer, inclusive liturgies, and opportunities to connect with Catholics committed to justice, reform, and inclusion. DignityUSA members receive 15% off registration by using the discount code CTAPartners when registering. To register, click here and scroll down.

Our Parent DignityUSA

Our National Board Welcomes in New Members

The following board candidates have been elected to the term beginning October 1, 2026 and concluding September 30, 2028: Brian Rink, Lis Regula, and Jim Cummings. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Congratulations Dignity Honolulu

Kudos to Dignity Honolulu on their 50th Anniversary! They recently celebrated with a special commemorative dinner at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. Our own DignityUSA Executive Director, Marianne Duddy-Burke was in attendance for the celebration. Dignity Honolulu has been a steadfast witness to the Gospel's call to love, justice, and inclusion.

Our Community

Drag Queen Story Time

The South Boston branch of the Boston Public Library invites children and family to come for a fun filled story hour with song, stories, and more as presented by drag queen, Ms. Patty. It's on Monday, 8/3 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 646 East Broadway in South Boston. Enjoy this special time!

Our Collections

July Collection

Our July Second Collection benefits the Mass Coalition for Suicide Prevention (MCSP). MCSP is a broad-based inclusive alliance to prevent suicide. To donate, please click here.

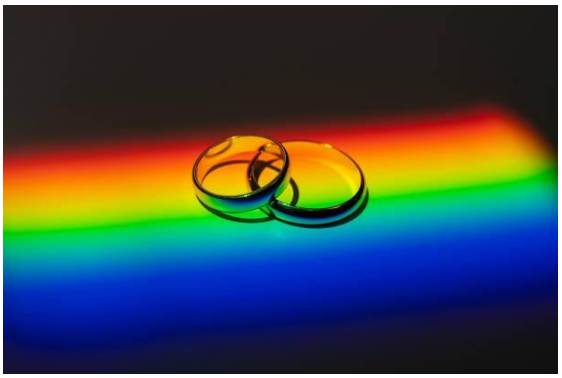
August Collection

bisexual resource center

Our August Second Collection benefits the Bisexual Resource Center which works to connect the bi+ community and helps its members thrive through resources, support, and celebration. 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 History

Did You Know?



…that Dignity Boston has been an integral part of many of our couples' romance? Today we will tell a brief part of the love story of five couples who are still active in our community who met and grew their love right here in this community: Lourdes and Diane, Jon and Ron, Marianne and Becky, Chris and Philip, and David and Matthew.

Diane and Lourdes

Lourdes first arrived at Dignity in the late 70's and Diane was already there. When asked about first impressions, Diane said she went up to Lourdes to introduce herself and welcome her, as there were very few women there at that time. Diane said hello, Lourdes replied then said nothing. Knowing Lourdes was from Cuba, Diane thought "she didn't speak English." A quiet Lourdes? Who can believe that? Eventually, Lourdes found her speech (and has not been quiet since!), made friends in the community, and become involved. Diane and Lourdes got to know each other through their common work in the many facets of the chapter and became friends. They got together as a couple in 1992 and married in 2004. One of the stories they love to tell is when "strangers" ask them if they are sisters! And the face on many people's faces when they are asked "where did you meet, and they say, "Church." Most people become surprised, and then more often than not, friendlier!

Jon and Ron

Jon, who was on sabbatical from his parish ministry, walked in through the doors of St. John's on February 10, 1991 (nobody forgets the day they first came to Dignity!). Ron, who had moved to Boston to do a fellowship at Children's Hospital in 1987, had joined Dignity in 1990. Jon says that he had spotted Ron singing in the choir. "Spotted as in: Hmmm. I wonder who he is." Jon ran into a seminary classmate who introduced Ron and Jon at

the social hour. This friend invited Jon and Ron to a Valentine's dinner. Jon recalls it being a frigid winter day, but he made his way down there and found out there were only four people invited, Ron being one of them! Ron was very late because the locks on his car were frozen. He eventually made it and found out that he and Jon had a lot to say to each other. Before the evening was over, they had made plans to go out to dinner together. That was the beginning of their love story which led them to civil marriage in 2004 and a church wedding in 2005 (who can forget that party!).

Becky and Marianne

The first time that Marianne and Becky were at Dignity together was 1994. Marianne was singing in the choir and Becky noticed "her singing voice," and let's be honest--more than that: "I thought Marianne was very attractive too." On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1994, a friend gave both Becky and Marianne a ride to their respective homes. There was incessant chatter between them, especially when they discovered they had the Mercy Sisters in common with Marianne being taught by them and Becky having been one of them. "Do the Mercy Sisters have a dating service for lesbians," became the joke between them. As they were parting that first day, they agreed they should continue their conversation over dinner. How many dinners would it take? Well, in October 1994, while in Denver they "exchanged cheap, little rings, from a gift shop at Rocky Mountain National Park." "We moved in, a little prematurely," says one, "well, maybe not, we are lesbians after all," chuckles the other one. They also comment on the response from many when they tell them they met in church. "It is an unexpected response," says Marianne, "maybe they can relate or maybe change their mind about the possibility of gay and Catholic." Marianne and Becky got married in Dignity in 1998.

Chris and Philip

Chris started attending Dignity in 1992, while Philip did not join until 2003. They were friendly, but actually not really friends until Philip joined the Cardinal Sins (the Dignity Boston charity bike ride to benefit Fenway Community Health Center). They got to know each other and got closer during that summer. They started dating but kept it a secret until they felt more comfortable in their relationship. Philip thought that some of the

women at Dignity were trying to set them up. Of course not!? In 2008, while Chris was serving as DignityUSA national treasurer, Philip flew to Denver to meet Chris who was there for a national Board meeting. While hiking together in Rocky Mountain National Park they got engaged and, again, they kept it a secret for a bit (or at least they thought it was a secret!). Chris and Philip got married on August 1, 2009 in a lovely church wedding in Dignity Boston. Chris says "it was very important for them to get married in the Catholic faith, within our faith community and in the Church where we met and fell in love."

David and Matthew

Matthew and David met at Dignity at the annual Pride supper after liturgy in June, 2008. Matthew was sort of new to Dignity but David had been around for a number of years. Matthew did not know it then, but David had made it a point to "strategically" place himself at Matthew's table for that dinner. They had a long chat that night, and to this day they joke that in that conversation Matthew asked David a lot about the Watertown neighborhood. David found it amazing how well Matthew knew the Watertown streets. Matthew smiles, "David never quite found out that I was a letter carrier, we never forget streets. It is a funny story to this day." David and Matthew got married five years after meeting in Dignity. "We consider ourselves a fortunate couple, not only because Dignity brought us together, but because we share our faith together. We know several couples where this is not the case."

There have been many couples that have met in Dignity and fell in love. Some are not with us anymore and many more stories will come in future times. We celebrate them all. In truth, Dignity/Boston has many love stories, of every kind. We have learned through the years that the love of Christ for each and every one of us, and the love that we have fostered as a community has served us well. Love has helped us grieve, has made us less fearful, has been part of every challenge and every victory, and has reinforced our hope and our commitment to speak our truth out loud. Love will always win.

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

Our Ongoing Announcements

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

We 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. Please 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.

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. Please consider checking 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 (8/30/26) by Noon on Friday, 8/28/26.